

# WHY WE ASK THE STORES TO COOPERATE ?

## A MATTER OF HUMAN JUSTICE

- the farm worker as a human being has a right to justice
  - i.e. - a fair wage
  - decent working conditions
- he also has a right to be represented by a union of his choice - or no union at all, if that is his choice.
- in 1970 - after five years of struggle - the United Farm Worker's Union - representing field workers in the Grape orchards of California - negotiated a contract with the Growers.
- turning then, to the Lettuce field workers - the United Farm Workers sought to represent them with the Lettuce Growers - who instead signed a contract with the Western Conference of the Teamsters Union.
- the Supreme Court of the State of California has said of this contract - that it showed an extreme form of favoritism on the part of the Growers and the Teamsters - because --
  - the lettuce field workers had not been previously represented by the Teamsters
  - during the negotiation of the contract the workers were not consulted
  - during the negotiation of the contract the workers were not made aware of the terms of the contract
  - during the negotiation of the contract the workers were not even asked whether or not they wanted to be represented by the Teamsters (as a matter of fact the Court said evidence showed that the workers actually preferred to be represented by the United Farm Worker's Union).

In effect - a contract had been negotiated for the field workers - by the Growers and the Teamsters - in which the workers had no voice whatsoever.

Therefore, supporting the cause of the farm workers - as a matter of human justice - we ask -

1. that the farm workers be given the opportunity to hold free elections - in order that they may indicate which union, if any, they wish to represent them with the Growers.
2. that since the contract agreed to by the Growers and the Teamsters continues to effect an injustice upon the field workers as long as it continues in force - we ask the stores - to cooperate in helping to bring about a just condition - by not buying lettuce and grapes produced under this Teamster contract.
3. we ask individual shoppers - not to buy lettuce and grapes produced under this contract.

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