



UNITED FARM WORKERS, AFL-CIO

CLEVELAND BOYCOTT OFFICE

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CLEVELAND, OHIO 44113

216 / 696-2686

January 9, 1974

Mr. William Presser
International Vice President
Teamsters Union
2020 Carnegie
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Dear Mr. Presser,

I write this letter in response to the advertisement placed in the Cleveland Plain Dealer on January 6 by your organization. Since the advertisement claims that nearly all California farm workers have been won over by the Teamsters union, we challenge you to arrange, through your offices, an immediate secret ballot election. This election would settle once and for all the question of who represents the farm workers, the United Farm Workers of America or the Teamsters.

As you well know, Mr. Presser, it is not necessary to wait for the legislative process to bring farm workers under the NLRA in order for an election to be held. There are numerous impartial third parties - such as the American Arbitration Association, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, and the Bishops' Committee on Farm Labor - all of which can supervise and validate an election. A precedent was established in 1966 when the Teamsters and the UFWA mutually selected the American Arbitration Association to supervise the 1966 DiGiorgio Corporation representational election. The United Farm Workers defeated the Teamsters by more than two to one in that election. Waiting for coverage under NLRA is a stalling tactic used by Frank Fitzsimmons, Teamster President, to avoid participating in immediate secret ballot elections.

An immediate secret ballot election would let the farm workers decide for themselves who they wish to represent them. We are not afraid to test the will of the workers and we urge you, if you are sincere in your beliefs, to help arrange an election immediately. To date, Frank Fitzsimmons has repeatedly refused to agree to secret ballot elections, while UFWA President Cesar Chavez and other concerned groups and individuals, have publicly requested that such elections be held.

Mr. Presser, perhaps you are not fully aware of the gross inaccuracies and actual falsehoods that abound in your advertisement. Let me cite a few examples: