



# El Malcriado

THE VOICE OF THE FARM WORKER



in English

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DELANO, CALIFORNIA

August 15 - September 15, 1969



*UAW President Walter Reuther visits Delano for the first time in December, 1965, to express solidarity with the striking grape pickers.*

**UFWOC Honors UAW**  
See Page 8



# GROWERS POISON DELANO WATER

DELANO, September 2--It has been over 2 1/2 years since Delano residents were first warned that their drinking water was polluted with rising levels of nitrates and that the water might cause the rare but sometimes fatal disease methemoglobinemia, or infant cyanosis, in which oxygen in the blood is depleted, resulting in labored breathing and sometimes in suffocation.

In a dramatic appearance before the Delano City Council, attorney Paul Driscoll of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee legal staff and some 70 concerned Delano UFWOC members charged that the city "has pooh-poohed or hushed up the danger, taken little or no action to solve the crisis, and is in fact participating in a "Conspiracy of Silence" with the growers to minimize and play down the danger.

Driscoll noted that the overwhelming bulk of scientific evidence points to nitrate fertilizers used by grape growers as the cause of the pollution. He noted that in the last two and one half years the level of nitrates has doubled, in some cases, in wells in the Delano area. The U.S. Public Health Service, after

extensive investigations, recommended in 1962 that a level of 45 parts per million of nitrates in drinking water should not be exceeded. Most of Delano's wells exceed this level, several are over double this level, and some are in excess of 100 parts per million.

Shortly after Ronald Reagan became governor in 1967, and the big growers gained an influential and often dominant voice in the state government, the California Public Health Service issued a new directive saying that public agencies and utility companies did not need to warn the public when the nitrate level exceeded 45 parts or even 90 parts per million. The State confessed that the problem of nitrate contamination was widespread in agricultural areas of the State but set the tone for the "Conspiracy of Silence" by saying that the public need not be warned of the danger and that cities were under no obligation to do anything more than "study" the problem.

Mayor Clifford Loader of Delano, with his "innocent-imbecile" smile, adopted the State's attitude, and repeatedly told Driscoll, "This is a State problem... Let's leave this to the experts... We're doing all



*Delano Mayor  
Clifford Loader*

we can do..."

"All we can do" includes informing the public that the water IS safe to drink (public statements by both the Mayor and the City Manager), that there is no cause for concern. "All we can do" includes an official refusal by the city to send out a new letter to water users warning of the rise in nitrate levels since the last letter was sent in early 1967. "All we can do" includes continuous use of some of the most polluted wells.

Loader tried to discredit Driscoll by implying that Driscoll was a liar, then changed his tactics to take the "non-expert" stance. "We don't really know what nitrates do," he

*Continued on Page 12*

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## Did You Get a Mini Issue?

We received several complaints on the last issue, that subscribers had received only part of their paper. However, the last issue of EL MAL-

CRIADO was a special fund-raising appeal, and consequently had only one sheet, four pages. We apologize for the confusion.

EL MALCRIADO  
P.O. BOX 130  
DELANO, CA  
93215

More and more people are finding out that a subscription to EL MALCRIADO is the best way to keep up with the farm worker struggle. Don't be left out--send in this coupon today!

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CLAIMS THEY ARE HARMLESS... ALSO ACCUSES UFWOC OF LYING...

# MURPHY REVEALS POISON RESIDUES ON GRAPES

Washington, D.C., September 4 -- UFWOC's determination to tell the truth about pesticides to the American public brought vicious attacks last week from the growers' favorite song and dance man, Senator George Murphy of California. On August 1, Jerome Cohen, UFWOC General Counsel, told the Senate Subcommittee on Migratory Labor that two bunches of California table grapes purchased at a Washington, D.C. supermarket contained 18 parts per million of Aldrin, or 180 times the human tolerance of that pesticide, which is a member of the same family as DDT. The findings represented the result of a careful test conducted by C.W. England laboratory of Washington D.C. on grapes which had been bought that day at a Safeway Store by Manuel Vasquez, UFWOC boycott representative in Washington, D.C. The grapes, labelled "Bianco," were produced by the Bianco Fruit Corporation of Delano, Arvin and Thermal.

The Union also tested grapes from more than a dozen other grape growers, and found varying amounts of pesticide residues on all of them.

On August 12, Senator Murphy launched a smear campaign against the Union and Cohen and Vasquez personally. He abused his privilege of Senatorial immunity by stating from the Senate floor that Cohen's testimony was a "shocking attempt to mislead the public by the presentation of false evidence to the Subcommittee on Migratory Labor." Murphy intimated that Manuel Vasquez had tampered with the grapes before having them tested.

To document his charges, Murphy cited a survey recently conducted by the Food and Drug Administration in which 60 samples of table grapes from across the country were tested for pesticide residues. According to this survey, there was no Aldrin on any of the grapes tested. Mur-



UFWOC Attorney Jerry Cohen

phy admitted that his tests revealed residues of Kelthane, DDT, DDE, Dieldrin, Diazinon, Ethion, Tedion, Carbaryl, and even the deadly Parathion. Murphy later contradicted himself by submitting one report showing Aldrin on some grapes.

Murphy also read a statement from Anthony A. Bianco Jr. alleging that he had not used Aldrin on his grapes for the past six years. On August 19, in a Bakersfield television interview Murphy charged that Cohen brought in fake evidence. "I have no intention of letting him

*Continued on Page 12*

## MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S GRIM WARNING

### We're All Being Poisoned

BALTIMORE, August 21 -- A preliminary autopsy report shows "a high level" of the pesticide DDT in Marylanders, causing Gov. Mandel of Maryland to set up a new state commission to study the effects of DDT and other pesticides on humans and develop regulations controlling their use in Maryland.

Dr. Neil Solomon, Secretary of Health and mental hygiene, said that data on a number of autopsies on Marylanders recently revealed an average of 10 parts per million of DDT and related pesticides accumulated in their body fat.

"Any amount of DDT is no good and potentially dangerous," Dr. Solomon said. The 10 parts per million is twice the rate that the Federal Food and Drug Administration now considers the maximum amount of DDT safe for humans.

A recent study of University of Miami pharmacologist Dr. William Deichman, cited by Solomon and Mandel in their warnings to Marylanders, linked four common diseases to the amount of DDT and pesticides stored in the victims' body fat.

Victims of atherosclerosis, which

is hardening of the arteries, had 17.3 parts per million of DDT and other pesticides in their body fat. Hypertension victims had 24.6 parts per million.

Victims of leukemia had 21.3 parts per million, and carcinoma victims had 21.9 parts per million.

DDT, according to a federal study also produces tumors and cancer when fed to baby mice.

"We can't say yet at what level of DDT accumulation you will die or whether certain amounts of DDT make you more susceptible to disease," Dr. Solomon said, "but these statistics are suggestive."

UFWOC Vice President Andy Imutan, leader of the grape boycott in Maryland, congratulated Gov. Mandel for bringing to the attention of the people of Maryland the growing danger from pesticides. Imutan also noted that California farm workers have an average of three times as much DDT as other Americans, because of their frequent contact with the spray and with fields sprayed with the poison. "It's time America woke up to the fact that we are poisoning ourselves," he said.



# BOYCOTT NEWS BRIEFS...

## WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES PUTS MUSCLE, PRAYER-POWER BEHIND GRAPE BOYCOTT

CANTERBURY, ENGLAND, August 22--The World Council of Churches has voted to support the international boycott of California table grapes. The Council called on each Christian denomination and on national and regional councils of churches to "Take whatever action seems appropriate to support California's exploited grape pickers."

California table grape growers are now attempting to "dispose of California table grapes on the international market," the Council noted. "The Council urges national and regional councils of churches to investigate the relevance of this issue to their own countries and take whatever action seems appropriate to support California's ex-

ploited grape pickers," the resolution concluded.

The Council praised the National Council of Churches, USA, for supporting the grape boycott and suggested that the fate of all farm workers in the USA are linked to the success or failure of the grape boycott and the building of a strong, non-violent union. Only through such a strong union can farm workers

hope to end the racial and economic exploitation from which they now suffer.

UFWOC Director Cesar Chavez expressed gratitude for the Council's endorsement, and said that he was especially hopeful that the Council and its member churches could aid in establishing boycotts in countries which at present are importing large quantities of scab grapes.

## SAC'TO BOYCOTTERS BLAST D.O.D.

SACRAMENTO, August 25--Over 30 supporters of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee picketed Mather Air Force Base outside Sacramento today to protest the increasing military purchases of grapes. Steve Belcher, Sacramento area boycott coordinator, stated, "The thing we are disputing is that the Department of Defense is doubling its purchases of table grapes."

Belcher said that Air Force offi-

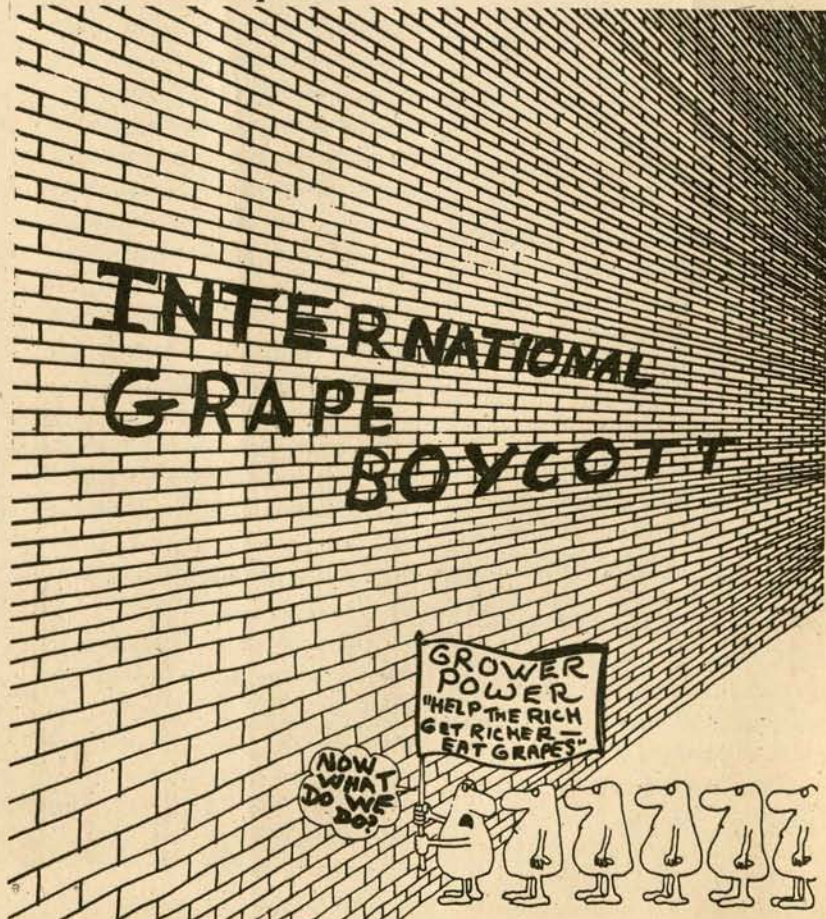
cials showed considerable concern over the demonstration, phoning him twice before the demonstration and reporting the demonstration immediately to Washington when it occurred. But Washington Defense Department officials are continuing to claim that they are "neutral," and reject the argument that increasing their grape purchases for Viet Nam by 700% over the last two years is anything but "neutral."

## STUDENTS PROTEST

SAN FRANCISCO, September 1--Hundreds and perhaps thousands of Chicano students and sympathizers of La Huelga in the Bay Area are planning a massive walkout in the local high schools on Tuesday, September 16, according to reports from San Francisco. The youths plan to celebrate Mexican Independence Day by demonstrating in front of Safeway and other stores selling scab grapes, and confronting management in the local stores with reasons why they should not be selling scab grapes.

## OHIO PLANS ACTION

CLEVELAND, September 6 -- Plans are underway for a stepped-up boycott of table grapes throughout Ohio this fall, according to Julio Hernandez, UFWOC Vice President and leader of the boycott in Cleveland. Two Catholic priests, Fathers Pack and Bank, visited Delano this week to map plans for the intensified boycott. And a group of over 50 students sponsored by the Cleveland Youth Celebration, spent over two weeks in Delano helping with the strike before returning to Cleveland to work on the boycott there.





## CINCINNATI MARCH AGAINST KROGERS' SCAB SALES

CINCINNATI, August 30 -- Between 150 and 200 consumers from Cincinnati, Ohio and surrounding areas made a three-mile pilgrimage march from downtown Cincinnati to the home of Jacob E. Davis, President of Kroger Stores, to protest Kroger's buying of scab grapes today. The march was led by Jorge Zaragoza, Delano farmworker and leader of the boycott in the Cincinnati area. Many students, union members, religious people, and also plain housewives and consumers joined in the march, protesting Kroger's massive purchases of scab grapes and Kroger's support of the growers in the grape strike dispute. Krogers is the largest store in the Midwest to handle grapes and consumers in the Midwest have launched a boycott of Krogers until Krogers removes the scab products from their shelves.

President Davis of Krogers commented after the march that he would continue to buy grapes for his stores. Presumably the starvation and misery of America's farm workers were no concern of his. And he noted complacently, "We will continue to respect the right of those who disagree with our position." That certainly is generous of you, Mr. Davis.

Viva la Causa  
Y  
El Progreso  
*Courtesy of  
a  
Mexican-  
American  
Attorney*

Fresno California

## FAST REMINDS NEW YORKERS OF SUFFERING

NEW YORK, September 1 -- Jose Guevara, a farm worker from Delano, and Tina Best, a volunteer worker for the grape boycott from New York, have begun a fast to remind New Yorkers of the suffering and hunger of America's farm workers. The fast has been accompanied by prayer vigils and demonstrations in front of local A&P stores in New Jersey, across the river from New York, where the chain is continuing to buy and sell scab grapes.

A spokesman for the boycott in New York noted that while most stores in the New York area are no longer purchasing the scab grapes, stores in New Jersey are continuing to support the growers through their purchasing departments. A&P, the largest chain in New Jersey, has been singled out for special criticism, since consumer delegations have repeatedly called on store managers asking them to remove the grapes.

## RALLY HONORS R.F.K., GRAPE STRIKE

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 7 -- The United Farm Workers Organizing Committee and the National Liturgical Conference held a special memorial march and rally today to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the beginning of the California grape strike, on September 8, 1965. The rally was also held as a special memorial to the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy and the work he did in behalf of the grape strike and farm workers across the nation. Congressmen James G. O'Hara of Michigan and

Don Edwards of San Jose, California, plus leaders from unions and churches spoke at the rally, which was held at the Washington Monument.

UFWOC Vice President Andy Imutan and UFWOC Washington Grape Boycott coordinator Manuel Vasquez spoke for the farm workers.

While the grape boycott has had considerable success in the Baltimore area, supermarkets in the Washington area are continuing to buy and promote scab grapes. Plans are being made for a more vigorous grape boycott in the capitol city this fall to hit Safeway and any other stores selling the scab products.



Grape Striker Carolina Franco leads grape boycott picket line against Safeway in Washington, D. C.



# POLITICIAN ENJOYS SCAB WORK

DELANO, August 27--A right-wing Republican politician, John Harmer of Glendale, recently visited Delano grower Jack Pandol as part of a publicity stunt arranged by the public relations firm of Whittaker & Baxter. Harmer claims that he "Disguised" himself as a farm worker and went to work in the grapes for Pandol, leader of the most extremist anti-Union growers and Secretary-Treasurer of the anti-union Californians for the Right to Work. Harmer claims that after scabbing for Pandol for a week, he enjoyed farm work, found the pay was good, the housing and food fine, and the workers all opposed to the Union.

UFWOC leaders regarded Harmer's stunt as a joke, and a fraudulent joke at that. "We have now discovered that a public statement made by Harmer regarding his grape

picking holiday was in the mail long before he finished his employment," said UFWOC Director Cesar Chavez. "The statement, distributed by an organization called The Public Research Institute, opens with the statement: 'On August 20, 1969, California State Senator John L. Harmer walked out of the grape vineyards of Delano after a full week of 'migrant' farm work.' "

"This statement was received in the mail several days before August 20," noted Chavez.

Chavez also commented, "Knowing Jack Pandol to be the sort of man he is, almost without scruples as far as treatment of workers, we would not be surprised to find out that Mr. Harmer did not even work a week in the vineyards."

Chavez also noted that the Public Research Institute, with offices in Glendale, is the same organization

that participated with Delano area growers in organizing, financing, and publicizing the company union, Agricultural Workers Freedom to Work Association. It is clear to us that Harmer is up to his ears in union-busting and right-to-work activities," stated Chavez.

GIUMARRA.....

*Continued from page 7*

argues that this assault was a deliberate act on Giumarra's part, and that an Employer should not be allowed to use the Workmen's Comp program as a shield to exempt him from his larger civil liability.

The case is on appeal now, the first judge ruling that the case was indeed a Workmen's Comp case. "This case has ominous implications for all workers," warned Averbuck. "We plan to appeal it all the way to the Supreme Court, if necessary, to protect the rights of the workers."

**"Slaves Are Happy"**  
**says Sen.**  
**Peachtree**

*After reading of State Senator John Harmer's recent exploits as a scabbing grape picker, Bill Scott of Tujunga sent us*

*this account of an amazingly similar investigation by a Senator, just over 100 years ago:*

MISSISSIPPI, 1860 - Living conditions of slaves on Southern plantations have been greatly misrepresented by left-wing radical Abolitionists, according to Senator Beauregard Calhoun Peachtree, who last week spent four days in blackface as a slave working in the fields of Parris Greens, the plantation owned by Colonel Yancey Oglethorpe, noted Delta cotton king. Colonel Oglethorpe, he said, was the only person who knew of the unusual masquerade.

"At first all the 'hands' were suspicious of me," said the Senator, "but I soon learned to shuffle and smile and say 'yassuh, boss' with the best of them, and they accepted me without reservation. And I can tell you here and now that they were unanimous in wanting no truck with Union agitators from the North who would destroy their peaceful Southern way of life. They know that the abolition of slavery is a foreign-born idea and an attack on the sacred institution of private property. Actually they all love 'Ole Massa,' as they affectionately call the Colonel," he continued.

(Parris Greens is, of course, noted for the loyalty of its Negroes, not one of whom has successfully escaped for more than 40 years.)

The Senator was impressed by the neatness of the living quarters, the mens' section with its sturdy double-deck bunks, and the womens' quarters with its colorful rag quilts and their own pump in the yard. "And their food is good," the Senator av-

erred, "especially if you like hog-jowls and chitlin's, which were served at every meal." Especially pleasing to the legislator was the nightly serenade beneath the Colonel's window, under the guidance of S. Legree, choir director and overseer. "No doubt about it," he said warmly, "those people have a natural sense of rhythm."

Senator Peachtree pooh-poohed reports of unrest at other plantations. "The slaves fear Union activists," he said. "Many told me that they needed someone to protect them from the dangerous and irresponsible Abolitionists."

Parris Greens appears to have such a protector in Colonel Oglethorpe, whose kennel of bloodhounds and posse of highly-trained, well-armed overseers acts as a bastion to protect the well-being of his happy, fun-loving darkies.

"The work is hard, I'll admit," said Senator Peachtree ruefully, "but it gives you a good feeling to come in from the fields after dark, utterly exhausted, knowing that you've done your bit to preserve the Southern way of life and to insure the consumer public and the grower a stable flow of cheap cotton. I wouldn't hesitate to have my own son, Lance, do that same kind of work (at least for a lark) if he wasn't already enrolled in college. Slaves are wonderful people. Mind you," he chuckled, "I wouldn't want him to marry one of them,"



# NEW WAVE OF GROWER VIOLENCE

DELANO, September 10 -- Growers are making an increasing number of violent assaults against strikers and workers, according to UFWOC picket captain Paul Espinosa. The rising tempo of violence worries UFWOC leaders who have tried to keep the strike non-violent. And Sal Giumarra, a major grower accused of assault against one of his workers, is trying an unprecedented legal maneuver to escape personal responsibility for his act.

ufwoc leaders noted that while there were comparatively few acts of violence in Coachella and LaMont this year, violence has been a serious problem since the opening days of the Deano harvest. Strikers suffered slashed tires and vandalism to their cars. On August 21, vandals attacked the UFWOC bus, burning out a rear section, destroying two tires and burning out two seats.

At the George Lucas and Sons Ranch, according to Espinosa, several of the foremen and supervisors have been using foul and abusive language against the strikers, especially the women and children, especially the women and children, in an apparent attempt to incite them to violence. A member of the Migrant Ministry said he was physically assaulted by an as yet unidentified ranch foreman or supervisor.

And in the most flagrant act, George Lucas Junior drove up in his air-conditioned Cadillac, jumped out and almost immediately attacked picket captain Espinosa. Espinosa, who was trying to talk to scab workers in the fields at the time, tried to ignore Lucas, whereupon Lucas grabbed the microphone from Espinosa's hand, ripped the cord out of the amplifier, and hurled it to the ground. Then, violently pushing Espinosa aside, Lucas picked up the microphone and heaved it into his vineyards. A Lucas employee, presumed to be a foreman,

took the microphone and disappeared among the vines.

The Tulare County District Attorney is charging Lucas with disturbing the peace and malicious destruction of private property. In addition, Espinosa and the Union are suing Lucas and his corporation for \$10,000 in damages, including the Union's loss of its sound system and denial of the right of freedom of speech, assault, and battery against Espinosa, and \$5,000 punitive damages.

The case involving Sal Giumarra, one of the senior partners of Giumarra Vineyards, dates back to September 18, 1967, when Giumarra allegedly became enraged at the UFWOC picket line and lost his cool. Taking his hostilities out on his workers (who were showing an increasing tendency to join

the strike), he attacked one of his pickers, Mrs. Grace Sanchez, assaulted and knocked her to the ground, and hurled bunches of rotten grapes at her.

When brought to trial, Giumarra claimed that the case was not a matter for the courts, but rather for the Workmen's Compensation program. Mrs. Sanchez was suing Giumarra for \$10,000 for injury, fright, mental anguish, and physical pain, plus an additional \$10,000 punitive damages. But Giumarra claimed that any injury that occurred was suffered "on the job" and that Mrs. Sanchez should try to collect from the Workmen's Comp insurance. Since this is an insurance program, any judgement that Mrs. Sanchez won would be paid by the insurance, not by Giumarra.

UFWOC attorney David Averbuck

*Continued on page 6*

## NEW ATTEMPT TO SEE POISON RECORDS

RIVERSIDE, August 28 -- The United Farm Workers Organizing Committee again challenged the State's policy of secrecy in regard to pesticide records, and in a four day trial which ended here today, sought to force the Riverside County Agriculture Commissioner to make public his records on types, strengths, amounts, and locations of pesticide applications in the Riverside and Coachella Valley areas.

A law suit initiated by Coachella grape worker Amalia Uribe (19) and the Union demanded that Riverside Ag Commissioner Robert Howie let Miss Uribe see the records. Howie had refused to let Miss Uribe see his files when she first approached him. The State Attorney General's office entered the case in behalf of Miss Uribe, saying that all California citizens

*Amalia Uribe*



were entitled to see these records, which are supposedly public records.

Commercial pesticide applicators entered the case with a demand that the judge forbid Howie to show the records to anyone. Judge John Neblett was thus faced with the County Agriculture Commissioner, the growers, pesticide applicators, and State Department of Agriculture, on one side, the farm workers and State Attorney General's office (representing the people of California) on the other side. A decision

*Continued on page 15*



# UFWOC DEDICATES UNION HALL, HONORS UAW

DELANO, September 14--Walter Reuther, International President of the United Auto Workers, joined with UFWOC Director Cesar Chavez today in dedicating the new office buildings for the UFWOC's national headquarters outside Delano. The main administrative building and Union hall, for which the UAW contributed a substantial portion of the building costs, was named the Roy L. Reuther Memorial Building, in memory of one of the Auto Workers', and one of America's greatest labor leaders.

The dedication ceremonies included a mass and blessing of the buildings at the Union's Forty Acres, a dedication ceremony and unveiling of a plaque naming the building for Reuther, and speeches by Chavez, Walter Reuther, Mrs. Roy Reuther, UAW Western Regional Director Paul Schrader, and others. Chavez expressed special thanks to the UAW, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO, Local #11 from Los Angeles, Carpenters Local #743 from Bakersfield, the California State

Council of Carpenters, Painters Local #127 from Oakland, Carpet and Linolium Workers Local #1247 from Los Angeles, and many, many others, unions and individuals who have so generously contributed of their time and money, who have helped so much in making this dream become a reality.

Following the dedication ceremonies, the Union sponsored a fiesta in Delano's Memorial Park, with free barbeque, mariachies, and raffles.



## ROY REUTHER: 40 YEARS OF STRUGGLE



UFWOC Director Cesar Chavez with Roy Reuther in Rio Grande City, Texas, June, 1967.

In dedicating the new UFWOC headquarters building to Roy Reuther, who recently died of a heart-attack, UFWOC Director Cesar Chavez noted Reuther's long struggle in behalf of America's workers, and his special concern in recent years for the struggle of America's farm workers for justice. Roy, brother of UAW President Walter Reuther, gained national attention in 1936 and 1937, by devising the strategy of the sit-down strike in Flint, Michigan to close down the huge Chevrolet Division of General Motors and force G.M. to negotiate with the Union. The workers occupied the plant for several months and G.M. finally agreed to open talks.

Reuther was the key organizer in the Flint area of Michigan in 1936 and 1937, when the Union membership jumped from 200 to 43,000 in less than a year. From this base the UAW has grown today to more than 1,000,000 members.

Reuther took an increasing interest in farm labor in recent years, and made the long journey to Rio Grande City in 1967 to see conditions and help plan strategy and ways the UAW could help in the organization drive in Texas. He joined workers on the picket lines and in the famous demonstration at Laredo, Texas, when over 1000 poor farm workers demonstrated against

then-Governor John Connolly, who was attending a banquet sponsored by rich Mexican - American politicians, businessmen, and sell-outs.

Reuther, appalled at conditions in South Texas, went back to Detroit and Washington more dedicated than ever to the cause of the farm workers. Roy Reuther and his brother Walter (who is visiting Delano for the third time today), Schrader, UAW Canadian leader Dennis McDermott, and many other leaders, plus tens of thousands of rank and file Auto workers have provided more help to our struggle than any other single Union, and it is with real gratitude and pride that the Union dedicates this building to Roy Reuther, a great leader of the American working man.



The UFWOC building crew at the Union's Forty Acres includes Juan Tavena (far left), Emilio Fackler (above left), Mike Kratko (below left) and Candy Becerra (below).



## HERE TO STAY!

DELANO, September 14 -- Dedication ceremonies for the new office buildings of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee take place today amid celebration and prayers of thanksgiving. The Union which marked the fourth anniversary of the beginning of the historic grape strike on September 8, has in spite of the strike and sacrifice and struggle been able to build and expand its permanent national headquarters at the Fourty Acres outside of Delano and will soon consolidate all its offices and functions

at the new site.

The Union has also recently launched its Farm Workers Medical Plan, covering several thousands of farm workers working under Union contract. The next issue of EL MALCRIADO will describe its benefits in a special edition.

For those growers who still think that wishing and cursing and Whitaker & Baxter advertisements will make the Union disappear, take another look. We're planning for the future. We're here to stay.



# UFWOC DEFENDS ORANGE COVE WORKERS, SUES LABOR CONTRACTORS

ORANGE COVE, September 4 -- Anita and Eusebio Pardo of Orange Cove are filing charges against a group of labor contractors and foremen and an orange grower in the Orange Cove area who they accuse of firing them, and, in effect, black-listing them for their union sympathies and their request that they be informed of their pay rate before going to work.

With the help of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee and its legal staff, the Pardos are suing Rosario Pantoja, a labor contractor, and his foremen Roberto Pantoja and Mike Klain, and grower L. J. Williams and the Williams Ranch for \$20,000 in exemplary and punitive damages for compensation for the time and work that they have lost because of the firing and black-listing.

The Pardos, who have nine children, had been working for five years in the oranges in this area, and had been working full time for Pantoja since last fall. On June 13, 1969, their crew was working in a grove near Yettam, and the Pardos had the audacity to ask Robert Pantoja how much they were being paid. He told them that they were getting \$5.50 per bin, but to stop asking questions about wages.

The next day, their crew was picking in a new grove, where the oranges were much smaller and harder to pick. They asked Pantoja how much they were getting that day. (In farm labor, since there is no written contract, the grower or contractor often changes the rate of pay for every new field or day.)

The Pantojas refused to tell the workers what was being paid on June 14, and after working most of the day, the Pardos and other workers decided to stop work until they got some kind of answer. The whole crew, 20 to 30 workers, stopped work and asked Pantoja for \$7.00



a bin for this field of oranges. After a two-hour stall, Pantoja agreed to pay \$6.50 a bin when work resumed on Monday.

When the Pardos returned to work on Monday, they were told there was no work for them. After going from crew to crew looking for work, and being turned down everywhere, they realized that they had been black listed. Many crews were hiring workers but all the crew bosses told them that no one would hire them because of their "strike". They also had a UFWOC sticker on their car, and one boss threatened to rip the hood off any workers' car which displayed such a bumper sticker.

Finally, foreman Mike Klain said that he would hire them on the condition that they would not talk to anyone about anything while they were working, and never again to ask about the price they were to be paid. The price is fixed by the packing house, and not by what the people want, Mike told them.

The Pardos refused these conditions, saying that if they were

promised one rate and then not paid it, they had a right to complain.

When some of the other workers complained about the treatment of the Pardos, Rosario Pantoja replied, "I can't put these people to work. Do you want me to put Anita and her husband back to work? Well, I can. But I want to cease the power of the Union, and it is better that you stop talking because what happened to Anita will happen to you."

The Pardos found it difficult to find work for the rest of the summer and finally came to the Union for help. "It's time we began teaching some of these growers that they cannot discriminate against Union members," said UFWOC attorney David Averbuck, who is handling the case. "Just because the Union is not yet ready to launch a full-scale strike in the oranges does not mean that the growers and contractors can black-list and fire workers because of Union membership."

FROM SENATOR MURPHY'S TESTIMONY IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

"Investigations (by the Food and Drug Administration) indicated that Coachella Valley growers generally use DDT and Carbaryl (Sevin) for

insect control. Parathion was reportedly used by one grower to control a thrip..."

(Congressional Record, page S9867, of August 12, 1969)



## "THANK YOU"

The following letter is written in thanks to the many thousands of you who replied to our special appeal for help in the last issue of EL MALCRIADO:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We want to acknowledge the generous response of our friends everywhere to our appeal for moral and financial assistance which is urgently needed at this crucial stage of our struggle for a better way of life. Your dedication and continued support will someday soon bring justice and dignity to the farm workers which most other Americans enjoy. Thank you again.

Peace, and Viva la Causa,

*Cesar E. Chavez*

Director, UFWOC

*Pete G. Velasco*

Chairman, Defense Fund

## Caravan Set for September 27

A Food Caravan to Delano is scheduled for Saturday, September 27, from the San Francisco Bay Area, and supporters of the grape strike and boycott are also planning caravans and delegations from San Diego, San Pedro, San Fernando, Los Angeles, and other cities. Supporters should phone the Oakland Boycott Office (655-3256) for information, or join the caravan at 660 Howard St. in San Francisco or 568 47th St. in Oakland at 7 AM on the 27th. Supporters from the San Diego area should phone 295-4200 or get in touch with Carlos or Linda Legerrette at 4463 Craigie St. in San Diego. Los Angeles supporters should phone Joe Serda at 264-0316 or stop at L. A. Huelga Headquarters, 3016 1/2 East First St. See you in Delano!



*Pete Velasco*

## Velasco To Head Fund Drive

Pete Velasco, who for a long time has led the Bay Area grape boycott committee, and more recently led the Coachella Valley strike, has been appointed as Chairman of the Defense Fund Committee and will be working full time out of Delano. "As you know, the strikes in Arizona, Coachella, Arvin, and now in Delano have depleted the Defense fund considerably. We are now trying to raise funds to enable us to continue the struggle," stated UFWOC Director Cesar Chavez in announcing Velasco's new duties. Velasco will be in charge of coordinating fund-raising efforts, and will welcome suggestions, ideas and help from any of the Union's supporters and members on this project.

## Perelli Minetti Contract Nears Completion

McFARLAND, September 5 -- UFWOC leaders announced at the regular Friday night Union meeting that they are close to agreement with McFarland wine grape grower Perelli Minetti & Sons Vineyards on terms for a new contract. Complete terms of the new contract will be published in the next edition of EL MALCRIADO, if negotiations have been completed by that time and the contract signed. Once again, smooth and orderly negotiations have replaced the bitterness of the strike and boycott in reaching a settlement between workers and growers.

## THE DIRT ON CALIFORNIA

### AGRIBUSINESS AND THE UNIVERSITY

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\*HOW THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SERVICES THE CORPORATION FARMERS.

\*WHO BENEFITS FROM UC'S FARM INVENTIONS.

\*WHY MILLIONS ARE SPENT TO HELP RICH GROWERS.

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From EL MALCRIADO review, January 1, 1969:

"The evidence, presented in carefully documented and annotated prose by the authors, both long time friends of the United Farm Workers, shows that the University has prostituted itself time and again for the growers, issuing false and misleading reports..."

★★★★★★★★★★★★

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# POISONED WATER...

*Continued from Page 2*

stated. "Until we do know, we shouldn't scare the people," he advised. City Manager **Minford** noted proudly that there had been no reported cases of methemoglobinemia or deaths yet, and thus implied that there was really nothing to worry about.

Are these callous men going to wait until little children are getting sick and dying before they show any concern? What do we really know about nitrate poisoning, and is it cause for immediate concern? You be the "expert"...

The U.S. Public Health Service, in its 1962 report states:

"Cases of infantile nitrate poisoning have been reported to arise from concentrations ranging from 66 to 1100 parts per million... Nitrate poisoning appears to be confined to infants during their first few months of life; adults drinking the same water are not affected, but breast fed infants of mothers drinking such water may be poisoned. Cows drinking water containing nitrate may produce milk sufficiently high in nitrate to result in infant poisoning. Both man and animals can be poisoned by nitrate if the concentration is sufficiently great."

As far back as 1950, an article, "Methemoglobinemia and Minnesota Well Supplies," appeared in the "Journal of the American Water Works Association." The article described 139 cases of the disease identified since 1947, of which 14 had been fatal; all were attributed to contaminated farm well water. In 1951 an eighteen-state survey was conducted, and 278 cases of methemoglobinemia were reported. In 39 cases, the children had died. "In all of these cases the concentration of nitrates in water supplies was in excess of 45 parts per million," the article stated.

An extensive report on Delano's nitrate problems appeared in the January-February issue of Environ-

ment this year (Vol. II, #1), and the L.A. Times and other papers have carried scientific articles on the problem. While Union members may not be "experts" of sufficient standing to impress Dr. Loader (who is a dentist, by the way), UFWOC feels that this is ample evidence for concern. But apparently none of these studies worry Delano city officials enough to cause any alarm.

As to the cause of the poisons, local growers use the equivalent of 450 to 1000 pounds of nitrate fertilizers per acre, per year. Again, there is no real doubt as to who is polluting the water.

Driscoll suggested that, in addition to waiting for results of the State's slow-moving study, the city should provide free bottled drinking water to families with children under one year old who could not afford to buy such water. EL MALCRIADO suggests that the growers pay the cost of such a program, since they are the ones who polluted the water. Driscoll also suggested that the city send out new letters of warning to water users, and regularly warn new residents of Delano of the danger. And



finally Driscoll suggested that the city contact the polluting growers and ask them to stop the polluting, to use non-polluting methods of fertilizing their crops. If they persist in using techniques which poison the water, the city should launch a law suit against them.

While the rest of the City Council sat in embarrassed and guilty silence, Loader smiled like a Cheshire cat, and finally promised to "Study the matter."

## MURPHY vs. COHEN

*Continued from Page 3*

get away with this," Murphy said.

Cohen replied to these allegations on August 18 in a letter urging the Senator to publically debate the pesticide issue with him. In this letter Cohen discounted Murphy's key arguments. He pointed out that the majority of the grapes tested by the Food and Drug Administration was, even by their reports, poisoned with DDT and other chlorinated hydrocarbons. Murphy had claimed that the residues were harmlessly low. Cohen replied that most scientists now agree that ANY consumption of DDT is potentially harmful for humans. "It seems to me that the tolerance of DDT should be set at zero, for all

crops, and especially crops such as grapes which cannot be peeled," he stated.

Cohen also questioned Bianco's statement that he had not used Aldrin on grapes for six years. Murphy himself has introduced into the Congressional record one laboratory test on Bianco grapes which shows an Aldrin residue.

Cohen ended his letter to Murphy with an invitation to come to Delano and see for himself the many farm workers who have been seriously poisoned by their table grape employers. "And we could also show you," said Cohen, "that contrary to your former public pronouncements regarding their suitability to farm work, Mexicans are not built closer to the ground than any other group of people."



## Orendain Sparks UFWOC Organizing Drive in Texas

SAN JUAN, TEXAS, September 1--Antonio Orendain, Secretary-Treasurer of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee and leader of the Union in Texas, has announced that the Union will launch a major organizing drive in the Lower Rio Grande Valley this coming winter. Orendain, who returned to Texas this spring with his wife Rachel, and family, is working to establish a Service Center for farm workers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Plans are now underway to purchase an eight-acre plot of land for a permanent Union headquarters and Service Center. Orendain has begun a daily radio program, "La Voz del Campesino" (in Spanish) and is heard six days a week by thousands of workers in South Texas, and in Nueva Leon and Tamaulipas States in Mexico. A health and insurance program is also being planned, and the Union is hoping to re-establish a newspaper in the Valley. The address of UFWOC in the Valley is P.O. Box #907, San Juan, Texas.

The Union is also working closely with Colonias del Valle, a community self-help organization in the Lower Valley led by UFWOC organizer Reynaldo de la Cruz. Colonias del Valle has organizations in dozens of the barrios and small rural communities of the Valley. Two other leaders of the Colonias, Rev. Ed Krueger and his wife Tina, recently visited Delano to discuss future programs in South Texas.

Orendain and de la Cruz both see the first step in building a strong Union in the Valley is community

grass-roots organizing. Voter registration and political action will undoubtedly play an important part in the Union's program this winter. It was the rotten and corrupt political structure of Starr County that was a major factor in blunting the effectiveness of the melon strike in Texas in 1966 and 1967.

"We learned a lot from the melon strike," commented Orendain. "Even when the workers are with you 100%, you can't win a strike here until you have changed some of the basic structure of the establishment. We're not going to rush into another strike half-cocked."

Orendain noted wryly that the "temporary injunction" issued in 1967 which forbid all picketing and strike activity against La Casita Farms, the biggest melon grower in the Valley, is still in effect. Over 100 arrests of strikers, which took place as far back as June of 1966, have never come to trial, and over \$20,000 in bail money is still tied up because of these illegal arrests.

"We have got to remove some of these obstacles before we can build our Union in Texas," says Orendain. "We're going to have to create a new social and political order here in Texas, where men are truly equal before the law; where the laws provide justice, not injustice; where the police and judges seek to protect the innocent, not terrorize them. We have a long way to go. But we're not going to turn back, never again."



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# UFWOC OPPOSES HAYNSWORTH APPOINTMENT

DELANO, September 5--UFWOC Director Cesar Chavez today called upon the United States Senate to reject the nomination of Judge Clement F. Haynsworth, Jr. to the U. S. Supreme Court.

"The American principle of equality and the American concept of collective bargaining through unionism are well established today. Judge Haynsworth has a very questionable record in both these critical areas and does not merit consideration for a place on the nation's highest court," Chavez stated in a telegram to Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield.

Enlarging on the Union's statement, Chavez pointed out that the Haynsworth matter has been an issue of grave concern to the Union ever since his civil rights record and his anti-union record were revealed.

"Most farm workers are either

brown or black," he said. "On top of that we are trying to build a union. The second-class treatment that we've had all our lives is bad enough. When we started to organize our union we found obstacles in our path that no other workers have ever had to face.

Now we find a man nominated to the highest court of the land whose record is bad where minorities and unionism is concerned."

"How much more offensive to us could such an appointment be?", Chavez asked.

## Chicano Art Exhibit in S. F.

SAN FRANCISCO, September 1--An art exhibit featuring art by Chicano and Latin American artists of the Southwest, "Arte de los Barrios" has been scheduled for a month exhibition, beginning October 12 in San Francisco. Sponsors have invited any Mexicano or Latino painter, sculptor, photographer, film maker, graphic artist, in any media, to submit work for the exhibition. Deadline for submitting



work is September 30, 1969. For entry blanks, write to Arte de los Barrios, 362 Capp St., San Francisco, Cal. 94110.

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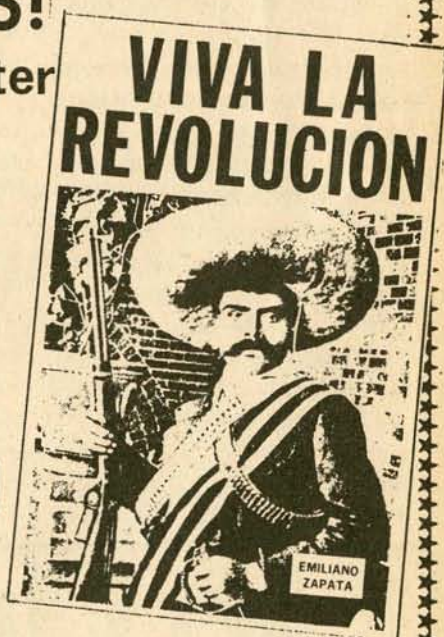
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# CONSUMER GROUP BACKS BOYCOTT

DENVER, August 24 -- The Consumers' Federation of America, representing 139 affiliated organizations, and millions of consumers throughout the nation, strongly endorsed the boycott of California Table Grapes and blasted a phoney organization created by the growers to confuse the American people.

In a resolution passed at their second annual convention in Denver, the group reaffirmed their support of the grape boycott, but warned that "special interests who seek to exploit the consumer" have launched a new organization, the "Consumers Rights Committee," for the sole purpose of opposing the grape boycott.

"The Consumers' Rights Committee, an organization formed by the public relations firm of Whittaker & Baxter, has presented itself as representing consumers. This organization is financed and controlled through Whittaker & Baxter by a one million dollar budget raised by the California Grape and Fruit Tree Growers Association. The purpose of the so-called Consumers' Rights Committee is to combat the consumer boycott of table grapes... If the growers want to combat the grape boycott, they should do so by telling their story openly rather than by creating a phoney consumer organization."

Following the convention, John and Gretchen Haynes, delegates to the convention from New York, visited Delano on their own fact-finding tour. Haynes commented, "We were interested in farm labor before we came here. What we have seen here has reinforced our concern for the problems of the rural poor and our belief in the justice of the grape workers strike and boycott."

Mrs. Haynes got a first-hand introduction to the pesticide problem while in Delano. "Driving past one vineyard we saw two tractors spraying. The dense cloud from this pesticide spray drifted into our

car, and settled on the children playing in the labor camp across the road. We were coughing and crying from the sting of the spray, and can imagine the long run effects of these poisons on those poor children. As consumers, we don't want grapes grown under these conditions appearing on our tables or on the shelves of stores where we shop," she commented.

## POISON

*Continued from page 7*

is expected next week, though both sides contemplate appealing the case if they loose.

Highlights of the case included Miss Uribe's testimony that she has suffered blurred vision, burning and itching in her eyes, and other symptoms of possible pesticide poisoning, especially while working for the David Freedman Ranch (run by "liberal" Lionel Steinberg) in 1968 and 1969. Her brother Jose has suffered from a chronic rash which becomes inflamed whenever he works in the fields. Doctors have said that the rash is definitely linked to pesticides. Miss Uribe sought access to the pesticide records so that she could inform her doctor as to what pesticides were being used when she suffered from pesticide poisoning.

Dr. C. Richard Wolf of the Bureau of Occupational Disease in the California Department of Public Health called for pesticide information to be made available to farm workers, and also proposed a system of testing and preventive medicine, as well as a better safety program in the fields. "It would be extremely desirable for farm workers to have this information," stated Wolf. Without this information it would be difficult or impossible to tell if a worker had been seriously poisoned. Dr. Wolf also expressed concern over cumulative effects of pesticides on farm workers. Pesticides tend to break down the ner-

HELP... HELP... HELP...

EL MALCRIADO is once again in desperate need of staff, and may be forced to cut publication to once a month. Our immediate need is for a volunteer secretary who can type 60 words or more per minute with few errors, can write letters and run an office.

The Union can provide room and board and \$5 a week. And a lot of hard work!

The Union also needs full-time volunteers to work on the boycott in Delano and in cities across the nation. All ages, sexes welcome. Anyone interested in volunteering for full-time work for the Union should write to UFWOC, Personnel Dept. % Jim Drake, P. O. Box #130, Delano, Ca 93215.

vous system, and Wolf advised periodic cholinesterase tests for farm workers, to check the effects of pesticides on the cholinesterase level in their bodies. Cholinesterase is a key element in the normal functioning of the nervous system, and one of the first things affected and destroyed by contact with organic phosphate pesticides.

Wolf also expressed concern at the buildup of chlorinated hydrocarbons in farm workers' bodies, and noted that knowledge of what pesticides were being used in what quantities on what fields could help farm workers to protect themselves from too frequent exposure to those types of pesticides.

The trial revealed that in 1968 alone in Riverside County, there were 66 investigations of pesticide misuse. But while investigations revealed misuse in a substantial number of cases, there was only minor wrist-slapping of the guilty growers and pesticide applicators.

This is the second case that farm workers have launched to gain access to records on pesticide use. In a third case, in Santa Maria, two farm workers who were sprayed with pesticide while working went to court to sue the grower and to demand access to the files. But while these cases drag through the courts, farm workers are still being poisoned, being murdered, by these chemicals.



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