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News

# California Farmer

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YEAR



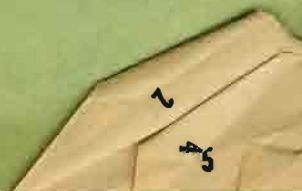
MARCH 19, 1966

**HUELGA! HUELGA!**

**HUELGA! HUELGA!**

**HUELGA! HUELGA!**

**HUELGA! HUELGA!**



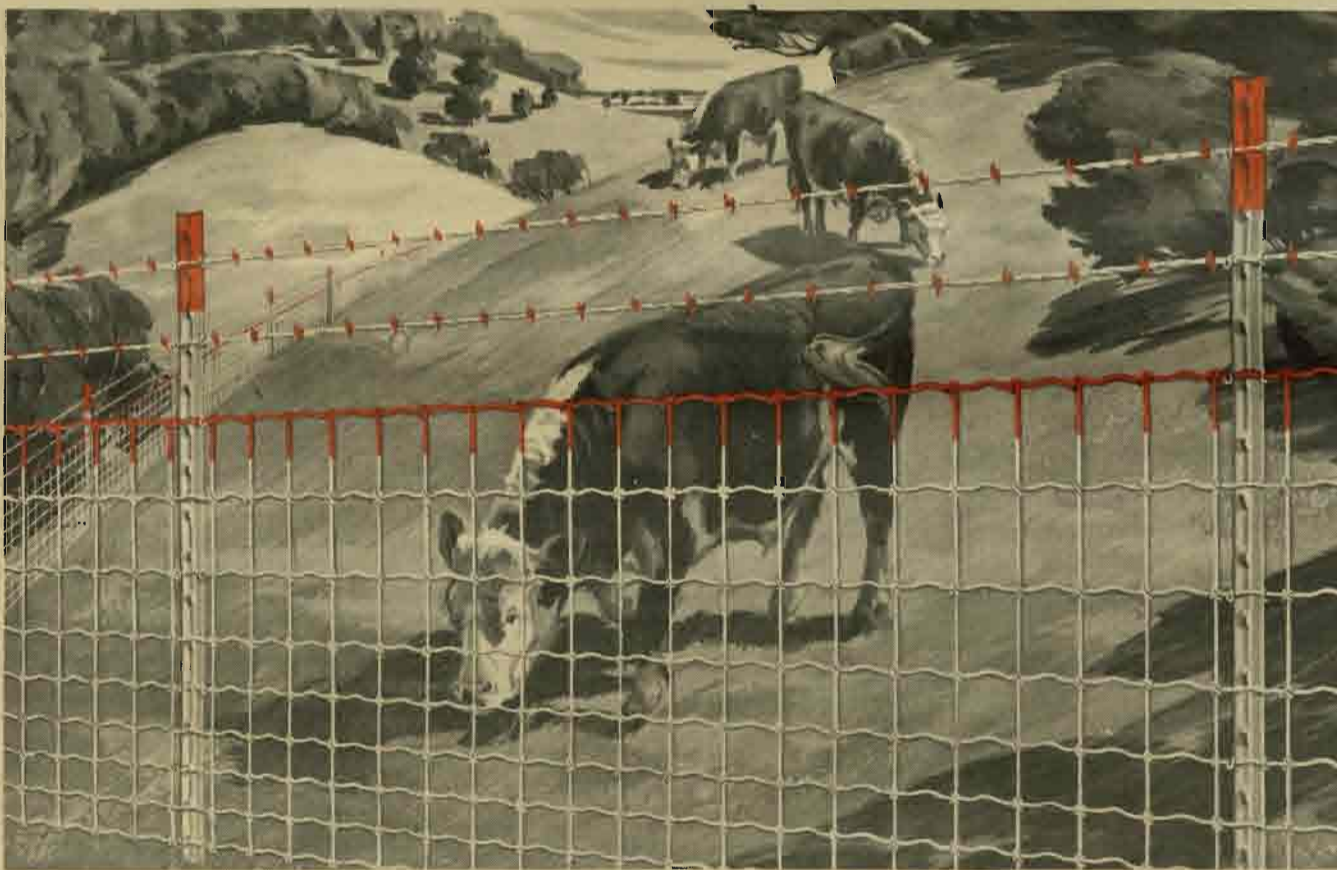


# In This Issue

We have devoted a lot of space in this big issue to the subject of Delano. There is a new format to this battle which goes beyond the pale of unionization. We suggest you save this issue, for your community may be next.

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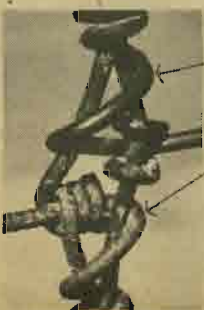
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## California Farmer

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# Editorially Speaking



By Jack Pickett

## Have We Got A Free Love Government?

**R**ECENTLY we flew up to Tule Lake to make a speech. While we were only there two days, the area and the people made quite an impression on us.

There is a quality of people in that country that is refreshing. Most of this country was homesteaded, and that takes an adventure-some type. Also, when a man and his family pour themselves into the huge task of taming raw land, there seems to be a two-way benefit; the land is improved and the man seems to improve.

We like rugged people who have made it the hard way. They seem genuine and fiercely independent. We also think they have a

real fine sense of values, and for this reason were quite disturbed at their attitude towards the government.

On analysis it turned out that most of their feeling originated in their dealings with the Federal Fish and Wildlife division of the Department of Interior.

Some of the people had parted with the Federal Government on the basis that the federal people had gone back on their word many times. In the sly sophistication of the cities, you sometimes take a man's word but you usually check up if you can. But the pi-

oneer type is not properly corrupted yet and he still judges a man by his word.

Our own prejudiced viewpoint is that a lot of the corruption of business stems from the immorality of government. Tax assessments and tax evasion in general are two glaring examples. Another example is the way the Bureau of Reclamation has gone back on their word in the Imperial Valley. Recently we are getting some rumbles about the Bureau of Land Management.

Most of our experience with government bureaus is that the entire hierarchy of the department reflects the morality of the man at the top. Seems like we need a housecleaning.

## A Spider Web in Delano

**P**ERSONALLY, we hope you file this issue for future reference as we think a spider web is being woven in Delano, and you may be the next party invited into the parlor.

We have keyed most of the strands of this web with the militaristic eagle used by the striking forces as part of their insignia.

We have had three of our men in Delano for the better part of a week and they have had the devil's own time trying to untangle this can of worms.

Honestly we don't quite know what is going on in Delano. It's not a struggle for

wages. The scale is way above the union demand for \$1.40; in fact, the pickers came closer to \$2.70 an hour average.

It's hardly civil rights, with the chairman of the school board a Japanese, chairman of the planning commission a Mexican-American plus several more on the city council. The Kiwanis Club has a Negro member. Minorities seem happily integrated.

Is Delano a poverty area? Appeals all over the State are being made to church members to donate food and clothing for the poverty-stricken of Delano. The local welfare people of the county tell us they have a lot fewer

welfare cases than last year. The local clergy know of no one in want for food or clothing. In fact, the unions have more food in their warehouse than the local grocery store. At Christmas time, there was an embarrassing glut of perishable stuff that had to be given away to strikers, etc.

Perhaps out of the mists of Delano there is arising the vague outline of a new type of monster. How does a statewide welfare rights organization grab you? Or a systematic raid on war on poverty funds to be used ultimately for unionization efforts? Delano is becoming a training school for agitators. Keep tuned in.

## In the Beginning

**W**E have had some real interesting mail recently. One rather wistful letter asked if we couldn't devote some of our pages to a rather elementary review of the ABC's of agriculture. We know how this person feels, as we view the appalling technical sweep as this tremendous industry of ours moves forward with such incredible speed.

Unfortunately, we cannot go back to alpha and educate the newcomers. It keeps us sprinting just to keep ahead of these remarkable farmers and stockmen in California, western Arizona and Nevada.

But part of the beauty of the whole industry is that here we are creating all the new wealth and most of it is a very simple form-

ula. We hope our brief exposure to chemistry under the great Hildebrand at UC will hold up but as we remember it sugar, starch and fat are made up of only three elements — carbon, hydrogen and oxygen. Some of that carbon comes from the air and water supplies hydrogen and oxygen. The sun supplies the power source and the marvel of air, water and sunlight strained through a green cell provides us with nourishment for our bodies and new wealth in our pockets.

Proteins are more complex and use more elements but we never cease to marvel at the beauty of the simplicity of our main energy foods. When we were in college there were only 98 known elements, now there are 105—or did that change today?

As a pretty ignorant layman in this field of chemistry it is a little difficult for us to understand how man can synthesize complicated medicines, industrial products, etc., yet he is apparently unable to glue carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen together and make them come out the other end of the factory "on stream," as the chemists say, in the form of food.

This highly inaccurate unreliable report on the elements of agriculture is one reason we stay away from the kindergarten stuff. Give us the highly technical stuff anytime. The more complicated it is, the less likely it is that someone will come forward with a challenge.

# DELANO



THIS IS the makeup of the picket line in front of the Stardust liquor store in Delano. The kids are protesting the sale of Schenley liquor

## Experiment in Social Revolution

By DON UPTON

WHAT is the affair at Delano all about?

That's the question that's been plaguing a lot of people over the past several months. If it's a strike, it's the weirdest one in history. And calling it a civil rights movement doesn't seem to fill the bill, either.

*California Farmer* has followed the day-to-day developments after the initial on-the-spot coverage reported in the October 2, 1965, issue ("Delano Grape Strike Points to New Labor Source") and a second report in the November 20th edition ("Worker's Strike or Civil Rights Struggle?").

As the Delano drama unfolded, however, some gnawing questions remained. What is really behind a "strike" that the majority of the workers obviously refuse to support. Why the sudden and total commitment of the California Migrant Ministry to the organizing efforts of an independent and unrecognized labor union? Why the influx, not only of outside clergymen, but representatives of so-called civil rights groups and other agitators as well. Is Delano really a festering sore of bigotry and poverty?

THESE AND related questions demanded the most thorough in-

vestigation possible, so *California Farmer* concentrated its editorial staff in Delano over a period of nearly two weeks. We talked to union officials, growers, clergymen, educators, workers, labor contractors, housewives, business people, law enforcement officials and just plain citizens. These discussions then led us to other San Joaquin Valley communities and even public libraries to round out the reports in this issue.

This reporter became convinced that Delano is experiencing a vicious and amoral organizational campaign, spearheaded by extremist elements of the way-out left. This effort has been cloaked in the robe of respectability by the participation of clergymen who are seemingly misguided, misinformed or unbelievably gullible.

This agitation, unfortunately, has also attracted a large number of society's misfits, including the unwashed, unshaven beatnik type and members of various radical organization. Of course, the so-called strike has won support as well from groups and individuals of unquestioned loyalty and sincerity.

It would appear that the ultimate goal is a sort of "social revolution"; the building of a political and economic power structure from the

ranks of the uneducated and poverty-stricken at the expense of the rest of society. And regardless of the methods and tactics needed to achieve that goal.

Of particular concern is that this war on affluence is apparently to be waged in good measure with taxpayers' money in the form of war on poverty grants.

THERE IS also ample evidence that Delano is merely the first battleground and many other communities will soon be embroiled in the same type of agitation if present plans are carried out.

In essence, the current developments may well have resulted from the influence of a Chicago-based "school for agitators" on leaders of both the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA or sometimes FWA) and the California Migrant Ministry.

The first chapter of the story involves Cesar Chavez, founder and elected executive director of the National Farm Workers Association. Back in the early 1950's, Chavez was recruited and hired by Fred Ross, a staff member of the Industrial Areas Foundation, engaged at that time in organizing local chapters of the Mexican-American-slanted Community Service Organization (CSO).

According to relatives and friends, Chavez went to Chicago, presumably for training, then returned to assist in the CSO organizational program. As far as we can determine, Chavez was on the payroll of the Industrial Areas Foundation for most, if not all, of the ensuing five or six years. This Chicago organization is headed by Saul Alinsky, a self-styled "professional radical" and author of *Reveille For Radicals* and *Rules For Revolution* (to be published this year). Alinsky's philosophy and activities of the Industrial Areas Foundation are explained more fully in another article.

ABOUT 1958, Chavez became executive director of the Community Service Organization, a post he held for some four years. He then resigned to organize his own farm worker organization. His activities during much of this period reportedly brought him into frequent contact with the migrant ministry staff.

The next chapter in the story centers around a symposium on Community Development in California, held at Asilomar in July, 1963, under the sponsorship of the Rosenberg Foundation. The report booklet on this session lists six "resource persons," which we can

(Continued on page 32)

# Threats, Violence Force Field Workers to Organize

By ALTON PRYOR

THE patience of the workers in the Delano vineyards is wearing thin.

Aside from the threats of physical violence which many workers claim have been made upon them and their families, there is the day in, day out, name calling from the bands of pickets lined up along the roadside, barking their obscenities through loudspeakers.

It is the workers who are in the fields who are getting the brunt of the harassment, not the growers, according to the claims made when this writer was invited to attend a meeting of the Kern-Tulare Independent Farm Workers.

This organization was formed only a short time ago by a group of Filipino field workers who chose to work instead of strike.

"WE HAD to organize ourselves," Ted Ramos, a labor contractor, said, "in order to protect ourselves." The group claims it now has 1600 members, and has set a goal of 5000 members. Membership is not limited to Filipinos, but is open to anyone whose primary occupation

is working for farming enterprises in the area.

Frank Herrera, another farm labor contractor and a member of the group, said, "These guys (union organizers) are really getting rough. Physical violence has been averted only because the workers have ignored the pickets."

As pruning activities were drawing near completion, the picketers were concentrating more and more on isolated areas, those attending the Independent Farm Workers meeting said.

"It's a hit and run tactic," Herrera said. "They come (into these areas) and by the time the law has arrived, they have told you everything they think of you."

THERE'S LITTLE doubt that ignoring the shouted obscenities and vicious name calling is becoming harder and harder for the workers.

"They call us sons of prostitutes, whores and other vile names," Ramos told *California Farmer* following the meeting. Some of the milder epithets range from labeling

those who are working as "pigs" and "scabs."

The Independent Farm Workers have also decided to do something about the claims of the union organizers that the people in the field are brought in from the outside. They have printed signs and bumper stickers to show that they are members of the IFW, and place them along the roadside where they are working and at the camps where they are staying.

"The signs will not chase away the agitators," Herrera told us, "but will show that it is the people of Delano who are working. All that has been heard has been from the people outside of Delano. Now they ought to hear from us."

Another spokesman for the new IFW group was Celestino Dulay, who helped organize the farm workers. He told of his discussion with one union official.

"WE ARE making \$3 an hour on piece work. You are only offering \$1.40," was his answer when the organizer attempted to recruit him into the AWOC group.

Ramos told of an encounter with another union representative who came to his home and ordered him not to go to work the next day.

"I explained to him that I had expenses on my house, my car, a pickup and my furniture of about \$350 a month. If you'll give me a written guarantee that the expenses will be paid, I won't go to work." The union man left, and pickets were on the roadside where Ramos' crew was working the following day.

Ramos was concerned about the impressions being given to those living outside the Delano area.

"WHAT IS being heard about Delano on the outside is about us," he told the group during the IFW meeting. "We call ourselves Delanoans."

When grape harvesting was finished, union spokesmen threatened to "hit hard" during pruning activities.

To escape as much abuse from the screaming pickets as possible,

(Continued on page 8)

## Guide to People and Organizations

**Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF):** Chicago-based "training school for agitators" directed by Saul Alinsky, self-styled professional radical and author of *Reveille for Radicals* and *Rules for Revolution*. See story on page 31.

**National Farm Workers Association (NFWA):** Independent association (unincorporated) composed primarily of Mexican-American farm workers seeking recognition as a bargaining agent in the Delano dispute. Actively supported by the California Migrant Ministry, various religious and political organizations and labor unions, as well as militant civil rights groups such as the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

**California Center for Community Development (CCCD):** Private non-profit corporation formed as an outgrowth of a 1963 symposium on community development (story on page 10) and headquartered at Del Rey, Fresno County. The symposium and CCCD have been supported by the Rosenberg Foundation. Headed by Rev. Wayne Hartmire (board chairman), director of the California Migrant Ministry.

**Cesar Chavez:** Former migrant farm worker recruited by IAF to assist in organization of Community Service Organization chapters. Later became executive director of CSO, then resigned to organize and direct the National Farm Workers Association.

**Fred Ross:** Chief organizer of the Community Service Organization chapters as western field director of IAF. More recently involved in a poverty program in New York where Saul Alinsky served as a consultant and lecturer.

**Rev. Wayne C. (Chris) Hartmire, Jr.:** Director of the California Migrant Ministry, now an arm of the state Council of Churches, and board chairman of the California Center for Community Development.

**Rev. James Drake:** Member of the Migrant Ministry staff working actively in the Delano dispute and boycott; participant in the 1963 symposium on community development, when he was director of the Goshen (Tulare County) Community Development Project. This is also known as the Tulare County Community Development Project, sup-

ported in part by the Rosenberg Foundation. See story on page 38.

**Rev. David Havens:** Formerly assigned to the Kings-Tulare Migrant Ministry, but loaned to the Tulare County Community Development Project in the fall of 1964 (where his salary was paid in part by the Rosenberg Foundation) and later shifted to the Delano dispute.

**Gilbert Padilla:** Member of the TCCDP paid by the Rosenberg Foundation (as of the late fall of 1965). A director (vice president) of the National Farm Workers Association and active in picketing, demonstrations and supervision of Southern California boycott activities. Also secretary of the California Center for Community Development.

**Edward P. Dutton:** Executive director of the CCCD and participant in the 1963 symposium, when he was a social planning consultant, United Community Fund of San Francisco.

**Art Jenkins:** Staff member of the CCCD working with tenants of Fresno public housing projects under a war on poverty grant and

another participant in the 1963 symposium, when he was director of the Carver Christian Community Center, Dos Palos, Merced County.

**Timothy Sampson:** Field director for the CCCD, symposium participant and former neighborhood organization worker for the Avalon Community Center, Los Angeles.

**Charles Gardinier:** Training director of the CCCD; on loan to the NFWA at Delano for at least two months. Formerly with the American Friends Service Committee and the California Department of Employment.

**George Ballis:** A recent addition to the CCCD staff as a research associate. Also one of three incorporators of the Farm Workers Press, the NFWA affiliate which publishes *El Malcriado* and other association literature. Former editor of the *Valley Labor Citizen*, house organ of organized labor in the southern San Joaquin Valley.

**Bard McAllister:** Director of the CCCD, Farm Labor Secretary, American Friends Service Committee, and a speaker at the 1963 symposium.

# Strike That Isn't a Strike Has Delano Growers Puzzled

By DON RAZEE

**W**HAT is the grower reaction to the goings-on in Delano?

Bruno Dispoto had 500 acres of grapes and a shipping shed. He recently returned from a Chicago meeting attended by buyers of fresh fruit from across the country. After the meeting, Dispoto went on to New York, Florida and Texas to talk to more of his grape customers.

In Chicago, Dispoto asked everyone he met what effect the boycott was having. "I got tired of explaining what I was talking about. Their question was, 'What boycott?'"

Dispoto talked with chain store buyers, fruit jobbers, commission merchants and auction companies. No one knew anything about a boycott, and all wanted to know about it.

**NOT ONCE** since this thing started has there been any effect on movement of grapes. Not once has a buyer asked if the brand was on the boycott list.

Dispoto sells in the Midwest, the Eastern Seaboard and the Southeast. The company also ships overseas. If the boycott is working, these areas have not heard about it.

Movement of this year's record 3.96 million tons has been good. The Federal-State Market News Service reports that, as of February 18, there had been 16,058 California interstate grape rail passings. This compares to 13,962 on the same date in 1965. If the boycott is working, why have 2096 more cars moved this year, Dispoto asks?

The growers interviewed by *California Farmer* indicate the pickets number from 30 to 150. They rove in bands around the two-county area involved. Growers call them roving agitators.

They drive around until they spot workers in a field near the public road, stop and harass the workers. Foul language and general abuse are their chief tools. They'll roll up and ask those working for a living, "Where did you sleep last night, on the floor like a dog? You are a dog, aren't you? You are working like a dog." After this sort of verbal encouragement, workers are supposed to want to join the unions.

**ONE THING** more growers mention than anything else is the role of the migrant ministry in all of this. Some of the foulest language ever used is employed in the picket lines where the ministry is marching. Growers find this difficult to understand.

Dispoto points out that when the strike was a total failure during harvest, Cesar Chavez said, "Wait until pruning, then we'll get the growers." It takes some skill to prune and Chavez hoped to keep the skilled workers out of the field. Growers report pruning was completed about two weeks ahead of schedule this year with an abundant supply of labor.

Growers point out that of all the charges made there has never been a complaint filed. There are proper authorities, such as the Division of Industrial Welfare with their various orders, where any individual could have an injustice corrected.

It is also of interest to note that there are 10 federal programs covering labor camps, labor contractor regulations, transportation, minimum wages for women and minors, child labor laws, wage payment and collection laws, workmen's compensation, temporary disability insurance and unemployment insurance.

**FARM WORKERS** are covered by all but unemployment insurance. Only the District of Columbia and Hawaii have unemployment insurance for farm workers.

Pennsylvania comes closest to California with six laws on the books. New York has five, Florida two, Texas has none. What about our competitive states? Arizona has two, Oregon three and Washington two.

Growers figure the thing will drag on. They feel there is no chance for a union victory prior to the 1967 general legislative session. Here growers admit they could get clobbered among the new breed of city-oriented legislator. Growers agree this is the aim of the migrant ministry and the unions. If they can keep the pot boiling, they feel legislation is sure to follow.

Growers also agree about the tremendous assist given by a few self-appointed, dedicated but misguided, ministers. Without their help, Chavez has publicly admitted, the movement would have failed long ago.

**GROWERS** feel this is unfortunate because it has set church against church in the State, and has divided people within the church. Growers feel the ministers would have been just as wrong had they taken up the growers' side. Most feel they have no business getting involved in labor-management controversies. Growers continue to ask how men of the cloth can be party to such vilification and harassment. There are many who are bewildered by the actions of the clergy. They can't believe what they see and hear, Dispoto says.

Martin Zaninovich says this is the strangest labor dispute ever seen. Never have so few gained so much publicity with so little impact. The strike has done nothing to the growers of the area.

Zaninovich jumped right into the reasons for the ministry's involvement. His sentiments were much the same as those reported above.

**HE SAID** that grapes are selling for about \$1 per box less this year than last. This varies considerably by variety, but this is average. He figures there are about 8000 carloads of 1000 boxes each shipped out of the Delano area. This means growers of the area took in \$8 million less this year than last. Production was up about 25 per cent in the Delano area last year.

Zaninovich also ships, and he, too, says they have not had a single inquiry about the boycott. As far as Schenley products are concerned there are more on the shelves now than before because now more people ask for them by name. Until the boycott brand list came out, most people didn't realize they were buying a Schenley product.

It is tough to boycott fresh grapes. In the store how can you tell if they are Delano grapes? Zaninovich, along with other growers, is interested to see how the ministers and the unions keep the thing alive over the March-April period when there is no field activity. Most assume they'll kick the boycott thing around more so as not to lose momentum.

Several growers pointed out that after Walter Reuther's visit to the area, the beatnik types disappeared. Growers figure Reuther told Chavez and the ministers to clear them out.

**WE TALKED** with one Mexican-American who has lived in the Delano area for over 40 years. He said he didn't know any of the people in the line. Only rarely did he spot a familiar face among the pickets.

Zaninovich feels the reason the unions are having such a tough  
*(Continued on page 20)*

**HERE ARE** two fine gentlemen representing the National Farm Workers Association. This shot was taken February 5 in Delano. On the left is Alexander P. Hoffman. To quote Senator Hugh Burns' Fact-Finding Subcommittee on Un-American Activities: "Alexander P. Hoffman had been a speaker for the Harbor Youth League, young Communist component of the party, has been acting as an advisor for the Free Speech Movement, has made no effort to conceal his Marxist convictions and was a research assistant at the law center on the Berkeley campus." The man on the right is Luis Valdez who stages plays which portray the role of the union vs. scab labor.



**For more  
on Delano,  
see pages 10,  
21, 22, 27,  
28, 30 and 38.**

# Field Workers Organize

(Continued from page 6)

Ramos said that crews pruned vines in the center of the vineyards, leaving those along the roadside untouched. Consequently, much of the pruning was finished before union leaders were aware that it was going on. The heavy vine growth along the roadside screened the workers from view.

**RAMOS ALSO** clarified a point. The field workers are not opposed to joining a union. "If they could

offer us even a little bit, we would go with them. But they're trying to take away what we've built up over 25 years." To lay off work while on strike, he said, would cause many to lose their homes and other possessions.

*California Farmer* asked the leaders of the Independent Farm Workers if they intended to become a bargaining group. They immediately set up a large chalk board,

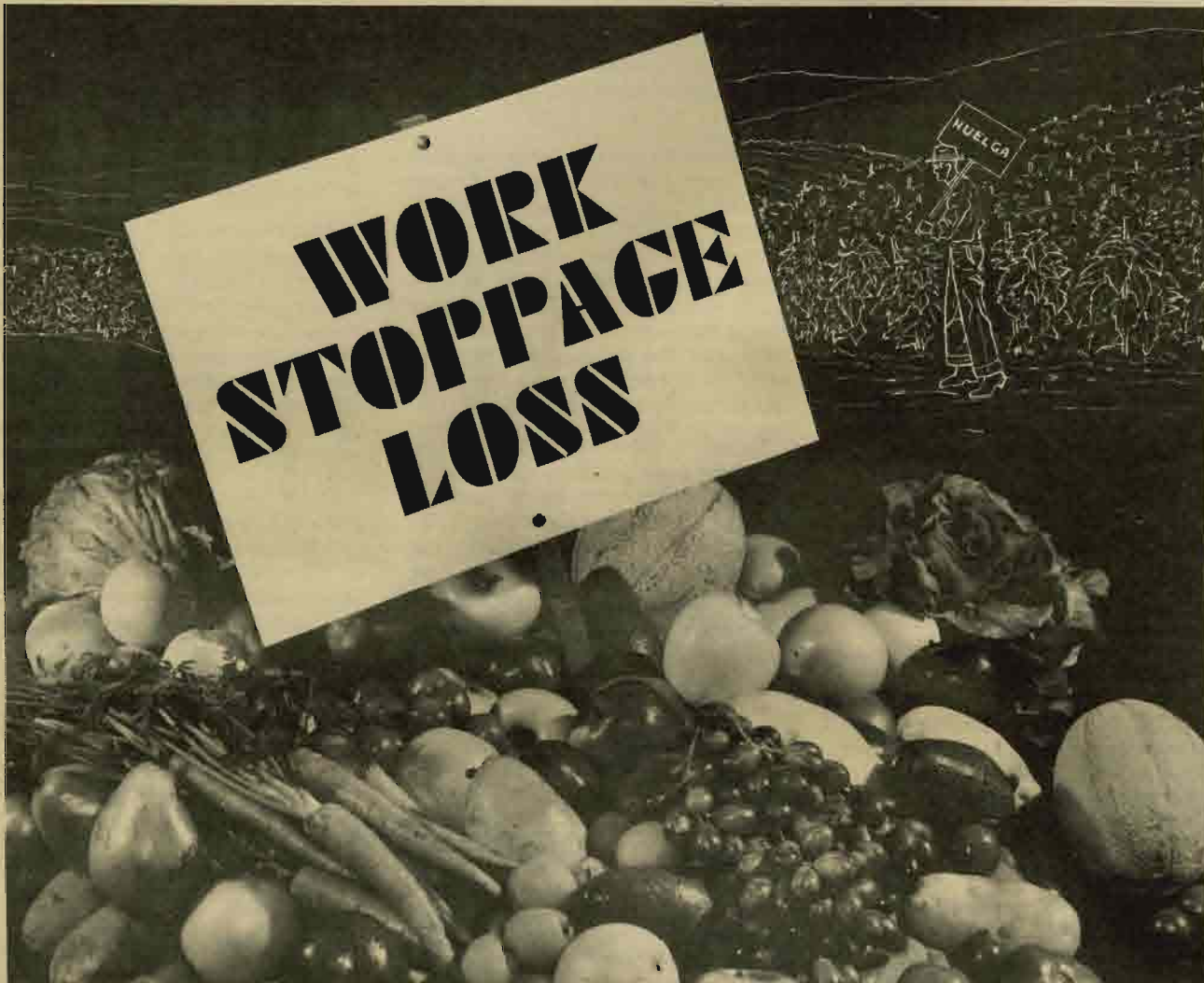
listing the purposes of the organization as they had been derived at the group's last meeting.


1. The organization will represent the workers.
2. Promote better understanding and relations between growers and workers.
3. Enter into agreements with the growers.

While growers are neither encouraging nor discouraging the formation of the Independent Farm Workers, they are obviously aware that this group, formed to protect themselves from harassment of union pickets, could evolve into a form of union itself.

**IF THE GROUP** should become a bargaining agent, growers might find themselves in no position to decline a seat at the bargaining table. For, unlike AWOC, which claims to represent farm workers but has been unable to offer any proof that it does, IFW could merely show its membership rolls as evidence of whom it represents.

Growers could find themselves winning the current battle, but losing the next war.



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  - Lodi, DeLong Insurance  
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  - Marysville, Androus Ins. Agency  
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  - Merced, Lorenzi-Masasso Agency  
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  - Modesto, Giddings, Corby, Hynes,  
& Lyng, Inc.—523-2665
  - Patterson, Stanislaus Agency  
892-8071
  - Pleasanton, O. Keefe  
846-5440
  - Redlands, Sawyer, Cooke & Co.  
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  - Sacramento, All-Cal Ins. Agency  
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  - Eggleston-Finney  
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  - Salinas, Growers Ins. Agency  
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Jaenicke-Heppes Co.  
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**T**HE activities of the California Center for Community Development (CCCD) show a strong pattern of working to organize low-income families, including farm workers, along the lines of a labor union.

The center has organized tenants of four West Fresno housing projects under a contract with the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission. The Fresno Tenants' Council, claiming 300 members representing 500 families, has opened an office and engaged Arthur M. Jenkins, a staff member of CCCD, as director.

This private social agency has also received approval of a \$246,836 grant from the federal Office of Economic Opportunity for a self-

help project with migrants. According to officials of the center, a primary aim will be in "helping create groups" or organizing low-income groups to work with existing organizations.

Executive Director Edward P. Dutton said the program involves

training of 30 individuals, selected from poverty areas, in 6-week courses on "community dynamics."

He said the training will be conducted in the Del Rey Mexican Baptist Church, located across the street from the CCCD office. This congregation, he indicated, plans

to build a new church and has agreed to lease the present building to the center. Some remodeling is planned to enable the housing, feeding and training of the trainees right on the premises.

This is interesting. At a migrant ministry meeting held in mid-January by the Fresno Area Council of Churches, Rev. Wayne C. Hartmire, Jr., director of the California Migrant Ministry and CCCD board chairman, proposed the hiring of two people by the Migrant Ministry to work with youth programs under the direction of Rev. Walter Garcia of the Del Rey Baptist Church.

At this same meeting, Rev. Richard Sample of the migrant ministry reported on a current all-out effort to fully develop a farm workers' association on the West Side to achieve the goals of the individual farm worker. One of those attending the meeting said Sample remarked that he already had dues from a number of people, but hadn't decided which organization to join.

The California Center for Community Development has also joined with a group known as the Firebaugh-Mendota Poverty Fighters in submitting an application for \$203,860 in war on poverty funds to organize low income families in the two west Fresno County communities. This application has run up against strong opposition from the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission.

As we understand it, an unincorporated group such as the Firebaugh-Mendota organization is ineligible for war on poverty funds unless it has the backing of a private corporate organization or public agency.

The California Center for Community Development is a tax-exempt California corporation, formed in early 1965 with a grant from the Rosenberg Foundation as an outgrowth of a symposium on community development, also sponsored by the Rosenberg Foundation.

The board of directors is headed by Hartmire, a strong supporter of the National Farm Workers Association in its dispute with Delano area grape growers.

In the Fresno area, the tenants' council set up a paint committee to demand free paint and equipment to refurbish their own quarters. These supplies had been provided in the past, but according to housing spokesmen, requests were "few and far between."

The policy was softpedaled in recent months because of a pending program of major physical rehabilitation of all city projects and many of the older county projects. The cost of this program was estimated initially at more than \$2 million and plans were sent to the regional office of the Federal Housing

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# Mean Union Organizing?



Authority in San Francisco last November.

Although many of the tenants were aware of these plans, their paint committee picketed the authority's office over a 3-day period. During part of this time, officials of the housing authority were meeting with FHA officials in San Francisco.

Unable to get a commitment on the start of the remodeling work, the Fresno housing officials decided to resume the free paint policy, despite the fact that the walls of the buildings may be torn out in a few months.

The office of this tenants' council was the site of a February meeting of farm workers from throughout the State for discussions on how to organize. Invitations were sent to workers in Michigan, Texas, Arizona and Washington as well.

Meanwhile, the parent organization, CCCD, came in for sharp criticism for its "too arrogant attitude" in connection with the war on poverty.

Robert B. Moore, a member of the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission and a former city councilman, was quoted as declaring, "People are concerned with the (CCD's attitude. They feel that to them (the CCCD) this is not a war on poverty, but a war on the affluent."

The controversy arose over statements in the application for the \$203,860 grant to the Del Rey-based center and the Firebaugh-Mendota poverty fighters. This is more than twice the amount (\$100,000) designed for community development programs in a system of priorities drawn up by the commission. Community development is labeled a medium priority program.

Dutton was a speaker at a recent church-sponsored discussion of welfare programs. Some of his statements, as reported by the *Fresno Bee*, may provide some insight into his philosophy.

"Dutton emphasized the proposal by the California Center for Community Development to organize welfare recipients and other low income families along the line of a union."

According to this report, he maintained that welfare problems will be solved by "decent wages" and his one criticism of welfare is lack of enough money.

"He also said the whole welfare system ideally should be eliminated in favor of another system—social insurance."

Two southern California students were on the Cal Poly parliamentary procedure team which won the state championship for the second time at the FFA convention in Salinas.

Dutton was directly quoted as saying, "Every member of society should receive a certain standard through social insurance."

Another interesting sidelight: In early February, George Ballis, editor of the *Valley Labor Citizen* (a Fresno-based publication of organ-

ized labor), announced he had joined the staff of the California Center for Community Development as a part-time research associate.

He was to leave his post at the union paper March 1 and said he probably would join the CCCD full-

time, although some details remained to be worked out.

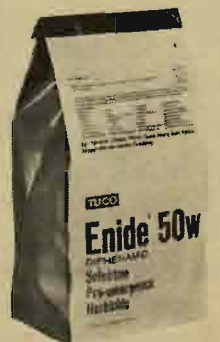
Ballis, we learned, was one of the incorporators of the Farm Worker Press, the NFWA-affiliated firm that published *El Malcriado* and other material promoting the Delano independent union.



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# Strike That Isn't a Strike

(Continued from page 7)

time organizing workers is that they offer them nothing but an opportunity to pay dues. They offer the grower nothing either. The bleeding heart group is the only one getting anything out of the unions, according to this grower.

We caught up with Dick Myer, labor relations manager for DiGiorgio at the company's Sierra Vista Ranch. *California Farmer* wanted to see the payrolls. They were immediately made available. Here, by crews, are the wages paid for pruning on February 18. Wages are piece rate varying from 5½ cents to eight cents per vine, depending on variety. All workers were brought up to the \$1.40 level if they earned less on piece work.

In the first crew 8 per cent made \$1.40 per hour, 46 per cent made between \$1.41 and \$1.78 and another 46 per cent made \$1.86 to \$2.76 per hour.

**A SECOND** crew shows that 18 per cent made \$1.40, 47 per cent earned between \$1.44 and \$1.76, and 35 per cent made \$1.81 to \$2.77. Still another crew had 13 per cent at \$1.40, 53 per cent between \$1.42 and \$1.76, 34 per cent ranged from \$1.83 to \$2.92.

One crew had 35 per cent at \$1.40, 22 per cent between \$1.43 and \$1.76 and 43 per cent came in at between \$1.80 and \$2.15.

One crew had no one at \$1.40 but 20 per cent between \$1.66 and \$1.74 and 80 per cent between \$1.82 and \$2.39. A group of ladies tying had 52 per cent at \$1.40 and 48 per cent between \$1.48 and \$1.89.

Myer has found the most effective way to get rid of the mobile agitators is to set up two cars at opposite ends of the field being picketed and pipe the music from the same radio station through loud speakers into the field. This prevents the pickets from being heard as they shout insults and profanities at the workers.

DiGiorgio reports no problem in obtaining labor; in fact, they recruited less outside labor for both harvest and pruning this year than last.

**DURING THE** peak of union activities at harvest time 36 out of 700 employees left their jobs. Some joined the demonstrations, others moved on to jobs in other crops to avoid harassment and heckling from the picketers. No more than five of the 36 were ever seen among the demonstrators.

For the pay period ending September 8, workers averaged \$2.46 per hour with one picker earning \$4.32 on a piece work basis. The week ending September 29 shows an average of \$1.97 with a top of \$3.27.

DiGiorgio offers paid vacations for anyone working 1600 hours per year. Of the company's 147 salaried employees, 99 started out as hourly field or packinghouse workers.

DiGiorgio is not opposed to unionization. More than 1000 shed and processing workers are union members. But in the current Delano disturbance those requesting meetings do not represent company employees.

**DIGIORGIO** feels there are serious obstacles to be overcome before the collective bargaining sought by FWA and AWOC can be achieved.

Even the supporters of the Delano demonstration admit that FWA and AWOC would compete for the right to represent grape pickers if they were to win the present dispute. No grower could be expected to negotiate with labor leaders unless he was certain that the labor leaders were representative of the workers.

## The Credit Card Episode

The National Farm Workers Association at Delano apparently has the "blank check" backing of the California Migrant Ministry — at least to the extent of the use of an automobile and a gasoline credit card.

This financial backing was continuing despite the concern of many churches over the activities of the migrant ministry in the NFWA's labor dispute at Delano, according to Dr. Floyd W. Reed, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Delano.

"Documents have been provided to me which prove that purchases as recent as February 9 have been made by officials of the local farm workers union on the official credit card of the migrant ministry," Reed said. *California Farmer* was also given a copy of the documents.

The purchase in question consisted of a set of four tires, mounted on a vehicle registered to the California Council of Churches and regularly used by members of the NFWA staff. The purchase was charged with a credit card issued to the California Migrant Ministry and signed by Tony Mendez, an NFWA official.

Reed noted that a number of church groups have refused to continue supporting the migrant ministry policy of active participation on behalf of the unions, after hearing both viewpoints.

"I hope and pray that responsible church organizations throughout the State will follow the examples set by these church groups in seeking the truth before they blindly support the present questionable activities of the California Migrant Ministry," he concluded.



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The people doing the picketing do not represent the people doing the work. None of the so-called strikes has been called by the employees in the area.

This past harvest has been California's largest grape crop in history with 3,960,000 tons being harvested by 85,000 persons.

Schenley Industries' audited payroll figures reveal the average hourly rate paid to adult male grape pickers this past season was \$2.73 per hour. In addition, for those desiring to live in the vineyard area, clean and well kept housing facilities were provided to both families and single workers free of charge during harvest. This rent-free housing constitutes a sizable addition to the worker's income, according to James E. Woolsey, vice president of the company.

Sub-adults over 16 years of age were employed as pickers during school vacation periods. They earned an average of \$1.60 per hour. "Audited figures prove claims that Schenley paid grape pickers less than \$1.40 per hour are not true," Woolsey says.

Many outside groups have been brought into the valley due to misleading statements. Schenley was the first United States distillery to sign a union contract covering pro-

### San Joaquin Diocese Resolution Regarding Migrant Ministry

Whereas, we recognize that the California Migrant Ministry has exercised an effective and beneficial ministry for the last 35 years to farm laborers with the strengthening Gospel of Christ; and we recognize our responsibility as the parishes and missions of the Diocese of San Joaquin to minister to all men, without regard to race or nationality or station in life; and,

At the same time we recognize that our Lord calls us to a concern with the methods employed in our calling to serve all men as well as with the ends we seek; and,

The California Migrant Ministry has radically altered its approach and ministry to the farm laborers by taking the role of strike organizers in the grape strike in Delano which we believe to be inconsistent with our calling to proclaim the Good News of the Incarnation to all men, growers and laborers alike;

Therefore be it resolved that we place the Diocese of San Joaquin on record as opposing the procedures of the California Migrant Ministry in the Delano grape strike; and,

That we strengthen the efforts of the Episcopal Church in our Diocese among farm laborers; and,

That the Bishop appoint a committee to study the role of the California Migrant Ministry in the Delano grape strike and its implications which shall include the chairman of the Standing Committee, the senior active priest of the Diocese, and three to five other members at the Bishop's discretion, to report within 120 days of this convention.

# Pickets Do Not Represent Pickers in Delano Area

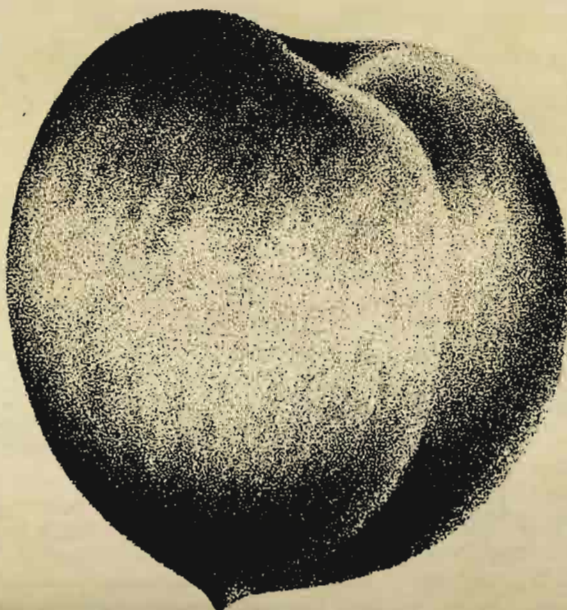
duction workers. The company signed its first contract with a recognized union on July 16, 1936. This was at the Finch plant at Schenley, Pa.

At about the same time the company initiated the practice of in-

sisting on the union insignia on all printed material including bottle labels. Since 1941 all Schenley products have been 100 per cent union made. On August 31, 1965 Schenley had 62 contracts with 59 local unions representing 60 international unions.

In California all of Schenley's wine-making operations are fully unionized from grape crushing to final bottling.

Grape pickers and pruners have not selected a union to represent them in any California vineyard.



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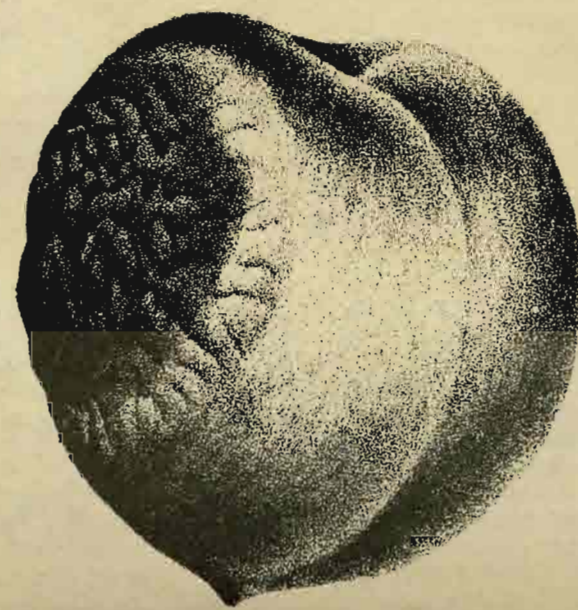
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## OR OTHERWISE

THE California Migrant Ministry has received a sharp slap on the wrist for its active participation in the labor dispute in the Delano area.

The Los Angeles Presbytery, by a vote of 143-122, turned down a resolution supporting the migrant ministry and its director, the Rev. Wayne C. (Chris) Hartmire, in their alliance with the National Farm Workers Association.

The action was viewed by some observers as significant because Hartmire, who resides in Culver City, is a Presbyterian and the strongest support for the active participation policy of the migrant ministry has traditionally come from churches in metropolitan areas. The Presbyterian Church

unit includes Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties.

A Los Angeles Presbyterian minister, however, minimized the importance of the vote, saying that growers who appeared at the meeting made "a strong appeal to anti-

union sentiment" and the discussion did not really center on the question of the Delano dispute.

THE CRITICS of the migrant ministry have emphasized that their opposition is not limited to the Delano case; they would object

to active participation by clergymen in any strike or organizational effort. They charge that to do so is to assume the role of union organizers and is not in keeping with basic Christian principles and the responsibility of clergymen to serve all of mankind.

This squabble does not seem to have any of the earmarks of a difference of opinion between the faiths or even the various denominations. Rather, it centers around the proper role of religious leaders in political and economic affairs.

And, as one church member put it, "When religious leaders take sides in a labor dispute, actually participate in picketing and name-calling, they sacrifice whatever immunity to criticism they may have enjoyed. When this happens, they put themselves in the same category as anyone else."

Some San Joaquin Valley church leaders have expressed concern that the involvement of the migrant ministry in the Delano strike may actually cause a serious rift in churches throughout the State, thereby interfering with progress in other fields of endeavor.

THE DIRECT involvement of the migrant ministry with the role of the farm worker seems to have the backing of the parent body, the California Council of Churches, through a resolution approved two years ago. Early in February, the council sent a committee to Delano for a two-day evaluation to determine future policy.

Earlier, leaders of the Southern California-Arizona Methodist Conference Board of Christian Social Concern gave strong support to the migrant ministry's position. Board spokesmen urged grape growers in the Delano area to bargain with the unions, charging that growers have consistently refused to bargain in good faith.

On this point, grower spokesmen have continually stressed they would be willing to negotiate if a substantial number of their workers indicated they wished to be represented by either of the unions. Contending this is not the case, they point out that to enter into a union contract would amount to forced unionization of the workers.

The Rev. C. Edgar Mah Herz, pastor of the First Methodist Church and president of the Delano Ministerial Association, told this reporter that the best estimates by employment department officials and other knowledgeable sources indicates that "at no time have more than 10 per cent of the farm workers supported the strike."

HE ADDED that a complete audit of the payroll records of one large vineyard operation showed that

# Churches Split Over Labor

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# Role of Migrant Ministry

male adults averaged \$2.75 per hour during the entire harvest season. Women earned \$1.95 and minors made \$1.89 an hour. The unions are demanding \$1.40.

The payroll of another ranch for pruning work during the first week of February averaged over \$2 an hour for the entire crew. The lowest weekly earnings, he reported, was some \$40 for a man who worked only two days, while the highest figure was for a man and wife team that made \$210.

The local clergymen particularly resent the civil rights overtones injected into the Delano dispute, the appearance of outside clergymen and, indeed, the very presence of the migrant ministry, which had not been active in the Delano area prior to the entrance of NFWA into the strike called by AWOC.

Dr. Floyd Reed, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Delano, declared, "The outside clergy is not here to minister spiritually. They're not here at the invitation of the local churches. They're here only to back the strike."

**REV. MANHERZ** said the outside clergymen are misinformed and do a disservice to the church when they come in. He also told us that the migrant ministry made no effort to contact the members of the ministerial association when it came into the area last fall.

The local clergy finally called Hartmire and asked for a meeting. Dr. Reed recalled that the migrant ministry people were asked to refrain from comparing Delano with Selma, Alabama, as they had been doing in public statements.

The migrant ministers agreed to this and explained that their basic concern was with the right of farm workers to organize and bargain. "Yet, they referred to Martin Luther King and Selma, Alabama, no less than five times during the remainder of the meeting," Dr. Reed recalled.

"Actually, we have no civil rights problem here at all," he emphasized.

The Delano clergymen point to complete integration of schools, churches and even housing. They also point out that members of all minorities hold responsible positions in the community.

**THE EVENING** following the interviews with the Delano ministers, this reporter sat in on an address by the Rev. Hartmire to a Bakersfield church group. An eloquent and dramatic speaker, he conveyed the idea that most, if not quite all, farm workers tend to be poverty-stricken with an annual family income of about \$2500. He also described them as generally poorly ed-

ucated (which is too often true) and living "on the wrong side of the tracks or freeway."

The Rev. Hartmire said they lacked the political or economic power to hold their own against

their affluent employers and that the combination of these factors dictated against their having dignity.

In the Delano situation, he said the migrant ministry has tried to

stand back of the farm worker and is supporting what it believes is a just cause.

Asked why the union leaders at Delano have vilified the city government, police force and community leaders, the Rev. Hartmire replied that the migrant ministry cannot be responsible for everything that happens in the strike. "Life is not always pretty and pure. If the church withdraws," he declared, "it cannot have any influence."

One thing we couldn't help noticing: Whenever the Rev. Hartmire referred to those on strike, he called them "the workers." But when he was talking about the people working in the field, they were "the strikebreakers."

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# Pickets Show Signs Of Desperation

**A**N aura of tense frustration surrounded the Delano area picketing in late February, giving rise to concern among growers as well as law enforcement officials.

The consensus among *California Farmer's* contacts was that this strained atmosphere was brought about by the repeated failure of the demonstrations.

As we understand it, the union leaders had promised their followers a victory within 30 days after the picketing began in early September.

When this didn't occur, the strikers were told they would win by Christmas. By the time pruning was all but finished, with no end in sight, the pickets were fast becoming discouraged and desperate. The strike had gone nearly six months, instead of a few weeks.

It was at this point that picketing moved from the field into the city of Delano for the first time, with only an occasional brief foray to the few vineyards where work was still in progress.

It was also at this point that local law enforcement agencies noted indications of more "acts of desperation." The shouts and curses on the picket lines became bitterly abusive, occasionally accompanied by rock throwing, rather than merely inflammatory and insulting. (It had never been very friendly.)

One ranch foreman said the pickets would no longer talk or joke a bit with him, as they had done previously. And a police spokesman noticed a definite change from the previously "subtle" types of violence.

One picket was sentenced to serve 20 days in jail and fined \$120 after pleading guilty to a charge of assault and battery. The 20-year-old demonstrator, Carlos M. Rodriguez, was charged with striking the manager of a Delano liquor store while picketing the store.

In another incident believed to be strike-related, a 60-year-old radio repairman, David C. Enriquez, was attacked and beaten by two unidentified men near his home. He

told police he had been threatened by several pickets after he repaired a loud speaker system at the liquor store mentioned above. The system was used to drown out the voices of the pickets.

Another example: A rock was thrown through the rear window of an unmarked police car which closely resembled a vehicle involved in a previous strike altercation in the same neighborhood (near NFWA headquarters). The officer driving the car was unable to locate or identify the miscreant because of darkness.

The boycott picketing of Delano area stores was aimed at slowing the sale of Schenley products and perhaps was a bit more successful than other boycott efforts. About half a dozen outlets removed the product from their shelves, some upon request and others only after picketing had gone on for some period of time. But quite a number were either not approached or refused to be intimidated.

After the initial picketing, we chatted with the owner of the liquor store where the manager was later attacked. He said he "had a ball" with the pickets, going out into the parking lot to "direct traffic."

He made it clear he wasn't anti-union, but he didn't believe in secondary boycotts to begin with, and the pickets were outsiders anyway.

"If the local people were actually on strike, I'd support them," he declared.

Originally, the pickets asked that all Schenley products be removed from the shelves. After they saw the boycott wasn't working, he said they came back in and told him they'd settle for removal of a few of the principal products. The owner again refused and the picketing resumed.

"We've had one batch of wine that's been gathering dust for months. It's finally gone, thanks to this demonstration," he related.

Delano police estimated there were about 100 demonstrators involved in this instance, but only about 15 were local farm workers. About half were outsiders and another third were students and children.—**D.U.**

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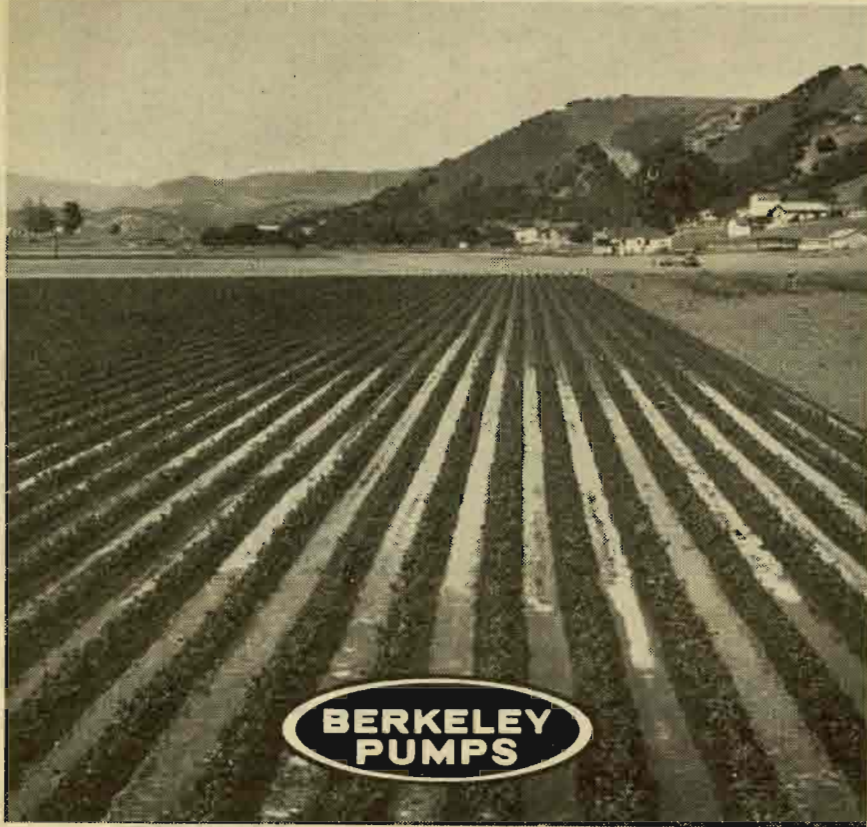
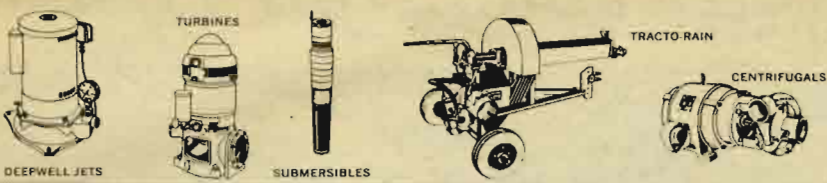
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# Can We Avoid Another Delano?

**H**OW can growers avoid another "Delano"?

Joe Brosmer of Fresno, manager of the Agricultural Labor Bureau, doesn't pretend to have all the answers. But he did pass along a few suggestions and observations, based not only on the Delano experience (in which he's been involved daily), but also on his dozen years in his present job.

Of prime importance, he declares, is that growers know their labor supply and know the problems of their employees.

Right along with this, he's long noted a critical need for better qualified, better trained supervisors of farm labor. And Brosmer stresses that this need holds true whether a farmer works directly with his workers or uses a labor contractor. Either way, the grower must be responsible for his labor force.

The labor contractors — and there are a few good ones—are a highly important factor in many areas of the State. The latest tabulation, for instance, lists about 1100 registered labor contractors.

Brosmer also believes growers, one way or another, will have to engage in some sort of employee relations program. At present, there is a need for more training in personnel management, he adds.

"I can foresee the possibility of farm labor management becoming

## San Francisco Will Aid Delano Strikers

According to a *San Francisco Chronicle* report a San Francisco social worker plans to head a drive to gain massive community support for striking Delano vineyard workers.

Herman Gallegos plans to remain as director of the Hunter's Point-Bayview District Youth Opportunities Center but he will resign from the City's anti-poverty council and from the State Commission on Compensatory Education.

Gallegos says San Francisco support could be the key to eventually winning the 6-month-old strike. Gallegos was San Francisco's Outstanding Young Man of 1964.

He reports tremendous local support has already been given by private citizens, labor, some businessmen, local clergy and organizations such as Mexican-American and civil rights groups. He feels more is needed.

Committees will be set up to seek donations of food, clothing, money and support for a consumers' boycott.

He has been pledged immediate full support from the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and local Presbyterian and Episcopal churches.

a specialty to the extent that courses are provided in colleges," Brosmer continued.

"I can also see a system whereby persons trained in farm labor management move right along with seasonal work crews from area to area. Such specialists should be on the farmer's payroll for the period of time involved in a particular job. This would give the farmer the advantage of professional labor management without the burden of a year-long salary," he explained.

This system is actually operating in some crops, Brosmer noted; for instance, shed foremen who follow the cantaloup harvest from the Imperial Valley to Fresno County every year.

In some areas, Brosmer believes that improved coordination among growers would be helpful, although this does not necessarily mean that growers should have highly formalized organizations. But coordination, itself, could lead to better utilization of the work force.

"I'm convinced that agricultural employment, insofar as possible, must be based on a piece work system of payment," he declared. "Under piece work, growers can afford to pay good wages to able and willing workers, because their earnings are based on their efficiency and productivity."

As to housing, Brosmer thinks it should be provided where practicable and reasonable—for single men, for example.

"I'd like to see, where necessary, higher wages paid and the cost of facilities and services, such as housing, charged to the worker.

"No one ever gives the grower credit for the benefits he provides, but these often amount to considerable additional income to the worker," he pointed out.

"Seasonal family housing is not the farmer's responsibility," Brosmer flatly declared. "At present the potential earnings of qualified farm workers are such that free housing is unnecessary."

He urges growers to make a constant search for more efficient and economical ways to cultivate and harvest their crops. This may involve a study of the jobs required to find a simpler and easier way to do them.

One example is in the picking of market tomatoes that will later be repicked for processing. A frequent grower complaint is that workers don't put the vines back over the green tomatoes if they are being paid on a piece work basis.

"Maybe the growers could try paying the pickers on a piece work basis to allow good earnings, then hire another person, maybe even a student, on an hourly basis to go through and put the vines back in place," Brosmer suggested.—D.U.

# Slow Release Fertilizer



## Speeds Tree Growth

By DON UPTON

A new method of applying growth nutrients to new plantings of bare root trees and vines is causing quite a stir among fruit and tree nut growers around the State.

The method is simple: Just drop a tablet or two into the feeder root zone when trees or canes are being planted.

These tablets—called orchard starter tablets—are about the size of a small spool of thread. For vines, evergreen trees and other perennials, a half-size pellet is available.

The nutrients include nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (28-8-4), with small amounts of zinc, iron and sulfur added. The nitrogen is mostly derived from urea-formaldehyde which has the unique property of only partial water solubility. About two-thirds of the nitrogen requires bacterial action in the soil to convert it to available forms.

In addition, the cylindrical tablets are tightly compressed (under 10 tons of pressure) and the bacterial action can only occur on the surface.

The combination of these features guarantees the slow, steady release of the nutrients over a period of two years or more. This, in turn, insures that too much nitrogen will not be available at any one time to injure the roots or be leached and wasted.

The manufacturer (Leslie-Agriform Corporation) and the distributors make it clear, however, that the starter tablets are not intended as a substitute for a grower's normal fertilizer program.

"The product is designed to give trees and vines the nutrients they need, as they need them, during the early stages of growth," explained Marvin Moore of Thompson-Hayward Chemical Co. (formerly De-Pester Western, Inc.)

Robert Neely, manager of the Heard Ranch east of Fresno, has high praise for the starter tablets. He used them on all but six almond trees planted in February of 1964. The young planting received no additional fertilization during the first year, but was "spoon fed" with ammonium sulfate in 1965. A total of about 60 units of nitrogen per acre, banded alongside the trees, was used in three applications (including the trees planted without the starter tablets).

Neely is planting another 18-acre field this year and declared, "I'm not going to plant without them," in discussing the fertilizer product. The big advantage, he believes, is getting the trees off to a fast start and, hopefully, getting profitable production much sooner.

"With all the almonds that are going in, prices are likely to be on the low side, so anything we can do to boost production is just good 'insurance,'" he commented.



**DOUBLED GROWTH** of almond trees is quickly apparent at the Heard Ranch, using Bob Neely (who stands an inch or two under six feet) as a yardstick. The trees—neither the largest nor the smallest in the field—are typical of those planted in February, 1964, with and without the orchard starter tablets, and photographed in February, 1966.



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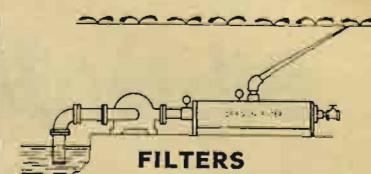
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# Bible Justifies Migrant Ministry Action

**W**AR, murder and every dirty deed man has been able to conjure up have been 'justified' by manipulating the interpretation of one passage or another of the Bible.

So it is that the migrant ministry 'justifies' its direct involvement in the Delano grape situation. The Reverend Phil Farnham is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. He is also what he calls a volunteer worker in the Delano area receiving support from the migrant ministry.

*California Farmer* asked Farnham how he justified the church's involvement in a movement which is almost universally condemned by local ministers and townspeople. This man of the cloth, wearing a red sweatshirt and in need of a shave, said this was due to a lack of understanding of the church as it is by ministers and lay people who see things differently than those in the migrant ministry.

Farnham cannot understand anyone, especially ministers, who question the church's involvement.

"Involvement is an extension of the ministry of Christ," according to this migrant minister. "In fact, Christ got so involved in a controversy between the religious leaders of the day and the politicians he got strung up on the cross."

Farnham points to the New Testament where the followers and advisors of Jesus told him it would be very dangerous to go into Jerusalem where both political and religious leaders were hostile to him. At the time, Jesus was in the country where he was safe.

But Jesus went to Jerusalem, took sides and got involved. He preached in the streets, and refrained from moderating his position when given this opportunity before Pontius Pilate. He ended up on the cross.

Farnham sees the church's mission as one of taking sides. He feels it is unfortunate that in so doing some get hurt. He feels most people join a church because it is a social institution and members expect it to serve their interest. Few join an organization and expect it to turn and fight them. Farnham feels this is the understandable reason church members resent the migrant ministry involvement.

Farnham insists that the migrant ministry and its involvement in the Delano movement is a part of the church even though part of the ministry, particularly in the valley, would like to say it is not. He feels the church must be big enough to handle the controversy that has arisen.

To answer the question of why the local ministry does not support the migrant ministry in Delano, Farnham again goes back to

the New Testament. He asks, "Why didn't religious leaders of the day protect Jesus?" The answer, according to Farnham, is that this is not human nature.

Every grower and independent worker contacted by *California Farmer's* team of editors in putting this issue together questioned the clergy involvement in the picket lines where foul language, vilification and harassment are the tools of the trade. We asked Farnham about this.

He hedged and squirmed a little on this one. He indicated migrant ministers hadn't been on the line in recent weeks. He said something about not being responsible for the language of strikers. He indicated that the presence of a minister had held such abuses and violence to a minimum while admitting they had been unable to cut it off entirely.

Farnham took extreme exception to the charge by some agricultural leaders that the violence and the ministers arrived at the same time. He termed such statements actionable.

Farnham's direct involvement is with the so-called boycott. Growers maintain it is a total flop. Farnham says they would not know how effective it has been until they win. But he questioned the actions of the growers in both the strike and the boycott if they are not effective. Why are growers spending so much money and time fighting both if neither is effective?

This clergyman feels the actions of the growers are completely incomprehensible if the strike and the boycott are only a nuisance. He hopes growers will soon get organized. He feels that once they are organized themselves, they will not have so much fear of organized labor.

"Our society is run by organizations, so growers might as well join," Farnham suggests. "But as long as there is a strike in Delano the migrant ministry will be here."

*California Farmer* asked about the future. Farnham indicated the future was in Delano until a settlement was reached. He advised growers to get things settled by dealing directly with the problem before it becomes necessary to have a city-dominated legislature do it for them.

Farnham said workers were going to be covered by collective bargaining and he feels growers are flexible enough to handle it when it comes. "Agriculture is different and presents some specialized problems, but it is not unique when it comes to employee-employer relations," Farnham says.—D.R.

## Cesar Chavez

# NFWA Will Continue Activity

**W**HAT happens to an organizing effort among farm workers when there is a 2-month lull in field work?

*California Farmer* posed that question to Cesar Chavez, director of the National Farm Workers Association, as the pruning of grape vines in the Delano area was all but finished.

Obviously, Chavez wasn't going to divulge his group's strategy, but he did promise continued activity. He added that the strikers hadn't been through a work lull before; however, the union had a couple of alternatives.

The NFWA chief said his forces didn't anticipate going into other crops at that time, but he "couldn't say what might happen at a future date."

Then Chavez went on to tell us what he called a "tremendous amount of interest on the part of farm workers throughout the State in organizing themselves" along the lines of NFWA.

"The possibilities of a general strike are very great," he declared.

We couldn't resist pointing out that a meeting called a few days earlier in Fresno brought forth one lone farm worker (retired) out of some 60 invitational letters.

Chavez seemed genuinely surprised and almost incredulous, so we gave him a brief rundown on the story that appears in this issue.

Returning to the subject of farm worker self-organization, he said that if this continued until next summer, "I think we'll see quite a bit of strike activity by us, the other union and independent groups such as ours throughout the State."

Chavez said there are no less than 20 of these groups, which he termed "something that has never happened before." He added that NFWA is currently trying to interpret the significance of this development by meeting with these groups.

In all cases, Chavez says it seems to be a case of workers getting together themselves, spontaneously, and selecting their own leaders. The organizations, however, do not appear to have any real form or structure, according to Chavez.

He said three groups are forming in Imperial County, one is underway in the Coachella Valley and another is in the works in the Escondido area of San Diego County.

In the Southern California citrus area, he listed four around Ventura, two near Santa Barbara and one apiece in the Riverside and San Bernardino areas.

Chavez said he had been in Sacramento a few days earlier and rep-

resentatives of three groups from the surrounding communities came in to meet with him.

In addition, he said there were groups forming in the Salinas, Watsonville, Hollister-San Benito, Gilroy and San Jose areas.

Trying to get the conversation back to the Delano situation, we asked Chavez what he considered to be the next crucial period ahead for NFWA. "The whole period is crucial," he answered. "We can't say one period is more crucial than another."

At the time (February 23), he said the NFWA was "organizing like mad throughout the country to back up the strike.

"By next harvest, if we're still striking, we'll be able to give a good account of ourselves in stopping grape shipments," he added.

Chavez said the association wasn't completely organized and ready for a strike last December. "We thought we needed more time to educate the members to a strike and we didn't have the 'machinery', but we do now. We had studied very carefully the previous agricultural strikes in the country and found several parallels with our strike. This prepared us for developments and we were able to meet the challenges when they came."—D.U.

# The Guiding Spirit Behind Delano

**W**HO is Saul Alinsky and what does he mean to Delano?

On the first part of that question, ask residents of the stockyard or Woodlawn areas of Chicago, or citizens in Rochester or Syracuse, New York, and there might well be a new answer every time the question was posed.

Ask a cross-section of the population of Delano and a surprising number would undoubtedly indicate that he is having a profound, though hidden effect on their daily lives. On every side they see evidence of the "Alinsky technique" of welding together divergent elements to form a new political power structure.

They also see the same kind of no-holds-barred, anything goes struggle that has been the trademark of Alinsky and his Industrial Areas Foundation in dozens of American communities over the past quarter century.

**SO FAR** as is known, Alinsky has never seen Delano. But the current dispute in that area between grape growers and the National Farm Workers Association is closely linked to the self-styled professional radical from Chicago.

Cesar Chavez, founder and director of NFWA, was on the staff of the Industrial Areas Foundation for a number of years (a recent story in the Washington, D. C., *Evening Star* mentions 12 years). In addition, the IAF was a key element in the formation of the Community Service Organization, a social service association, composed predominantly of Mexican-Americans.

Alinsky also seems to have made a deep impression on the leadership of the California Migrant Ministry, currently under attack because of its staunch support of the NFWA movement.

**IN A SENSE**, Alinsky is an enigma: He both scorns and capitalizes on the power and influence of organized religion. And, he castigates the war on poverty as "turning into a prize piece of political pornography . . . a huge political pork barrel and a feeding trough for the welfare industry." And yet, he is involved in activities set up under war on poverty grants.

In a pair of articles in *Harper's* magazine, he refers to the churches as "the big dominant force in civil rights," having taken over the position organized labor held a generation ago.

But the *Indianapolis Star* editorialized, "A long time left-winger in politics, Alinsky scorns both political and religious dogma. His talks to the clergy are seasoned with sarcastic comments about organized religion, all of which the ministers

appear to gobble up with an almost masochistic glee."

Alinsky served as a paid consultant and lecturer in an action training program at Syracuse University, according to *U. S. News and World Report*. The project, financed in large part by war on poverty funds, made a target of the Syracuse Housing Authority, organizing the tenants for picketing and sit-ins. The mayor of Syracuse, William F. Walsh, was quoted by the publication as charging the main purpose of the center is to "train agitators" and teach "Marxist doctrines of class conflict."

Alinsky has characterized his political philosophy saying, "I guess you could call me an urban Populist. My philosophy is rooted in an American radical tradition, not in a Marxist tradition."

His first success came in 1938 when he forged a coalition of Catholic priests, left-wing labor leaders, local businessmen and the stockyard workers in the stockyards district. The tools in this first battle were picket lines and boycotts, mass meetings, rent strikes, demonstrations and sit-downs.

## Dr. Clifford Loader

# I Left My Tooth in Delano

**M**AYOR Clifford had his finger on the pulse of the town, and his hand in my mouth.

He wasn't demonstrating against me for investigating the grape strike in Delano by shoving his fist in my face, but it did turn out to be a painful interview.

When I arrived in Delano, accompanied by a throbbing molar, my colleagues Raze and Upton, already on the scene, ordered me, fear or no, to go to a dentist "so we can get to work."

"While you're at it," they were unmerciful, "why don't you interview the Mayor?" Mayor Clifford Loader was also a dentist.

"Now, open wide," Dr. Loader ordered me, shoving a full-length mirror into my mouth.

My biggest concern ceased to be my angry molar, but how to ask questions of a man who has a full-length mirror, and by now, both hands in my mouth?

"Wha da oo dink o' da gape stike?" I managed to mutter when he removed one hand long enough

He later wrote a book called *Reveille for Radicals*, in which he mapped the framework for militant "People's Organizations." Alinsky also talked about tactics:

**"THOSE WHO** build People's Organizations can maneuver hither and yon and utilize many of the tactics discussed in this chapter and many of the people will later know of the use of those tactics, but throughout this period never for an instant will the people lose their faith or belief in the organizer, because they know that he is doing this or that because of his fundamental belief in them. Their mutual goal is so good and so bright that it is not important if one must go through a few devious valleys and shadows in the struggle for the people's world."

Discussing the ethics of ways and means in the *Harper's* article, Alinsky contended the real question has never been whether the end justifies the means. "The real question is and always has been: 'Does this particular end justify these particular means?'"

Alinsky also stressed that a mass organization must be built on many

different issues to maintain a constant daily activity and a sense of purpose and action and victory. And a big problem of the civil rights issue, he adds, is that it has been built on just one issue. This has required action, any action, in order to keep the organization alive.

**IN THE MATTER** of boycotts—tried at various times by civil rights groups—Alinsky points out that the American public has developed a degree of immunity to picket lines. The civil rights groups, he suggests, should have chosen just one store to picket instead of picketing all of them. Then, the public would find it easier to cross the street to an unpicketed store with the same merchandise and the same prices. "What compels the first store to come to terms is not the picket line, but the increasing volume of business of its competitor. Competition is a wonderful thing," he explained.

Along with attacks—verbal and otherwise—on city officials, the local clergy, the schools and a few businessmen, it's small wonder the people of Delano are beginning to connect Saul Alinsky with the upheaval being attempted by the Chavez-led NFWA.—D.U.

to grab an ominous-looking instrument with a striking resemblance to an 8-pound hammer.

He glowered into my mouth, and I wasn't sure whether the look was the result of my question or an attempt to frighten the evil spirits out of my ugly molar.

"It's terrible!"

"What? My tooth?"

"No. The grape strike," and he whacked the tooth with the 8-pound hammer.

"They're blowing this thing up out of all proportion," he said, throwing the hammer aside and waving the mirror.

Mayor Loader pulled the latest copy of the CDC bulletin from his desk. It had a picture of three young boys on the front page, smiling and obviously happy, with the caption reading, "Children of strikers."

"That is not true," Dr. Loader objected, again probing for the cause of my tooth's uprising. And, he pointed to another article, which

claimed 5000 persons are on strike in the area: "That's not true either."

The majority of the people on strike, he assured me, were from out of town, and not Delano people at all.

"They've made this a racial issue," he said, "when there really are fewer racial problems in Delano than in most areas. Why, the chairman of our school board and the president of our Lions' Club is Dr. James Nagatani, also a dentist and a Japanese-American.

And, the chairman of Delano's planning commission is Frank Herrera, a Mexican-American who is also a candidate for the city council. The Kiwanis Club has a Negro Member, and Vincent Zaragoza, a Mexican-American, received the biggest vote of any man ever to run for the city council.

All the time he was telling me this, he was gently chiseling away at my jawbone.

I may have left a tooth in Delano, but I did gain an interview.—A.F.



# Social

# Revolution

(Continued from page 5)

only assume means discussion leaders. Two of these were Alinsky and Ross.

A list of the participants included Rev. Wayne C. (Chris) Hartmire, Jr., director of the California Migrant Ministry, and one of his staff members now involved in the Delano affair.

Here are some other names to remember from this symposium: Edward P. Dutton, Art Jenkins, Timothy Sampson, Bard McAllister and Edwin P. Stephenson. Past and present affiliations of this group are provided in an accompanying "cast of characters."

**TAKING ANOTHER** look at the symposium report, we find an introduction authored by Dutton, Hartmire and McAllister (a third "resource person"). The tone of this may be significant: "There is a rich and fertile valley in this land where people harvest the crops and reap wealth for their employers

and their communities but poverty for themselves. There is a dazzling city which decorates the shoreline with its beauty, where human beings are corralled into depraved and depressed ghettos according to their color and economic situation."

Had enough?

A summary of Alinsky's contribution, written by Dutton, may also explain later developments: "He talked of the conflict group, the banding together of people to fight for those rights which insure a decent way of life. The mobilization of indigenous people is the building of a new power group, according to Alinsky."

A bit further along, "He (Alinsky) recognizes the existence of the vicious circle in which most human beings are caught and strives viciously to break this cycle. Thus, to Alinsky it becomes vital to understand the necessity for and the nature and purpose of conflict tactics. His commitment is to a power struggle against hopelessness, despair and unhappiness."

**RATHER THAN** digress further from the key elements of this somewhat complicated affair, we'll proceed to the next chapter.

Growing out of this symposium was a private non-profit organization called the California Center for Community Development, which set up headquarters about July 1, 1965, in the Fresno County crossroads community of Del Rey, again with Rosenberg Foundation backing. *California Farmer* secured a copy of the organizational structure.

Hartmire is chairman of the board of directors, which includes McAllister and Stephenson.

Dutton is the executive director and Sampson is the field director.

Consultants are listed as Dr. Paul O'Rourke, special assistant on anti-poverty programs in the Governor's office, and John M. Wedemeyer, director of the state Department of Social Welfare.

Board vice chairman is Dr. Lee J. Snyder of Fresno, who we learned was appointed last December by Governor Edmund G. Brown to a review board to assist the State Board of Medical Examiners on disciplinary matters.

**THE SECRETARY** of the Del Rey outfit is Gilbert Padilla of Hanford, who (according to the Delano union) was engaged in assisting entertainer Steve Allen with boycott activities in Los Angeles.

Charles Gardinier, training director of this community development center, was "on loan" to the Delano union for a 2-month period. A summary of the center's current activities states: "Valuable experience has been obtained through his participation in this ongoing conflict situation. Other center staff have also spent limited time with (N)FWA on a training basis."

Directors of the Del Rey-based center, in a resolution dated January 17, made their position plain: "As an organization whose prime purpose is that of helping low income people achieve dignity through self-help action, we enthusiastically support the farm workers in the San Joaquin Valley who have found it necessary to strike in order to achieve their rights."

Which brings us back to Delano.

**WHEN THE** strike began in early September, neither the National Farm Workers Association nor the migrant ministry was involved. The Delano local of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AFL-CIO), led by Larry Itliong and composed primarily of Filipino farm workers, struck a number of Delano area grape growers.

In mid-September, Chavez' NFWA joined the picketing, bringing with it the Migrant Ministry's all-out support.

Then, on October 5, the Office of Economic Opportunity announced a \$267,887 grant to the Delano-based NFWA for a self-help educational program among migrant workers in the three southern counties of the San Joaquin Valley.

The announcement of this grant aroused a storm of controversy, with critics contending that use of federal funds for in-home training of migrants would be tantamount to taxpayer support of union recruitment.

**ANOTHER SIMILAR** storm of criticism followed the announcement on January 1 that the community development center in Del Rey had gotten into the war on poverty trough to the tune of \$246,836.

In a telephone conversation on February 11, Dutton said the grant had been signed by both Sargent Shriver, OEO director, and Governor Brown, but he had no inkling

as to when the funds would be made available.

Dutton also said the application had been discussed with poverty officials in Sacramento, but was officially submitted to OEO headquarters in Washington, D. C.

The project involves the training of 30 individuals, selected from poverty areas, in a six-week course on "community dynamics," under the direction of the center's training director, Gardinier, who, you'll recall, is the fellow who gained the "valuable experience" while on loan to Chavez at Delano.

**THE TRAINEES** will return to their communities, Dutton said, and work in "helping create groups" on a self-help basis. Questioned about his reported statement that the National Farm Workers Association was a desirable model to follow, Dutton backpedaled a bit and said NFWA was one model and there are others. We're pretty sure he was pulling our leg a bit when he said the John Birch Society might be another.

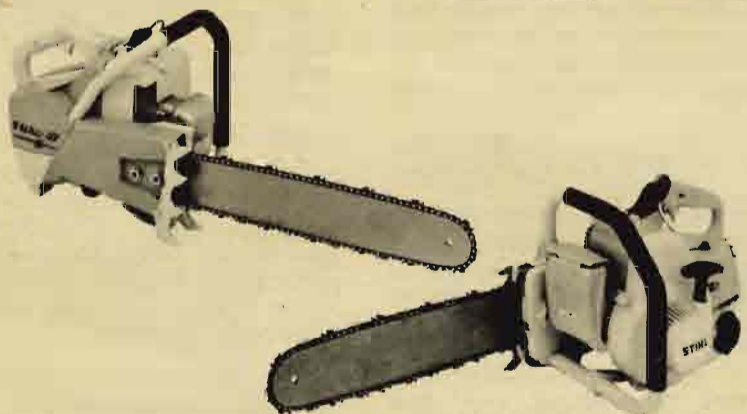
The community development center has launched an ambitious program, including the organization of a Tenants Council in West Fresno public housing projects (also under a war on poverty grant) and a meeting of farm workers from several states for discussions on how to organize. We've outlined the center's program in another article, which further illustrates the amazing similarity in tactics employed by all the inter-related organizations that are involved in this account. It's hard to believe that these interwoven relationships are accidental.

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By DON UPTON

# How the Migrant

**W**E finally got our hands on a very hush-hush church report that really opened our eyes on the present role of the California Migrant Ministry in the Delano affair and their other efforts to organize farm workers into labor unions.

The report was prepared for the Board of Directors of the Northern California Conference, United Church of Christ, by Benjamin I. Young, Jr. of Belvedere, a consultant engaged for the study.

Material for the 18-page document was gathered through survey questionnaires—86 responses were reviewed out of some 250 distributed—as well as personal or group conversations with over 150 individuals and a study of the files of all major parties concerned. The contacts included local and state church officials and members, migrant ministry personnel, growers, farm workers, business and professional men, labor organizers and a few others. In the Delano area alone, the report states, over 25 individuals were interviewed, representing the major points of view.

Part of the report has to do with the conflicting theological approaches that are presently posing problems for a number of church bodies and that's a bit out of our line.

**THE REPORT** points up, however, that the California Migrant Ministry is not at all what it used to be. And, it goes on to give a few of the reasons and the evolutionary pattern.

Up until September of 1962, we find, the migrant ministry operated under the policies of the National Council of Churches. Among the goals listed for the period 1960 to 1970 was development of a dynamic program of Christian ministries embracing in balanced ratio: direct services among farm workers, legislative action for fundamental justice to farm workers, and social and economic self-help among farm workers.

The statement of purpose of the California Migrant Ministry reads, "It is the purpose of the California Migrant Ministry to speak to the total life needs of men, women and children who are following the crops; to seek to bring them to full commitment to Christ as Lord of their lives; to nurture them in Christian growth; to alert them to

the fellowship of the Christian Church; and to help them find a contributing place within a stable community."

How could anyone argue with that?

**THEN THE** report goes on to quote from the Document Goals for the California Migrant Ministry, dated February, 1964, which discusses theology, objectives and programs. In the first item under program, five points are listed, but the report states that two seem to have emerged and developed into the main programming:

"Provide or stimulate community development efforts in labor camps and rural fringe communities devoted to uniting the residents in self-help action around needs they feel and express.

"Continue and deepen communication with those farm worker organizations which seek to serve the people."

The report then draws attention to an item included in the Septem-

ber, 1965, report from the director of the California Migrant Ministry on the Tulare County Community Development Project (TCCDP), sometimes referred to as the "Goshen Project."

That item reads, "Seasonal farm workers (migrant and settled) can be organized for self-help action if staff catalysts are willing to listen completely and allow an organization to develop around the most deeply felt needs and resentments of the people."

**YOUNG ADDED** the thought that these two statements in 1964 and 1965 "help form a base for understanding the stream of development from the purposes and goals" as originally set up under the National Council of Churches and the statement of purpose of the California Migrant Ministry, itself.

This Goshen Project or TCCDP seems to have had a major part in this shift. This project was conceived in late 1961 as a rural fringe ministry in Tulare County with the purposes of community develop-

ment, group work, case work and counseling, full involvement by staff in the life of the fringe community and religious ministry.

In October, 1963, Rev. James Drake, who was in charge of the project at the time, compiled a proposal for a citizenship education program in Tulare County. The over-all goal was to help the farm worker exercise his right and responsibility to retain a measure of control over the policies which affect his well-being.

The report states, "The specific goal was to help the workers become responsible voting citizens in the elections of 1964. The means used would be: (1) bring together local sponsoring and consulting bodies which would be responsible for the direction of the project; (2) techniques of community organization to be utilized were: initial concentration on rural fringe within one supervisorial district; issue-centered house meetings; consolidation of fringe area citizens through public demonstrations around issues; voter registration and basic education in county and state government; coordination of fringe area representatives throughout the county; and confrontation of candidates with key fringe resident issues."

**DRAKE, IT** should be remembered, had attended a symposium on community development, sponsored three months earlier by the Rosenberg Foundation.

The Young report continues, "This proposal was part of the basis for TCCDP and for the Rosenberg Foundation Grant. From that time on (nearly a year before he was replaced by Phil Farnham), Jim Drake's work began to be related more and more to the eventual formation of the TCCDP."

Then, we pick up the sequence as Young discusses the plan submitted to the Rosenberg Foundation in October, 1964, which incorporated changes since the year-earlier proposal by Drake. This plan listed problems needing attention as inadequate medical facilities, lack of decent low-cost housing, low farm wages and public welfare programs that do not meet critical needs of the people.

According to the report, the Goshen Project was indicated to have a two-fold purpose:

**"TO HELP** low income people deal with their own problems in organizations of their own, and, to provide continuous interpretation of the needs and actions of the low income people to established citizens (churchmen and others) so they may understand and respond humanely."

Young comments, "There is no indication in this statement of

## Negro Minister Wonders Why It Happened Here

"A hog doesn't grunt because he's sick or hungry, he grunts because it's his nature to grunt."

This is the way that Reverend R. B. Moore, Negro pastor of St. Paul's Baptist Church in Delano summed up the activities of strike organizers and harassers of both workers and growers.

"They aren't working for the poor people," he continued, "they're working on the poor people."

Rev. Moore, as pastor of the community's only Negro church, is probably as close to Delano's poverty problem as anyone. "But I don't know of one Negro here that I could give any clothes to and I have quite a supply in the church just for that purpose."

"This house," he continued, indicating his own spic and span frame residence, "is probably the worst house in this block. Most Negroes are living in modern ranch style homes, and those that are living in what you might refer to as poverty style homes are doing so because they don't want to remodel."

The Negro minister also had some adamant views on the role

the migrant ministry is playing in the Delano situation.

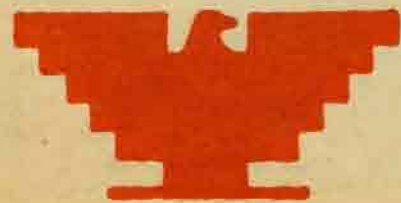
"The migrant ministry came to a town with less poverty than any town in the valley," he said. "The migrant ministry has faulted their rights in Delano. They haven't done what they were sent out to do."

Moore said that the group, which is dedicated to serving the poverty class, "have crippled people's thinking about the ministry, both by their language and by their conduct."

The pastor said that all of the people in Delano that he has talked to are satisfied. It's those from outside who aren't.

"This is one town that never needed NAACP or any other minority group because our people are accepted," he claimed. "We still have our first Negro mailman, Negro policeman, bank teller and clerks in stores on Main Street."

In his own folksy way, Moore offered this advice to those he feels are only agitating: "It's nice to be popular, but it's more popular to be nice."



# Ministry Got that Way

methods to be used or that the direction would have direct relationship to labor organizing."

The present stance taken by the migrant ministry staff, he noted, was spelled out in the fall, 1965, issue of the CMM publication, *The California Harvester*, under the heading, "Should Farm Workers Be Organized?" Young underlined two passages from this article:

"The situation in agriculture today is clear. Farm workers are disorganized, relatively powerless and poverty stricken." (The article adds, "By comparison their employers are organized, powerful and affluent.")

The second passage underlined said, "They (farm workers) have earned, by their sweat, the right to participate in the decision-making process that affects their own wages and working conditions."

**YOUNG POINTS** out the migrant ministry, somewhere along the line, seems to have adopted the tenets: (a) the only way to really help the farm workers is to eliminate doing things to them and for them and to start doing things with them as the servant church; (b) in order to determine what to do, one must listen intently to what the people are saying and then help them help themselves, using whatever means seem appropriate to them; (c) in order to bring justice and dignity to the farm worker, he must be organized around his own self-interests; and, (d) in order to make any meaningful change and have the farm worker take his rightful place in the main stream of our society, he must be able to sit down at the bargaining table with his employer as an equal (in power) or justice will not be served.

**COMMENTING** on the last two tenets adopted by the migrant ministry, Young says, "The difficulty of listening objectively . . . is practically impossible. Then to interpret what the worker is saying and to assume that what one hears is what one does automatically, is to relegate the worker to the status of a genius on his own problems. We don't even have that much confidence or allow that much freedom to our own local church members.

"If the means suggested by the workers are always used, there is either no need for a main part of the Christian ministry, or a ministry exists only in achieving desirable goals without consideration of the Christian values of total relationship to God and neighbor and ethics of truth and honesty. If the means suggested by the workers are not always used, then the principle as stated is invalid."

One of the reasons given for the need to organize farm workers

around their own self-interests was the inherent inertia of the "have nots" (as well as the "haves") to change the status quo.

Young's survey, he reports, indicated that many farm workers apparently preferred to remain as they are, rather than take on the responsibilities that go along with an upward move in status.

**IT'S INTERESTING** to note that this report makes prominent mention of Saul Alinsky, whose theories and activities are explained elsewhere in this issue.

The report states: "The teachings of Saul Alinsky seem to capitalize

on the failings of man to live up to his full potential and Christian ideals. It is a sure bet most individuals will be the victim of their own selfish self-interest most of the time. Under these circumstances to get an individual's, or a group of individuals' attention, and dislodge them from their selfish seat of power, the only effective method is organizational use of more power."

Young then comments, "For the Christian, the kind of power and how it is used would seem to be the key issue. Generally, the use of Alinsky methods (either inadvertently or deliberately), while

very effective in achieving desired goals, tends to make it difficult for an objective observer to arrive at factual information."

A final tidbit from this report: "Since June, 1965, when the Farm Workers Organization that was a product of the TCCDP, was merged with the National Farm Workers Association, directed by Cesar Chavez, programming has been primarily of a listening and serving variety. Since the Delano grape strike, Chris Hartmire has, for all practical purposes, turned the program direction of the TCCDP over to Cesar Chavez."

## Catholic Viewpoint: Don't Take Sides

By ALTON PRYOR

**T**HE religious makeup of both sides of the Delano grape strike controversy is predominantly Catholic. And, except for the entry of a free-roaming and controversial Catholic priest onto the scene, it is doubtful that the issue would have brought about the divisive effects that it has on churches, both Protestant and Catholic.

The priest in question is Father James Vizzard, who, according to Bishop A. J. Willinger, C.Ss.R., D.D., Bishop of Monterey-Fresno, flouted all superiors and colleagues in his self-styled mission to Delano.

To say that Father Vizzard came to Delano with his mind already made up would not be an editorialization, but a definite fact, evidenced by a news release issued before his arrival on the scene.

As the Rt. Rev. Msgr. James G. Dowling, Vicar General, wrote, "Father Vizzard's prepared release which you (*Ave Maria Magazine*) quoted so generously was written by him before he visited Delano and was not the expression of an informed witness."

The controversial priest, using his role as director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference as adequate reason for his Delano activity, apparently did so against orders.

According to an article by Bishop Willinger, P.e.e Vizzard was specifically instructed to avoid public involvement in the Delano situation by his superior, the Rt. Rev. Ed-

ward O'Rourke, executive director of the Rural Life Conference.

Father O'Rourke wrote: "I do not accept the inference you made in your letter of December 10 that the issue at Delano is so urgent, that all others within the conference and the California dioceses have been so derelict in our duty toward the strikers, that you are forced in conscience to disregard all regulations and proprieties and rush to the aid of the strikers regardless of the price you may have to pay. . ."

*California Farmer* talked to Father James Dillon of the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Delano.

"This has brought on a poor community spirit," he said, "and the people are divided. What affects one, affects all."

The church would definitely be a loser in the matter, he felt. "If they (growers) have a poor year, the church feels the effect of a poor harvest."

Father Dillon added, "We took the stand last September that it's not our place to take sides. The church should not be on either side. It would be just as wrong to be on the grower's side as it would to be on the side of the workers."

One faction, he said, says the church should enter the issue and be very vocal. The other faction says the church should do its vocalizing from the pulpit.

"I think it's an economic issue, and that's the reason for the stand

of both the Protestant ministers and the Catholic priests. It's not a moral issue."

Father Dillon added that all priests and ministers in Delano resent the arrival of outside priests and ministers on the scene and ignoring all of the local clergymen. "They feel we are asleep and that they don't need any answers from us," he said. "They seem to be in touch with nobody in this community."

He continued, "About the rightness and the wrongness, it's something I can't answer. It's been way out of proportion. It's a fight with 37 growers."

Father Dillon said, "The church says that if you want to strike, that is your business. You are a free man to join a union. If you don't want to join, that is also your business; you're still a free man."

Ironically, perhaps, and definitely a sore point with all local clergymen, is the admission of Cesar Chavez, leader of the NFWA, that if it hadn't been for church influence, the strike issue would have been dead long ago.



# Claims, Counter Claims Show How Rampant Rumors Can Run

The Filipino Americanism Society is circulating a list of promises which it claims have been made by union organizers in an attempt to get field workers in Delano grape vineyards to sign as members.

*California Farmer* obtained a copy of the list during a meeting of the Kern-Tulare Independent Farm Workers, a group organized to protect themselves from harassment of pickets.

The Filipino group obviously questions the veracity of some of the union's promises by inserting its own comments following the so-called promises.

For instance, the Filipino group claims that the union leaders promised that "growers could not close camps and evict them or turn off utilities" if they should join.

Filipino leaders, however, pointed out, "The growers not only can,

## AWOC Official Runs For Councilman in Delano

A lively debate on the Delano "movement" is shaping up in the city elections coming up in the northern Kern County city.

Frank Herrera, a labor contractor and chairman of the city planning commission, is opposing Larry D. Itliong, chief spokesman for the Filipino-oriented Delano local of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, for councilman.

Herrera is on the other side of the fence in the dispute and is a leader in the Kern-Tulare Independent Farm Workers Association.

In announcing his candidacy, Itliong declared he is the "People's Candidate" and said he is seeking the post "because people on this side of town are not being represented and because it is also my civic duty to serve the community I reside in."

The 52-year-old Itliong has lived in Delano for about five years and has been a resident of the U. S. for 37 years. He is a native of Pangasinan province on the island of Luzon in the Phillipines.

He joined AWOC in Stockton in 1960 and said he spent three years as a dispatcher for Local 37, International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union in Seattle, Washington. He also was employed for 12 years by a Lodi, San Joaquin County, packing box firm.

Itliong declared his candidacy has the full support of Cesar Chavez and the National Farm Workers Association, the independent group that joined AWOC soon after the dispute began last September.

they did and it is perfectly legal for them to do so. Growers provided you with a home and all they asked was that you work for them when they needed you."

Next on the list, "The union promised you unemployment benefits."

But, the Filipino group claimed, "The workers soon found out they are not eligible for any unemployment benefits. Now you are being asked to stay away from work and accept welfare charity. Filipinos have never been on welfare. Where is your pride that now you will accept charity?"

The third promise, "The union told you the strike would be over in three days."

The Filipino comment: "Over 100 days (at time list was compiled) have passed and still no union has been formed and no grower has signed a union contract."

Fourth on the list was this claim: "The union promised you that the growers would have to open their books at the end of the year, show their profits, and share a percentage with the workers."

Counterclaim: "First, the growers, or any businessmen, do not legally have to open their books to anyone; second, would you, if you were in their position?"

"The unions promised you the railroads would honor the strike and that no grapes would be shipped."

Filipino comment: "The railroads have not stopped one shipment of grapes. The only stoppage was by the longshoremen's union in the San Francisco area illegally. Lawsuits by growers are filed. Total grapes stopped, 5000 boxes. The longshoremen's union has long been known to have controversial members."

*California Farmer* makes no claim as to the veracity of either the so-called promises which have been laid to the union leaders, nor of the comments to these promises as they come from the Filipino community.

Perhaps more important, the above story points out that much of the Delano problem has ballooned with rumors, from both sides, and gotten completely out of focus.—A.P.

## Chavez Corrects NFWA Contract Stand

Cesar Chavez, director of the National Farm Workers Association, declares his organization has established its basic position on the various points usually covered in a union agreement.

He and attorney Alexander P. Hoffman asked that we set the record straight about this and one or two other points they felt had been misinterpreted or misunderstood in the story based on a previous interview and printed in our March 5 issue.

(Hoffman told us he is assisting the NFWA under a defense fund set up by the Council for Justice of Berkeley. At the time of the interview, he was occupying an office in NFWA headquarters in Delano.)

Chavez stressed that although the union's basic position has been established, the specific contract provisions will be subject to negotiation, if and when NFWA is successful in reaching the bargaining table with employers. We apparently misinterpreted his original statements to mean the basic positions had not been established.

The NFWA leader also modified his previous position that the organizing of farm labor would result in a surplus of workers. He said he preferred the term "adequate labor supply."

Chavez contended that a vote—such as would be required under the National Labor Relations Act—would have proved that NFWA and AWOC do represent the workers in the Delano area.

And, he declared, "The strike will continue until the negotiations start," explaining that was the basis for his comparison between the Delano and Vietnam situations in the first interview.—D.U.



THE "VERY FUNNY" Mr. Steve Allen leading the strikers in Delano. On his right is Cesar Chavez.