



Kids Love Bare Feet Unless It's All They've Got!



Working Americans can no longer stay blind to the reality of the suffering endured by our brothers and sisters in the fields that harvest most of our fruits and vegetables. No longer can we stay insensitive to the FACT that these people are in a virtual life and death struggle against a group of agricultural giants that are trying to smash their collective power.

Caesar Chavez, a field worker himself, has defied these giants and formed the United Farm Workers of America, a union FOR FARM WORKERS. Not only has he met these corporate giants head on but has also had to fight the Teamsters who have moved in on the farm workers and have signed "sweetheart" agreements with the growers WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE WORKERS THEMSELVES, in an attempt to fatten their own pockets, not to represent the workers.

The U.F.W., led by Chavez is now on strike. They are a multitude of people fighting for less than what they deserve, against overwhelming odds. They have been denied the right to elect the union of their choice. Men, women and children, alike and equal, while standing the picket lines, have been beaten and shot by hired thugs and so-called police. Three workers have died in this struggle. Yet, knowing the odds that are against them and the consequences that may face them, these men, women and children - families - all in their turn - stand that picket line ready to accept their fate because they have NOTHING NOW and NOTHING TO LOSE in their efforts to make their own lives better.

To make it possible, they desperately need our help.

There are two easy ways in which we, Local 717, can do our part. First, BOYCOTT Gallo wines, table grapes and iceberg (head) lettuce (instead of head lettuce, eat romaine, leaf, boston, bibb and other kinds of lettuce). These products represent the heart of the growers that keep the farm workers at a subsistant level equal to the lives of slaves in this country's history. As one millionaire farmer once said, "We don't have to own slaves anymore, now we can RENT them!" Help extend the boycott by being on the picketing lines. We meet at 9:00 a.m. each Saturday at the Union Hall.

Secondly, we need money. Money to aid the strikers in their time of need. Money to help the U.F.W. fight for what the people need most, like decent living and working conditions instead of chicken coops and barns, control of the deadly pesticides, child labor and the labor contractor system. Money for education, and the right of EVERY American - a decent life. The average life expectancy of a farm worker is 49 YEARS. He will probably die of pesticide poisoning, infectious disease or malnutrition. He will work 10-12 hours EVERY day without the basics of toilets and drinking water. We ask only the price of one home cooked meal, that's not very much. These dollars can save countless people prolonged suffering, something they do not deserve. Think about it and then give all that you can. A plant gate collection will take place on Tuesday, July 16 by our local for the farm workers. Please give generously.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!