

NEW MONTREAL BOYCOTT

We have just returned from an intensive training session in New York. The training session was conducted by Fred Ross, the man who organized Cesar Chavez and taught him the tools with which he organized the United Farm Workers Union. The program dealt with the basic steps one must use to do effective grass roots organizing in the community. As some of you know, the program is based on concentrating the efforts of the entire staff and their supporters on getting successful house meetings, on an extensive action program, on fundraising, and the establishment of area-wide committees. The program also encourages extensive work with church and labour groups, to provide us with the punch needed in setting up real based organizations.

HOUSE MEETING CAMPAIGN

THE HOUSE MEETING HAS PROVEN TO BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR ORGANIZING THE BOYCOTT IN QUEBEC.

A house meeting consists of 3-10 people who have been invited by a host or hostess to listen to the presentation given by full-time organizers for the farmworkers. In the meeting a full history of the farmworkers' fight is given, with periods for questions. At the end, there is an appeal for the active participation of those present. People can help by giving a house meeting to involve their friends, contributing money, and participating in our action program. (leafletting at Dominion, human billboarding, delegations to Dominion Stores, store checks, etc.) Because of our success with this program so far, we are sure it is the best we've come up with and encourage your participation.

ACTION PROGRAM

Due to the progress we've made picketting Dominion's throughout Canada, we have begun an intensified campaign to have more effect with our petitioning campaign. We have made a short-term program which will really put a lot of pressure on Dominion to come to grips with us here in Montréal. The program consists of the following actions on the following dates:

FEBRUARY 8th-- MASSIVE PETITIONING CAMPAIGN: On Saturday we will spread our petitioning lines to be able to cover approximately 30 stores instead of 15 with petitions to encourage Dominion customers not to buy grapes and to speak to their managers and have them put a call into the headquarters.

FEBRUARY 15th & 22nd--These dates will be the most important weeks of our entire campaign in Montréal. We have experienced some very impressive changes with the chain stores and during the week of the 9th, we expect that there will be some rather important developments. For this reason, we ask that all the people who are truly involved and concerned with our success here, reserve these two weeks as key weeks in our struggle and try to spend as much time as possible helping us out. Hopefully we will have the real rundown of developments and strategies for you before the 15th and we suggest that you keep in contact with the organizer for your area, to keep fully informed as soon as we get more news. If you do not know your area organizer contact the central office at 525-3936 and we will do our best to inform you and make you aware of who the organizer is. Thank you.

FINANCIAL NEEDS

The other immediate area of critical concern is the financial needs of the struggle. Contributions from supporters have provided: the gas that enabled strikers to reach the picket lines; the food for striking families; the subsistence for the many striker-boycotters who are in cities throughout Canada and the U.S. spreading the message of the Boycott.

Still, the pressing needs of the thousands of farm workers on strike-including the 2,500 lemon workers who are in the sixth month of their strike in Yuma, Arizona-have weighed heavily on our limited financial resources. But the continuation of the struggle is dependent upon continuing and expanding financial support.

One of the most helpful forms of financial assistance has been that which has been adopted by a number of individuals and local unions--that of sustained monthly contributions. Some are pledges for \$5.00 a month, some for \$50.00 a month. When we can thus gauge our monthly income, we are then able to plan how far our limited resources can be stretched. It would be very helpful to us if you would join us as we work towards expanding the monthly contribution program, as well as continued fundraisers, donations and in-kind assistance.

THE AREA-WIDE ORGANIZATIONS

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Each organizer has now put a real priority on holding 5 house meetings each week for the next 6 weeks. Out of the house meetings will come many new active supporters who will form the area-wide organization. The action program will enable the hundreds of new supporters from the house meetings to have a large role in the creativity of our actions. Also, each of the seven organizers will have groups of 50-100 people who are the active life of their area-wide group. Also, there will be an increase of the value placed in the time that supporters spend with us during our action program. This will enable us to have a real presence and power to carry on the work and bring a speedy victory in the fields.

PROGRESS REPORT--MONTREAL

So far, we are doing very well with our new program. We have increased the number of steady picket lines from 9-15 in a two week period and have made an increasing impact with our petitioning campaign at Dominion. We hope that these petitions can be presented soon by a delegation of community leaders. Surprisingly the power of our onslaught against the immoral conscience of Dominion has spurred some movement among some of the other leaders in the industry. Stay tuned in for further reports on this.

We have also seen as a result of our perseverance, that our commitments from the stores on St. Laurent have held good. The agreement covers the following supermarkets:

IMPERIAL FRUIT STORE
FOUR BROTHERS (St. Laurent, & Jean-Talon)
SAVEWAY
WARSHAW
K & M MARKET
WEST END MARKET

We would like to extend a warm thanks to all the people who helped to make the action on December 21st a success and who helped us to make a large contribution to our strike fund with the proceeds from the Christmas Party. We would also like to thank the people who remain with us in our day to day struggle to clean all grapes out of Montréal. VIVA LA CAUSA!

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

The participation of the religious community in our campaign has enabled us to reach the thousands of people we need in order to win. Many priests, ministers, nuns and rabbis have opened their doors and allowed farmworkers to present their message of the boycott to their congregations. Collections have also been taken in Montréal churches in support of the boycott. Many religious publications have been printed recently on the farmworkers, thusly helping us to spread the word.

Recently a group of concerned sisters, ministers, priests and rabbis have come together to form an inter-faith committee to the United Farm Workers. We are grateful for the participation of all those people who serve on the committee. Many members of the committee can be seen picketing with us every weekend and also, the committee has sent out a mailing to all Montréal area wholesalers, asking their cooperation in our fight. The committee has urged more support from other religious groups and many "Farmworker Services" have been held in Montréal. In many cases audio-visual material is included to fully educate the congregation to the plight of the farmworkers.

In Québec City, Cardinal Roi has been extremely helpful to the farmworkers and, through the diocese there, hopes to bring more awareness to the issue in Québec. Work is being done now to establish a farmworkers, support group in Québec City with the help of the church.

LABOUR

Over the recent months, we have received undying support from the labour movement throughout Québec. The Canadian Food & Allied Workers have donated a large food supply which kept us healthy and made our Christmas party on Dec. 21st a big success. The party gave our strike fund a big boost and everyone was of high spirit and merriment. Besides for the Christmas contributions the CFAW has made several significant contributions and has provided lots of inspiration to the whole staff. Many thanks to brother Ettiene Bujold for his help during our pre-Christmas campaign.