

TAPE ARC - 29, TC 16:00:00

KQED: KQA - 1, KQN3558

1966 march and rally in Sacramento, speeches [B&W]:

16:03:01 CHAVEZ: ...incorporated, and the National Farm Workers Association. This agreement is entered into by and between the Schenley Industries Incorporated, the herein after called "the employer," and the United Farm Workers Association, herein after called "union."

16:03:23 CHAVEZ: ...we also want to say that we will not accept any contract until those growers who have brought injunctions and damage suits against the UFWOC, drop their demands.

16:03:48 HUERTA: ...the organizing efforts of the National Farm Workers Association, and today our farm workers have come to Sacramento. To the governor and the legislature of California we say you cannot close your eyes and your ears to us any longer. You cannot pretend that we do not exist. You cannot plead ignorance to our problems because we are here and we embody our needs for you. And we are not alone. We are accompanied by many friends. The religious leaders of the state, spear-headed by the migrant ministry, the student groups, the civil rights groups that make up the movement that has been successful in securing civil rights for Negroes in this country, right-thinking citizens and our staunchest ally, organized labor, are all in the revolution of the farm worker.

16:04:43 HUERTA: ...the day has ended when the farm worker will let himself be used as a pawn by employers, government, and others who would exploit them for their own ends. La huelga and la causa is our cry, and everyone must listen. Viva la huelga! Viva Cesar Chavez!

16:16:00 CHAVEZ: (IN SPANISH)

16:16:46 CHAVEZ: The union has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the employers that it represents for purposes of collective bargaining the majority of the agricultural laborers employed by the employer...

16:17:12 HUERTA: ...giving them the confidence they needed through inspiration and hard work. Educating them for months to realize that no one was going to win their battle for them. That their conditions could be changed by only one group of people, themselves.

16:18:03 HUERTA: ...that he does not solicit money from any area, this was prior to the strike of course. Cesar felt that outside money for organization of farm workers was no good and it would not do the trick. And that the workers had to pay for their own organization, and this was accomplished. Prior to the strike the National Farm Workers Association was supported entirely by its own membership through the dues that they paid. Furthermore...

16:18:30 HUERTA: ...support has been highlighted by people who have joined us here today. Furthermore, these groups are committing themselves to help us

until total victory is achieved. The developments of the past seven months are only a slight indication of what is to come. The workers are on the rise. There will be strikes all over the state and throughout the country because Delano has shown what can be done and the workers know that they are no longer alone. The agricultural workers are not going to remain static. The towns that have been reached by the pilgrimage will never be the same. On behalf of the National Farm Workers Association, its officers, and its members, on behalf of all of the farm workers of this state, we unconditionally demand that the governor of this state, Edmund Brown, call a special session of the legislature to enact a collective bargaining law for the state of California. [applause] We will be satisfied with nothing less. The governor can not, and the legislature cannot shrug off its responsibilities to the Congress of the United States. We are citizens and we are residents of the state of California, and we want the rules set up to protect us in this state, right here. If the rules to settle our economic problems are not forthcoming, we will call a general strike to paralyze the state's agricultural economy. [applause] We will call a general strike to let the legislators and the employers know that we mean business. We will take economic pressure, strikes, boycotts, to force recognition and obtain collective bargaining rights. The social and economic revolution of the farm workers is well underway and it will not be stopped until we receive equality. The farm workers are moving. Nothing is going to stop them. The workers are crying for organization, and we are going to organize them. We may act in strange and unusual ways in our organizing, but we're willing to try new and unused methods to achieve justice for the farm workers.

16:21:20 CHAVEZ (loud speeches from rally in background): The Delano strike is the spark that has set off a movement among farm workers to organize and to bargain collectively with employers. Uh, it is the beginning of workers showing

a deep and sincere desire to become equal brothers to the other workers of America. It is I feel, the beginning of workers losing that great fear that they've had in the past, the fear that kept them many times in ignorance and also unable to organize. Delano could very well be the beginning of a national union for farm workers in this country...

16:22:49 REV. JIM DRAKE (on Schenley boycott): Well, I think probably the main thing about it was that we uh, were not embarrassed to ask the help of the public and everyone. I think all too often boycotts consider themselves only labor efforts. And uh, we went to students, we went to churches, we went to labor, we went to civil rights groups, any groups that were willing to help us. So we formed a, a grass roots movement across the nation. The most important thing though was we had a group of about 20 young people who had all kinds of courage, hitchhiked across the United States to give themselves to the cause, to organize these committees all over the United States. [Q: how many people working on the boycott?] Oh, I would guess 10,000 all together. ...We had 103 cities organize, then there were many many individuals that were not even in the organization that were sending in pledge cards, pledging not to drink Schenley liquors. {Q: How much money you cost Schenley before they signed?} No, I have no way of knowing at all. We do know that they increased their advertising. The main thing was that their image was at stake....

16:26:08 LUIS VALDEZ: ...The Spanish written here is not the best Spanish you'll find in the world, but it is the Spanish of the picket line. One of the most inspirational things about the Delano picket line, was that supposedly inarticulate people were hitting at the very heart of the meaning of the United States.

16:26:39 LUIS VALDEZ [in Spanish]:

16:27:28 CHAVEZ: It is well to remember that in defeat there must be courage. But also, that in victory there must be humility. [in Spanish]

16:27:58 CHAVEZ: Many people have helped us, many people, in California, throughout the country, and I want to thank those groups, or some of those groups that have helped us since the beginning of the strike and are continuing to help us today. The AFL - CIO and all its affiliated unions, and of course the AWOC, the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee. [in Spanish]

16:28:59 CHAVEZ: And also thank the help the Teamsters have given us in our struggle in Delano. [in Spanish] And we thank the Protestant, the Catholic and the Jewish church leaders and churches that have helped us since the beginning of our strike in Delano. [in Spanish] We are very happy, very happy to have with us many, many Mexican - American groups with us today, the Mexican - American Political Association, the American [?] Forum, and the Community Service Organization. [in Spanish] We thank and we welcome the help of the civil rights movement and of the students, and of all of those people who have helped us with our struggle. [in Spanish] And I want to thank very especially, the International Longshoreman's and Warehouseman's Union for the help that they've given us, the unfailing help that they've given us, every time that we've picketed the docks, every time that we asked for their help, we were able to get this help, and for this we feel very very grateful.