Dr. Jerome Lackner has been a supporter of the organizing efforts of the Delano farm workers since the beginning of their efforts more than three years ago.

The following is a letter which he sent to many rabbis and leaders of the Jewish community on the occasion of the Yom Kippur holy day, the Jewish day of atonement and fasting. EL MALCRIADO reprints the text of the letter as a guest editorial.

by Dr. Jerome Lackner

Today we are engaged in a struggle for our lives. For three years we have been in the throes of an agonizing effort to provide for ourselves what every other American laborer takes for granted. Excluded by Congress from protection of the NLRA, thwarted by the studied negligence of immigration officials who permit untold numbers of Mexican nationals to function illegally as strikebreakers, slandered by our governor, abused by our employer, we strive to liberate ourselves from the ghetto of our poverty and our powerlessness.

For three years in our lives, and in the lives of our children, we have stood in the face of an overwhelming adversary and cried out for justice... Cried out for justice in a wilderness of affluence and indifference. Disadvantaged from the onset, deprived by law of every other means to achieve our aims, we have recourse to no other path but to ask those who subscribe to the justice of our cause to refrain from the purchase of produce from those who impoverish us.

God astounded the legions of Pharaoh by parting the waters of the Red Sea so that Israel might flee to freedom on dry land. Our Red Sea is the continued purchase of that fruit which is harvested under the yoke of our oppression. God works through his people. Divide the Red Sea for us.

Shalom.

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HHH UPHOLDS GRAPE BOYCOTT

SACRAMENTO, September 25—Vice President Hubert Humphrey blasted California grape growers tonight for refusing to negotiate with the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, and told them they had but two alternatives: "bargain or boycott."

Addressing the California Labor Federation convention, Humphrey told delegates from most of the state's AFL-CIO unions, "The boycott would be over tomorrow" if table grape growers would sit down and negotiate with the Union.

"No man can say today that a migratory farm worker is treated justly," he said, "He needs protection of the law, and when I am president, he'll get protection of the law."

"There is no reason for the boycott except that every other recourse is foreclosed to these farm workers," he told a crowd of about 5,000 delegates and spectators.

Union observers said the vice president was referring to the history of the farm workers' strike in California.

Alternatives to the boycott are picket lines and the holding of representational elections, they noted, but violence against pickets has increased over the last three years, and growers have persistently refused to give the go-ahead on elections.

Humphrey threw a jab at Republican candidate Richard M. Nixon in the speech, saying Nixon was ignorant of the law when he claimed the National Labor Relations Act provided protection for farm workers.

"Had Mr. Nixon done his homework...he would have known that the strike and the boycott arise from the fact there is no coverage for farm workers under the National Labor Relations Act," Humphrey said.

"I call upon Mr. Nixon to join in urging the growers and the workers to get into sincere negotiations and the boycott can come to an end," Humphrey said.

Vote for ALAN CRANSTON
FRIEND OF THE FARM WORKER

CALIFORNIANS FOR CRANSTON
Co-Chairmen: Eli Broad, Art Carlsberg
3259 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Ca. (Paid Advertisement)
$75 MILLION SUIT DISMISSED
SAN FRANCISCO, September 30—San Francisco Federal Court Judge Lloyd Burke dismissed out of hand today a request by grower groups for an injunction to halt the UFWOC boycott of California table grapes.

Union General Counsel Jerome Cohen, who argued the case in San Francisco, said the Ballantine Produce Company, the Barr Packing Company, the California Fruit Exchange, the Mendelson-Zeller Company, and the Royal Valley Fruit Growers had asked the court to issue an order stopping boycott activities, but that Judge Burke ruled, in a five-minute hearing, that the court had no power to enjoin labor activities.

Assistant General Counsel David Averbuck explained the ruling was of tremendous significance in that it eliminated one of the last major "legal" threats to the success of the boycott, and cleared the way for a continued campaign to force Union recognition on reluctant growers.

The growers and shippers, in the same action, also sued UFWOC for $75 million under the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, and had requested the injunction as a temporary stop-gap until the case came to trial.

Averbuck said the dismissal of the request for an injunction virtually destroyed the growers' case, and cleared the way for "another tough year of boycotting and a long cold winter for the growers who refuse to negotiate."

Judge Burke overruled the request of the growers on the basis of provisions of the Norris-La Guardia Act.

"Now that we know they cannot stop us with injunctions, we can prepare for the long pull...unless they agree to negotiate before next season to avoid the hassle they've had this year," Averbuck said.

The complaint establishes that the Union had to abandon its picketing activities at several struck ranches due to violence and harassment practiced on Union members by the growers and their representatives during June, 1968, leaving the Union with the boycott of grapes as its only effective weapon to gain collective bargaining for the workers.

Furthermore, the complaint alleges that the named growers assigned to themselves geographical areas for the sale of their products to break the boycott, in violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act in order to maintain high prices by eliminating competition.

CONSPIRACY CHARGE

The complaint charges the growers with "illegal and unlawful combination and conspiracy in their efforts to break the Union boycott activities." The Union suit asks for $125,000 (which the court may treble to $375,000) for compensation and attorneys' fees and any other relief that the Court may consider appropriate.
Oregon Grape Boycott No Joke!

MULTNOMAH CTY., OREGON—Mrs. Berna Wingert, who works with the Salem Council of Churches in Oregon, was forced away from the James Towery labor camp near Aumsville recently, where she had gone to invite farm workers’ children to a swimming outing.

She had been talking to the children when Towery and his wife appeared and accused her of distributing propaganda for the Union.

Mrs. Wingert said the Towerys did not believe her when she told them she had gone to the camp on church business. Towery warned her not to come back to the camp, and another person had to pick up the children to take them swimming.

Several days later, Mrs. Wingert was picketing with Union people, and she playfully stuck a "BOYCOTT GRAPE" sticker on the back of a sheriff’s patrol car. The deputy drove off without noticing, but somebody blew the whistle.

He returned a short time later, and as the pictures show, Mrs. Wingert was closely supervised as she removed the sticker.

VIVA LA SRA. WINGERT!

Viva la Causa y El Progreso

Courtesy of a Mexican-American Attorney

Fresno California

Save Now for Winter Months

A reminder from the Credit Union...

FARM WORKERS CREDIT UNION
P.O BOX 894
DELANO, CALIFORNIA 93215

Offices at the Service Center
WORKERS FILE CHARGES AGAINST MAYFAIR MARKETS

SAN FRANCISCO, September 26—Union lawyers filed two suits on September 23 in San Francisco Superior Court for violence allegedly committed against Mr. and Mrs. Lupe Murguia and Fred Ross, Jr., while the three were picketing the Mayfair store at the corner of Geary and Webster in San Francisco.

The suits were filed after Lupe and Kathy Murguia reported they were attacked on September 14 by Larry Ernest, manager of the Mayfair store, as they were distributing leaflets in support of the boycott of California grapes. Murguia said he was seriously beaten by Ernest and had to be taken to the hospital for treatment.

Next day, on September 15, Fred Ross, Jr. was engaged in picketing the same store when he was attacked by a Mayfair security guard. The guard, identified as Anthony Mellone, fired a shot in Fred’s direction without any provocation, the young man reported.

Mayfair and Ernest were named defendants in the suit based on the Murguías’ complaint, and the market and Mellone were the defendants in the suit based on Ross’s case.

Each of them asks for $10,000 actual and $50,000 punitive damages. A warrant for the arrest of Mellone was issued by the district attorney.

UFWOC PROTESTS MAYFAIR VIOLENCE

DELANO, September 16—UFWOC Assistant Director Larry Itliong sent a telegram today to Earl Garret, chief executive of Mayfair Markets, protesting attacks on Union pickets. The following is the whole text of the telegram:

Earl Garret
2500 S. Garfield
Commerce, Calif.

We protest the unwarranted, unprovoked, and unmitigated attacks perpetrated by your agents on our non-violent pickets. We refer specifically to the physical assault on Lupe Murguia by two of your agents, and to the armed assault on Fred Ross Jr. by another.

We wish to inform you that the Mayfair Stores have the invidious distinction of being the only markets in the United States to employ such violent tactics against our peaceful pickets, who were at all times operating within the limits prescribed by law.

We can only conclude from your actions that you have willfully become an active party in the struggle against us.

Larry Itliong
Asst. Director of UFWOC

Lupe Murguia carried the cross in this religious procession last spring.
Facts Contradict Reagan's Accusations

Thomas L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, sent the following letter last week to Hubert Humphrey, Daniel Evans, governor of Washington; Tom McCall, governor of Oregon; and Joe Alioto, San Francisco mayor, to correct statements made by California Governor Ronald Reagan in telegram that Reagan had sent to the same people.

Pitts challenged Reagan's accusation that the boycott has nothing to do with the working and living conditions of the workers, and also stated that, contrary to what the governor had said, California farm workers' wages are not the highest in the country.

According to Pitts:
1. The workers do want a union; the growers do not want to agree to collective bargaining. The United Farm Workers has constantly offered to meet with the growers; the growers have constantly refused. The UFWOC has agreed to respect the results of elections; the growers are opposed to workers' elections.
2. The boycott has everything to do with the working and living conditions of the workers. The yearly earnings of most farm workers are not over $1,400.
3. Wages for farm workers in Washington and Pennsylvania are higher than in California. He also added that farm workers' wages were too low all over the country anyway, and not $1.50-$1.65 per hour as is suggested by his figures.
4. Wages for farm workers in many parts of California are not over $1,400.
5. The hiring of scabs is very common, particularly by growers of Mexican green carders, as the U.S. Department of Labor has pointed out.
6. Reagan claimed concerned growers were preparing legislation to be presented to the state legislature to solve labor-management conflicts in agriculture. Pitts suggests here that instead of supporting such legislation (as Reagan promised) he could try to help extend the National Labor Relations Act to cover farm workers.

Pitts noted that without having enough facts, the governor seems to suggest that the boycott is illegal, which is not true. He suggested that instead of siding with the ranchers so venially, the governor could spend his time arranging for negotiations between the union and the growers.

A copy of the telegram was sent to Reagan, governor Reagan has not supported them.

An exciting picket line resulted Wednesday night, when numerous delegates to the mass AFL-CIO convention left the convention hall after adjournment and proceeded to the Raley's Market in the suburb of Broderick to join the line. Their demonstration of solidarity resulted in removal of grapes from the shelves, Ramirez said.

Steve Borell, a student at Sacramento State College, and former summer volunteer with UFWOC, was named chairman of the Sacramento Friends of the Farm Workers at a meeting Monday night. The group is expected to continue its activities in an attempt to stop the sale of scab grapes at other stores in Sacramento.

BOYCOTT VICTORY IN SACRAMENTO

SACRAMENTO, September 25--Nearly a dozen markets in the Raley's chain in Sacramento announced today that they would remove table grapes from their shelves after a campaign conducted by the Sacramento Friends of the Farm Workers during recent weeks.

Under the leadership of UFWOC organizer Hook Remfro and Mrs. and Mrs. Jerry Mendoza, the Friends of the Farm Workers had picketed the store on many occasions, advising consumers that grapes inside the store were produced by scab labor.
Letters

Editor:

Although I can easily understand why you could not comply with the VISTA girl's request to mail your publication in a "plain brown envelope," I found your reply very disappointing.

No doubt she is too timid and overestimates the difficulties that knowledge of her subscription will bring. But why not honestly sympathize with her lack of security and encourage her. To me your comment seemed lacking in the charity which usually seems to characterize your organization.

Sincerely,

Mrs. T. F. Cassidy
Auburn, Mass.
September 23, 1968

Our comments on the letter were directed not at the girl who wrote, but at the conditions which led to her fears.

Our article was indeed a bit harsh, but we face her kinds of difficulty every day, and know the necessity for a little moral courage.

It might interest Mrs. Cassidy to know that our reply to the VISTA volunteer's letter was written by a former Peace Corps Volunteer who served for two years in a South American country where North Americans are particularly unpopular because of the actions of the U.S. for the last 50 years.

We apologize if our article seemed to be an attack on the girl from VISTA. Our own frustration with injustice did, as you say, make us act uncharitably.

—The Editor

Manager, KPFK
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Segelman:

I am writing to urge you to remove Mr. Darden from the list of regular speakers who give their opinions on current issues...

I would think that many conservatives, for whom Mr. Darden claims to speak, would find themselves confronted by his bland harshness and twisting of facts to suit his own philosophy. I was particularly aware of these two characteristics of his broadcasts in his treatment last night of the vineyard workers of California.

The fact could not have been more twisted if a member of the Giumarra Company against whom the boycott is especially directed, had been out on the air.

I will not attempt to argue with Mr. Darden's statements, for his whole presentation showed a plantation mentality which is impervious to any other points of view. The fact that the vineyard employees in their three years of striking for recognition of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee have had the support of much union labor and of religious and civic and government leaders at the top level, including the Kennedys, bears no weight with him. Nor does the fact that Cesar Chavez has led them in a non-violent movement, in the face of opposition of many growers, and often the hostile or indifferent officials and courts.

Very sincerely yours,

Gladys V. Swaakhamer
Santa Barbara, California
September 10, 1968

Mexican-Americans Demand Voting Rights

YAKIMA, September 11 -- A complaint filed today in the United States District Court in Yakima challenges the literacy requirement and literacy testing laws and practices in the state of Washington.

The suit is brought by the Mexican-American Federation, a non-profit corporation organized in 1967 to promote the interests of La Raza, and by four farm workers residing in Yakima County, Cesario Jimenez, Simon Ramos, Jennie Marfin, and Marta Cantu.

The complaint alleges that the provision of the Washington state constitution requiring that citizens be able to read and speak the English language as a condition of eligibility to vote, is an unreasonable discrimination against people who are able to read and speak Spanish but not English, and that it is unconstitutional.

It is also alleged that the literacy tests are now being administered in Yakima County in a manner prohibited by the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965; the tests are not written, are not uniformly administered, and are not given to every applicant.

The complaint also alleges that the Washington law authorizing voting registrars to administer literacy tests provides them with no objective standards, and allows them to establish eligibility standards for the Mexican-Americans on an individual basis.

The suit asks to have a three-judge federal court convened to stop the continued use of the English literacy tests, and to have one or more Spanish-speaking registrars appointed for Yakima County.
State Officials Ignore Wage Law

State officials are refusing to order payments of higher minimum wages to women and minors on California's farms, despite a court ruling and State Attorney General's opinion that they should immediately do so.

It has been more than two weeks since the State Court of Appeal in Sacramento ruled that the 100,000 women and minors should get the same minimum wage as other workers, $1.65 an hour for women, $1.35 for minors.

Officials in the Reagan administration are raising a smoke screen of excuses and reasons as to why they are not enforcing the law. Miss Virginia Allee of the State Industrial Welfare Division, claims she needs a written Court order compelling her to enforce the law. Other law enforcement officials are equally evasive or obstructionist, and have disregarded the court order and the Attorney General's decision that the wage should be paid.

Deputy Attorney General Jay Linnerman notes, "The public welfare demands immediate action. The harvest season is at its peak; this is the crucial time. People will be laid off soon and they won't even be able to find them to give them the retroactive pay they have coming."

(The Court ruled that workers should receive the minimum wage retroactive to February 1, 1968, when it was legally put into effect.)

LA RAZA WEEK

LONG BEACH, October 1—California State College at Long Beach will present a Mexican-American culture week October 12-18 "to promote an awareness of the Mexican-American in our society," a recent announcement said.

The program includes several Mexican-American speakers of national importance, including Cesar Chavez and Rodolfo (Corky) Gonzales. There will be Mexican and Spanish music and a presentation by the Teatro Campesino.
LABOR TRUCK regulations are set in an effort to eliminate these conditions. Here, Texas farm workers are brought back from the fields after work. --E. Clarke photo

BAKERSFIELD, September 26--Hearing were held last Tuesday and Wednesday in Bakersfield City Hall by the Public Utilities Commission on the illegal operation of trucks and other transportation vehicles by Giumarra labor contractors and day haulers of worker.

The Public Utilities Act establishes that permits are required by law to transport people to their work except if this is done only occasionally and if the employer leases the vehicles to the transporters.

Giumarra contractors and day haulers were subpoenaed to the hearings, where they admitted not having the permits required by law.

It was also established that they transport workers on a year-round basis and that it was evident that the Giumarra leasing of the trucks was a sham.

Commissioner Mooney did not allow presentation of the facts concerning the substandard and hazardous condition of the trucks used to transport workers to the Giumarra fields, but they will be heard later after a decision is reached on the permits.

David Blanco, attorney for the labor contractors and day haulers, got confused several times as to whom he was defending. He yelled and screamed several times when he was reminded that he was not defending Giumarra.

A decision is expected within 30 days after the evidence is presented to the Public Utilities Commission in San Francisco.

The hearing was the result of information supplied earlier by several farm workers.
Baltimore, Md. -- Andy Imutan, UFWOC vice president, hurls a bottle into Chesapeake Bay. The bottle contained a scab grape and a scathing letter to California Governor Ronald Reagan, who opposes the farm workers.

A Message from Maryland

Brother Andy Imutan and his wife Luming are in the area of Washington-Baltimore as chairmen of the boycott effort in the region. At a recent ceremony on the waterfront, brother Imutan hurled a sealed bottle with a scab grape and a letter inside into the bay. The letter, addressed to the Honorable Governor of California, is printed here for readers of EL MALCRIADO.

September 26, 1968

To: "Death Valley Days Reagan" Governor of California

Dear Ronald,

The City of Baltimore has endorsed and is enthusiastically supporting the Farm Workers of your State in their Grape Boycott.

Enclosed with this letter is a scab grape that by some devious means managed to make its way to our city. We are returning it by means of this bottle, via the Atlantic Ocean and the Panama Canal. Eat it proudly and in good health.

The plight of farm workers in California under your administration is unbelievable and shameful.

Wish we could bring back the "good ole days" when your rode the range on your white horse, seeking justice for the little guy, and throwing tyrants into jail to the tune of "America the Beautiful."

You always won the fight against injustice in your "flickers" and usually rode away with the best looking gal, too.

How you have changed, Ronald!

Now you ride the range with a whip in your hand, keeping the poor farm worker on his knees, a one man vigilante for the huge Growers who pull your string.

We in Baltimore are working hard to keep your scab grapes from our shore, again, to the tune of "America."

Support the Farm Workers, Ronnie, move to Australia.

Your fellow Americans in Baltimore, Maryland

U.S.A.
The Northern California Board of Rabbis asked their congregants to avoid the use of grape clusters during the Feast of Tabernacles next month, an important holiday in the Jewish calendar.

During the holiday, Jewish homes and synagogues are decorated with grapes and other fruit to express "joy and gladness," but this year the board of Rabbis wanted "to make the ritual observance relevant to an issue of social justice in our time." That issue is the demand of farm workers for collective bargaining rights from table grape growers.

Instead of grapes, they suggested other fruit be used for the decorations this year.
GRANDAD PADILLA

Congratulations to UFWOC vice-president Gilbert Padilla, who is now a grandfather. Congratulations also to his daughter Becky and her husband, William Griggs, parents of the baby girl.

L.A. Raza Protest Firing, Arrests, Discrimination

LOS ANGELES, September 28--Sixty Mexican-American students and their parents decided to continue through the weekend sit-in which began last Friday at the Los Angeles Board of Education to protest dismissal of teacher Sal Castro, who taught at Lincoln High School on the East Side, according to a report in the Los Angeles Times.

Castro was indicted by the County Grand Jury along with 12 other persons on felony conspiracy charges for his activities last April when there were sit-ins and protests in East Los Angeles schools.

The Board of Education voted 6 to 1 not to allow Castro in the classroom while under felony indictment. The only person in the Board who opposed the decision was a Mexican-American, Dr. Julian Nava. According to the State Education Code, a teacher can be relieved of his classroom duties when accused in court of a felony involving narcotics or morals, neither of which applies to Castro. If the board obeys the code, Castro could go back to his teaching activities until the County Grand Jury takes action on his indictment.

Several civic and religious groups have protested the action taken against the 13 persons accused of "planning to conspire" by the County Grand Jury. The Southern California Council of Churches, acting upon the recommendation of its Commission on Church and Race, has expressed its concern because even though persons from different races were involved in the demonstrations last April, only Mexican-Americans were indicted.

The Council also expressed its concern about the "recent innovative use of conspiracy arrests to stifle dissent." The Grand Jury's action, most of the 13 persons accused have lost their jobs and suspicion has arisen against them. In this case, Castro was transferred to a non-classroom job.

At any rate, it seems that charges against Castro and other defendants are being used to escape facing the real issues—bad schools for Mexican-Americans in Los Angeles, many observers feel.

The Rev. Vahe Mardirian of the American Baptist Church, said that participants in the sit-in are not only demonstrating for Castro but are attempting to force school board members to improve education at high schools with primarily Mexican-American students.
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