

# Judge Dismisses Suit Over Farm Labor Initiative

A \$10 million civil suit by Cesar Chavez and backers of the farm labor initiative on Last November's ballot over allegedly fraudulent advertising by opponents of the measure was dismissed Tuesday by Los Angeles Superior Judge Alfred L. Margolis.

Defendants included Citizens for a Fair Farm Labor Law, Pan-American Underwriters, Inc., Dolphin Investment, Inc., (sued as a public relations firm) and its public relations expert Bill Roberts, the Superior Farming Co. and the Superior Oil Co.

Margolis agreed with attorneys for the anti-Proposition 14 defendants that the advertisements were "an expression of mere opinion in a political campaign" protected by First Amendment guarantees of freedom of expression and press.

To permit the suit for fraud to go to trial, they successfully argued, would mean courts would be supervising election campaigns, which is strictly forbidden by the federal and state constitutions.

"The court is particularly concerned that the maintenance of this

action constitutes an impermissible intrusion on the election process," Margolis stated in his brief order dismissing the suit.

Chavez and proponents of the initiative claimed the ads gave voters erroneous information about the farm labor measure. They had sought \$3 million in general damages and \$7 million in punitive damages.