



El Malcriado

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DELANO, CALIFORNIA JULY 15-31, 1969



COACHELLA STRIKE VICTORIOUS

Malcriadophoto by Thurber

see page 2

NEGOTIATIONS HIT SNAG

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COACHELLA STRIKE ENDS VICTORIOUSLY

The Coachella strike is drawing to a close. Linked with the national boycott of grapes, it has been one of the most successful strikes in agricultural history. The picking season comes to an end this week, and the strikers are confident that before a single grape is picked next year, contracts will cover most or all the Coachella vineyards.

It is hard to single out the turning point in this year's Coachella strike. Certainly the unity of the Filipino and Mexican-American workers was a crucial factor in victory. Certainly the historic march from Indio to Mexicali and the rising support of the Union by Mexican citizens was a high point. Certainly the historic sit-in by Filipino workers at Bagdesarian Camp # 2 was a high point of the strike. But it was the day in, day out sacrifices of the strikers, the picketing from 3 a.m. into the noon-day 110 degree heat, the visits to the camps, the tireless organizing the patient explaining of the Union cause to the scabs: these were the real ingredients of victory.

And the results? Riverside County Agriculture Commissioner Carleton

Yonge announced on July 10 that he estimated that 750,000 lugs of grapes would be left unpicked on the vines. Yonge predicted that "unless the price goes up this week," that \$3-\$4 million in grapes would be left on the vines.

While the national boycott of grapes forced the price down, the strike forced the costs of the grow-

wers up to the point where one grower estimated he would lose \$400 per acre.

With the strike shifting now to the Arvin-Lamont area, many of the Coachella strikers and organizers will be moving north to help in the strike, and a large group will be going out as reinforcements to increase the boycott.

GROWERS GAMES

COACHELLA, July 7--The Coachella strikers headed out to the fields early this morning after a hasty pre-dawn breakfast. The cry of "Huelga" was already filling the rows of the Chuchian ranch a half an hour before the sun edged over the Chocolate Mountains. The air was still cool and fresh. The morning would not continue so peacefully, however. At the ranch, Tony Lopez, one of the Coachella strikers, was walking alongside a grape packing conveyor, urging the workers to join him in the union. Chuchian, seeing this, jumped into his shiny white pickup and made straight for Tony, according to witnesses. He sandwiched him in between his truck and the moving

ENDANGER LIVES

conveyor, then began to close the gap. Luckily Tony was able to escape, but another striker, Joaquin Ramirez, was not so lucky. He was struck in the knee as Chuchian's truck raced by. Ramirez was immediately sent to the hospital.

Upon the arrival of the Highway Patrol, Chuchian seemed strangely anxious to leave the scene, explaining, "I've got work to do. There're 60 workers over there."

Apparently hearing of the incident, another grower, Feldstein, (see EL MALCRIADO #6 of this year) drove over in his Cadillac to exchange jokes and cigars with the Chuchian brothers.

MEMBERS OF
THE HISTORIC
BAGDASARIAN
SIT-IN



photo by
Steve Kahn

Talks Stalled on Poison Use

Chavez Speaks Out on Negotiations

DELANO, July 15 -- Negotiations between the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee and a group of eleven grape growers broke down today over the issue of pesticide regulation, according to UFWOC Director Cesar Chavez in an exclusive interview with EL MALCRIADO today.

The grape growers ordered a recess in the negotiation talks so that they could study the UFWOC's pesticide regulation proposals. But instead of resuming the talks, the growers held a press conference and with a blast at the Union, torpedoed the talks.

Chavez pointed out that, in addition to refusing to allow any regulation of the use of their pesticides, the growers are proposing a clause for the contract which would read, "the Union agrees that it will not embark on any program which will in any way harm the industry to which the employer is a member."

"They are trying to muzzle us, pure and simple," Chavez said. "That clause would prevent us from lobbying in Sacramento or Washington for better laws on the regulation of pesticides, or even safety and sanitation laws. If they think that, once we sign a contract, we are going to become docile little lap-dogs, they're crazy." Chavez stated flatly that if non-union grape growers continue to use dangerous pesticides, the Union will continue to publicize the fact, even if it "harms" the industry. "We're concerned about harm done to people, much more than harm done to an industry," he stated. "Who do they think they are, thinking they can muzzle us on a crucial issue such as this."

"On the question of pesticides, we quite frankly don't want to compromise when the health and safety

of the workers are at stake," Chavez stated. "Some pesticides, like DDT, are poisoning the fruit, poisoning the water, poisoning the fish and birds and humans who come in contact with them. They should be outlawed. Other chemicals should be used only with extreme caution."

Chavez pointed out that California has proposed banning DDT in 1971. "If it is dangerous to people's health in 1971, it is dangerous today," he stated.

On the question of "abiding by state and federal laws," Chavez pointed out that not only are such laws notoriously lax, but that there has been an active conspiracy between state officials, growers, and pesticide applicators to prevent the Union from finding out what exactly is being sprayed and whether growers are really abiding by the laws.

"For over a year now, Kern County growers and officials have refused to reveal to us public records on what pesticides are being used in what fields, on what crops, at what stage during the growing cycle," Chavez stated. "Just what are they trying to hide?" Chavez pointed out that the State Attorney General's office is entering into a law suit on the side of UFWOC, demanding that County Agriculture Commissioners reveal this public information to the public.

"Over 1000 people, mostly farm workers, are injured and poisoned every year in California alone from misuse of pesticides," Chavez noted. "We want protection from this in our contracts. We don't care what the state laws say, or whether the growers are legally 'innocent' of breaking any laws or regulations, but we'll be damned if we will stand by and watch the systematic



UFWOC Director Cesar Chavez

BLACKMAIL!

LOS ANGELES, July 15--A group of 11 grape growers broke off negotiations with the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee today in what appeared to be a power play designed to force the Union to give up its demands for the regulation of chemical pesticides on ranches under Union contract.

Union spokesmen called the action "attempted blackmail, an attempt to muzzle us on the dangers of pesticides." "But we're not going to be intimidated. We're going to continue to bring the truth to the public about these poisons," stated UFWOC attorney Jerry Cohen.

The growers ordered a recess in the talks last Friday, July 4, "To study the Union's proposals" on the pesticide question. The Union had proposed a clause which would have banned the use of DDT and certain other poisons. The contract clause would have specified procedures for applying and using other chemicals, and would have provided protection to workers coming in direct contact with the poisons, and consumers endangered by residues on the fruit.

Growers had proposed a clause which would have bound them to

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

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EDITORIAL

BUILDING A NEW SOCIAL ORDER

For over a hundred years, California agriculture has been building a system based on low wages for the farm workers, which gave the growers unchallenged power and wealth. For four years, the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee has been trying to break that system, at least in the grape industry, and to introduce a new system which will provide dignity and justice for the workers.

Union and grower negotiators are seeking to write a contract, to reduce to a few pages of writing the hopes and dreams of generations of workers who have suffered under the old system and want to build a new social order.

"How do you reduce the last four years of struggle and sacrifice into nickles and dimes of a contract," asked UFWOC Vice President Dolores Huerta of the UFWOC membership at a meeting last week. "People have literally given their lives in this struggle, died on the picket line, abandoned family and friends and what little security they had, to travel all over the country on the boycott. People have lost the best years of their lives to win this break-through."

Mrs. Huerta noted that those actually sitting down with the growers to negotiate the contract bear an awesome responsibility. "Those workers who have sacrificed and sacrificed to win this contract, they are going to be reading the con-

tract and working at these ranches, and asking, was it worth all that sacrifice? Was it worth all that effort and suffering? That's why they were so mad when the growers proposed the \$1.65 wage. Why, by state law, that is the minimum wage, though it is true that most growers don't pay it. And then the growers offered to raise it a lousy nickle or dime."

"There is plenty of room to negotiate, but the growers will have to come up with an honorable contract, with honorable proposals."

Cesar Chavez, UFWOC director, also stressed that the Union seeks a basic contract which will provide workers with justice and dignity. "The growers could never pay us back for the sufferings of the past," he said. "But we're hoping that they will be willing to sign an honorable contract for the future."

The growers broke off talks with the Union this week in an attempt to blackmail the Union over the issue of pesticides. Perhaps more basically, these growers are just not ready to face up to the 20th Century, to give up their unrestricted power as some of their fellow growers in the wine industry have been willing to do. All we can do in reply is call for an intensification of the strike and boycott, and make an all out effort to bring the truth to the public on the dangers of economic poisons. These last four years of sacrifice will not have been in vain.

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SUE FOR DAMAGES

GROWERS ADMIT \$25,000,000 LOSS

FRESNO, July 3--After claiming for four years that there was no strike, and after claiming for two years that the boycott of table grapes was completely ineffective, California table grape growers filed suit in Federal Court here today claiming that the boycott has caused losses of \$25,000,000 to grape growers. The suit demands treble damages from the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, a total of \$75,000,000. The growers say they may also demand injunctions which would in effect outlaw all union activities, and especially outlaw the consumer boycott of grapes.

The suit is a class action, filed in behalf of all grape growers, and signed by 81 individual growers and the Central California Farmers Committee. The suit demands an injunction to outlaw all grape boycott activities, and claims that the union is illegally trying to "organize unwilling farm workers" and force growers to sign contracts against their will. Whitaker and Baxter, the public relations firm for the growers, made the public announcement on the law suit.

Jerome Cohen, General Counsel for the UFWOC, called the lawsuit "a hoax". "This is their annual attempt to scare the chain stores," said Cohen. Two similar suits were brought by the growers against the union last year, and later dropped, Cohen noted.

In addition to accusing the Union of such "illegal" acts as trying

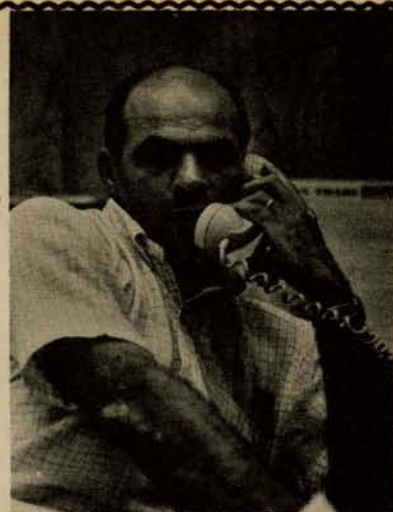
to organize "unwilling" workers and force growers against their will to sign contracts, the suit also accuses the union of "conspiring" with unnamed retail grocery stores to prevent the sale of grapes. Such conspiracy violated the anti-trust laws, claim the growers. Growers are expected to claim that A&P in Chicago, and various other Windy City stores, "conspired" to boycott grapes.

Union spokesmen point out that the Norris-La Guardia Act protects labor unions from any injunction such as that sought by the growers, and that only a very pro-grower judge would be likely to grant such an injunction. On the question of the consumer boycott, no judge can order people to eat grapes against their will (although the Defense Department seems to be trying that tactic.) Consumer boycotts are protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution.

It is also perfectly legal for "secondary boycott" (i.e. against Safeway Stores, the largest buyer of scab grapes), because the growers themselves forced Congress to exclude farm workers from the National Labor Relations Act, which covers secondary boycotts. Normally, stores should react to consumer pressure by discontinuing the purchases of grapes. Union leaders feel that some stores, against their own economic self-interests, are continuing to purchase grapes for political and social reasons, to help the growers to bust the Union. These are the stores that may be guilty of collusion with the growers, a UFWOC spokesman suggested.

Though taking the suit very seriously and with considerable concern, UFWOC legal department also welcomed the suit because it enables the Union to force the growers to testify under oath about their business operations. The growers and their public relations firms have become such notorious liars that it is no longer possible to believe any of their press releases and public statements.

The UFWOC has prepared 36 pages of questions and interroga-



Mike "Bozo" Bozick

"The Union's Boycott has failed." Mike Bozick, Pres., Desert Grape Growers,, 7/11/69

"California table grape growers have not suffered any significant losses as a result of the boycott." Martin Zaninovich, Pres., South Central Farmers Association, 6/16/69

"The Grape Boycott has been shown to be an ignominious failure." E. Allan Mills, Ex. V.P., California Grape And Tree Fruit League, 6/25/69

tories to pose to the suing growers. Since the suit claims \$25 million in damages, UFWOC is demanding that each grower submit detailed statements on the cost of production for each variety of grapes he grows, for periods ranging back five to 20 years. The growers will also be directed to give UFWOC details on their marketing of grapes where they are selling their grapes, and where their profits and losses have occurred, audits of total income and expenses, taxes, and other details of their business operations.

Giumarra Vineyards, which filed a similar lawsuit last year for \$150,000 against the Union and the boycott, has claimed that answering such questions would cost the company \$10,000 in accounting costs alone. But the Courts, all the way up to the California State Supreme Court, have upheld UFWOC's con-

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Rally in San Francisco's financial district protests Safeway purchase of scab grapes

photo by
Jon Lewis



"La Huelga" Shakes Up SF Finance District

SAN FRANCISCO, July 15--Today is the sixth day of a vigil which is being held in downtown San Francisco by the farmworkers and their friends in an effort to reach the ears of Safeway's stockholders. It began with a rally on July 10th in Union Square and will continue for two weeks.

During the day the "vigilistas" bring their flat-bed truck, decorated with red Huelga flags, to the Pacific Stock Exchange where they have been talking to stock brokers and employees of the exchange, distributing information about the Huelga, the boycott, and the strike-breaking

activities of Safeway. By the third day of the vigil all the bumper stickers and buttons were gone--the stock exchange personnel had bought them out! And now it's not an uncommon sight to see shining new red Huelga buttons decorating the interior of the Pacific Stock Exchange.

Delegations of concerned San Francisco citizens from both community and church groups have been requesting to see both Quentin Reynolds, President of Safeway and Robert McGowan, Chairman of the Board, but so far have been ignored by both. Phillop Castillo, a member of the vigil, has been heard over the radio telling the Bay area residents of the farmworkers' fight against the strike-breaking activities of Safeway.

At the end of each day the vigil returns to Union Square where the flat-bed truck turns into a small stage for night-time entertainment. Both the San Francisco Mime Troupe and folk singer John Farmer have been among the performers to play at the Huelga truck. The "hometown" company however, is that of Robert Vargas and the Teatro de la Calle.

In their most famous production, Jesse Campusano appears as

"DDT". Wrapped in a black cloak, "DDT" passes out plastic grapes to consumers and scabs, all of whom succumb to the deadly poison. The Teatro de la Calle and the other guest performers have come out into the streets to bring the story of the farmworkers to the people of San Francisco.

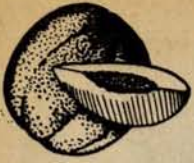
On Thursday morning, July 17, the vigil will gather in Lafayette Park across from Robert McGowan's house. They will conduct an ecumenical service, and after a brief meeting will return to the Pacific Stock Exchange--The Vigil Goes On!



Robert A. Magowan



Quentin Reynolds



SOLIDARITY FORGED IN MELON STRIKE

WASCO, July 12-- La Huelga came to Wasco today, as about half the workers in the Lost Hills Produce Company melon packing shed, and two thirds of the field workers went out on strike. While 75 pickets surrounded the melon shed, 58 workers from the fields packed up and were carried by the Union bus up to Huron to find work in higher-paying fields.

Lost Hills Produce is a fairly new company in the cantaloupe business, which started off the season this year with the time-honored practice of trying to make a few extra bucks profit by paying their workers substandard wages. The company's Wasco packing shed, one of the few non-union cantaloupe sheds in the state, offered workers \$1.93 to \$2.03 an hour, while field workers were getting 50¢ a box.

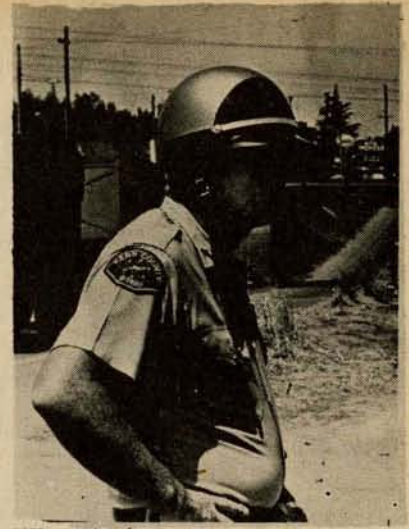
Jerry Bershear, a representative of the United Packinghouse Workers Union (a division of the Amalgamated Meatcutters) came to the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee meeting on July 11, and asked for help in unionizing the melon shed. He stated that he had offered Lost Hills' bosses negotiations or even a union representation election (if the boss was willing to move quickly and fairly). The bosses refused. He then asked the

workers if they would be willing to strike and a significant number said that they would.

Bershear then called on UFWOC to help strike the shed and fields of Lost Hills. UFWOC members were almost unanimous in offering to help.

Bershear stated that under union contracts in the Imperial Valley, Arvin-Lamont, and the Huron districts, cantaloupe packers receive a piece rate of a little over 8¢ per carton. A good packer packs 100 to 125 cartons an hour, and even inexperienced packers rarely make less than \$4 an hour. Dock workers and loaders make \$2.20 per hundred, and usually average around \$10 an hour. Since every other melon shed in the state is paying these wages, there is no question that Lost Hills can also afford to pay them, Bershear noted.

Bershear explained that the melon harvest in a given district was rarely more than three to four weeks in duration. The Packinghouse Workers have established good contracts so that migrant packers can follow the harvests from Arizona and the Imperial Valley to Texas or to the San Joaquin Valley in California, and in the four or five month span of the melon harvests, make a fairly good income. There is also plenty of work for local people, and the seniority



Cop eyes Wasco pickets

Malcriadophoto by Thurber

clause in the contract guarantees that local workers who want to earn a little extra money just during the few weeks of harvest near their homes can protect those jobs by going back to work, season after season, and thus building up seniority.

Lost Hills Produce is reportedly part of a larger Lost Hills Oil and Land Company complex. The bosses turned to young Anglo high school students and housewives to recruit scabs, in an effort to keep the shed open, but because of the field strike laid off all of the workers on Sunday morning, the second day of the strike, and worked only a skeleton crew in the afternoon.

The bosses also tried to polish up their image. One supervisor had on at least two occasions thrown melons at workers who did not respond quickly enough to his orders. The crews were being worked until 1:30 AM with no overtime pay (unless they had worked the Federal minimum of 50 hours a week already), according to the strikers. Now the bosses are trying to be extra sweet and friendly to the workers.

Over 75 UFWOC members marched in the picketline in front of the shed. UFWOC Vice Presidents Gilbert Padilla and Dolores Huerta joined in the picketing and organizing effort.



Pickers turn back truck loaded with melons for the packing shed

Malcriadophoto by Drake

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Senate Probes Army Grape Orgy

WASHINGTON, July 15--The U.S. Senate Sub-Committee on Migratory Labor began a two day hearing today on testimony from the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee and the Department of Defense on the skyrocketing purchase of California table grapes by the Defense Department.

The hearings were called to study the DoD's recent admission to a massive increase in its procurement of table grapes.

In an official policy statement issued on June 10, the DoD said that, "The basic policy of the Defense...is to refrain from taking a position on the merits of any labor dispute...From the diverse opinions that have appeared in various news media, it is quite apparent that the dispute over California table grapes falls in this category."

Since the boycott of grapes began, the DoD has maintained its "neutral" position by purchasing enough grapes to supply EVERY GI in Vietnam with eight pounds of grapes, and has increased its purchase of grapes by 700%.

At the hearings, UFWOC Vice-President Dolores Huerta made a brief statement challenging the DoD to account for its involvement in the grape dispute. Why have they ignored their own guide lines and actively taken sides in this dispute, she asked. Why have they used taxpayers' money to help the growers resist an effort by poor people to get decent wages and living conditions? Why won't they now refrain from such purchases, she asked.

Mrs. Huerta pointed out that the DoD's present level of table grape purchasing (which represent 2.5% of all US fresh table grape production) has been enough, in an extremely sensitive market, to give an extra boost to the price of all grapes, thus enabling many growers to continue their resistance to the farm workers' request for Union protection. By taking advantage of lower prices brought about by the suffering and sacrifices of many striking families, the DoD is only helping to prolong and intensify the struggle that has already gone on for four long years now. At a time when the boycott seemed to bringing the growers to the bargaining table, the DoD stepped in and threw the growers a life saver in the form of massive grape purchases.

William Kircher, speaking for the national AFL-CIO office, directly labeled the Defense Department as a "strikebreaker" and called for an immediate halt in its purchases of grapes.

DoD officials only reiterated their claim that it is a policy in such matters to remain "neutral" and that the reason for the increase is due to "increased troop acceptability".

Mrs. Huerta answered by saying, "It seems that the DoD is violating its own policy and is endangering its working relationship with labor."

Mrs. Huerta also brought up the issue of pesticides, pointing out that residues of DDT and other pesticides have been found on grapes in every study made by investigating agencies so far this year.

"Welcome to the Military-Industrial Complex"



THE GROWER

THE POLITICIAN

THE GENERAL

THE INDUSTRIALIST

When the question of troop intake of DDT through grapes was brought up by the Senators, the DoD representatives fell back on bureaucratic security, claiming that they just bought the grapes and weren't responsible for distributing them.

Senators also asked the Generals if it is proper to spend taxpayers' money on grapes produced by people who daily violate the law of the land. Grape growers have been

found guilty of violating the minimum wage law, child labor laws, health and sanitation laws and numerous other laws relating to safety, health, working conditions, and anti-union activities. Again, the DoD claimed that it is only a purchaser and doesn't investigate the growers from whom they buy the grapes.

When asked with which growers they deal, and how much each grower was paid for the grapes pur-

chased, the Defense Department claimed that there were no available records on that subject.

The boycott is the only real non-violent weapon that the farm workers have in their fight for social and economic justice. Mrs. Huerta concluded her official statement by saying, "It is an outrage to the millions of American taxpayers who are supporting the farm workers struggle for justice by boycot-

ting table grapes. How can any American believe that the US Government is sincere in its efforts to eradicate poverty when the military uses its immense purchasing power to subvert the farm workers' non-violent struggle for a decent living wage, and a better future?"

Just whose way of life is the Defense Department trying to protect?

"Yassuh Boss. We jes hates de Union."

Delano grape grower Jack Pandol has assailed negotiations between growers and workers and the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee as "Unmoral, Un-Christian, and UnAmerican." He said many of his workers have pleaded with him to refuse to negotiate with the union. Jack's workers, according to Jack, are just begging him to keep things just the way they are... "They don't want a union," according to Jack.

A reader sent in the following letter, admittedly fictional, which might be from one of Jack's mythical workers to his boss, expressing his true feelings...

Dear Jack,

I just heard the terrible news about those so-called grape growers who are offering to negotiate with Chavez. I'll bet they never even talked to their workers. As for me, boss, I am against a union contract and want you to be reassured on that point. I know you have a lot of worries these days, paying college tuition for your 2 girls and now those new car payments on your son's graduation present. I even heard in the bar the other day that your personal income taxes equal my annual income. That is terrible, boss, and certainly another cruel example of the creeping socialism you warned us about.

As for a union contract these uppity farm workers who follow Chavez just don't know when they are well off. Reliable sources have told me that they want more

than a pay increase; they are demanding a vacation with pay, 3 paid holidays a year, overtime pay, and some kind of health insurance. If that weren't enough they also insist that an employer have just cause for firing a worker; and they want a grievance committee with power to talk to farmers about problems in the fields; they also insist on rest periods and toilets, safety equipment provided by you know who. One of these days they will even be asking for some kind of pension plan to avoid that noble purifying suffering that all of us need in our old age. I don't know about these workers, boss; they have forgotten about simple, human gratitude. It appears that they have been infected by that terrible Godless materialism which is all around them in this great country of ours.

Your faithful worker,
Jose

NIXON WORRIES OVER GROWERS' PROBLEMS

FRESNO, July 9--Nixon's Secretary of Agriculture, Clifford Hardin had invited 26 speakers to discuss the "problems" of agriculture at his "listen-in", but all were growers or grower-representatives. Clearly, the Nixon administration is listening only to the growers' side of the problem. "If you think the farmer has problems, what about the farm worker?" asked one Mexican-American who was refused permission to speak to the conference.

One of the featured speakers at the Conference, which was attended by over 600 people, was California Farm Bureau President Alan Grant. Grant gave his typical anti-union diatribe, and demanded the outlawing of what he described as "highly unethical practices now being used to organize farm workers."



From the Louisville Times

'A Lot Of Farmers Are Paid For Not Planting—
Maybe We Could Be Paid For Not Eating.'

ILLEGAL, UNSANITARY CONDITIONS THE RULE

Judge Rules Ag Labor Not Suitable Employment

SALINAS, July 4--A jobless worker is within his rights when he refuses to accept farm labor work, on the grounds that most of such jobs are in violation of state health and sanitation laws, according to Superior Judge Irving Perluss. The court ruled that Mauricio Munoz, 31, of Salinas, is entitled to unemployment insurance benefits, even though he refused to accept a farm job offered him through the California Department of Employment.

The judge ruled that the state agency has the primary responsibility for making sure that farm jobs are in compliance with health and sanitation laws before requiring jobless workers to apply for such jobs.

Munoz, who had been an insurance salesman and had lost his insurance job, refused to work for Salinas Strawberries, Inc., a huge agribusiness firm that used thousands of braceros during the heyday of that slavery-like program.

Munoz was then denied unemployment

benefits because the state claimed that his refusal to work for Salinas Strawberries Inc. constituted refusal to accept "suitable employment" when offered.

Munoz' lawyers claimed that employment at Salinas Strawberries Inc. and other farm work did not constitute "suitable employment". They presented statistics showing that 90% of California farm jobs violated state health and sanitation laws. A survey of 107 farms in the Salinas area discovered 1,869 violations in the health and sanitation laws, ranging from lack of toilets to one drinking cup for the entire crew of workers.

Judge Perluss ruled that because of the widespread violations of the law in agriculture, the Department of Employment cannot presume that



agricultural jobs are "suitable" and that the State should investigate each job to guarantee compliance with the law before referring workers to jobs at that particular ranch.

California growers frequently claim that they are covered by more laws protecting farm workers than growers in any other state. But since the laws are not enforced, laws on the books are of little value to the farm workers. This is one more reason why members of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee put little value on such laws and include extensive health and sanitation clauses in each Union contract.

UFWOC spokesmen complimented attorney Jim Lorenz, who defended Munoz, and also praised studies done by attorney Paul Driscoll of McFarland into the widespread violations by growers of the sanitation laws. UFWOC spokesmen pointed out that grapes and many other fruits and vegetables are picked in unsanitary, and sometimes disgustingly unclean conditions.

LAW SUIT from p. 5

tention that Giumarra must answer the questions before the suit comes to trial. Giumarra is still refusing to answer the questions and their suit languishes in court. It probably will be eventually dismissed.

UFWOC spokesmen theorize that this new law suit was dreamed up by Whitaker and Baxter as a publicity stunt to scare the food chains. While there is no doubt in anyone's mind that the boycott is costing the growers enormously this year, there is simply no legal basis for them to sue the Union. The only way for them to prevent further losses is by sitting down with Union representatives and negotiating an end to the strike.

UFWOC spokesmen noted that Giumarra did not join in this new suit, presumable because Giumarra's bosses realized its futi-

lity. Perhaps some of the other growers involved in the suit will soon withdraw, once they are faced

with the interrogatories, possible counter-suits, and other consequences of their rash actions.

WASCO Continued from p. 7

The growers became enraged at seeing UFWOC members on the picket line and growers and labor contractors came from all over Wasco to jeer and counter-picket. One grower tried to spray ammonia on the picket line, and one foreman backed his pickup truck into UFWOC attorney David Averbuck, knocking him unconscious.

Mrs. Huerta noted that the Packinghouse Workers and Meatcutters all over the country have given UFWOC tremendous help on the grape strike and boycott. A number of organizers from the Packinghouse Workers, including Bershear, worked full time on UFWOC organizing drive during the DiGiorio campaign in 1966.

UFWOC has sent almost every available worker-organizer out on the international grape boycott, and is making a last big push in the Coachella strike, in hopes of delivering the knock-out blow there. The Union is also preparing for a big new wave of strikes to spread through the Arvin-Lamont vineyards in the coming days. For these reasons, manpower to aid the Packinghouse Workers was scarce. "But this is a matter of Union solidarity that we couldn't ignore," said Richard Chavez, a UFWOC organizer. "When something like this comes up in our own back yard, so to speak, we're going to do everything we can to help our brothers win that contract."

IRRIGATORS CHALLENGE S.A. CAMP

GRAPE STRIKE OPENS IN LAMONT

LAMONT, July 13--Over 300 workers packed the Lamont Community Center hall today to hear Cesar Chavez, national director of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee give a progress report on the grape strike, the international grape boycott, and negotiations with the 12 major growers who are negotiating with the Union. And a group of irrigators from the S.A. Camp Company, who had gone one strike at 6 AM the day before, told the cheering throng that theirs was the first walk out of the 1969 Lamont grape strike.

As the harvest ends in the Coachella Valley and nears an end in Arizona, the main grape harvest shifts to the Arvin-Lamont area, south of Bakersfield. Several major Lamont area growers, including S.A. Camp, Kovacevich Farms, William Mossessian, Bianco, El Rancho Farms, and Eugene Nalbandian, have agreed to negotiate with the Union, but none have signed contracts. Major growers in the area who have refused to even negotiate are mammoth Giumarra Vineyards, Savovich Vineyards, Caratan Vineyards, and a number of medium sized and smaller farms.

S.A. Camp Farms holds a special position for Kern County farm workers. Camp is one of the largest ranches in the state, owning a string of cotton gins, cotton compresses, cotton seed oil plants, a pump company, a fertilizer and insecticide company, a farm machinery and equipment company, the Circle Petroleum Agency (a consignee of Union Oil), and 16,000 acres in cotton, 40,000 acres of potatoes, and 231,000 acres of grazing and cattle land. Camp collected \$517,285 for not growing cotton on some of that land last year.

As a hobby, Camp built a harness racing stable of fine thoroughbred horses. Camp's income from



Mack Lyons, Cesar Chavez, and Juan Flores at Strike Rally.

Malcriado photo by Thurber

horse racing in 1958 alone was \$466,908.

In March, 1969, Camp bought out a major portion of the old DiGiorgio Ranch, an estimated 6,000 acres for over \$6,000,000. This new acreage included plums, asparagus, peanuts, and other crops, but was mostly in grapes. In buying the land, Camp also bought the contract that UFWOC had won, after many long and bitter months of struggle, from DiGiorgio. But the contract did not contain a "successor clause" and Camp was not legally bound to honor the contract. He didn't.

James Camp, President of S.A. Camp Companies (and son of the founder, S.A. Camp, who died in 1958) has met several times with the DiGiorgio workers and has promised to try to reach an agreement with the Union. He was one of the original ten growers to open formal negotiations in June. "We thought he was negotiating in good faith," said one of the irrigators who is now on strike. "We waited and waited, and didn't complain or walk out. But we've waited long enough. We want a contract."

The irrigators told of a speed-up since Camp bought the DiGior-

gio land, of the work day being increased from 9 to 10 hours and more, and more, and more work piled on them. One of the irrigators, Jose Posadas, was on the negotiating team that went to the negotiations with the ten growers in Los Angeles. "Mr. Camp looked at me and smiled and says, 'My irrigators are happy. They don't want a union.' That's when I figured we would have to strike to prove to him we want a contract." Of the 39 irrigators, only 8 broke the strike the first day.

UFWOC is making plans for the strike going into high gear in the Arvin-Lamont areas, probably next week. A strike kitchen has been organized and enthusiasm is building up. "These people worked under the DiGiorgio contract. They know what a Union contract is, what job security and unemployment and all the other benefits of the contract are," said Mack Lyons, former leader of the DiGiorgio workers and one of the Union's best organizers. And Juan Flores, leader of the UFWOC in Lamont predicted, "This is going to be the most successful strike we've ever pulled."

CHURCH GROUP SWITCHES TO NECTARINES

NEW YORK, Sunday, July 13-- Leaders of the Jehovahs Witness cancelled all orders for table grapes for their annual convention which ended here today. Approximately 85,000 Witnesses attended the convention.

The action was in response to an appeal by United Farm Workers Organizing Committee Director Cesar Chavez, who asked the religious group to pass up grapes until the Union's dispute with grape growers was settled.

"Instead of buying more grapes, the Witnesses will offer the 85,000 delegates at the convention here nectarines," John Groth, Director of the assembly, said.

ARIZONA STRIKE HANGING TOUGH

TOLLESON, ARIZONA, July 15-- The Arizona grape pickers ended their first month of striking today with hopes that they would soon win contracts with two major Arizona grape growers. The two growers, Bruno Dispoto (who owns Centennial Valley Farms) and Heggeblade-Marguleas (who owns El Dorado Farms) are among the twelve who have been negotiating with UFWOC in Los Angeles. But picketting at El Dorado Farms resumed this week when negotiations between the company and the growers were suspended.

"We have 80 to 100 farm workers working full time on the picket line and organizing," a spokesman for the Arizona UFWOC told EL MALCRIADO. "But most of the workers who join the strike pack up and leave, move on to jobs elsewhere." He noted that some Arizona growers are making extensive use of green carders and wetbacks from Mexico to break the strike.

The strikers said that there has been only minor police harrassment so far, with a paddy wagon following the strikers, but no major arrests.



Camp Town Race Track in Shafter, California--

"Just a hobby"

Malcriadophoto by Thurber

CHAVEZ SPEAKS

Continued from p. 3

poisoning of our people."

Chavez noted that there were other questions over which the Union and the growers still had not agreed. The growers have proposed that the contract cover only grape workers. Chavez pointed out, however, that on multi-crop ranches, such as the old Di Giorgio ranch, a worker might prune and tie grape vines in January and February, work in asparagus in March and April, thin plums in April and May, pick plums in June, and then work in the grapes from July through October.

"It would have been insane to cover those workers under the contract only when they were working in the grapes," commented Chavez. "It is the same workers, working in the grapes one month, in another crop the next month. They all want a contract. I don't see how we can limit the contracts just to the workers while they are working in the grapes. It doesn't make sense."

On the question of wages, Chavez shook his head in bewilderment. "For three years now these growers have been shouting high and low that they pay their workers \$2.50, \$3 an hour or more, that their workers make \$5,000 or \$6,000 a year. But when you ask them to put a

modest \$2 an hour in the contract, they say that we're trying to destroy them."

Chavez conceded that the growers were losing money on their grapes now, because of the boycott. "They said that they would destroy us, that the boycott could never work. Now they know better.

We warned them, we pleaded with them to open talks. But they refused until the whole impact of the boycott practically knocked them off their feet. The Kern, Tulare, and Fresno County growers are now playing the same game, and it just won't work."

"With the Coachella strike over, we're hoping to send out 20 or 30 more families to work full time on the boycott. Our recruitment and training of summer volunteers will really begin paying off in July and August. If the Zaninoviches and Giumarras convince all the grape growers to continue the fight, we're ready for them."

"And on the dangers from chemical residues on the grapes, we are going to bring the truth to the public and neither their law suits nor their bad faith 'negotiations' and broken promises nor their attempted blackmail will keep us from doing this."

growers try blackmail

Continued from p. 3

obey state and federal laws, laws which at present are either non-existent or unenforced. But the growers also hoped to silence the entire job safety program of the Union with a clause which stated, "The Union agrees that it will not embark on any program which will in any way harm the industry to which the employer is a member."

"These growers, who represent only a small percentage of the grape industry, are trying to make the entire grape industry "off limits" for any kind of public discussion on sanitary conditions, job safety and similar problems. But most of all they are trying to muzzle us on the problem of dangerous chemical residues on grapes, and they are using the cancellation of negotiations as blackmail to try to shut us up," stated Cohen.

At their press conference, the growers raised various absurd reasons as to why they were breaking off negotiations. They accused the Union of bringing up new issues at every meeting. UFWOC spokesmen pointed out that the growers had been provided with copies of the Union contracts with various wine grape growers, which included clauses on almost all the subjects that the Union expected in the table grape contracts.

Union spokesmen noted, however, that Caplan had repeatedly called recesses and disrupted the negotiations, or stalled them to prevent the Union from presenting its full contract proposals. Consequently the Union was trying to negotiate the contract clause by clause.

The growers complained that the Union was not giving them unrestricted power to hire or fire workers. The Union has demanded a clause in the contract which states that no worker will be fired without "just cause." This is a clause in all Union contracts, a clause with which the wine grape growers have learned to live without great difficulty.

"This is one of their most prized symbols of absolute power over the

workers," commented one Union spokesman who sat in on the negotiations. "They got very racist during the discussions, implying that Filipinos and Mexicans would sleep on the job, get drunk on the job, unless the growers had unrestricted power to fire a worker on a moments' notice."

As an ironic side note, the growers wanted a clause outlawing liquor on the job. One of the workers pointed out that the labor contractor hired by his grower had a thriving business of selling beer and wine, at inflated prices, to the workers. "They sound so damn moral in their press conferences, but when you get down to the conditions on their ranches, they are just as rotten as the Giumarras and the Zaninoviches," said the worker.

Cohen dismissed the growers' call for a new "fact finding commission" to study the strike, especially since the growers had suggested that President Nixon, who has already come out strongly against the grape boycott and the farm workers union, appoint the members of the "commission." "They just don't want to face up to reality," he said. "If the growers took a reasonable position on DDT and other poisons, a major hurdle would be overcome."

Since the growers ordered the recess in the negotiation, it is up to them to initiate a resumption of the talks. In the meanwhile, the Union will intensify its strike and boycott efforts.

And in an effort to bring out the facts on pesticides, the Union has instituted its own testing program for residues on grapes. It has already turned up residues of DDT and other dangerous poisons on grapes being sold in Safeway Stores, in Sacramento and several stores in Chicago. The next issue of EL MALCRIADO will have a full report on recent tests for residues, with names of ranches involved and names of stores selling the contaminated fruit.

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to shop-come in
and see how
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democracy works**



**GREETINGS TO
THE UNITED FARM
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NAN DI TA NA NANG BALITA ANG NEGOTIATION

"Ang comite ng union manggagawa sa bukid ay gumagawa ng

natatanging paraan para maipagtangol ang mga karapatan ng mang

gawawang Filipino kung tayo'y maki-pag-ayos sa bagong kasundo-an," sabi ni Larry Itliong sa isang natatanging pakikipag-usap sa El Malcriado.

Si Itliong at ang kanyang dalawang kasama na sina UFWOC bise-presidente Philip Vera Cruz at mangagawang taga Kovacevich na si Fred Abad ay nasa comite ng pakikipagsundo para sa union, ay nakatanggap ng kasunduan na sila'y nanalo laban sa mga mayaring bukid sa maraming mahalagang bagay na napagkayarian naukol sa mga mangagawang Pilipino o ano mang nasyon, naninirahan sa bukid o campo.

"Ang may-ari ng campo ay sumang-ayon na sila'y magtatayo ng libreng bahaytirahan," sabi ni Itliong.

"Sila rin ay sumang-ayon na magbibigay ng libreng sasakyan papunta o pauwi sa kanikani-lang pagawaan."

"At ang pagluluto ay gagawing walang anumang patubo."

Ang pinakemahalagang bagay na natanggap ng union sa kasunduan ay ang "maintenance of standards" clause. Ang ibig sabihin nito ay kung ang may-ari ng campo ay nagbigay ng tirahan, tagapagluto at lutuan noong hindi pa nagkaroon ng welga, sila'y magpapatuloy parin pagkatapos ng welga.

Malaki ang pag-asa ni Itliong na ang pagkakasunduan ay patuloy parin sa lalong madaling panahon, subalit, siya at and lahat ng mangagawa ay matibay sa dalawang mahalagang bagay sa kasunduan na hindi tutol ang may-aring bujid or campo.

"Kailang magkaroon tayong bisa laban sa lason ng "pesticide", sabi niya. "Hindi makasangayon kung ang katawan o buhay ng mangagawa ay nakasalalay."

Kung ang sahod ng mangagawa ay pag-usapan, alam natin na sila'y kayang bumayad ng \$2.00 sa bawat oras, at garantisado sa buong taon at \$0.25 bunos bawat cahon tuwing anihan at ito'y ma-ayos na sahod.



Philip Vera Cruz and Larry Itliong

Itliong: Protecting Our Rights

"The United Farm Workers Organizing Committee is making a special effort to protect the rights of the Filipino workers when we negotiate any new contracts," stated Larry Itliong in a special interview with EL MALCRIADO. Itliong is assistant director of the union.

"The UFWOC does not discriminate against or in favor of any group of workers, and we will not allow any one group to receive special benefits that other workers don't receive," Itliong said. "But we do recognize that most of the Filipino workers are single men, who live in grower-owned camps, and because of this they face special and unique problems."

Itliong noted that he and two other Filipinos, UFWOC Vice President Philip Vera Cruz and Kovacevich worker Fred Abad were on the negotiating committee for the Union, and had already won agreements from the growers on several key points relating to workers, whether Filipino or any other nationality, who live in the camps.

"The growers agreed that camp housing should be made available for free," Itliong stated. "They

also agreed that bus transportation to and from work would be provided free. And they agreed that the kitchen operations, cooking for the workers, would be on a non-profit basis."

"The key clause, in my opinion, to which the growers have agreed is the 'maintenance of standards' clause. This means, as we see it, that if the grower provided housing, and a cook and kitchen before the strike, they must continue to do so under the Union contract."

Itliong was hopeful that negotiations would resume soon, but said that he and all the workers were emphatic on the two key points of the contract to which the growers have objected. "We must have protection from pesticide poisoning," he stated, "We can't compromise when a worker's health, even his life, is at stake. And as far as wages go, we know that they can afford \$2.00 an hour. They've been telling the press for years that they pay more than that. Well, then why are they afraid to put it in the contract? All the workers feel that \$2.00 an hour, guaranteed throughout the year, and a 25¢ bonus per box during the harvest would be a fair wage."

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