

We are
not alone...

TORONTO BOYCOTT BOOMS

by Dan Mothersill

A record 500 Catholic and Protestant clergy, laity, and labor leaders picketed and distributed leaflets at five Toronto area Dominion stores recently in support of the boycott of California grapes and lettuce.

The demonstrations culminated "Grape Boycott Week" — April 28 to May 4 — proclaimed earlier by Toronto's Mayor David Crombie.

During the past 14 days more than 410,000 leaflets outlining the cause of the United Farm Workers of America (UFWA) had been distributed by volunteers to Metro residents, including 100,000 through 186 churches during Sunday services.

Intersections

The picketing and leafleting were coupled with mini-demonstrations at major Toronto intersections where boycotters stood with 10-foot high signs on each of the four corners during rush hour traffic.

The number of Dominion stores picketed is expected to increase on a weekly basis to about 80 by May 25, according to Marshal Ganz, director of the boycott in Canada.

"The spring grape harvest will begin in two weeks time and everyone will be watching to see if an economic breakthrough is going to happen, making the growers negotiate new contracts" he said.

The boycott is aimed at bringing California growers to the UFWA bargaining table.

Last summer the growers negotiated contracts with the



A demonstration at a Dominion centre at Bloor and Kipling was headed by Father Marshal Meriault (left), pastor of St. Leo's Church, Kelly Cimmings, of CUPE, Father John Newton, assistant pastor at Transfiguration of Our Lord Church, Jim Bently, an executive member of the Toronto Labor Council, and Father Brad Massman (right), director of the Toronto Archdiocesan Office of Social Action.

Teamsters' union. The UFWA is also pressing for secret balloting to allow the more than 300,000 farm laborers to elect the union of their choice.

Efforts intensified

In reaffirming the support of the archdiocese and Archbishop Philip Pocock of Toronto, Father Brad Massman, director of the Archdiocesan Office of

Social Action, said all parishes are being urged to intensify their efforts for the striking UFWA workers.

Mr. Ganz said: "The co-operation of particularly the Catholic, Anglican and United Churches has gone a long way in making the grape boycott known in Toronto.

"A great many of the shoppers we approached at the plaza were aware of the

boycott and at one centre we had every second car honking in response to our sign 'Honk if you support the boycott,'" he said.

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Record 500 turn out for grape boycott