87 boycotters jailed, released

MAJOR DETROIT CHAIN REMOVES GRAPES

Police prepared to enforce injunction at a Safeway store in California.

Judge throws out picket restrictions

DETROIT—In a stunning series of events over the three-day period in early December, the mass arrest of 87 UFWA boycotters has led to the overturning of an extremely restrictive anti-boycott injunction and the sudden capitulation by Detroit’s largest grocery chain to the New Grape Boycott.

The agreement by the stores of the Farmer Jack chain to remove all scab grapes by January 1 climaxed an intense boycott campaign directed by UFWA Executive Board member and Detroit boycott director Richard Chavez, more than two dozen farm workers and union volunteers. The store already carried UFWA lettuces.

"A & P can’t last long,” explained staff organizer Ben Maddock, referring to Detroit’s other major chain store, the largest in the Eastern U.S.

Favorable court action

Farmer Jack’s capitulation followed a ruling by a Detroit Judge William P. Hampton in which he threw out his own court order of November 27 which severely limited picketing at A & P stores, an order similar to one Farmer Jack’s had obtained ten days earlier.

The judge’s reversal of his own order followed the arrest and jailing of 87 boycotters at three different A & P stores in the Detroit area on Saturday, December 1, on charges of violating Hampton’s first order.

The 87 were released on their own recognizance and charges will be dropped.

Judge Hampton authorized the release of nuns and priests who had been arrested, before he ordered the others to leave, however, because, they said, the arrests were illegal and all should be released at once.

Hampton told them he would have the police throw them out if they didn’t leave, so they departed peacefully.

Organizer Maddock attributed Hampton’s decision to loosen picket restrictions to the willingness of so many people to defy his order and to the solidarity expressed by the church people in refusing special treatment.

"He was visibly shaken,” said Maddock.

The A & P and Farmer Jack’s injunctions had limited pickets to only 2 within 50 feet of the store and none in the parking lot. Picketers were not allowed to mention the name of the store in handbills, signs, or even in conversation with potential customers.

The new injunction allows 8 picketers on the sidewalk or in the parking lot and re-established the right of the picketers to use the name of the store.

Maddock said the terms of the new injunction were favorable to the boycott effort because they allowed picketers access to the parking lot rather than sharing the parking lot with other stores.

“We had been tremendously effective at Farmer Jack’s with only a couple of pickets,” he said. "With eight, they must have known that we could be stopped from setting them down.

The capitulation of Farmer Jack’s in Detroit can be added to the ever-growing list of chain supermarket and independent stores which are now clean of scab grapes and lettuce. Elsewhere, more than four hundred stores in a dozen New York chains are clean, as are 150 independent stores in Washington, D.C., area.

Injunction:

New supermarket weapon

The use of injunctions by supermarket corporations to fight the boycott represents a dangerous new trend in the boycott fight, according to UFW General Counsel Jerry Cohen.

"There have been more injunctions against us in the first three months of this boycott than there were during the entire 1967-68 boycott,” he said.

Cohen listed Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, Texas, Iowa, California and Arizona as states where boycotters are fighting supermarket injunctions.

The attempt to use injunctions to break the boycott line recalls similar efforts by California growers this past summer to break farm worker picket lines through court orders limiting picketing at the fields.

The boycott victory in Detroit touched off by a mass arrest suggests that boycott injunctions can also be defeated when thousands of dedicated boycotters unite to fight them.

Dr. Jorge Prieto, staff doctor for UFWA’s clinic program, arrested at supermarket boycott picket line in Chicago.

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ENGLISH EDITION
Vol. VI No. 14
December 14, 1973
Even a man can do it

Bail money sought in Delano

Frame-up in farm worker arson case?

Once again it has been shown that it is the growers who dictate the terms of justice in the Delano area. Three Delano area farm workers, Juan Montana, Antonio Sandoval and Juan Cervantes were arrested and have been now placed in custody on charges of attempted arson at the Jack Pande grape vineyards. This is their second arrest.

The three were first arrested in early August. It is alleged that the arrests were made near the vineyards. Another farm worker, Juan Arviso, accused them. When the case was brought to court, Arviso refused to testify, and the case was thrown out on the grounds of insufficient evidence.

On a recent hearing at the Kern County Administration and Court building in Bakersfield, the defendants tried to have the amount of bail reduced by $7,500 to $1,000. Before the hearing about 45 friends and relatives of the defendants picketed the courthouse chanting "WE WANT JUSTICE", "JUSTICE FOR FARM WORKERS" and "SI SE PUEDE!"

The demonstration was organized by Daniel Castro, a friend of the accused.

The picketers attended the hearings as defense attorney Robert Y. Bell tried to demonstrate that the defendants were financially incapable of raising the requested sum.

Two of the defendants, Sandoval and Cervantes, are teenagers and live with large families that help support. Montana is married and his wife is unemployed. When McNutt questioned a defendant as to his property, Bell objected successfully on the grounds that "obviously poor people" cannot be compelled to demonstrate ownership of property as grounds of ability to pay bail.

Judge William A. Stone set the bail at $2,500. The friends of the accused are going to try to raise the bail-money, and Daniel Castro is going to coordinate the effort.

Judge Stone then asked for a plea. Bell replied, "not guilty" but added that he planned to have the case thrown out, as the refilling of the case constituted "unlawful harassment" of the defendants. Stone then set Dec. 6 as the date for preliminary hearings.

Bell requested that Arviso be compelled to testify at the hearing and was granted that request over the objection of the prosecution.

There is speculation that the three defendants were falsely accused, and that Arviso was hired by the growers to make the farm workers and the union look bad.

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Farm worker jobs threatened

New proposal for "Bracero" slave labor

According to American agribusiness, the braceros formed the perfect labor force -- they worked hard for low wages, could be sent from one place to another like "shock troops," had few civil rights and could always be sent home when the growers were through with them.

Twin proposals from the California Farm Bureau and the Mexican Government released November 25 called for the renewal of the infamous "bracero program." The proposals call for the contracting of up to 500 thousand Mexican nationals to solve a so-called shortage of farm labor in the United States. Agribusiness and its allies are apparently trying to reopen the borders to the "cheap" labor they enjoyed from 1942 until 1964.

California Farm Bureau

The California Farm Bureau Federation proposal was passed at the Federation's annual Delegates Convention in Sacramento November 26-28. Passed by overwhelming majority, the resolution reads, "The California Farm Bureau should investigate the possibility of instituting a program on a people-to-people basis whereby Mexican nationals could be legally employed for specific agricultural job opportunities on a temporary permit."

Said rancher and President of the San Diego Farm Bureau, Ed Backus, who drafted the plan, "We need these people, legal or otherwise. It is time for us to realize that the illegal aliens are here and we need them. Without legal legislation it opens us up for charges of abuse. I never ask citizenship myself."

"The workers would only come for the work period, then return to Mexico - elsewise they could go on welfare rolls or some such thing," the tall rancher explained.

Treaty proposed in Mexico

The same day that the Farm Bureau approved this resolution, the U. S. State Department confirmed that Henry Kissinger has "engaged in conversations" with Mexican government leaders to revive the bracero program.

Mexican President Luis Echeverria said in Mexico City, Nov. 26, that his government wanted a new treaty with the U. S. to allow some 300,000 Mexican nationals to come to this country as temporary farm workers.

"We have the impression that the government of the United States wants this," the president said, insisting that Mexican nationals would not displace U. S. workers.

Kissinger's visits to Mexico have not gone unnoticed by farm worker supporters. Indications are that the governments have been toying with the idea of re­newing the bracero program for some time. In mid-July of this year the Mexican Consulate in Sacramento was picketed in protest to the possible agreements. Members of MECHA, C.A.S.A. and La Raza Unida stated that the U. S.-Mexico talks and possible agreement are a conspiracy on the part of the U. S. officials to destroy the United Farm Workers Union.

Harvest of despair

Under the old bracero program the Mexican campesinos suffered from a troop of greedy U. S. growers who abused regulations, "coyotes" who stole their money, and corrupt border officials.

The lure of American dollars brought thousands of families from their homes in central and southern Mexico to the Rio Grandese. There they found neither housing nor provisions and not enough bracero jobs to support. Many died waiting their turn that never came, while scores were too weak to pass the physical examination required by U. S.

Why again...

For these reasons, the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, organized labor, church groups and many others banded together and put an end to the bracero program in 1964.

They argued then that the importation of up to 450,000 Mexican workers a year from U. S. farm jobs provided a supply of cheap labor for U. S. growers, who were then not compelled to pay wages high enough to attract U. S. citizens to farm jobs.

Many responsible sources have already denounced the return of this system of slave labor. A study commissioned in 1972 by Nixon himself concluded the program should not be restored.

With Watergate, inflation, and the energy crisis, it would seem that Congress is not in any mood to approve the unpopular treaty resolution or give credence to the whims of California agribusiness officials. Still others, penniless and stranded, risked their lives for the chance to work illegally across the border.

Once in the "land of plenty" the bracero faced other dangers. Vehicles crowded with men overturned, rolled into irrigation ditches, stalled at railroad crossings or burned with their occupants locked in. Contractors and growers overcharged for simple services. Injuries were so common that there were 79 farm-related deaths reported by California agriculture in 1964 alone.

Picket line violence in Wisconsin

WEST DAYTON, Wisconsin -- Violence on the picket line against United Farm Worker boycotters in this city has recently resulted in assaults, threats and the smashing of several UFW cars. Labeling the picketers of Bates' Hilldale Liquor Store as "professional agitators," anti-Union owner Paul Endres has led an attack upon the peaceful boycotters that has caused a public outcry from clergy, civic leaders and other farm worker supporters.

The UFWA Madison Boycott Committee has been picketing the Bates' Hilldale Liquor Store for the past three months. All the other liquor stores in the area have cooperated with the boycott by removing Gold products from their shelves. In a major show of support, the Retail Liquor Stores Association of which owner Endres is a member has endorsed the boycott. Still, Bates remains stubborn.

The violence came only after earlier efforts to stop the picketers by injunction and a $1,000 suit against the UFWA proved ineffective. The injunction permitted only one UFWA picker at a time to leaflet the store.

Soon after the "one leafletter" ruling, threats were made to various organizers and volunteers in Madison. They received anonymous calls threatening, "If you're out there at the liquor store tomorrow, your house will be blown up."

Despite the continuing threats and reports by the boycotters to the media, the police refused to investigate. Police have told the UFWA that the situation is in their own hands because they aren't being done on private property.

In a final escalation of this violence, on November 11, a leaflet was strutted by the store owner's son.

Various attempts at mediation have been made by clergy and civic leaders and a state-wide telephone campaign was begun by District Attorney Humphrey Lynch, asking for for adequate police protection.

Related story on Page 10
**Lawsuit hits onion grower**

**Butchers Union strikes Cal-Date-Tenneco**

INDIO, Calif.-- The Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers Union Local 78-B have filed charges of unfair labor practices against the Cal-Date Co., an affiliate of Heggblade-Marguleas Tenneo.

Negotiations broke down after six months. The Company gave the workers a 10% increase while negotiations were in process. The Union was seeking a 25% increase from the base $1.98, to $2.53 per hour.

On November 16, the whole crew walked out on strike, 205 women and 59 men.

Ralph Perez, business agent and spokesman for the 78-B women strikers, said the peak season for Cal-Date is between September and January, when they employ over 500 employees. Most of its business goes into Xmas Fancy Paks, General Mills and Pillsbury cake mixes, and their own brand Sun-Giant.

Chief of Police Hunt noted that there had been no problems with this crew, with the exception of a "few little fires" and around 40 "flat fires" but otherwise orderly. There have been no incidents of strike-breaking or injunctions to hamper the strikers who maintain their militant spirit under the springtime conditions of the Valley.

Perez summed it up with "We are trying to win this thing," the State Conciliation Service has contacted Cal-Date and the Union with regard to resuming the negotiations.

**Citizens fight for park use**

COACHELLA, California--Protesting a new city ordinance which restricts the use of the city park, a varied group of Coachella citizens picketed a grocery store owned by the town's mayor.

The City Council had passed an ordinance closing the park, to organize groups between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. each day, charging that "the community" had complained about noise during the UFW strike in Coachella last spring. Mayor Anthony Chavez cast the decisive vote.

In response to the ordinance, local farmworkers, UFW members, and members of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters Local 78-B picketed General Mills and Pillsbury cake mixes, and their own brand Sun-Giant, until the council agreed to hold a special meeting about the park hours.

For several months last spring, more than a thousand UFW strikers and supporters from the Coachella area used the park on a daily basis for meetings, rallies, church services, and meals, with gatherings often continuing past midnight or beginning at 6 a.m.
Cesar Chavez named 'liberated man'

Cesar Chavez, president of the UFWA, was named in a list of the ten most "liberated" men by Gloria Steinem, editor of Ms. magazine, and promoter of women's rights. Chavez was named because of his dedication to non-violence.

What Ms. Steinem didn't mention is that many women help Chavez in running the different entities of La Causa. He has women directors in administration, the field offices, the boycott offices, the National Farm Worker Service Center, Inc. with its campus centers, and manning--opal--"directing" picket lines.

Students force university to observe boycott

Student power has paid off at the University of Pittsburgh, where petitions and action by student government organizations have caused the administration of the University to make observance of the boycott official policy.

Pennsylvania boycott endorsement

The lettuce and grape boycotts received a Thanksgiving endorsement from the Allegheny County Council on Civil Rights. The ACCCR has requested that its 50 affiliates observe the boycott as well, and that its members act similarly as individuals.

Chavez tours East Coast and Canada

UFWA President Cesar Chavez is presently on a boycott speaking tour that is taking him to key cities in the United States and Canada.

On November 26 he left La Paz for Chicago, where he met with UFWA staff and attended a dinner for Pat Gorman of the Meat Cutters Union.

On November 27 he attended a convention of the Hospital Workers' local 199 in New York City. On the 28th he spoke at a labor rally at Hunter College in NYC.

On November 30 Chavez visited Montreal where he first had a press conference and lunch sponsored by Common Front, a Quebec Labor organization. He also made an address at McGill University.

In Ottawa, Chavez met with the Secretary Treasurer of the Canadian Labor Congress. He is now on his way to Pittsburgh where, among other things, he plans on addressing a convention of the National Mine Workers of America.

Cesar Chavez encourages boycotters in Chicago with his presence.

Dr. H. Brockman

San Bernardino letter-writing campaign

RIVERSIDE-SAN BERNARDINO-- A letter-writing campaign is playing a key role in the on-going negotiations between UFWA boycott representatives and Stater Brothers, a prominent store chain in this area.

According to Frank Martinez, director of the UFWA's boycott effort in Riverside San Bernardino counties, more than 3,000 boycott supporters have already written letters to the store chain demanding that Stater Brothers stop selling scal grapes.

Among the letter-writers, Martinez said, are Black and Chicano community organizations and leaders, The Riverside Central Democratic Committee, small store owners who support the grape and lettuce boycott, and many prominent political leaders.

Martinez said the campaign is going strong on the college campuses with the help of El MALCHAMO's distribution driven. Also, he said, the Retall Clerks Union in the area promises to support any necessary boycott action against Stater Brothers.

U. of Illinois-Chicago supports boycott

Farm worker children, and students and faculty went before the Board of the Circle Campus of the University of Illinois in Chicago, November 1, to ask that the University support the efforts of the Union by refusing to serve lettuce and grapes in their cafeterias that feed 25,000 students daily.

The children spoke to the Board saying that they might someday be able to buy and receive higher education, but that today it is very hard for farm worker children to make it through high school.

Faculty members then urged the Board to support the boycott, and student representatives presented petitions circulated throughout the campus supporting the boycott as well.

After one and a half hours of discussion, the Board voted 8-3 to support the boycott reversing their policy from last year. The children left the room happy with their contribution to the struggle of the Union and realized that today it was through them that the University had been educated.

Support for La Causa and information about the struggle of the UFWA has taken the shape of a cultural awareness program at Pacoima Elementary School in Pacoima, California. The school is 49% Chicano.

Bill Hill of the American Federation of Teachers was primarily responsible for establishing the program. The faculty and students are participating, writing letters, and boycotting school lettuce. Hill says he hopes to establish similar programs at other elementary schools in the area.

Jio farm workers will join

According to Ohio boycott director and UFWA executive board member, Bill Hill, the Ohio boycott support group is working with the graduate students of Ohio State University to publicize farm worker problems at their campuses. The Ohio boycott efforts are working with the Graduate Student Organization to inform students about the boycott and the conditions farm workers face.

Meanwhile, the Ohio farm workers are working on a letter-writing campaign to support the boycott. They are sending out letters to their friends and family members urging them to support the boycott.

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Farm workers in Cleveland tell of struggle

The Zavala family is among 50 farm workers and seven staff volunteers working on the Cleveland boycott. Ricardo has organizing responsibilities for a section of Cleveland's West Side. Socroro works in the boycott office, and the three children are taking classes at the school.

"But they join us on the picket line, too," says Socroro. "In school they learn that they are supposed to have rights, but they learn on the picket line that they have to fight for them.""The other day Carlos came home from his day care center and was so mad because they served lettuce at lunch. He is four years old.""I speak often to students in their classes, and try to point out how life for us has meant that we can't go to school," adds Raphael Reveles of George Lucas Farms in Richley. "I show them how having the UFWA contracts helps families settle down and put their kids in school. This is the first time in effective in Ohio because there is still so much child labor in the tomatoes and potatoes."
Why Richard M. Nixon
Must Be Impeached—Now

On October 22, the AFL-CIO at its convention unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the resignation of President Richard M. Nixon.

The resolution said that Mr. Nixon’s resignation was necessary for the restoration of our badly battered democratic institutions.

If Mr. Nixon does not resign, the resolution said, “we call upon the House of Representatives forthwith to initiate impeachment proceedings against him.”

Since then, Mr. Nixon has given clear evidence he does not intend to resign.

The AFL-CIO therefore calls for his immediate impeachment.

As we said in the convention resolution, “Impeachment is not a prospect we contemplate with pleasure. No decent American can derive any partisan satisfaction whatever from the misfortune of his nation. And surely the American labor movement is not interested in aiding any reckless attacks on the Presidency. We are especially concerned about the office of the Presidency in these times of grave danger on the international front.

“But the cause of peace and freedom in the world cannot survive a discredited Presidency. Our allies’ best hope—mankind’s best hope—lies in the strength of our democratic institutions.

“Justice must be done, the risks of not doing it being more than democracy can safely bear.”

Richard M. Nixon must be impeached—now—because:

He has caused an erosion of public confidence in our democratic system of government.

He instituted in the name of national security a plan which violated civil liberties through domestic political surveillance, espionage, wiretapping, burglary, eavesdropping, opening of mail, and military spying on civilians.

He created a special and personal secret police, answerable only to the White House, to operate totally outside the constraints of law.

He and his subordinates interfered with the freedom of the press—which our Constitution guarantees—by means of wiretaps, FBI investigations, and threats of punitive action.

He secretly recorded conversations in his office without advising participants in those conversations that they were being recorded. He then sought to deny the evidence on those tapes to the courts.

He has violated the Constitution of the United States and his sworn obligation to see that the laws “be faithfully executed.”

He has used the office of the Presidency to attempt to put himself above the law.

He has consistently lied to the American people.

He has, by his actions and through the actions of his subordinates—for which he has accepted responsibility—brought dishonor on the office of the Presidency.

He has repeatedly promised the American people full revelation of the facts in the Watergate affair—and he has repeatedly sought to keep those facts from the public, from the courts, from the Congress, and from the special prosecutor.

He has used the office of the Presidency for personal enrichment.

He secretly curtailed the FBI investigation of the Watergate break-in.

He involved the CIA in the coverup of the Watergate affair.

He sought to suppress—and for a time did suppress—the facts of the burglary of the office of Daniel Ellsberg’s psychiatrist from the judge in the Ellsberg trial.

He interfered with the administration of justice by offering this judge the directorship of the FBI.

He interfered in the antitrust suit against International Telephone and Telegraph to impose a settlement agreeable to the corporation, after which the corporation agreed to underwrite $400,000 of the cost of the 1972 Republican National Convention.

He and his subordinates sought to use the power of the White House, the Justice Department, the Internal Revenue Service, the Securities and Exchange Commission and other government agencies to punish a list of political enemies.

Officials of his campaign committee and his personal attorney extorted illegal campaign contributions from corporations which were dependent on maintaining the good will of the government.

Officials of his campaign committee received large campaign contributions from the dairy industry, which was seeking and later received lucrative dairy price support increases and dairy import concessions.

Until Richard Nixon is removed from office, we will not be able to get Watergate behind us. We will not be able to proceed with sober and constructive solutions to our economic and social problems at home or to the dangers of war in the world.

The first step in the impeachment process already has been taken: resolutions calling for the impeachment of the President have been introduced in the House of Representatives and referred to the House Judiciary Committee. The next step is for the committee to investigate. If it recommends impeachment, the committee sends to the House floor a resolution and articles of impeachment which specify the charges against the President.

If the House by majority vote approves the articles of impeachment, they are sent to the Senate for trial. If two-thirds of the Senate, with the Chief Justice of the United States presiding, find the President guilty of any of the charges, he is removed from office.

What is now necessary is that the House of Representatives and the House Judiciary Committee be made aware of the need for urgency in voting the impeachment of the President. Toward this end, each union member should now write his Congressman AND Chairman Peter Rodino of the House Judiciary Committee—at the House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515—and urge their support of impeachment.

American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations, 815 Sixteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20006

6 EL MALGRIAD! December 14, 1973
Fitzsimmons called liar on UFWA agreement, Nixon contributions

Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons has had to work hard in recent weeks to maintain some credibility on issues concerning his union and his role in it. He is facing a barrage of criticism and disbelief from a wide range of labor, church, and political groups for his account of what happened to the Teamsters' jurisdictional agreement with the United Farm Workers of America.

But now on top of that, he finds himself in the company of dozens of top business executives, as he denies the leadership of his organization secretly contributed thousands of dollars to President Nixon's campaign.

At a November 21 press conference in Washington, Fitzsimmons answered questions on both of these issues.

He said then that it was untrue an agreement between the Teamsters and the AFL-CIO had ever been reached concerning the farm labor organizing. He said the agreement had always depended on the AFL-CIO agreeing to protect the Teamsters against lawsuits from the growers if the Teamsters gave up their sweetheart contracts.

"That's a lie," says UFWA General Counsel Jerry Cohen. "There was a written agreement right there on the table in September and all the Teamsters told the AFL-CIO was that they wanted a day or two to check out a few details." Cohen also points out that the Teamsters never publicly mentioned the demand for legal protection until more than six weeks after the agreement had been reached, when many people were restlessly wondering why the Teamsters hadn't signed.

In a November 16 statement, AFL-CIO president George Meany published the actual text of the agreement, adding "It appears that the Teamsters have decided that their interests are to maintain the alliance they have created with these employers (the growers) rather than in maintaining their integrity as trade unionists."

Fitzsimmons' only response to Meany was to charge him with "posing as head of the American labor movement."

Meanwhile, Newsweek magazine quoted former Teamster president Jimmy Hoffa as saying that he had been told the Teamsters gave between $60,000 and $18,000 which Fitzsimmons reportedly had been donated to the President.

Fitzsimmons also denied these allegations, although the Newsweek story quoted Hoffa as telling a story remarkably similar to that related by a number of big business executives who were among the leaders of the progressive movement in the local, and the election was a major issue in the state.

Fitzsimmons and the Teamster's local, which the Teamsters against lawsuits from the growers if the Teamsters gave up their sweetheart contracts. The local answered questions on both of these issues.

It is clear to the world how much trouble the Teamster leadership has had in recent months controlling its farm worker "membership." These workers have been on strike in defense of their own union, the UFWA, since April.

Less well known but equally important is the increasing trouble the Teamster leadership is having in controlling its own rank-and-file membership of truck drivers, warehousemen, and canner workers.

In November, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, headed by Frank Fitzsimmons, stepped in and took direct control of Local 695 in Madison, Wisconsin. Local elections were canceled and further expansion of the union through organizing drives was halted.

In the past several years, this 5,000 member local took strong positions against the Indo-china war and against Nixon's wage freeze policies. They refused to endorse Nixon for President in 1972, and gave their electoral support to a progressive candidate for mayor of Madison, who was elected.

In addition, as part of its continual organizing campaign, the local conducted three strikes in the Madison area, of which the shortest lasted seventeen weeks.

New Teamster group fights for union democracy

In one of these strikes the local won a 50% wage increase for the truck drivers of a local beverage company.

Local 695 lost its support to other unionizing efforts in the Madison area, including a union for teaching assistants at the University of Wisconsin, the first such union in the country.

The local's secretary-treasurer and the business agent were among the leaders of the progressive movement in the local, but other officers and former officers opposed their policies, as did the officers of the nearby and more powerful Milwaukee Local 290.

Many of the tensions between the two sides came to a head around election of officers for Local 695 scheduled for December.

As the election approached, many observers predicted as much as a five to one landslide for the progressive forces. The local newspaper ran a four part series on the struggle within the local, and the election was a major issue in the state.

Finally, the officials from Milwaukee stepped in and took over Local 695, claiming that strike funds had been "misused." All the local's officers resigned except the business agent, who was fired for being a "bad influence on the local."

Fitzsimmons has had to work hard in recent weeks to maintain some credibility on issues concerning his union and his role in it.

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At a November 21 press conference in Washington, Fitzsimmons answered questions on both of these issues.

He said then that it was untrue an agreement between the Teamsters and the AFL-CIO had ever been reached concerning the farm labor organizing. He said the agreement had always depended on the AFL-CIO agreeing to protect the Teamsters against lawsuits from the growers if the Teamsters gave up their sweetheart contracts.

"That's a lie," says UFWA General Counsel Jerry Cohen. "There was a written agreement right there on the table in September and all the Teamsters told the AFL-CIO was that they wanted a day or two to check out a few details." Cohen also points out that the Teamsters never publicly mentioned the demand for legal protection until more than six weeks after the agreement had been reached, when many people were restlessly wondering why the Teamsters hadn't signed.

In a November 16 statement, AFL-CIO president George Meany published the actual text of the agreement, adding "It appears that the Teamsters have decided that their interests are to maintain the alliance they have created with these employers (the growers) rather than in maintaining their integrity as trade unionists."

Fitzsimmons' only response to Meany was to charge him with "posing as head of the American labor movement."

Meanwhile, Newsweek magazine quoted former Teamster president Jimmy Hoffa as saying that he had been told the Teamsters gave between $60,000 and $18,000 which Fitzsimmons reportedly had been donated to the President.

Fitzsimmons also denied these allegations, although the Newsweek story quoted Hoffa as telling a story remarkably similar to that related by a number of big business executives who were among the leaders of the progressive movement in the local, and the election was a major issue in the state.

Fitzsimmons and the Teamster's local, which the Teamsters against lawsuits from the growers if the Teamsters gave up their sweetheart contracts. The local answered questions on both of these issues.

It is clear to the world how much trouble the Teamster leadership has had in recent months controlling its farm worker "membership." These workers have been on strike in defense of their own union, the UFWA, since April.

Less well known but equally important is the increasing trouble the Teamster leadership is having in controlling its own rank-and-file membership of truck drivers, warehousemen, and canner workers.

In November, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, headed by Frank Fitzsimmons, stepped in and took direct control of Local 695 in Madison, Wisconsin. Local elections were canceled and further expansion of the union through organizing drives was halted.

In the past several years, this 5,000 member local took strong positions against the Indo-china war and against Nixon's wage freeze policies. They refused to endorse Nixon for President in 1972, and gave their electoral support to a progressive candidate for mayor of Madison, who was elected.

In addition, as part of its continual organizing campaign, the local conducted three strikes in the Madison area, of which the shortest lasted seventeen weeks.

New Teamster group fights for union democracy

In one of these strikes the local won a 50% wage increase for the truck drivers of a local beverage company.

Local 695 lost its support to other unionizing efforts in the Madison area, including a union for teaching assistants at the University of Wisconsin, the first such union in the country.

The local's secretary-treasurer and the business agent were among the leaders of the progressive movement in the local, but other officers and former officers opposed their policies, as did the officers of the nearby and more powerful Milwaukee Local 290.

Many of the tensions between the two sides came to a head around election of officers for Local 695 scheduled for December.

As the election approached, many observers predicted as much as a five to one landslide for the progressive forces. The local newspaper ran a four part series on the struggle within the local, and the election was a major issue in the state.

Finally, the officials from Milwaukee stepped in and took over Local 695, claiming that strike funds had been "misused." All the local's officers resigned except the business agent, who was fired for being a "bad influence on the local."

Fitzsimmons has made it clear that he is challenging Fitzsimmons for control of the Teamsters. And apparently Hoffa is at least partly responsible for Fitzsimmons' decision to resume on the agreement with the AFL-CIO and the UFWA.

But in the face of these attacks from within his own union, Fitzsimmons' assertion that certain campaign contributions were non-existent and that a certain jurisdictional agreement was non-existent sound about as convincing as Nixon's assertion that certain Watergate tapes were non-existent.
Farm Bureau attacks farm workers’ rights

November meeting blasts unions, strikes, boycotts

SACRAMENTO—Following a pleasant day on the golf course, several hundred delegates to the California Farm Bureau meeting here in late November settled down to express their views on a number of political and economic questions. Among the problems they face is how to deal with their rebellious “work force,” the farm workers.

The resolutions adopted in the area of farm labor reflect, as in the past, the generally restrictive views that are the hallmark of the Farm Bureau. Taken together, they represent a serious attack on the workers and their supporters to boycott non-UFWA produce and on the political rights of farm workers in general.

In addition, a call for the revival of the “tracer” program for the importation of Mexican workers (see page 3), the Farm Bureau also took two other positions:

A “Farm Labor” resolution aimed at protecting “the right of a worker not to join an organization,” at bringing farmers under the Taft-Hartley Act restrictions of the National Labor Relations Act, which prohibits secondary boycotts, and at outlawing strikes at harvest time, to help fight any boycott and call for strengthening of trespassing laws to “prevent the unauthorized access of persons to private land.”

This last provision aims at denying farm workers their rights to meet with union organizers and lawyers or even with their friends in labor camps or in the fields. A “Youth Employment” resolution urging the loosening of restrictions on child labor because “frequently, regulatory agencies tend to overly restrict the opportunity for youth to gain gainful employment.”

A “Farm Tractor Safety” resolution exempting old tractors from safety laws because “We recognize the need for safety regulations to protect farm workers from work-related injury or death. We feel, however, that major modifications to tractors or implements whose useful life is nearly over will not appreciably contribute to accident reduction.”

In a resolution labeled, NOT FOR PUBLICATION, the Farm Bureau stated, “Never before in the history of this state and the nation has it been more imperative that agriculture improve its communications with the consuming public.”

Dolores Huerta denounces the Farm Bureau in Los Angeles, with her Reverend Chris Hartmire and Richard Chavez.

photo: Glen Pearcy

La Flor Del Valle
Mexican products and magazines in Spanish

In Bakersfield, Calif., the rank-and-file also protest.

Chris Sanchez

The Farm Bureau’s representatives continue joking about the farm worker’s struggle.

Dolores Huerta

A decade of war on UFWA

The California Farm Bureau is the largest state-level organization within the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), an organization of farmers and farm corporations. Both organizations have fought for many years to prevent farm workers from organizing their own union.

In recent years, the Farm Bureau has made special efforts to destroy the United Farm Workers of America. Among its most infamous attempts are:

- **1965-1970**—During the first grape strike and boycott, the Farm Bureau attempted to pressure stores which removed scab grapes into putting them back on the shelves; provided legal and financial help to the grape growers to fight the union; produced propaganda that distorted the lives and working conditions of farm workers and lied about the UFWA; and formed front groups such as the “Freedom to Market Committee” to push its anti-union drive.

- **May, 1972**—Faced with defeat on the grape boycott and with the new UFWA drive in the lettuce fields, the Farm Bureau began to sponsor legislation aimed at outlawing the boycott and restricting the rights of farm workers to strike. Such legislation was signed into law in Arizona on May 15, 1972, but was defeated in Idaho, Oregon, Florida, New York, and the U.S. Senate.

- **November, 1972**—The Farm bureau-sponsored and financed Proposition 22, aimed at crippling the UFWA by outlawing the boycott and harvest-time strikes, was soundly defeated by California voters. The California Secretary of State announced that the measure was put on the ballot through the use of over 60,000 fraudulent signatures gathered by the Farm Bureau’s allies and large growers.

- **December, 1973**—Again faced with the defeat of its legislative attempts to destroy the UFWA, the national Farm Bureau convention applauded Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons, who crossed a UFWA picket line to propose that the Teamsters try to replace the UFWA in the fields. The Teamsters’ leadership then announced the signing of a series of sweetheart contracts with the growers, touching off a series of strikes by thousands of California farm workers during the summer of 1973.
When we used to work in Texas picking cotton, the machines came and took our jobs away. Then we picked tomatoes and the machines came and took our jobs away. The same with carrots. We had to keep moving,' 18-year-old UFWA member, Maximo Huerta, described to the press what has become a stark reality to farm workers across the country: destruction of thousands of jobs by the mechanization of agriculture. Traditionally labor-intensive crops like lettuce, tomatoes, cotton, berries, and grapes are becoming increasingly mechanized as growers seek to increase profits.

One Salinas grower told a major California newspaper: "Since we got rid of our high-labor crops our profits have been better and the labor force we do have on the machines is easier to get along with— a lot of housewives and young people earning money for a few weeks."

Institutions like the University of California and the U.S. Department of Agriculture pour millions into developing tough-skinned tomatoes or chemicals to defoliate cotton, but they pay little attention to the needs of the farm workers. University of California economist John Marner admitted to the press that, "I don't really know what's happening to displaced workers. But commonsense tells you that there must be a lot of people sitting around waiting for work."

The struggle of the UFWA to assure the availability and dignity of farm work has been met with coldly conscious attempts by the growers to replace workers with machines. One California grape grower, Leroy Kirschenmann, claims that, "If I ever have labor problems I'll tear out these vines and plant ones I can harvest by machine."

The UFWA says it will continue to fight against the irresponsible introduction of machinery into farm work. UFWA organizer Al Rojas, during a fight against a mechanization attempt by Roberts Farms last year, said: "They put the damn machines into the cotton fields; they put the machines into the tomato fields, and into some fruit crops. THAT'S ENOUGH! NO MORE MACHINES!"

The California lettuce harvest, according to University of California-Davis agricultural specialist, employs from 6,000 to 7,000 workers each year. A mechanical lettuce harvester would probably destroy from 1,500 to 1,700 jobs.

Mechanization

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**Labor and movement news**

Once again the working peoples of America are being asked to bear the brunt of corporate greed and government irresponsibility. Residents of Rockdale Village, a 24,000-person housing project in Queens, New York, will be without heat this winter because the Paragon Oil company cut their fuel quota by 80%. Yet President Nixon, in one weekend, uses enough fuel to heat an ordinary home for 155 years.

AF-L-CIO President George Meany recently said: "While all Americans face inconvenience, discomfort and some hardship, workers face even worse. Workers, especially industrial plants, transportation and retail stores, face a clear threat of loss of jobs and income."

General Motors recently announced it would shut down 16 of its major plants for a week in December, a move designed to correct the over-production of big cars. The shutdowns will mean layoffs for some 105,000 workers across the nation.

The major airlines are taking similar measures. United plans to lay-off 950 employees as of Jan. 1, while Frontier Airlines has laid-off 150 employees.

In the meantime, profits of the oil companies continue to grow at unprecedented rates. In the first quarter of 1973, profits for the world's seven largest oil corporations were greater than in any other three-month period in history. This represents the crux of the situation: the energy crisis is not serving to increase the profits of the rich. While it is true that the long-run supplies of natural gas are being used up at an incredible rate, it is also true that the current "crisis" is very much the result of "self-made" scarcity of fuel. By cutting back on exploratory operations and by holding gas back from the 500 wells off the coast of Louisiana, the fuel monopolies have driven prices upward.

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**NEWSSBRIEFS**

**Textile workers demand union rights**

CROSSVILLE, Tennessee--Workers from this textile mill town spontaneously walked off their jobs on Aug. 25, and called upon the Textile Workers Union to represent them in collective bargaining negotiations with the town's largest textile mill. The 500 workers, 80% of the company's workforce, are new entering their fourth month of battle with the company, Rusoeihan, which has refused to recognize the union or enter into negotiations. The company did agree to worker's demands for a 25-cent an-hour wage raise over their $2.20 hourly average, but it has continued to deny the workers' desire for their own union.

**UAW strikers win pact**

The Caterpillar Tractor Company and the 30,000 striking members of the United Auto Workers have reached tentative agreement on a three-year national contract, but local disputes remain unresolved in three cities. The contract provides for a 3% wage increase in each of its three years, plus 4 cents an hour more the first year. Other provisions include retirement after 30 years of employment, limits on compulsory overtime, and a dental care plan.

**Woodcock wins humanitarian award**

United Auto Workers President Leonard Woodcock has been awarded the 1973 National Indian Youth Council's "looking for a suspect" award. The presentation took place at a dinner in Detroit on Nov. 28. Woodcock was honored because of "his contribution to American life and to the welfare of mankind."

The UAW has been among the largest regular financial contributors to the UFWA since the Grower-Teamster attack began this year.

**Native Americans fight for rights**

The Native American's civil rights struggle is in part beginning, says Lehman Brighton, director of Native American Studies at California State University at Sacramento.

Besides the more publicized demonstrations of militancy, the Indians' civil rights movement, says Brighton, is "finding jobs for Indians, getting into universities and colleges on scholarships, and having Indian professors teaching the truth about our people."

It's also doing battle with the irresponsible Bureau of Indian Affairs which, Brighton claims, has failed to meet its obligations, getting Indians in health and education, he said.

**Student-worker alliance wins strike**

Some 45,000 students and workers won an impressive victory this month after a 25-day strike against 13 campuses of the University of Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rican Council of Higher Education has agreed to demands for the establishment of a student-professor-worker committee to hear recommendations regarding participation in the selection of university administrators, student activities, and working conditions of the non-teaching staff and workers.

**Butz' policies hurt on poor**

Recent reports from Washington economists show that the biggest blame for sky-high food prices in supermarkets falls upon Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz. He was the one who sold scarce wheat to the Russians and made faulty estimates of food production.

As usual, the poors have paid the highest price for these irresponsible acts. Dept. of Agriculture files show that supermarket inflation has affected basic necessities far more than it has luxury items. So for many this winter, hunger and under-nourishment will be holiday visitors.

**Black workers fight tobacco automation**

SANTA FE, New Mexico--On September 5, Escuela Tomatina, a Chicano community school in Agua Fria was attacked by local, county and state police. According to reports, 40 police, FBI agents, and an army helicopter were used in the assault.

The attack was on the school of El Comité del Barrio. The School was set up by Chicano students who were pleased with their automatic weapons and ammunition.

That night, before the attack, Santa Fe television stations were interrupted with police messages to local people that had been hired to bring the automatic weapons and ammunition to the ambush.

-Lucia y Colegio Tomatina was established to serve the educational needs of Chicanos. It offered courses in drama and theatre, dance, arts and crafts, Chicano history and drug education as well as standard courses. The school is run by a Chicano group called El Comité del Barrio.

-Native American's civil rights movement, says Brighton, is "finding jobs for Indians, getting into universities and colleges on scholarships, and having Indian professors teaching the truth about our people."

Local community and civil rights groups are rallying in support of the workers who were fired from their jobs and report­ed damage from the plant and buildings before they were placed under arrest. One of the eight workers has since been rehired by the management.

Complaints were filed by the fired workers with the National Labor Relations Board and the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission. The sit-in demonstration was believed to be the first by Black workers in the recent history of the South.

This struggle has highlighted the bad effect of automation on all workers in the plant, black and white. Over the years Black workers have been the main producers of the tobacco plants. With increased automation working conditions have changed. These have become cleaner, cooler and easier and an increasing number of jobs have been allocated to whites.

The Black workers, as has been true historically, were the first to be discharged and also some white workers were laid off. It was to protect these Discriminatory layoffs that the sit-in took place at the beginning of the second shift.

The only response the workers got to their six hours of protest was from the police who were cal­led to drag them from their jobs. This has led to the resentment of many in the Black and white sectors of Louisville.
"We are Eagles... who must strike like Doves..."

In a time of need and violence it is easy to get angry and start a powerful movement within us.

A movement which seems to grow and tear at our insides. You seem to have the strength of a lion and are willing to use that strength in stopping the injustice anyway you can.

And rightly so it might seem, especially when pigs are beating up handuffed women, and brutally killing drunken men. When the law is one sided and not interested in justice but in feeling dominant.

When people take the land that used to belong to us and try to have us work it under unfair conditions, inappropriate facilities, and for a fraction of the money which we deserve. When they try and treat us like animals and like children which can be fooled and played with as if merchandise.

They forget that our ancestors, the Aztecs, were far more advanced and had the knowledge for which men are still seeking. And if they had not been so barbaric with their greedy ways and had paid more attention to what was here and tried to understand the civilization as it was, this would be a better world.

All of this and more burns inside of us as we try to use our heads wisely in this land of corrupt politics, where the motto seems to be "the rich get richer and the poor get poorer." As we try to keep calm and try to explain the dealings that go on behind peoples' backs, to a closed-minded person who never stopped to question if what his parents and friends had told him had any sense to it all.

You feel the discrimination against you and wonder why they think that they are better than you, and can treat you like dirt.

You get sick to your stomach and know that something must be done. You know that there may be a time when we will have to fight till death, and when that time comes we will be ready for it.

But now when we have the angered feeling and strength of volcanos ready to burst, we must remember that we are Eagles with wisdom, and are not volcanos, and must strike like Doves, peacefully. And we must use this energy in a totally non-violent way, to bring justice and to put a stop to the violence that has shed the blood of our brothers and sisters.

And it is this way in which we must free the oppressed, and open the eyes of the oppressor to the true value and meaning of equality of all people, for once and for all.

Viva la Revolucion!

Gerardo Vazquez
Goshen, California

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**December 14, 1973**
Dear Brothers:  
Enclosed is $5.00 please send me 50 copies of the next MAL-CHIADO, to the return address on the envelope.

Also enclosed are some details on the Lansing rally of Oct 78. There are two exceptions to be made, that I numbered on the article, if you want to use it:

1. The reference to Krogers taking off the grapes was taken out of context; it referred to the first grape boycott in 1966.

2. Ray Alvarez is not just a “boycott supporter”; he is the director of AFIL-CIO-COPE in Michigan and Ohio. He was sent to California by Meany for three months this summer.

3. There were 500 at the rally, and nearly 300 of these marched. We got extensive TV and press coverage and quite a few people for the picket lines out of the rally. Also the number of people coming to shop at that particular store sharply decreased as a direct result of that march.  

Viva la Causa!  
Sam Baca

Lettuce workers ask Union help

To the Farm Workers Union,  
presided by Cesar Chavez:

We direct ourselves to this honorable organization in order to request your intervention, if possible of Chavez himself, to save all of us farm workers who sell our labor in the lettuce harvest in the area of Firebaugh, Ca. They treat us worse than they did under piece-work, worse than they did last year. The machines, without pausing, keep up their long march during the work hours, controlled by the strong bosses by merely a move of the hands. We are all hurt by the few large landowners who are hungry with ambition to enrich themselves from the sweat of the working class, and with sadness we see how we are saved from the lion’s mouth, only to be stuck in the mouth of the wolf.

We hope only that we can be considered by the cause of the organized farmworkers. A fraternal greeting.

Jose F. Vargas

(Companero Vargas, please send us your address so that the Union can get in touch with you. Thank you.- EL MAL-

Support boycott!

After reading the article on the front page of the issue (Nov. 16, 1973), I find it necessary to respond to the situation faced by Margarita Flores of the Service Center in Santa Maria...

Governor Reagan vetoed a recent bill to provide unemployment insurance for farm workers; the enemies of our struggle have made their stand clear. Teamster conspiracy with the growers, violence upon our women and children by teamster goons and county sheriffs, racist legislation in local districts from grower-black- ed representatives, the continued exploitation of farm workers from the governor on down— we have seen it all. Support for the boycott cities across the country must continue with all the pain and sacrifice of being away from home and families that this action entails.

May the example of Juan de la Cruz be a guide in these treacherous times, a man devoted to the union until the very day he died. 

Fach of us must be constantly aware of the fact that the Teamsters are not about to capitulate on any front, and now they are even trying to stop us from feeding our families.

William B. Perkins

L.A. Food Drive

Church groups support boycott

The National Board of the Soci- ety of the Holy Child Jesus has pledged very active support of the UFWA in its boycotting efforts, in an official memo from the National Board to the Ameri- can provinces, the SHCJ called for its sisters to honor the boycotting efforts, write letters to officials of retail stores, to picket all insti- tutions promoting violations of the boycotts, pledge money, and to do volunteer work with the UFWA.

The resolution states in part: “The National Board of the SHCJ supports the struggle of the Unified Farm Workers in their battle against the Teamsters Union and the powerful California Growers, and urges the sisters to refrain from purchasing, serving, and eating/ storing/ eating lettuce and grapes unless clearly marked with the Black Eagle label of the UFWA.”

The Fort Worth Committee to Aid Farm Workers, an organ of the Fort Worth Council of Churches, held a press conference on November 15 at which the Committee announced renewed support for the UFWA. The Reverend Eugene Witkowski, head of the Committee and chancellor of the Fort Worth Catholic Diocese, blasted the Teamsters Union for going back on the agreement which had been reached between the Teamsters and the UFWA.

“At a meeting in Cincinnati of the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in October, support for the basic rights of farm workers to organ- ize and have their own union became a formal resolution. “Be it resolved that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) re- affirms support for the right of farm workers, including migratory and seasonal workers, to organize and join a union of their own choosing, and to engage in collective bargaining with employers.”

Daiullah’s parents send thanks

UFWA: Service Center

In reply to your letter...  
I want to thank UFWA and you for all what you have done during the time of my son’s murder, and I have been in a sad state, with all of the family and all of the people in Yemen for what has been done.

I thank you also for your wonderful letter and I hope that you will not let my son’s death be a loss. Very truly yours;

Moushin Dafullah

Moushin Dafullah

Moushin Dafullah's parents send thanks
At the first farm workers constitutional convention

by Jose Montoya

The other day
in Fresno
in a giant arena
Architectured
To reject the poor
Cesar Chavez
Brought the poor
Together
In large numbers
Eighteen hundred delegates
On the convention floor
Apart
And a few thousand
More in the
Galleries and outside
The poor
Had come together
For protection
Thousands
From the chaos
Shamed harvests

From all the fields
Of all the farmlands
Of
America!

Farmworkers! Farmworkers!
The unorganizable--
Now it is a convention!

And no fancy briefcases
Here, no expensive set.
Of Samsonite, here,
Or even stylish Botony 500s

Songs, Songs!
Even of the
Floor of decorum
Singing in defiance
Of Mr. Robert's rules

Faces
Of Farmworkers
Organized
Confident! Unafraid!
Contemplating
The ratification
Of
Article thirty-seven

organized!

Culminating
That humble
Man's awesome task
Of organizing
The unorganizable

Farmworkers, farmworkers!
Workers of the fields

I
Saw the familiar,
Weather-beaten
Faces of yester-grapes

That drag bodies across
The oven valley of Coachella
Faces
That have suffered
Exploitation
And
Deportation

So many things had happened since 1877, working on the hacienda of San Ysidro,
Gobbled up the left-overs of the '60's, years of hard experience, corrupt judges who

FL MALCRIADO December 14, 1973 15
LOOK AT THE FARM WORKER CHILDREN

PICK ONE TO DIE OF PESTICIDE POISONING
800 workers a year die of pesticide poisoning.
(The U.S. Dept. of Labor as quoted in the Wall Street Journal, July 13, 1973.)

PICK ONE TO DIE OF TUBERCULOSIS OR ANOTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASE
The tuberculosis and infectious disease rate for farm workers is 260% higher than the national average.
(U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Migratory Labor)

PICK ONE TO DIE IN AN ON-THE-JOB ACCIDENT
The on-the-job accident rate is 300% higher for farm workers.
(U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Migratory Labor)

PICK THE LUCKY ONE. HE MIGHT LIVE TO BE 49.
The average life expectancy for the migrant farm worker is 49.
(U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Migratory Labor)

OR YOU CAN CHOOSE TO HELP......
BOYCOTT GRAPES!
BOYCOTT LETTUCE!
BOYCOTT GALLO!
BOYCOTT SAFEWAY!
BOYCOTT A&P!

Josef F. Cortés speaks at a meeting in Selma where over 300 persons gathered.
Sr. Cortés said, "We can all make this movement stronger by going door-to-door to sell El MALCHIADO."
Photo: El Solitario