



Si Se Puede!

CHICAGO BOYCOTT NEWS

United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO
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Victories!

On Wednesday, January 21, 1976 the UFW and the Western Growers Association announced that a tentative agreement had been reached between the UFW and 16 vegetable and fruit growers -- these are the first contracts negotiated under California's Agricultural Labor Relations Act.

To date, contracts have been signed with Inter-Harvest and Salinas Marketing Co-op (both Salinas lettuce companies), Santa Clara Nursery, Watanabe Ranch, Akitomo Nursery and Akune Nursery (all from the Oxnard area). Three lettuce companies from Salinas and six apple ranches and a lettuce company from the Watsonville area complete the total list of 16, but contracts have not yet been signed with them. A joint statement released by the UFW and the Western Growers Association stated: "These are the best contracts negotiated for farm workers in this country". At the signing of the Inter-Harvest contract, Harold Bradshaw, I-H President, stated "There is a commitment by both the Union and the company to make the contract work."

These contracts are just the beginning as the UFW continues its drive to change the living and working conditions of farm workers. To date the UFW has won 201 elections representing 29,404 workers which is over 65% of the decided elections compared to 28.1% for the Teamsters and 6.7% for No Union. The UFW has been certified as the bargaining agent at 91 ranches.

BUT...

Ag. Labor Board Collapses

Because of the unprecedented number of elections and unfair labor practices hearings associated with most of the elections, the administration of the ALRA has been more expensive than estimated. As of February 7th, the ALRB has officially gone broke. They have no more money with which to operate. They have closed their offices and have laid off their staff. The reason for this is that the growers and Teamsters Union have successfully stopped the necessary emergency legislation to grant the Board more money.

The growers and the Teamsters are using the refunding issue to try to force changes in the law -- changes which will weaken the ability of the ALRB to protect farm workers. Bishop Roger Mahony, chairperson of the Board, has stated that the law needs a fair trial before changes are considered. He is opposed to any amendments. Governor Brown has now taken a similar position, as well as the Catholic Bishops of California. On the issue of more funds, the Los Angeles Times has stated "We have said before -- and we repeat now -- that the growers and the Teamsters are acting in bad faith when they issue an ultimatum to the governor, and to a majority of their own colleagues, that they must knuckle under to such blackmail or witness the destruction of the farm labor board." (L.A. TIMES, January 30, 1976)

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