WHITE RIVER FARMS:

STRIKERS JAILED

• SEE PAGES 4 AND 5 FOR A REPORT ON THE WHITE RIVER FARMS STRIKE
• MASSIVE RALLIES IN SALINAS AND FRESNO, PAGES 6 AND 7
• REPORTS ON PUERTO RICAN AND FLORIDA FARM WORKERS, AGAYANI VILLAGE
• CALIFORNIA'S CATHOLIC BISHOPS DENOUNCE PROPOSITION 22, PAGE 3
• ARAB FARM WORKERS REPORT IN ARABIC, PAGE 10
Proposition 22 is the latest attempt to suppress the rights of farm workers. In the past we have been subjected to threats, violence, and company unions all of which have failed. Now millions of dollars are being spent on false political advertising in an effort to pass a proposition which was conceived in fraud and ratified by fraud.

Many of the people who signed petitions qualifying Proposition 22 did so because they were afraid to sign the contrary “hold harmless” petition on the ballot and no one guarantees the validity of those who do not know the facts. This has been done because of the power of the people of California to know the truth. Proposition 22 will be badly battered.

In fact the election procedure set up in Proposition 22 is really “Catch 22” in that disfavored workers and permanent farm workers are guaranteed to vote. Elections “shall be set at a time when the number of temporary agricultural employees entitled to vote does not exceed the number of permanant agricultural workers enrolled to vote.” 

For example, one lettuce grower employs 45 permanent workers and needs 900 migrant farm workers to harvest his crop. The election at his ranch can be held only when 90 or less farm workers are employed. In this example, 810 workers would be denied the right to vote.

The ratio of harvesters to permanent workers is usually about 9 to 1, so at least 80% of the workers are denied the right to vote. There are many other restrictions on those few who are lucky enough to be in the 10% who could vote.

In addition, the proposition provides that no striker who has been replaced can vote. This deprives him of the right to vote. The union can be held only at a “place of employment” which is a technical word defined in the proposition as any enterprise engaged in agriculture which is operated from a headquarers where utilization of labor and equipment is directed and which, consisting of separate tracts of land, is within a 50 mile radius of the headquarers.

Therefore, many elections would have to be held at a large grower. Furthermore, at each “farm” operated by a particular employer, a 60 day over night stopping strikes, and the threats of strikes by illegal aliens could be issued.

But, even if the election procedure is a fraud. The right to vote is denied those who need it most. The grower has complete power over the election procedure because he is given the power to terminate a worker for any reason.

The United Farm Workers Union has won contracts by hard work, using the not of non-violence, the strike and the boycott. All the poor have is their own merit. We can withstand it from an unfair employer and use it to win the battle for the city. Will do it.

But this proposition deprives poor farm workers of their non-violent tools. All strikes, and threats of strikes, can be enjoined for 60 days so that the proposition provides that temporary restructuring orders will not prevent non-strikers from striking and boycotts. The dealers of the proposition have in many cases ignored the United States Constitution in drafting these restrictions.

All secondary and most primary boycotts are now made a crime punishable by 1 year in jail and $5,000 fine. All picketing at retail stores is made criminal. So, if you want us to boycott lettuce we have committed ourselves under Proposition 22. I you tell your spouse or a friend to boycott lettuce. You have subjected yourself to a possible year in jail and $5,000 fine. The delegations at the Democratic Convention could have been jailed for their support of the lettuce boycott if Proposition 22 were the law. Of course, the bosses would also be a crime.

Assume that even with the fraudulent election procedure and without the strike and the boycott we could not bargain with, what is collective bargaining under Proposition 22? It is meaningless. The workers are specifically prevented from bargaining with anyone most vital to them. Workers cannot bargain about the growers “right” to contract out any part of the work. This means that a grower could sign a contract one day and hire a labor contractor to do all of his work the next day. The contract could then never be destroyed. The bargaining process becomes a mockery. Every union effort to negotiate the methods, equipment and facilities used to do a job can be impaired by a pesticide on his crops his attorney could sue his union for “violating the law.” The workers that his client’s use of poison is a growing and therefore is not subject to collective bargaining.

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Dear Sir:

Dear Friends:

In your issue of EL MALCRIADO, Vol. V, No. 8, dated September 1, 1972... you say that every boycotter makes the grower lose $15,000 a year.

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I was hungry, I wouldn’t eat

Dear Sir:

Thank you for the reply of my letter concerning my benefit of the Robert F. Kennedy Medical Plan. Since I’m 21 and independent and at college I have my father, who is the head of the household, sign the form. We are both behind on payments.

Thank you for processing my claim.

Sincerely yours,

James C. Ugy
Pomorsville, California

Our Dear Brothers:

I am writing these few lines in order to say hi, that you may be in fine health, all for me, I am fine, thanks be to God.

This is to inform you that your brother, (me) was in the hospital for 13 days and had to pay for my hospitization, boycotting lettuce and Coors beer. And I was hungry, I wouldn’t eat

We would serve the lettuce several weeks with bread, but it was so disgusting, I was hungry, I wouldn’t eat it. I didn’t get enough to eat.

I hope that it will serve as an example to all of you and a lesson of others that think of their own rights.

The Fish are wegen the day.

Que viva la Huelga.

Viva la Causa

Viva la Causa

Viva la Chau.

Viva la The Great “Cesar Chau”

Your truly,

Jesús Dáaz
Oildera, California

I would like to express my appreciation and many thanks to the Robert F. Kennedy Medical Plan. Since I’m 21 and independent and at college I have my father, who is the head of the household, sign the form. We are both behind on payments.

Thank you,

Mrs. Betty L. Applewhite
Sealed, California
At the reunion were a core of sisters and brothers who are well-identified with the project, dedicated to make the dream of Agbayani Village come true. Each person who arrived was warmly welcomed and all set down to enjoy the delicious Filipino and Mexican dishes that were served.

After lunch, everyone gathered under a large tree to share their feelings about Agbayani Village. Philip Vera Cruz, Union Vice-President and Chairman of the Agbayani Village Committee, spoke about the project as "proof of the creative capacity of oppressed peoples and what they can do when they unite to build something."

The highlight of the afternoon came when Tony Framo, a retired builder, and Philip Vera Cruz presented the plans for the village in the group. Tony explained that, as a retired man, he had no need of work anymore, but that for him it would be an "honor and pleasure" to build something in his retirement.

Present at the reunion were the members of the Agbayani Village Committee, Bishop Santiago, Antonio Encalada, Arnoldo Arteaga, Amadeo Baltazar, Maximo Cuesta, Julian Islas, and Mike Delos Santos. All present were invited to join the Union, Vice-President and Director of the White River Farms. They are looking forward to the opening of Agbayani Village.

Collective living is the spirit of community life. We have the beautiful idea of family life. It is the most beautiful thing I've seen in my life. That's the spirit we want to preserve."

"It's just incidental that the Filipinos are the oldest and don't have families and are homeless. The growers have used them their whole lives to make themselves rich. And now that they are old and retired, they are kicked out by the growers because it is not profitable to keep them in the labor camps. The Agbayani Village is a Union project and will be used by farm workers of all races."

"This is a community project. If this works out with single people now, this general principle of community life will be applied to families. The Union is building a community and Agbayani Village is not being built for commercial purposes. It is not being built to make money. We are going to show that poor people can really think for themselves and build things for themselves. This is the only way we can do it."
135 STRIKERS JAILED

One hundred and thirty-five Union members were arrested at the White River Farms ranch in Delano and Poplar, September 25 following a non-violent demonstration in support of the striking Union workers.

Among those arrested were Union officials Al Rojas, Pablo Espinosa, Pancho Bouteillo, Ed Krueger, workers from Valley Vineyards, Roberts Farms, Mid-State, and the struck White River Farms; Dolores Huerta, Union vice president, and Richard Chavez, director of field offices.

Eighty-five of the brothers and sisters were arrested in Tulare county at the Poplar Ranch of White River Farms, and 50 were arrested at the Delano ranch.

Workers were arrested after celebrating a mass inside the White River Farms property line. Forty Arabic brothers who participated also recited a Muslim prayer in the non-violent demonstration of solidarity for the striking workers and a protest against the restrictive injunction laid against the Union by Kern and Tulare counties.

Around 300 pickets had gathered at the ranches for the demonstration. One of those arrested, Abelardo Garcia, reported that some were arrested as they knelt in the fields. At the time of the arrests, no one was informed of their rights or the reason for their arrest. The bail was first set at $1,500.00 each, and later reduced to $500.00.

Danny Sanchez, one of the arrested picketers, received in the Kern County Jail on September 27, described the conditions there as extremely crowded. The arrests increased the number of Kern County prisoners to 779, nearly double the jail's capacity of 372.

However, sheriff captain and "jail commander" H. L. Matlock insisted the number of prisoners had "little effect on the jail's procedures." Danny reported that there were 37 inmates in his cell, and five had to sleep on the cement floor. Only one blanket was issued for each prisoner.

Four of those arrested were under legal age and hence subject to the whims of the juvenile court system. One of these picketers, Guadalupe Rios, reported the probation officer Johnson, was attempting to forbid him to return to the picket line as a condition of his probation. All 135 of the prisoners were released on Friday on their own recognizance.

However, the Immigration Service's cooperation has only been partial. The Union has presented the patrol's refusal to enter the vineyards to check reports that there are some 225 illegal Mexican nationals working there as strikebreakers.

Illegal Strikebreakers Caught

Even the border patrol seems to be joining the Union on the picket line as they set up road barricades September 25 to block the scab workers from entering the White River Farms ranch. Agents checked private automobiles and company buses and discovered 68 illegals about to cross the picket line.

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The positive actions of the border patrol seem to have caught the strikebreaking contractors by surprise. As an exasperated explanation, Harry Kubo, president of the Nisei Farmers' League which has been supplying workers at the struck ranch, sighted, "You can't tell the good from the bad—they're all Mexican Americans."

The Nisei League, composed of small Japanese growers and labor contractors, is determined to fight the Union with their intensive scabbing efforts, including recruitment on the other side of the border. The Japanese group has apparently forgotten that a lot of grower land in the Delano and Poplar areas used to belong to them before they were held prisoner during World War II. So now they are turning out in full force, with their families and friends, to pick the scab grapes of the White River Farms-Butte Oil Co.

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They have also been transporting workers from the Fresno area to the scab vineyards under threat of losing their jobs.

No laws or scruples seem to stand in their way in their attempts to break the Union strike.
The Great Nixon Wheat Scandal

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Nixon administration is coming under increasing fire for a massive wheat deal to Russia that brought huge profits to grain businessmen but left farmers holding an empty bag.

George McGovern, Democratic presidential candidate, has been talking to small farmers about how the Nixon administration stole millions of dollars from them with the big wheat deal with the U.S.S.R.

CBS News reported about the wheat deal and their investigation of the profiteering behind it on a recent broadcast, exposing the following items:

- U.S. wheat sales to Russia normally fall well below 100 million bushels. In August a national grain publication announced that sales might approach a bonanza 200 million bushels, raising prices for farmers. But already in July, grain exporters had sent over 200 million bushels to Russia and the total for the year will be well over 400 million. The sales were a well-kept secret between the Nixon Administration and the grain businessmen.

- With direct conflict with several provisions of federal law prohibiting conflict of interest, Clarence Pauliny, an official high in the Department of Agriculture, was instrumental in concluding the Russian wheat deal after he had decided to leave the Department to work for a private grain exporter, Continental Grain Company.

- In turn, he will supply the largest block of wheat to the Russians.

While campaigning in Minneapolis, Vice President Spiro Agnew revealed that the FBI, using their new powers over civil rights, has ordered an investigation of the wheat deal. But many discovery questions whether the Justice Department and the FBI, both run by Nixon appointees, could really be expected to do an impartial and just job. Similar doubts surround the FBI investigation of the Watergate bugging affair.

So the small farmer, the farm worker, and the tax-paying consumer, come up on the short end of the Nixon agricultural policy while agricultural interests make big profits. George McGovern, talking to his friends on the cab of his big truck, has been recruiting scaling from as far away as Los Angeles to help the growers in their attempt to break the strike at White River Farms.

Joe Melendez, at Bakerfield, talking to one of his friends on the cab of his big truck, has been recruiting scaling from as far away as Los Angeles to help the growers in their attempt to break the strike at White River Farms. Joe Melendez has been selling his brothers to the growers for years, originally as a labor camp supervisor for Continental and most recently as an independent contractor. He has a Little Havana of his own right behind his house where he keeps his poor, scared scabs (left) until they're needed. When 30 picketers from La Paz showed up at his house, he promptly called the police.

Because of the mass arrests of strikers and the unfair court injunction restricting picketing at White River Farms, 200 farm workers and supporters picketed at the Kern County Court House in Bakersfield on September 25. Among them were those who had been picketing at the house of strikbreaking contractor Joe Melendez, but who were ordered to leave by the police because of the court injunction. Picketing continued until nightfall.

The arrests have continued, as the growers are every ready to use every tool at their disposal to fight the Union. There have also been reports of machines being used at White River Farms in an attempt to replace the striking workers. Despite all this, striking workers are certain of victory.
Thousands Protest Prop 22 at Rallies in Salinas and Fresno

By Victory Staff

FRESNO, California—Over 2,000 farm workers gathered for a "Rally of Solidarity" at the Salinas High School on October 23 to voice their opposition to Proposition 22. The rally was the highlight of a two-week boycott of all produce and food grown in Salinas and was marked by a demonstration of the power of the farm workers' movement.

The rally was a moment of unity and strength, with thousands of workers gathered to show their solidarity with the cause. The atmosphere was electric, with music, dance, and speeches filling the air. The event was a testament to the power of the farm workers' movement and their determination to fight for their rights.

After the rally, the workers continued their boycott, refusing to work or support any business that was complicit in the laws of the land. The boycott was a powerful tool in their fight for justice, and the workers were determined to keep up the pressure until victory was theirs.

The rally was a moment of triumph, with the workers standing together in solidarity, their voices strong and their spirits high. The moment was a testament to the power of the farm workers' movement and their determination to fight for their rights.

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FRESNO, California—Over 2,000 farm workers gathered for a "Rally of Solidarity with Cesar Chavez at the Selland Arena here Sunday, September 24.

The four hour rally was marked by a fiesta spirit as many groups contributed their efforts and skills to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Union’s founding convention in West Fresno, September, 1962, and to voice their opposition to Proposition 22.

One such group was the MESTIZOS, a mariachi band led by Lupe de la Cruz and made up almost entirely of musicians coming from farm worker backgrounds. As members of the Musicians Union, the group is limited to three free concerts a year, and Lupe declared that every one will be a benefit for farm workers. Other groups contributing to the two hours of music and dance were Valentina Gonzalez, El Trio Barranqueno, El Trio los Faras, El Mariachi Santa Cruz, and Fresno State students in La Raza Studies.

A mammoth 15 by 20 feet Union flag donated by the Vie-del Ranch Committee hung above the speakers' platform.

Cesar spoke for the concluding hour of the rally, with the audience applauding, cheering, and stomping their feet in response.

In his speech, Cesar emphasized that the continuing attempts to destroy the Union can only make the Movement stronger. He singled out for special attack the Nisei League, an organization of small Japanese growers and labor contractors who are presently concentrating all their efforts on crossing the Union picket line at White River Farms.

"The small farmer is nothing but a glorified farm worker with a lot of debts and a mortgage," he said. "Are those in the Nisei League trying to be white, so hard that they are willing to destroy their brown brothers? If they want to take us on in a fight, we’ll take them on," Cesar declared.

Cesar also emphasized that the Union is one of the few movements in the country that embraces many ethnic groups. "Among our members we have Chicanoas, Cubans, Black people, Filipinos, Italians, Portuguese, Puerto Ricans, White people and Arabs," he said.

Among the other speakers at the rally were Joseph Silva from Gala in Livingston, who spoke in Portuguese; John Burton of San Francisco, a leader in McGovern’s presidential campaign in California; Al Villal Fresno City Councilman; Armando Rodriguez, candidate for the 8th Supervisorial District seat in Fresno; and Alex Brown, Democratic nominee in the 32nd Assembly District.
**Killer Krupp Goes Free**

(INDIO, California—Richard Krupp, former Slyme, California policeman and killer of farm worker Mario Baez Barreiro, was freed here after a four-week murder trial despite the testimony of four eyewitnesses. The jury deliberated only three hours.

According to Alfredo Figueroa, director of the Union’s Slyme Field Office and instrumental in bringing Krupp to trial, the turning point in the trial came when witness either bribed or threatened a young Chicano witness to deny his former testimony and attempt to discredit the testimony of other prosecution witnesses. Figueroa declined to give the name of the witness at this time.

Alfredo said that the witness in question told him he changed his story because he was "afraid." In any case, the witness told the court that he had discussed testimony with other witnesses on the way to the police station.

Alfredo said the defense used the witness to discredit the testimony of four eyewitnesses, all of whom had testified that Krupp shot Mario Barreiro without provocation.

Krupp and his defense lawyers had tried to defend him by saying that his gun had accidentally discharged as he struck Mario on the head during a struggle. But, not only did all the eyewitnesses say that Marié offered no resistance at all, a pathologist also testified that the bullet that killed Mario had made a clean hole.

and that there were no signs of Mario’s head having been struck in a struggle. Alfredo reported.

However, the jury apparently did not feel that such testimony impaired Krupp’s defense.

The Chicano community of Slyme is indignant over the decision, according to Figueroa. "How can they come in with a decision in three hours on a trial that took four weeks and saw dozens of witnesses?" he asked. He said there were strong feelings in the Chicano community that the jury was "racist" in bringing its decision, pointing out that, of the eight men and four women jurors, all were Anglo except for one Black. Not a single Chicano was allowed to sit in judgment of Richard Krupp.

Alfredo Figueroa is not giving up. The decision is so contrary to the evidence given that he is considering seeking a federal investigation of the trial.

"How can Chicano people be expected to believe in the law when this kind of thing happens?" he asks.

But it appears unlikely that things will change radically in Slyme in the near future. A local paper has quoted the police chief as saying that "I’d expect all of my officers to do generally the same thing under the same circumstances."

Mario Barreiro was died. Richard Krupp walks free.

**Rights Commission Investigates “Assassinations”**

**SANTA FE, New Mexico—Police killings of Chicano activists in New Mexico during the past year, ruled justifiable homicide by state and local authorities, prompted a complete federal investigation, the New Mexico Civil Rights Commission said today.

The Advisory Committee that testimony from two attorneys and private citizens formed the death’s "assassination" decision will question police and state and local authorities, merit a complete federal investigation, the New Mexico Civil Rights Commission has found.

The Advisory Committee took testimony from two attorneys and private citizens formed the death’s "assassination" decision will question police and state and local authorities.

The Advisory Committee will ask in the deaths of the following victims:

- Roy Gallego of Santa Fe, a young irregular suspect shot in the head by a "warning shot."
- The Committee said Gallego was shot white handcuffed and surounded by state and local police at Santa Fe.
- Chicano activists Rito Canales and Antonio Cordova, both 29-year-old and of Albuquerque, shot in a confrontation also by state and local police. The pair was cut down a day before they were to testify on a church-sponsored television program regarding police conditions and police brutality. Officers said the two men, wounded 15 times between the day and the day before, were targeted to internal discipline.
- In Blandford, 24, Albuquerque, a black sumo thief suspect shot by an Albuquerque policeman who said the man threatened him with a bat combo.
- Albuquerque Police Chief Donald Byrd and his counterpart in Santa Fe, Felix Lopez, accepted an invitation to testify at the hearing.
- Approximately 93.4% of the respondents indicated that they felt the right to strike was something under the same circumstances of the hearings.
- Richard Krupp was freed.

**McGovern...YES**

- McGovern is against compulsory arbitration.
- McGovern opposes wage controls which violate collective bargaining contracts.
- McGovern is for a higher minimum wage. In 1972 it was McGovern’s vote that pushed across the $2.20 minimum wage bill in the Senate.
- McGovern is for higher unemployment compensation. In 1966 he cast the crucial vote that won the measure for labor.
- McGovern is for Medicare and greater social security benefits.
- McGovern led the successful legislative battles for more jobs through public works and public service employment programs.

**McGovern...NO**

- As President, Nixon opposed the passage of an effective job safety bill and a higher minimum wage.
- As President, Nixon vetoed government jobs for the unemployed and day care centers for working mothers.
- Nixon has invoked Taft-Hartley injunctions against labor and has proposed compulsory arbitration legislation to cripple labor.
- Although Nixon declared that he had "a secret plan to end the war," the war in Vietnam was raised to new heights.

**The Record Shows...McGovern 93.4% Right for Labor**

**Nixon...NO**

- In 1946 Richard Nixon was elected to the House of Representatives on a platform that called for "smashing the labor bosses."
- In 1947, Richard Nixon was one of the principal authors of the infamous Taft-Hartley Act and, the following year, ran on the peaks of Mondale-Wood Act.
- Since Nixon has been President, he has slapped a freeze on wages but allowed prices and profits to rise virtually unchecked. It now costs more than $1,300 a year to buy the food that cost $1,100 when Nixon was elected.

**Advocate**

**October 9, 1972**
**Report from Santa Maria**

"**Guadalupe Ten**" **Sentenced**

**SANTA MARIA, California—**Fifteen, Santa Maria Valley style, were another shambolic chapter in the "Guadalupe Ten" case. September 20 when seven of the ten were sentenced in Superior Court in Santa Maria, no mercy was shown. All seven were given two years probation, six were given suspended sentences of 90 days, one was given a six month suspended sentence, and three were fined.

As part of the terms of probation, Mel O'Campo was given 45 days in the county jail, Jesus Ortiz was given 90 days in jail. The other five were given 90 days to fined $75, and Fermín Sepúlveda was fined $215. All seven were told to not act in a "lawful and orderly manner" at public meetings which they may attend in the future.

On October 13, 1972, Mudge reversed his earlier announcement made in August. They should know. O'Campo lives about Melchor O'Campo, self-proclaimed "friend of the United Farm Workers movement and 90 day suspended sentences are Augustine Gutierrez, Carmene Magall and Margarita Casillas.

Two other defendants, James Estrada and Mary Baca, were found not guilty. Charges against the tenth person, Angel Fiorro, were dismissed when United Farm Workers attorney Bill Carder showed the court that Fiorro had not attended the Parent-Teacher Club meeting. The jury trial, held in mid-August, developed from charges of disrupting the peace and disrupting a public meeting last March 16 in Guadalupe, a small town nine miles west of Santa Maria.

All seven were convicted on the single charge of disturbing a public meeting. The Parent-Teacher Club of the Guadalupe Ten members had invited Mel O'Campo, long-time foe of the United Farm Workers Union and Chicana, a self-styled member of the right wing John Birch Society and a resident of Santa Maria, to speak about "The Truth Behind the Chicano Movement."

According to testimony in court there was no arrest at the meeting, even though the police were at the meeting. The two hired attorneys were tried to court three weeks later by notices in the major press.

A rape of the meeting, supplied by Rev. Anthony Cardenas, Catholic priest in Guadalupe who refused to say mass for the farm workers in the Guadalupe Ten, during the strike of 1970, was played during a court session. It showed there was a great deal of noise from the audience when O'Campo tried to speak.

The meeting ended after thirty-five minutes even though no one was called out of order by the chairman Fausto Ragagini, president of the PTC.

Echavarria, most severely sentenced and the subject of a two-hour session on the stand during the trial, was paid by witnesses to have directed the actions of other defendants "with his eyes", according to testimony of a sheriff's deputy. In conflicting testimony from other witnesses, Echavarria was supposed to have directed other witnesses with hand and arm signals.

During Echavarria's sentencing, Kirkpatrick told the all the defendants they must respect the opinions of other persons and allow them the freedom to express their ideas.

Kirkpatrick gave examples of various extreme opinions that must be allowed expression including "those who wear the swastika," referring to Nazis.

"The cold light of reason is the best place to let people examine and reject bad ideas," Kirkpatrick said.

In a reply to the bench, Echavarria expressed hope that "this proverbial would bring true justice to the barrios, ghettos and reservations of this country."

Another defendant, Carmen Mengala, mother of seven children, one of whom, a five week old infant, spent each day of the trial with his mother in court, addressed the court through an interpreter. Mrs. Mengala, in an emotional statement, said she wanted to thank Fausto Ragagini for inviting me to the (Parent-Teacher Club) meeting, which resulted in the arrests and trial. Ragagini, his wife Barbara, and Mel O'Campo, who all testified against the defendants, was in the courtroom for the sentencing.

Defense attorney Bill Carder will file an appeal within ten days in a Santa Barbara court. All seven were convicted on the single charge of disrupting a public meeting.

In the summer the school board adopted an integration plan that met state and federal requirements in a minimal fashion. The board had previously appointed a citizens' committee to recommend integration plans. The committee had recommended a system of paired schools in which slightly more than 1,000 of the 6,000 students in the district would be bused.

Even though 1,500 students were then being bused without integration, a group calling themselves "Parents for Neighbor School Schools" voiced strong objections to this "massive busing."

During the summer the school board adopted this plan during the winter, the board decided there was no money in the budget for more than minimal busing. As a result children living up to two miles away from school are forced to walk across state highways to get to school, because many families don't have cars available to take their children to school.

After three days of picketing and community meetings, School Superintendent John Mudge reversed his earlier announcement and made buses available on the next school day.

Mudge asked to Comite Consejo De Educacion De Santa Maria to act as an intermediary between the school and the community, to express the community's needs and help the school district resolve its problems.

The Comite was formed by the Chicago Teachers Union as a result of disturbances last year at the local high school.

The school district has agreed in negotiations with the Comite to accept a similar advisory group for the elementary district.

The district also agreed to hire Chicano teachers to create a culturally balanced staff, still under discussion is a timetable for completion of the balanced staff.
ARAB FARM WORKERS SPEAK

The article in Arabian in this issue of EL MALCIADO is by Dirhem Yaha, a farm worker at Tenneco's Doctor Ranch and a strong supporter of the Union. Brother Dirhem came to the United States from Yemen Arab Republic in January and, like most of the 4000 Arabian farm workers in California has worked in the asparagus fields and in the grape.

There were some Arabian workers in California fields in the early 1960's, but the great influx began after 1965, when the government ended the importation of indentured farm workers. The Delano grape strike also encouraged some growers to turn to Arabian workers as supposedly docile and unorganizable replacements for their Mexican and Filipino workers who were pro-union. Almost all of the Arameans here are from North or South Yemen, one of the most isolated areas of Arabia, located on the corner of the Red Sea and Indian Ocean, and bordered only by South Arabia. Yemen itself, the kingdom of the Biblical Queen of Sheba, was so isolated through the centuries that most of it did not fall under European colonization or influence.

The Turk of the Ottoman Empire temporarily occupied the country in the 16th Century and England did seize the port city of Aden for a naval base. Aden gained independence several years ago as the Peoples Democratic Republic of South Yemen, after a brief but bitter and violent struggle to force the British out.

The Yemen Arab Republic of North Yemen was founded on September 26, 1962, after a one day revolution that was almost bloodless. The country had been ruled by despotic dynasts (Kings) for centuries and slavery, public beatings, hangings, beheadings and corporal punishment were all common. None of these inhuman practices were abolished, however, and many were continued, including the widespread use of four hospitals for the 6,000,000 people. Newspapers were owned by the government and the people printed only pamphlets available to the aristocracy. Women were (and in many ways still are) virtual slaves, bought as wives by the fathers of their prospective husbands at the age of 12 or 14, and expected to cook, care for their own cooking and some of the more horrible medieval forms of public torture and punishment, allowed newspapers, printed free education and health care were available to most city dwellers, but few had any formal education. The country had been ruled by despotic Immans (Kings) for centuries and slavery, public beatings, hangings, beheadings and corporal punishment were all common. Newspapers were forbidden to the common people and the government printed the only pamphlets available to the aristocracy. Women were (and in many ways still are) virtual slaves, bought as wives by the fathers of their prospective husbands at the age of 12 or 14, and expected to cook, clean, care for their children, preferably males.

As the Government ended the importation of Arabian workers, many Arabians have become union members. Though there were no unions in Yemen until recently, most understand the necessity and advantages of working together and organizing. Because of the language barriers, the social structure of the rural society from which they come, their fundamentalist religion (Islam), and their isolation from other American society, they present a special set of problems and opportunities for the unions in organizing."
INTERVIEW WITH SUPPORT GROUP

Puerto Rican Farm Workers

Four Puerto Rican organizers, Wilmer Silva, Alberto Gonzalez, William Loperena and Juan Irizarry have been representing the Union in California for almost two years. Wilmer Silva came representing the Ecumenical Ministry for Puerto Rican Migrants, while the other three are from CAMP, "Committee of Support for Puerto Rican Migrants.

They are dedicated to the liberation of Puerto Rican farmworkers who are forced by economic need to come to the eastern United States, where they are exploited by American growers. They have just testified before state legislative committees in New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York that they visited the labor camps in which the majority of Puerto Rican farm workers must stay.

"What we saw," said Alberto Gonzalez, "is far more than a new kind of slavery in the 20th century." They found "horrible working and living conditions." Many of the camps have no heating for the harsh winter months. The beds are filthy, and the blankets are never changed. The sanitary conditions are repulsive, the group told EL MALCIADO.

The workers have no privacy. They have no lockers in which to put their personal belongings. There are no fire extinguishers. The toilets are not adequately serviced and are located right next to dining halls. The windows are broken and doors are never secured. For this they are charged $50-50 per week.

And the workers are not able to change these conditions," the organizers told us, "because they are completely isolated when they come to this country." They are recruited by the Puerto Rican Department of Labor and are contracted directly to growers associations in the United States. The Puerto Rican Department of Labor supposedly protects the rights of Puerto Rican farm workers, said Wilmer Silva, but it does not enforce the contracts. It has with the growers, which stipulate minimal living and working conditions. The grievances the organizers listed were all violations of the contract growers.

Puerto Rican FARM WORKERS

I have with the Puerto Rican Department of Labor.

"The inspectors who come to look at the conditions of the workers," explained Wilmer, "they always go with the administrators of the camps. They are given boxes of produce and the reports on the camps come out favorable to the growers.

The organizers told us the Puerto Rican Department of Labor never reports to the workers. The inspections are conducted to pay for the food. They only employ one or two extra workers who are supposedly protecting the workers, but they are not doing their job. They are exploited by the growers as well.

The Puerto Rican Department of Labor is constantly giving the growers permission to import Jamaican and Mexican workers, and the only legal grounds for this additional foreign labor is to fill the demand for labor in the United States. The government has been importing labor from Jamaica and Mexico for years, and the growers are using this as a reason to keep the workers in the camps.

The Puerto Rican Department of Labor is also responsible for the inspectors who come to look at the conditions of the workers. They are supposed to enforce the labor laws, but they are not doing their job. The growers are exploiting the workers, but the government is not doing anything to stop them.

The organizers told us that the Puerto Rican Department of Labor is under the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Labor, and it is not independent. The growers are using this as a reason to keep the workers in the camps.

Puerto Rican organizers (left to right) Wilmer Silva, Alberto Gonzalez, William Loperena and Juan Irizarry (seated), during a recent visit to Union headquarters at La Paz, California.

Florida: UNION SUES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

At the time the sugar cane growers and processors down here get ready to harvest their crop of cane, the growers pay the workers $1.80 an hour, and they are never paid for the two hours spent working operations. They even file a lawsuit in a federal court in Miami to stop this illegal activity between the growers and the workers.

The suit charges U.S. Attorney General Richard Kleindienst, Raymond Farrell, commissioner of immigration and naturalization, James D. Hodgson, secretary of labor; and William Norwood, Department of Labor regional manpower director, with violating labor laws by allowing the importation of foreign workers without going through the proper certification procedures.

Dr. Marshall Barry, Assistant Professor of Economics at New York University, conducted the study and found that more than 100,000 Floridians farm workers were unemployed while the government permitted the Jamaican workers to come in. The growers are using this as a reason to keep the workers in the camps.

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The Puerto Rican Department of Labor is constantly giving the growers permission to import Jamaican and Mexican workers, and the only legal grounds for such permission is that the domestic labor supply has been exhausted. But, as is often the case in the agricultural industry, the government conveniently looks the other way and invariably gives the growers permission to import Jamaicans while American farm workers go jobless.

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Union picket lines against White River Farms, and visited with Puerto Rican workers who work in the Delano area. They did much to lay the groundwork for the Union to someday bring better living and working conditions to our Puerto Rican brothers in the eastern coast of the United States.

Dorothy Johnson, assistant to Eliseo Medina, reports that "We have just begun to organize them (Northwood, but have already discovered a July 11th letter from his office certifying the importation of this year's Jamaican work force. It wasn't until August that the growers began their heavy recruitment efforts for domestic workers, so it is beginning to look more and more like whatever efforts are made are merely for appearances sake and are not at all designed to reach the people who could work in the camps."
Under the Union contract, the workers had a minimum wage of $2.30 an hour, $2.70 an hour for pruning and $6.00 an hour piece-rate harvesting. But the company wants to break the Union so it can lower wages.

Under the Union contract, the workers enjoyed job security. But the company wants to break the Union so it can bring in machines to put the gondola grape pickers out of work.

Why are other growers, including Japanese growers, helping the company to get labor contractors to bring in scabs to break the strike?

BECAUSE THE GROWERS WANT TO KILL THE UNION SO THEY CAN PAY THE SAME MISERABLE WAGES THEY PAID BEFORE THE GRAPE STRIKE IN 1965. THEY WANT TO KEEP THE UNION FROM BRINGING HIGHER WAGES AND A BETTER LIFE TO ALL FARM WORKERS. THE GROWERS WANT TO DESTROY THE UNION BECAUSE IT WON'T LET THEM BRING IN MACHINES TO PUT FARM WORKERS OUT OF WORK LIKE THEY DID IN THE COTTON, TOMATOES AND OTHER CROPS.

If anyone tries to recruit you to go and scab at White River Farms (Buttes Gas & Oil Company) or if you know about anyone who is planning to break the strike call one of the following numbers:

Delano: 725-9703, 725-1594 Lamont: 845-3344, 845-3712, 845-1306

Pass this on to other farm worker sisters and brothers. Don't be fooled into breaking the strike! DON'T BE A SCAB! This battle affects the futures of us and our families. Rise to the fight. Together we will win!