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We Have To Do Something

THE grape boycott is becoming a more and more impossible situation.

Impossible for the growers of California table grapes, whose livelihood is threatened and many of whom were not even involved in the original "labor dispute."

Impossible, especially, for the 11 growers who recently tried to negotiate a labor settlement, in good faith, but found that not only are there no ground rules, but the union's escalating demands are "not negotiable."

Impossible for the housewife who gets out of her automobile in the supermarket parking lot, perhaps accompanied by small children, and is greeted by threats and obscenities from so-called pickets.

Impossible for the chain store manager, who has had his windows broken, his merchandise contaminated or destroyed, his customers and employees browbeaten, his home picketed and his family threatened, or, as happened in several cases, his store firebombed.

Impossible, too, for the average TV viewer or newspaper reader, who may be honestly distressed by what he is told about exploitation of migrant workers and indiscriminate use of pesticides, but who has no way of judging what is truth and what is fiction.

"Sure, it's an impossible situation," you say, "but what can we *do* about it?"

Well, there are several things we can do.

We can speak up. Instead of talking to each other, we can start talking to other people—especially people whose opinions count, who probably haven't heard the other side of the Delano story.

We can talk to our ministers and

other leaders in our churches. Most of them *mean* well, they just haven't had the true facts. A booklet that is helpful is *Clergy Views of Delano and the Grape Boycott*, a collection of statements from on-the-scene clergymen, compiled by Allan Grant and Murray Norris, available for \$1 from Rudell Publishing Company, P. O. Box 7811, Fresno, Calif. 93727.

We can write to our legislators. How can they represent us if we don't tell them how we feel and what we want?

We can write letters to the editors of the newspapers and magazines we read, especially those who have used articles on the grape boycott. If these letters are printed, they will reach many other readers who have not heard the full story.

We can stand up and be counted, and if we are counted in large enough numbers, this may be the most effective thing of all. The Consumers' Rights Committee is asking for the names of people who support federal legislation to outlaw such boycotts and to establish ground rules for settling agricultural labor disputes—legislation which would recognize the grower's vulnerability at critical times. There's a coupon to use on page 18. Mail it in today; get more copies for your family and friends.

We need to go at this calmly and sensibly, using all the facts at our disposal. This *is* an emotional issue for growers, but it won't help to get labeled as "some kind of nut."

It certainly won't help to sit back, wring our hands, and bemoan the way things are going for the grape growers. It could soon happen to you.

Come on, now, let's DO something!