

Unionists Set Caravan to Delano

See Page 6

UFW

AFL-CIO

EL MALCRIADO

La Voz del Campesino

Vol. VII, NO. 13

10

December 23, 1974

© 1974 Cesar Chavez

Donation

HUELGUISTAS CAMPAIGN FOR ELECTIONS IN SAN LUIS



The Lamont field office and its members, under the direction of Pablo Expinoza, have taken on the dual task of carrying the UFW boycott to the Arvin-Lamont and Bakersfield areas as they also picket grape fields that are being pruned. In the above photo, is the Lamont group at a picket lines they formed at Giumarra grape field . . .

. . . while at the field one young striker attempts to reason with the scab workers pruning the grape vines by telling them of the benefits enjoyed by workers under the UFW contracts. (Photos by EL MALCRIADO)



UFW Hits Police Conspiracy

San Luis, Arizona--United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO, of Arizona hit the lemon groves and courtrooms with a campaign in December to win elections for the workers and to defeat a law enforcement conspiracy aimed at breaking the union's four and a half month old strike.

Striking picketers at the Yuma-area lemon groves won hundreds of new signatures on union authorization cards while UFW attorneys went into state, federal and local courts to stop a riot of police violence that began Nov. 5 and continued to Nov. 19.

The violence--a wave of clubbing, tear-gassing, "brutal mactings" and felony arrests that UFW attorney Jim Rutkowski called "a conspiracy to break our strike"--sparked a plea from union president Cesar Chavez to restore law and order, and a visit to the area by Congressmen investigating the conflict.

UFW stike organizer Gilbert Rodriguez toured the struck groves Dec. 9 and reported to EL MALCRIADO:

"I saw very few pickers while the growers claim they have 2,500 working; the trees in many groves were loaded down with fruit, even though the growers claim the harvest is 60 per cent completed; today the growers are broadcasting radio spots across the border in Mexico asking for pickers, an indication they must be hurting real bad."

Rodriguez reported many pickers are still coming out of the groves to sign union authorization cards. "I think we will win this strike soon, as soon as the new governor comes in and we get rid of the present farm labor board and hold union elections," he said.

Election Agreement

The union strategy was aimed at forcing the 1,000 area growers to follow through on their so-called "agreement" reached with visiting Congressmen to hold informal elections in the groves to decide the strike's outcome, since the UFW opposes official elections under a state farm labor law that excludes seasonal and migrant workers from voting.

Rep. George Brown, Jr., D-Calif., and Rep. Edward Roybal, D-Calif., visited the groves Nov. 30. Rep. Brown reported an agreement was won from Steve Shadle, growers attorney, for representational elections to be held under state auspices but outside the framework of the contested law.

Shadle confirmed reaching an agreement, maintaining the growers are confident "the union does not represent our workers."

In a telephone interview, Shadle said "We said we would cooperate if the union can show evidence it represents our workers and can go to the governor and find out how to circumvent the farm labor law."

Meanwhile, as Rodriguez, Mauricio Urias and other organizers collected the authorization cards under the direction of Manuel Chavez, brother of Cesar Chavez, the UFW

(Continued to Pg. 15)



Do Not Buy

All trade unionists and their families are requested to support consumer boycotts against the products and services of companies which, because of their anti-union policies, don't deserve union patronage.

The following listing is subject to change but as of press time boycotts of these firms were in effect:

TABLE GRAPES AND LETTUCE. that do not bear the union label of the United Farm Workers of America. (United Farm Workers of America).

PLASTIC PIPE AND FITTINGS. R & G Sloane Manufacturing Corp., Sun Valley, Cal. On strike since March 11, 1973. (Local 621 United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum and Plastic Workers).

FURNITURE. Rowe Furniture Co., Poplar Bluff, Mo. On strike since July 11, 1973. (Upholsterers International Union).

CIGARETTES AND TOBACCO. R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., producers of Winston, Salem, Camels, Doral, Vantage, Winchester (little cigars) and Prince Albert Smoking Tobacco. (Tobacco Workers International Union).

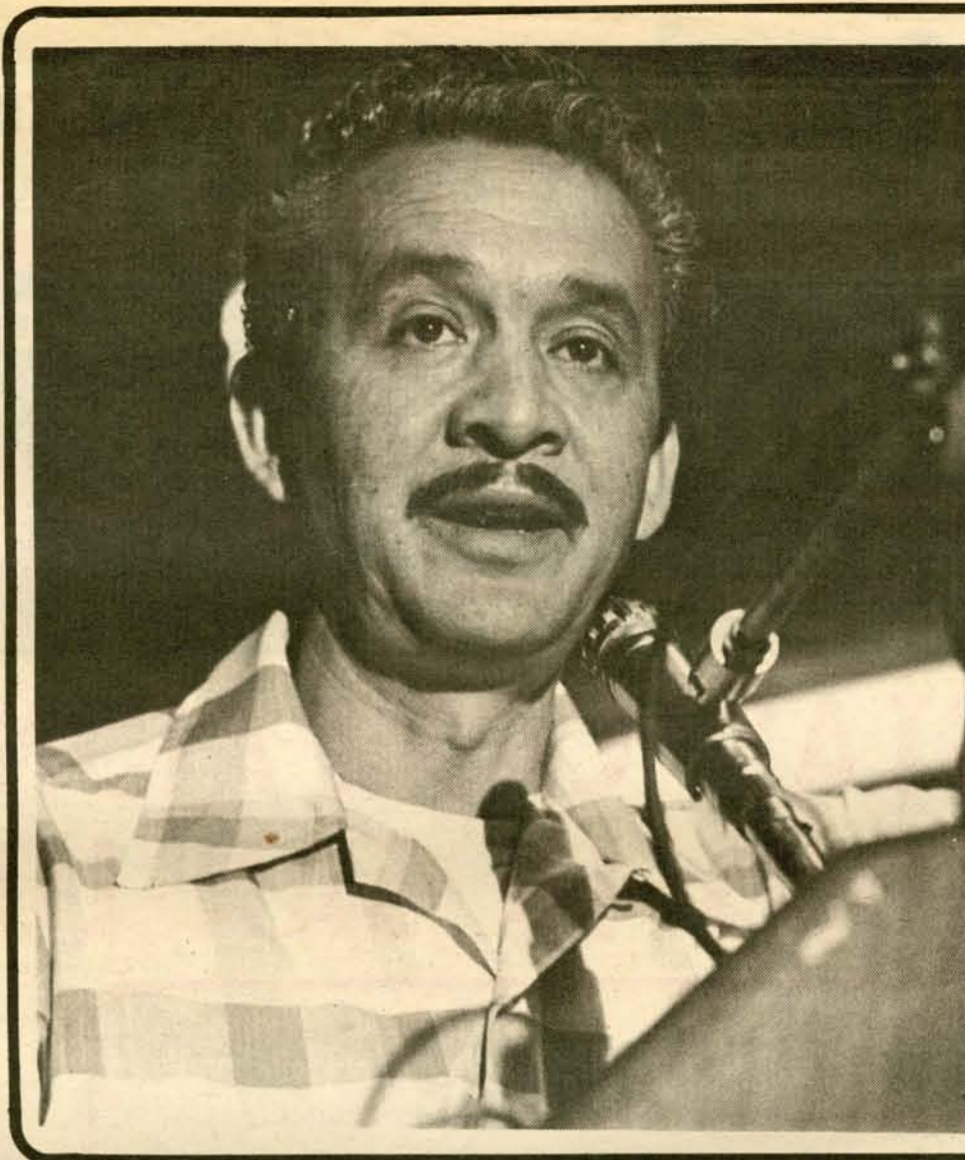
PRESCRIPTION EYEGLASSES, CONTACT LENSES AND OPTICAL FRAMES. Eyeglass frames and lenses, contact lenses, sunglasses and safety glasses manufactured by Dal-Tex Optical Co. These products are sold by numerous retail opticians, optometrists, vision centers, department stores, etc., including Vision Centers Inc., Lee Vision Centers Inc., Lee Optical Corp., King Optical Co., Missouri State Optical, Douglas Optical, Opti-Cal of California, Goldblatt Optical Service, Capitol Optical and Mesa Optical. (International Union of Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers.)

LIQUORS. Stitzel-Weller Distilleries, producers of Old Fitzgerald, Cabin Still, Old Elk, W. L. Weller. (Distillery Workers).

PRINTING. Kingsport Press, producers of World Book, and Childcraft. (Printing and Graphic Communications Union; Graphic Arts International Union; International Typographical Union; International Association of Machinists).

Los Angeles Herald Examiner. (Ten unions involved covering 2,000 workers).

Encyclopedia Britannica and Britannica Jr. (International Allied Printing Trades Association).



Gilbert Padilla, UFW Secretary-Treasurer, denounced last week a move by Fred Starrh of the Kern county Farm Bureau to put farm workers under the jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Board. In the photo, Padilla is seen speaking at a rally in Fresno during the 1972 campaign against Proposition 22. (photo by Glen Pearcy)

Gilbert Padilla Hits Kern County Farm Bureau

Keene, Calif.--UFW Secretary-Treasurer Gilbert Padilla said Dec. 17 the union will oppose a move by Kern County Farm Bureau chief Fred Starrh to put farm workers under National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) jurisdiction.

Starrh, president of the Kern County Farm Bureau and delegate to the recent California Farm Bureau convention, announced Dec. 16 the state Farm Bureau would seek support for NLRB coverage of farm workers at the national Farm Bureau convention in New Orleans next month.

Starrh, who criticized the information Padilla recently gave to national columnist Jack Anderson about the plight of farm workers, said the state Farm Bureau seeks Congressional support for the NLRB move.

"The NLRB is no good for us," said Padilla. "What unions have been able to organize since the NLRB amendments? He referred to amendments in the NLRB act which limit a union's right to strike and conduct boycotts to enforce its contract demands.

Padilla rejected Starrh's criticism, which was voiced in a letter to the editor of the Bakersfield Californian on Dec. 12. Referring to the nationally distributed Anderson column, Starrh said "From the tone of the article it appears that all farmers are lolling by their swimming pools with highballs in hand subjecting

their farm workers to economic poverty, which is a total and gross

lie. Kern County farmers are very concerned with maintaining an adequate and responsible labor force."

Padilla responded, "That's a typical grower reaction. But don't put any faith in NLRB legislation

because it's not going to happen in Washington, they're not interested. In California, however,

now we have a chance for a good bill for farm workers with a good governor coming in."

Padilla was quoted by Anderson in a Dec. 1 column about the "Human Side of Economic Distress" as saying the average stoop la-

borer earns a meager \$3,000 a year.

Columnist Anderson said in part: "Probably the worst off are the migrant farm laborers...for these wandering workers, who move from crop to crop in beat-up trucks, the gasoline price rise has been a disaster. Even more serious has been the increase in the price of beans from 18 to 69 cents a pound.

"Many migrant workers, who help make America the best-fed nation in history, are themselves undernourished. Some are too poor to afford even the government stamps to buy cut-price food, and they exist on a diet of starches and water."

UFW Challenges Gallo for IBT Evidence in Court Case

Livingston, Calif.--The UFW legal department this month succeeded in getting the Gallo company into court on a case which may force the winery to produce evidence that the Teamsters union actually represents its workers.

Gallo sent a high-powered lawyer from Fresno, the Delano growers' legal ace Bill Quinlan, to a hearing in a petty misdemeanor case in Livingston Dec. 13 where UFW demands for the Teamster evidence were heard.

The UFW asked Justice of the Peace Walter Lane to grant a subpoena for discovery of evidence that is needed to defend two union organizers, Gilbert Rodriguez and Juan Perez, against charges of trespass, malicious mischief and assault. The charges stemmed from an alleged incident Sept. 9 during the UFW's 1974 strike at Gallo's vineyards near Livingston.

Quinlan and the district attorney told Justice Lane, who is not a lawyer himself, that "You can't do it, it would be improper" to grant the UFW's request for evidence. Lane agreed to deny the request, and union attorney

Peter Haberfeld announced he would seek an order from a higher court commanding Lane to grant the defendants' right of discovery.

"They're real scared," said Haberfeld. "They're going to great lengths in this petty misdemeanor case to make sure they don't have to produce that evidence. But this is our major campaign here, trying to expose as fraudulent and false the Gallo claim that the Teamsters really represent their workers."

Gallo Lies

The complaints against Rodriguez and Perez stemmed from Gallo's claim that the Teamsters already represent its workers so that UFW organizers had no right calling for a strike at the vineyards in September, when approximately 240 workers walked out.

Haberfeld said the union, while contesting the claim that Gallo's workers asked for Teamster representation in June, 1973, is citing California state laws that exempt labor organizers from certain trespass provisions. The UFW says farm labor organizers should be similarly exempted.

OCAW Blames Oil Companies for Hardships

The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union blamed the oil companies for much of the nation's economic woes in a full-page ad in last Monday's edition of the Los Angeles Times.

The ad stated, for example, "Increased oil prices were responsible, directly or indirectly, for almost half of last year's increase in the cost of living, according to a congressional study...While the industry has prospered, we've suffered. In 1966, our average wage was \$3.45 an hour. Today, we get \$3.27 an hour in 1966 dollars."

The ad concluded by saying, "We can't let the oil industry get away with blaming workers and consumers for our nation's ills...if we allow corporations to continue playing off one segment of the public against another, we'll never get to the real root of the problem."

"And it's real clear in law that each side has the right to know about the other's evidence, there are not supposed to be Perry Mason surprises at areal trials," said Haberfeld.

The subpoena filed Nov. 25 by Haberfeld calls on Gallo's custodian of records and Robert J. Gallo to produce "records, petitions, lists, authorization cards, ballots, or any other item... which (Gallo) contends to constitute proof that a majority of its full-time employees stated preference in June, 1973, for representation by the Teamsters and stated rejection of representation by United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO."

Haberfeld said it is his belief that Gallo "will content that defendants (Rodriguez and Perez) had no lawful business to perform at its property because the Teamsters represent its workers. It is defendants' contention that the Company's claim is a lie. Therefore, the evidence...is relevant to the defense."

Haberfeld said Rodriguez and Perez are suffering discriminatory prosecution because they are members of the UFW.

Economic Crisis Hits City Workers

The deteriorating economic situation will hit municipal employees hard in the next coming weeks according to the UPI report released this past week.

The report announced, for example, that New York city would

lay-off 8,800 workers or 2% of the city's payroll. In addition, cities such as Austin, Texas, Detroit and Cleveland were planning lay-offs as high as 10% by New Year's Eve.

LAMONT STRIKERS PICKET VINEYARDS

Lamont, Calif. — A small group of hard-working, dedicated huelgistas, working out of the field office here, is carrying on a determined fight against the go-liath grape growers in the area and against Gallo wines.

About 20 hard-core strikers are devoting their time and energy in clearing the Arvin, Lamont and Bakersfield markets and liquor stores of all Gallo wines. Recently they have also begun setting picket lines in the grape fields which are presently being pruned.

The farmworkers have been successful, with the use of picket lines, in clearing almost all the retail stores in Arvin and Lamont, just outside Bakersfield, of all Gallo wines. While in Bakersfield itself they have successfully discouraged close to 40 store owners and managers from carrying Gallo wines.

The boycotters are presently picketing ThriftyMart stores in Bakersfield, the first three days out of the week, and the next three days they spend picketing the area grape fields.

Pruning started three weeks ago on the grape fields around Arvin-Lamont and now the huelgistas are enduring the cold weather which has hit the area trying to convince the pruners to go out on strike.

Here too they have been successful and they report that last Monday they managed to talk 25 workers out of one field alone. They also report that one day hasn't gone by in which they have not been able to convince some workers into leaving the grape fields.

These relentless huelgistas are more than determined in their struggle and field organizers promise that they will never rest until all of Kern county is cleared of all Gallo wines.

Pablo Espinoza, field office director, says that "enthusiasm is high among the strikers and that their only direction is forward."

Tomato Striker Acquitted

Stockton, Calif.—Jose Salcedo-Gonzales, UFW member and tomato striker, was acquitted of charges of assaulting a police officer and resisting arrest, in the Stockton Municipal Court on December 2, 1974.

Salcedo-Gonzales, accused of throwing a board at a San Joaquin County Sheriff, during the early days of the Stockton tomato strike.

The sheriff admitted on the witness stand, however, that he never saw any board thrown at him nor that he had even seen Salcedo-Gonzales that day. The arresting officer was the only one who claimed he had seen Salcedo-Gonzales throw the board an incredible 45 feet trying to hit the other officer.

While on the stand, Salcedo-Gonzales explained to the court that during some arrests of picketing strikers he became concerned for the safety of his twelve year-old son and took a flag pole half an inch thick away from him to avoid anyone getting hurt with it. He then said that he threw the stick over a fence into an empty tomato field and was promptly arrested for assault.

Presiding Judge Giffen noted, after hearing all testimony, that there was no evidence of intent to injure anyone, and acquitted Salcedo-Gonzales.



Enduring the bitter cold that has struck the Arvin-Lamont area near Bakersfield, Calif., a UFW member stands guard on a picket line at Giumarra vineyard that is presently being pruned. Pruning started three weeks ago and since then 15 to 20 UFW members have been spending their work week picketing the fields and the other half picketing stores in Bakersfield that carry scab products. (EL MALCRIADO photo)

Farming Interests Hold Back School Funds

Keene, Calif. — Kern County school districts are suffering serious financial cutbacks and county taxpayers are experiencing higher tax rates because a small group of large corporation farming interests are delinquent in paying their taxes.

Delinquent tax lists, published in 15 county newspapers in September, show that 25 companies owned or controlled by Hollis Roberts of McFarland, C. Arnholt Smith of San Diego and Michael J. Coen of Kansas City, Missouri owe the county hundreds of thousands of dollars

in delinquent 1973 property taxes.

The amounts owed by the Roberts-Smith-Coen enterprises and their associates—who were involved in questionable land deals in the last three years—total \$913,289.43, which comprises about 18 per cent of the total delinquent taxes published.

Hardest hit by the unpaid taxes are the Kern County school districts, with the Roberts-Smith-Coen group owing sums totaling more than \$10,000 in delinquent taxes in each of 11 elementary districts.

The districts and total back taxes owed are :

- McFarland, \$ 217,949.22;
- DiGiorgio, \$ 64,155.37;
- Lakeside, \$ 52,544.56;
- Panama \$ 48,785.31
- Taft, \$ 47,048.95;
- Wasco, \$40,544.51;
- Pond, \$ 27,002.81;
- Gen Shafter \$ 23,825.30;
- El Tejon, \$ 19,025.67;
- Richland \$ 10,515.74.

The DiGiorgio School District southeast of Bakersfield has felt the hardest impact, according to Superintendent George Rule, who says he had to cut the district's undistributed reserve from \$20,000 to a "ridiculously low" \$12,000.

The cut in the reserve, according to Rule, placed the district in a precarious position in that it has very little to fall back on, in case of a financial emergency.

Another effect the unpaid taxes are having in the districts, according to official sources, is pushing up the tax rates that are paid by the majority of the county taxpayers.

The DiGiorgio district's tax rate, for example, has risen from last year's \$2.49 per \$100 of assessed valuation to this year's high of \$3.25. Pond district's rate has been upped 22 cents and the Delano district 57 cents from last year's rates.

One official in the financial community says the increase in tax rates when large taxpayers don't pay comes about because those who do pay must take up the slack. This is usually the small taxpayer.

"The same amount of dollars must be raised," says Dr. Frank E. Dyer of the Delano School District.

Other observers believe that the Roberts-Smith-Coen group also distorted real land values in their dealings and thus inflated the assessed valuations of agricultural lands. This of course led to higher taxes being levied on the lands.

So, according to these observers, Roberts and his cronies

their property taxes but they are also responsible for such high taxes being placed on inflated land values in the first place.

The reasons given by some sources for large land owners not paying their property taxes

is because the 6 percent penalty is cheaper than to borrow money to pay the taxes. But the small property owner can't even afford

the small penalty and so he must pull not only his weight but also that of Roberts, Smith and Coen.

Trade Unionists Worldwide Renew UFW Backing

Brussels, Belgium--The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) Executive Committee unanimously passed a resolution November 22 endorsing the UFW-sponsored boycott of scab grapes and lettuce:

"The Executive Board is invited to authorize the General Secretary to ask the ICFTU affiliates, especially those in Europe, to express their solidarity with the United Farm Workers of America by organizing consumer boycotts of California grapes and lettuce during the period of January and February, 1975 and by taking any further action that may be appropriate in their national circumstances."

According to Tom Bavin, General Secretary of the International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers (of which the UFW is a member), the unions in Denmark, Scandinavia, Germany, Tokyo and Holland expressed a great deal of interest in assisting the UFW boycott.

FRONT LINE



"Strikes and the boycott are the Union's front line of defense."
— Cesar Chavez, June, 1974

"Cesar's Greetings" in East L.A.

East Los Angeles, Calif.— "Cesar's Greetings" is the message with which the East Los Angeles Boycott Committee has kicked off its holiday campaign.

Large festive placards held by East L.A. boycotters have appeared along the city's streets asking passers-by to boycott Gallo wines and non-UFW lettuce and grapes. The green holiday posters also convey UFW president Cesar Chavez's Christmas greetings.

The posters are the latest brainstorm of resourceful Los Angeles area boycotters, whose ingenuity for reaching the public in unconventional ways has fired the imaginations of UFW supporters in many other cities.

The East Los Angeles Boycott Committee, headed by former Gallo striker Bobby De la Cruz, is working especially hard to get the boycott message to holiday consumers. The committee is holding house meetings almost every day of the week to expand its organizing efforts.

Besides the house meetings, the East L.A. boycotters are spending Sundays going to churches where the help educate the general public about the UFW boycott and ask support through contributions and

commitments to join the boycott.

On Saturdays the UFW boycotters set up picket lines in front of the city's large supermarkets that still carry non-UFW products. The boycotters are concentrating their efforts more in trying to get customers to honor the boycott than in trying to persuade store operators to remove Gallo wines, grapes and non-UFW lettuce.

Large rallies are also part of the East L.A. boycotters' fundraising and organizing drive. On Dec. 15, a "Christmas for Farm Workers' Children" fiesta, which drew 4,000 persons, was held at

City Terrace park in East L.A.

Donation for the fiesta was a toy for a farm worker child or a can of food for a striking farm worker. Eight popular bands performed and the whole affair was broadcast by radio station KALH.

The East L.A. committee is also organizing a caravan to San Luis, Arizona, scene of the current UFW lemon strike, to take toys to the children of striking farm workers for Christmas. Among the contributors to the drive is Cardinal Manning of Los Angeles, who contributed \$100 for the purchase of toys.

UFW HITS A&P IN COURT SUIT

Atlanta, Georgia--The United Farm Workers union has filed suit in Federal District Court here over alleged attempts by the A&P supermarket chain to stop the boycott against non-UFW lettuce and grapes.

UFW volunteers and employees distributing leaflets were ordered by DeKalb police to leave A&P stores at two local shopping centers in violation of the UFW workers' constitutional right to free speech, the suit charges.

The suit names A&P, DeKalb County solicitor John Thompson,

DeKalb Police Chief F.D. Hand and DeKalb police officer C.E. Brewer, Jr. as defendants.

According to the suit, which was filed in mid-November, UFW supporters were threatened with arrest if they did not leave the sidewalks outside the two grocery stores after A&P officials called police.

The distribution of handbills "is the only effective means of carrying plaintiff's message to the potential customers of the A&P food stores."



Jason, a La Paz resident boycotting Tehachapi's Town and Country Market rests after stomping and yelling against Gallo scab wines. Jason, along with all the other La Paz UFW members, plans to picket T&C until it removes Gallo wine and non-union lettuce and grapes from its display counters. (Photo by EL MALCRIADO)

Class Struggle Hits Tehachapi

Tehachapi, Calif.—Town and Country Market was struck with a double whammy here Friday Dec. 13, when more than fifty UFW members from UFW headquarters in La Paz showed up at its doors and formed the first major picket line since 1954.

The UFW members are picketing the Tehachapi store, which is one of the few shopping spots for La Paz residents, because it broke an agreement reached last spring when the management agreed not to carry Gallo wines or scab lettuce and grapes. The store owners, however, only removed the grapes but not the lettuce and promised to allow their stock of Gallo wines to run out without re-ordering.

It was found later in the summer, however, that the scab products were never completely removed and La Paz residents decided to send a delegation to speak to the manager.

Along with the delegation went a bus load of UFW members with boycott placards. While the bus full of pickets waited outside the delegation went and spoke with Bob Mitchell, part-owner and manager, who refused to remove the Gallo wines or the scab grapes and lettuce. He explained that he was making more money with the products on the shelves and without the La Paz business.

When the pickets heard the untoward news they left the bus and began marching in front of the store chanting anti-Gallo slogans.

The picketing has continued everyday since, and the UFW members are receiving support from local

unions such as the Cement Lime and Gypsum Workers, the Service Employees International Union and the local American Federation of Teachers.

Picket organizers say that they will continue to educate the Tehachapi public about the boycott. They also say they will continue picketing until all scab products are removed from the store.

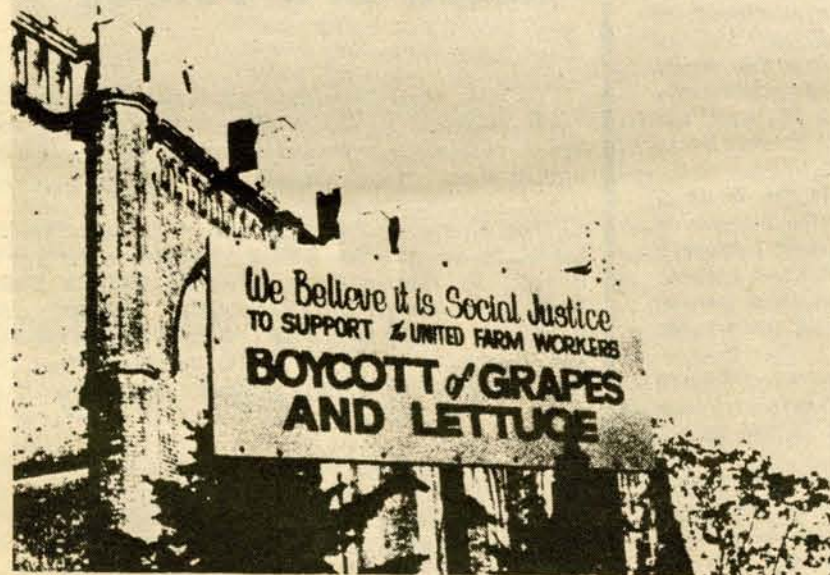
Catholic Bishops Reaffirm Farm Worker Support

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops, meeting in General Assembly, reaffirmed its support for the farm worker struggle for justice and called for immediate legislation assuring the right to secret ballot elections among agricultural workers.

The General Assembly passed the following resolution on November 21 stating:

We the bishops of the United States, reiterate the seriousness of the farm labor problem and believe the urgency for its solution is as grave as ever. It is a national scandal that at both the federal and state level sufficient pressure is not being brought to bear upon legislators to pass legislation that will be just to all parties.

That legislation must assure the farm workers the right to elections by secret ballot of a union of their choice. We therefore accept as a pastoral necessity our active concern in the solution of an evil that has gone on far too long.



Signs like these shown above are just two of the seventy which are displayed in front of churches and schools for the people of Toronto to easily see the boycott message of the United Farm Workers. (Photo by Toronto boycott committee)

UFW Makes Academia in Norway

In Oslo, Norway—Thousands of students here received an essay question on the UFW boycott of grapes and lettuce as part of their pre-university exams November 21.

Normally, only large national concerns are chosen as topics for the twice yearly exams. The university system is part of this country's public education; therefore, students throughout Norway were presented with the same question.

Following is a translation of the exam question:

"Customer A is dissatisfied that retailer B do not support the boycott of non-eagle labelled grapes and iceberg lettuce that are imported from California. One of the American unions for farm workers has urged this boycott as a nonviolent instrument in their struggle for social justice. The products the union wants to boycott are produced and distributed by companies that ignore the demands of the farm workers. The farm workers are among the poorest groups in American society. The boycott is already very effective in the USA and in Canada, but much will depend upon the development of the export

market in Europe. In Norway, the Norwegian Transport Workers Union has already urged a boycott by importers, retailers and consumers.

A has the opinion that B acts ethically wrong when he sells the products. B on the other hand has the opinion that he is completely neutral; he just follows the mechanics of marketing and acquires the products there is a demand for. The final decision must be up to the consumer, not to him, he says.

Propose ethical reasons for the point of view of one of the two parts. Start this analysis on the basis of fundamental norms that you formulate in the light of one of the philosophers you have read about in the curriculum, and argue on the basis of these norms. How do this philosopher justify that exactly these norms can assure an ethically right decision?

What would you assume to be the strongest argument by the opponent against this in-depth reasoning?

Would you say that one of the two parts are more right than the other, ethically speaking? How do you justify your position?"



A cold snow blizzard hit Massachusetts and so did the boycotting of grapes and lettuce. A crowd of over 400 people gathered outside of the New England Produce Center demanding the removal of scabbed lettuce and grapes. Jim Rodriguez, son of J. J. Rodriguez, President of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor is shown in the crowd with the boycotters.

Boycotters Issue Pre-Trial Statement

Today we are going to trial to face charges stemming from a November 16 demonstration at Big Y supermarket. On that day we did willfully enter the store with the intent of remaining until grapes were removed from all Big Y stores.

Our intent was not malicious or criminal. Nor did we enter to cause harm to Big Y or its customers. We entered to protect the basic civil rights of farm workers.

Our action was a response to a trail of broken promises on the part of Big Y to the United Farm Workers. It seemed outrageous that Big Y should use the holiday season to put profits before people.

Private negotiations had failed; picket lines were not enough, and so as a last resort, we entered the store, hoping our non-violent witness would result in the removal of the grapes from Big Y's produce shelves.

Our small effort might also be considered as a public appeal to consumers not to accept Big Y's lack of integrity in this matter, and to further support the United Farm Workers' boycott.

We are aware of the consequences of our actions. But as long as Big Y continues its policy of exploiting farmworkers, non-violent protests such as ours will continue.

In this time of famine throughout the world, we must acknowledge that there is hunger in America, too. It is a terrible irony that the bounty of this land comes to our tables through the hands of some of the most hungry Americans.

As a step toward alleviating this injustice we are asking people to continue fasting from lettuce, grapes and Gallo wines . . . and perhaps tomorrow the self-determination of farmworkers will be a reality.

Tom Booth, Val Booth, Rev. Frank Dorman, Kathleen Duffy, Stephen Rivers.

Bostonians Demonstrate in Snow Blizzard

Boston, Massachusetts—Some 400 persons marched through early morning snow in 25 degree weather November 26 at the New England Produce Center (Chelsea Market) to demonstrate support for the UFW-sponsored boycott of grapes and head lettuce.

At 6 a.m., the boycotters gathered at Chelsea Market to convince local shop keepers to remove the scab produce from their stock.

The protesters went inside the market to talk to the buyers. It

was the first time in four years that UFW supporters had entered the premises. Four years ago, when UFW boycotters marched inside, several persons were arrested and some people were injured.

By the time the police arrived, the picketers were already leaving the center and according to Police Sgt. Thomas Duggan, the demonstrators were "a nice, peaceful group," but he said the marchers would have been arrested had they remained inside the market.

UFW Supporters Convicted

Springfield, Massachusetts--Five UFW boycott supporters were convicted of trespassing on charges stemming from a Nov. 16 demonstration against the sale of grapes in a Big Y super market here.

In addition, two of the five involved were also found guilty of disturbing the peace, based on the fact that the demonstrators were singing while inside the market.

The presiding judge handed down a fine of \$10 for trespassing and \$12.50 for disturbing the peace. The boycotters, however, refused to pay the fine as a matter of principle and the judge has now sentenced the five to 30 days in jail for contempt of court.

The ruling is now under appeal.



BOYCOTT GRAPES AND LETTUCE

participated in the demonstration including the Packing House workers (Amalgamated Meat Cutters), the IUE, eight members of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers National Executive Board, trade unionists from the Harvard Trade Union School, the UE, Hospital Workers local 1199, and the UAW. In addition, members of the R-H Third World Organization and several Catholic priests participated.

According to Nick Jones, New England boycott director, Teamster union members at the Center received the demonstration favorably, raising fists and applauding. However, one Teamster threw a snowball.

The produce center demonstration was in conjunction with Eastern Massachusetts' boycott committee campaign to "Stop the Grapes" which is aimed at small grocers and fruit stands.

Maryland UFW Partisan Ill

Bowie, Maryland -- Mike Greene, strong supporter of the farm workers movement in Washington, D.C. is seriously ill with advanced cancer. Brother Greene, while working for a local dairy, contributed fresh milk for children of farm workers active on the boycott.

L.A. "COUNTY FED" GOES TO DELANO



Sigmund Arywitz, Secretary-Treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, will lead a Christmas food caravan to Delano in a show of solidarity with the UFW. Brother Arywitz is shown here (wearing glasses) with UFW President Cesar Chavez during dedication ceremonies at Agbayani Village, the union's retirement village. (photo by Bob Fitch)

Los Angeles, Calif. — Sigmund Arywitz, Secretary-Treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor (LACFL), will lead a 200-person Christmas caravan to deliver food to the United Farm Workers in Delano this Saturday, according to Barbara Nardella, executive assistant to the LACFL.

The caravan, staged for the second year in a row, will include representatives from the area's major unions and will arrive in Delano, the birthplace of Cesar Chavez' movement, for a meeting and rally with the National Executive Board of the UFW.

According to Ms. Nardella, an attractive trade unionist and staunch UFW supporter, the caravan will bring over \$400 worth of toys for farm worker children, as well as several hundred dollars worth of food. In addition, said Ms. Nardella, the LACFL will be contributing 500 turkeys to the UFW for the Christmas season.

The L.A. "County Fed," as the 850,000 member federation is called, has provided active support under Sigmund Arywitz for the farm workers cause since the early days of the Delano strike in 1964 (which led to the formation of the UFW).

Said Ms. Nardella, "We were actively supporting the United Farm Workers in the beginning but we never got any of the headlines like some of the other labor unions and organizations did."

Jim Drake, L.A. Boycott Director, said the caravan shows how committed the "County Fed" is to the farm workers movement since many unionists are willing to make the 300-mile round-trip in spite of gas shortages and high fuel prices.

Drake also said that unions like the International Association of Machinists (AM) were leafletting their respective plants urging workers to go on the caravan. In addition other unions actively supporting the drive include: the Communications Workers of America (CWA), the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), the United Steel Workers of America (USWA), the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), the United Auto Workers, and the L.A. Public Employees Union.

The caravan will depart L.A. at 10:00 AM and will arrive in Delano for a rally at 1:30 PM.

UFW Charges Pre-Trial Prejudice Against Tomato Strike

Stockton, Calif. — The United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO put conclusive evidence before the San Joaquin County Superior Court Dec. 16 that striking farm workers charged with crimes probably can't get a fair trial in California's predominantly agricultural Central Valley.

Judge William Biddeck said he would study the union's request to move out of Stockton a felony trial involving charges of assaults on law officers. The charges stem from violent incidents during the recent tomato strike.

Union attorneys Peter Haberfeld, Barbara Rhine and Jordan Stanzler asked that the trial of five UFW members, scheduled for February in Stockton, be moved to an urban county such as Alameda to give them a better chance for a fair trial.

According to Haberfeld, Judge Biddeck declared at the final hearing on the change of venue motion: "I have some real doubts that they can get a fair trial here."

The attorneys presented an extensive attitude survey conducted by personal interviews in Alameda and San Joaquin counties to prove massive prejudice against farmworkers in the agricultural communities, compared to the cities. The court also heard that a union survey of Central Valley newspapers published during last August's Stockton tomato strike showed the media concentrated exclusively on reports of violence associated with the strike.

The union said it studied the newspaper reports published in San Joaquin, Sacramento, Fresno and Kern counties because the attitude survey showed 81.9 per cent of the rural people questioned got their information about the strike from the papers. Only 46.2 per cent in the urban sampling got their strike information from newspapers.

Attorney Haberfeld said, "The news papers only carried coverage about the violence, the arrests but nothing about the union's issues, no human interest stories about the lives of the strikers, nothing about this tremendously exciting story of farm workers trying to improve their economic condition."

The attitude survey, conducted according to scientific sampling procedures by Dr. Stanley Augusta France, Jr., showed that 44.8 per cent of the rural respondents believed the strikers and not the police were responsible for violence on the picket lines. Only 16.2 per cent of the urban respondents believed the strikers were responsible.

The survey also showed that 86.7 per cent of the rural people questioned heard about strike-related violence, compared to only 35.4 per cent of the urban sample. In San Joaquin County, 46.1 per cent expected striking farm workers to be violent, while only 14.3 per cent in Alameda County had such expectations.

Haberfeld said the survey showed that such extensive pre-

trial prejudice among the population in the rural areas would hurt the chances of the UFW defendants getting a fair day in court. He said District Attorney Tangle is relying on anti-UFW, anti-Chicano bias to help him win a verdict, yet is willing to lie in court by saying no prejudice exists.

The judge conceded during two weeks of hearings on the change of venue motion, however, that some prejudice is bound to exist.

However, he said, as a matter of practicality, the court couldn't grant every change of venue motion just on the basis of prejudice. He said he would rule on the motion in mid-January.

"Our responsibility," said Haberfeld, "was to change this particular case, to test whether the defendants could get a fairer trial away from a county where there is a reasonable likelihood that prejudice could influence the verdict."

Security Guard Attacks UFW Members in Stockton

Stockton, Calif.—Harman Garza and Demetrio Muniz were quietly having a beer at a local bar here on the evening of Nov. 24 when they were brutally assaulted by a private security guard hired out to the bar owner by Hardig Security Services.

Eyewitnesses say that the guard, Damian Miranda, made an insulting remark to Garza and Muniz as they were leaving the bar. He then followed them outside where a discussion ensued that ended with Miranda savagely beating both UFW members and tomato strikers with a long flashlight.

Both Garza and Muniz had to be taken to a hospital for treatment as a result of the beating. While in the hospital Garza was put on the critical list because his heart stopped due to heavy bleeding of a head wound. Both strikers had

to have multiple stitches in their scalp wounds and both have experienced considerable pain and dizziness since they were released from the hospital.

While Garza was still in the hospital, Muniz, Ismael Munoz (head of the Stockton UFW service center) and UFW attorneys went to talk to the District Attorney about having charges brought against the attacker but the DA refused to bring anything more serious than a misdemeanor against Miranda.

The agency Miranda works for is owned by Gerald Hardig, now notorious as a growers' goon during the tomato strike in Stockton this last summer. Hardig is also the man who sadistically pistol-whipped and permanently injured Gilberto Cardona, another tomato striker, at a bar during the strike.

Garza's 13-year-old son also suffered at the hands of Hardig's goons last summer when he was attacked for allegedly trespassing into a tomato field. He suffered three broken ribs, and a brain concussion as a result of the attack.

In reporting the DA's action against Miranda, one UFW attorney said that this was typical of the Stockton DA's discrimination against the UFW and its members. He continued by saying that the UFW will be filing a civil lawsuit for money damages against Miranda.

The UFW lawyer concluded that "the security guards' reign of violence continues even in the wintertime, after the strike has long since ended in Stockton. Yet it is our members and our Union that gets blamed for violence."

STALLED IN THE VINEYARDS

Reprinted from Ramparts Magazine;

THE TEAMSTER RAID

by George Baker

(Editor's Note: Following is the full text of a Ramparts Magazine article about the UFW's struggle against the Teamster-grower conspiracy. It was written by George Baker, San Joaquin Valley news reporter and free-lance writer. The report has been recommended to EL MALCRIADO readers by Cesar Chavez, President of the United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO.)

The setting was more appropriate for a coming out party than a farmworkers' meeting. For a backdrop at the plush Del Monte Hyatt House in Monterey, there were lush green fairways lapping at the reception room. On this day, when farmworkers were officially welcomed into the Teamster fold, the fairways were a measure of the gulf between the union and farmworkers. But there they were, Teamsters Union President Frank E. Fitzsimmons, William Grami, and other union dignitaries rubbing elbows with farmworkers who had been specially bused in to celebrate the chartering of Teamsters' Farm Workers Local 1973.

It was a well-staged event, calculated to impress the public and media with the Teamster's commitment to organizing farmworkers. Henceforth, it was grandly announced, Local 1973, based in nearby Salinas, would be the vehicle used by the Western Conference of Teamsters to represent farmworkers. It was going to put Cesar Chavez' United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, out of business. And David B. Castro, hand-picked to be the new local's secretary-treasurer, would be the equivalent of Chavez.

One-day Walkout

But down the road a few miles, another event was taking place that June 1974 day, that could hardly please the Teamsters. The UFW called a one-day walkout against lettuce growers, most of whom have Teamster contracts. The results were not reassuring for David Castro; the daily harvest was slashed in half as more than 1,000 workers joined in the strike.

You may not have heard of Castro, but then he has only been organizing farmworkers since that installation ceremony. And given the inept performance turned in by his local in dealing with farmworker problems, it is understandable that he speaks with so little confidence of his place in the organization.

Since January 1973 the Teamsters have been representing farmworkers in dealings with growers, but Castro doesn't know when workers will be allowed to elect their local's executive board. Nor is he sure when the first membership meetings will be held. And the election of local officers? Well, that is a special matter to Castro who feels supremely threatened by, of all things, the workers.

"Suppose we held an election and it was stacked and I lost," he told me quite earnestly one day over a cup of coffee. "To be very honest, I have to make sure the local is going to make it," explaining that only if he heads it can things go smoothly. "I have to be better known among the workers," he continued, and if the men serving below him "can't sell me, I'll lose the election." Thus, he concluded, workers will be able to have union elections only when he is assured of winning, which will be about two years.

Yet it is unlikely that such elections will ever be held, for as Castro was speaking out another group of Teamsters was plotting to take over the farmworkers local. The coup, executed in early November, will insure that farmworkers never have a voice in their union affairs.

Ralph Cotner, described by fellow Teamsters as virulently anti-Mexican-American, was named to head a newly-created farmworkers division within the Western Conference, replacing Grami, who apparently crossed conference director M.E. ("Andy") Anderson. In addition to Grami being booted upstairs, about 30 local employees, organizers, and officials who were loyal to him were also given their walking papers. It was not immediately clear what the upheaval portended, but to one of the Teamsters who was fired the future of Local 1973 is in doubt.

Cono Macias, who was responsible for most of the grape contracts, said he believes the Teamsters will eventually disband the local and shift its contracts to existing Teamster locals throughout the state. "They are going to disband; that's what I think," Macias said. "They are afraid of it; it's grown too much, it will get bigger and they are afraid of its power. They fear the power of the workers."

He called Cotner a "racist" and noted that most of those persons removed were Mexican-American. Instead of having a single local union embracing all Teamster farmworkers, Cotner plans to dismember the local giving locals in Salinas, Fresno and other cities the opportunity to take over the contracts and, of course, the collection of \$8 a month dues, Macias said.

It would be a clean sweep. Farmworkers would be swallowed up into local unions dominated by truckdrivers, wiping out any chance of electing their own leaders or representatives.

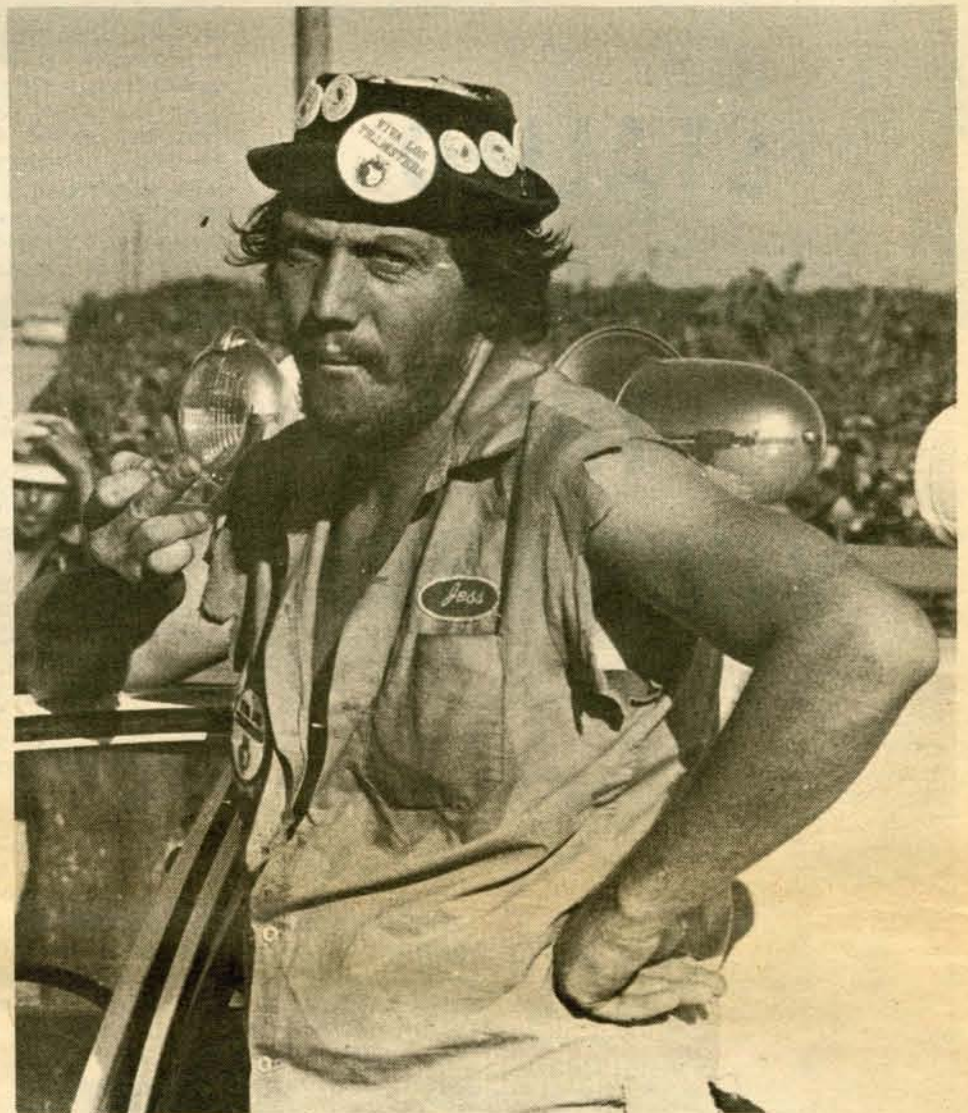
Anderson denied there were any plans to break up the local, calling such statements "ridiculous." But he conceded the Teamsters have had problems in enforcing contracts with growers. "What we realize we've got to do is to do a job for the members," a spokesman for Anderson said. "We are going to continue to organize, but right now we've got to pull the union together and service contracts to the best of our ability to retain the support of the farmworkers."

Teamster Whims

Regardless of what occurs in this Byzantine maneuvering, the farmworkers, whom the Teamsters are supposed to represent, have no say in it. All that is happening, though directly affecting them, is done without their consent or even advice. Like pawns in a giant chess game, farmworkers are moved back and forth at the whim of Teamster power brokers.

Despite the upheaval, Castro, 51, remains one of the brokers. A farmworker in his younger days, he moved up through the Teamster ranks to head a cannery local in Hayward. In September, when he was shot twice, but not seriously injured, heavy rumors of Teamster in-fighting circulated. Castro, a short, stocky man with styled black hair and heavy-rimmed glasses, is a flashy dresser, which may explain why he has a tough time relating to his brother farmworkers. Conscious of the contrast between himself and the monastically-garbed Chavez, Castro felt compelled to explain to newsmen, "Ever since I could afford it, I like to wear a suit. And in all my days working in the fields I was never hungry or dirty."

Indeed, Castro's pleasant recollection of his days working the fields must come as a sweet surprise to members who harbor less fond memories. Instead of cavorting on golf courses, as the Teamster officials are wont to do, real life farmworkers are more likely to be found laboring beneath the blistering California sun, picking grapes or lugging a 50-pound bag of cantaloupes. Their faces, creased by the glaring sun and bitter



A not-so-friendly Teamster displays high moments of union diplomacy during the 1973 Coachella strike. (EL MALCRIADO photo)

experience, are the faces of people who have suffered much. Yet each spring, as the weather warms and the fruit ripens in California's farming valleys, they tramp the state, from Calexico to Yuba City. It is dirty, miserable, unrewarding work, but work they must.

Most often the struggle for power in the state's vineyards and fields is cast in terms of the Teamsters versus the UFW or Fitzsimmons versus Chavez, if you will. This is unfortunate, because the real struggle is that of the workers, seeking to better their social, economic, and political life.

The cult of Chavez being what it is, the UFW-Teamsters battle naturally takes on the aspect of the black hats against the white hats. But it is the worker who has the most to lose or gain. It is through the UFW and Chavez that farm labor has marched out of the 19th century and it is for this reason that the struggle represents one of the truly classic labor fights in America today.

Gains Could Be Wiped Out

Not until Chavez and his followers set off the time bomb of unionism that had been ticking for years, did anyone pay much attention to farmworkers. Now the Teamsters, having connived with the growers, are loving the workers to death. In fact, it is hard to imagine a union more out of touch with its members than the Teamsters are with farmworkers. Myths die hard and one of them is that while the Teamsters may be infested by corruption and run like a Latin American dictatorship, they at least deliver militantly for their rank and file. The union may funnel some money into mob-connection

front operations, but at least some of it gets to its members. So goes the myth.

The truth is that rank-and-file members—particularly farmworkers—are suffering grievously at the hands of their union. For California's growers, having the Teamsters represent their workers is easily the next best thing to having no union at all.

Oddly, the mass media, which were so quick to point out many of the real (and imagined) problems of the UFW, such as dues, hiring hall, and seniority, have taken at face value the puffery served up by Teamster publicists. Were they to scratch the surface, they would find a far different organization than is revealed in press release portrayals.

The Teamsters give distinctly secondary consideration to the seasonal workers who make up the bulk of the state's farm percentage of permanent workers who pay dues more often.

The Teamsters have encountered numerous problems in administering contracts and collecting dues, both because of their approach of organizing workers from the top down and because of the seasonal nature of the work.

Major administrative problems have crept into at least one medical insurance plan for Teamster farmworkers, who often can't qualify for benefits under the stringent eligibility requirements. If they do qualify, they often receive late payment or none at all.

Above all, though, the Teamsters have stripped the farmworkers of the self-determination and power they had won through a decade of struggle and sac-

(Continued on page 8)

STALLED IN THE VINEYARDS

(Continued from page 7)

office under Chavez. It is an intangible quality of unionism, but Castro managed to put his finger on it when he said he might lose the election. No doubt he might, and this is what the Teamsters fear most—the power of the workers. It is a fear shared by the growers who have never really quibbled about paying workers the wages they know they deserve. It is raw, unadulterated power—the right to determine what's good for oneself—that bedevils both the Teamsters and the growers in their dealings with the farmworkers.

This is why Chavez has been so vigorously opposed by the state's agrarian structure, which went running to the Teamsters in 1973, looking for a way out. What Chavez built is more than just a trade union. It is a union movement and a social movement (in the broadest sense), of enormous power and consequence, a fresh breeze wafting in the stultified air of stagnant labor movements. His is a movement as concerned with community organization as with the sanitary working conditions, as interested in cooperative grocery stores as in medical insurance plans.

All this could be wiped out if the Teamsters should succeed in destroying the Chavez movement. And one can take little comfort in cold, hard statistics. The UFW, which once had close to 55,000 dues-paying members and nearly 200 contracts, is down to a current membership of 10,000 and a mere dozen contracts. In 1973 it collected \$600,012 in dues, compared to \$1.2 million in 1972 and this year the figure is even lower. At the end of 1973 it had \$259,983 cash on hand, compared to \$1.1 million the year before.

By contrast, the Teamsters have some 50,000 farmworker members under about 350 contracts, though about 170 of those were signed before the Teamsters moved to put the UFW out of business. Their annual income from \$8 a month dues totals some \$800,000 to \$1 million. And the International is said to be spending nearly \$200,000 a month financing the farmworkers local while it tries to get off the ground. Last year the International contributed more than \$2.4 million.

Clearly, the UFW has its work cut out for it. Chavez is confident it can be done within the next few years, while others are not so sure. He is counting primarily on a boycott of table grapes, the tactic that brought the initial victories in the late Sixties.

And to its boycott list, the UFW has added iceberg lettuce and the various

Gallo wines. While the effectiveness of boycotts is always difficult to judge, this one appears to be significantly affecting the sales, and therefore indirectly the prices, of both lettuce and grapes. Key support for the boycott has come from Geroge Meany and the AFL-CIO and various religious groups, most importantly the Catholic Church.

By all accounts, the Gallo boycott, being keyed to brand names, is the most successful. California wine sales figures show that Gallo's share of state wine production during the first six months of this year dipped seven percent from the same period in 1973. Other developments in the wine industry complicate the picture, but the Wall Street Journal, for one, has at least partially attributed a reported nine percent decline in Gallo's sales to the effects of the boycott. Gallo has launched an extensive anti-boycott campaign, an indication that things are not going well for the giant company.

The case of the E & J Gallo Winery Co. offers a stark example of the issues involved in the three-cornered UFW-grower-Teamster battle. The Gallo Company, headquartered in Modesto, Calif., is no small-time operation. One out of every three bottles of wine sold in the United States is produced by Gallo. Whether it's labeled Red Mountain, Ripple, Thunderbird, Spañada, Madria-Madria Sangria, Boone's Farm, or Andre Champagne, Gallo makes it. And now Gallo is reaching out with a higher-class, higher-priced wine, hoping to capture an even larger share of the market. Though Gallo buys most of its grapes from independent growers, it has 10,000 acres of its own grapes, employing 600 seasonal and permanent grapepickers.

From 1967 to 1973, the UFW represented Gallo's farmworkers and in 1970 when the initial contract expired, Gallo renewed the pact without difficulty. But last year was a different story. As the contract neared expiration in March, the Teamsters had let it be known they were willing to sign contracts also. Knowing that the Teamsters were around, Gallo took a hard line in negotiations with the UFW. It wanted any new contract to do away with the union's hiring hall and to diminish control that the union exercised over who Gallo could hire.

These were crucial issues to the union, issues which are at the heart of the grower-UFW struggle. The hiring hall is an integral part of the UFW method of operation and one of the chief differences between it and the Teamsters. The power to allocate jobs and determine seniority, once left solely in the hands of farm supervisors or contractors, now rested in the hands of the farmworkers themselves. To get a job, a worker received a dispatch from the hiring hall, and dispatches were assigned on the basis of seniority.

Instead of the grower controlling the farm labor force through his hiring and firing power, the union controlled it, supplying workers through the hiring hall and protecting them via the local ranch committee. While this tended to stabilize the work force, it also removed the growers from the daily control of workers' lives and lessened their power to intimidate and dominate. Growers found this most unpalatable.

Additionally, each ranch, including Gallo, had ranch committees elected by workers to deal with problems such as working conditions, levels of pay and day-to-day grievances.

These are the cornerstones of the UFW, elements seen by Chavez and others as necessary not only to give workers the power of self-determination, but also to give them the experience and confidence of ministering to their own affairs. But for Ernest Gallo, the company chairman who runs the \$250 million business, dealing with untraining, worker-selected committees and hiring halls was not his idea of corporate efficiency.

"There was never enough supervision (from Chavez) and leaving it up to the ranch committee was entirely impractical," the normally reticent Gallo said in a rare interview, granted in an effort to minimize the effect of the boycott. "There seemed to be nobody above the ranch committee who gave a damn. When you leave it up to the worker, how energetic are they going to be?"

It was clear that Gallo did not understand the union brand of democracy and that he preferred dealing man-to-man with Chavez rather than a bunch of un-

lettered workers. Not only did Gallo dislike the way the hiring hall and ranch committees were run, citing cronyism and favoritism as two failings, but he says the workers also rejected them. It was for these reasons, he says, that he signed a contract with the Teamsters.

Gallo's account did not include the firing of workers, loyal to the UFW, who protested when the company allowed Teamster organizers to come into his vineyards. Nor does it take into account the company's unwillingness to bargain over the issue of the hiring hall. Bargaining with the Teamsters on this point was simplified because the Teamsters don't have hiring halls.

If the Teamsters genuinely represented the workers as Gallo claims, offering as proof the 158-1 contract ratification vote, a funny thing happened when the UFW called a strike on June 27, 1973. Most of the Gallo workers joined the strike. In fact, 71 families living in shabby, unsanitary Gallo-provided housing refused to go to work, preferring instead to join the picket line. (Gallo claims there were only 31 families.) But regardless of numbers, Gallo fired all those workers who went on strike, and the contract was ratified by a vote of the strikebreakers.

How are Gallo workers being represented by the Teamsters these days? Not too well. One day this summer, two reporters walked through Gallo's 10,000-acre vineyard in the San Joaquin Valley and asked workers about the labor struggle. Several of them thought the reporters were Teamster representatives, since they are seldom in evidence. A family from Mexico thought a company farm supervisor, who is there every day, was the chief Teamsters' spokesman. Just the day before, Gallo workers told us grape pickers at another Gallo ranch, INCENSED OVER LOW WAGES, had a day-long walkout without the benefit of the assistance from their new union.

"It was a brutal summer, the states most violent farm battle since the cotton strikes in the Thirties."

The Teamsters were able to take over Gallo's and other contracts in 1973, partly through an organized campaign of terror that began with the unleashing of goon squads on priests and pickets in the Coachella Valley and ended with the shooting death of UFW member Juan de la Cruz on a picket line near Bakersfield. It was a brutal summer, the state's most violent farm labor battle since the cotton strikes of the Thirties. More than 3,000 UFW members were arrested for violating restrictive court injunctions sharply limiting picket activities at the many strike sites.

Throughout that summer of discontent and continuing into this year, the Teamster rationale for what amounts to union-busting on a scale nearly unmatched in American labor history, was that they would use their power to improve the lot of farmworker. The Teamsters want "to better wages and working conditions," Fitzsimmons says.

But the falsity of this position was demonstrated earlier this year by no less than William Grami, the architect of the farmworker raiding drive and one-time director of organizing for the Western Conference of Teamsters.

Speaking candidly, as he seldom does, Grami was asked under oath at a deposition what the greatest benefit of organizing farmworkers was. Of the Western Conference's 400,000 members, he replied, 100,000 of them are employed in some aspect of agribusiness—driving a truck out of a field, working in a cannery or frozen food plant or operating farm equipment.

"The organization of field workers tremendously enhances our bargaining power for the rest of those workers," Grami declared. "That's one benefit I can see, an immediate benefit." Then, almost as an afterthought, he added, "And also it's our purpose to extend those benefits we've established for all industries to conform to any unorganized industry."

If Grami spoke candidly of the Teamsters' real motive for unionizing farmworkers, his one-time boss, Einar C. Mohn, director of the Teamsters Western Conference, went him one better in

describing the role farmworkers would play in running their own union. His conclusion: none. One need only quote Mohn's remarks, which stand as a monument to both racism and indifference.

"It will be several years before they can start having membership meetings, before we can use the farmworkers' ideas in the union," Mohn told an interviewer last year before he retired. "I'm not sure how effective a union can be when it is composed of Mexican-Americans and Mexican nationals with temporary visas. Maybe as agriculture becomes more sophisticated and mechanized, with fewer transients, fewer green-carders and as jobs become more attractive to whites, then we can build a union that can have a structure and that can negotiate from strength and have union participation."

The Teamster philosophy of labor relations is not likely to keep growers awake at night. In fact, the union discourages farmworker strikes for obvious reasons—Teamster workers in related agribusiness occupations might be affected.

As Castro put it, "All the Chavistas do is strike. That's not using their talents. That's why we talk to growers so that we can iron out situations before grievances are filed. They (the UFW) just tell people to stick it and that's that." Apparently Castro has not been able to impress this gentle brand of union militancy on his members. This year there have been numerous walkouts at ranches working under Teamster pacts, similar to the one at Gallo.

Last February, for example, in the Imperial Valley, hard by the Mexican border, several thousand asparagus cutters walked off their jobs in the middle of the harvest. Upset because they had not received a raise in two years under the Teamsters and because growers refused to pay on a piece-rate basis, the workers shut down the harvest completely.

The growers reacted swiftly. The night of the walkout, February 18, three of them, along with a labor contractor, decided to meet the workers' demands which were being pressed by UFW organizers. Oddly, the Teamsters, who supposedly represented the workers, were neither told of the meeting nor participated in it. The growers, out of hand, simply changed the rate of pay written in contracts.

One of the growers, John Jackson Jr., summed up the situation: "There had been a lack of effort on the part of the Teamsters to communicate to the worker what the (pay) rate was. There was an education process that needed to be involved that wasn't."

This generally follows the philosophy that Castro and his cohorts are implementing, taking care to insure workers don't get too involved in their own affairs. "The membership's primary responsibility is to familiarize itself with the local office and to ask questions about the local. We want workers to completely read contracts and if they have any questions about the union to ask their representatives."

That might work out better if there were actually representatives around, but there often aren't. Workers complain that the only time they see the representatives, (called, variously, organizers or business agents) is when they collect dues. There are no ranch committees, no hiring halls to maintain a direct link between the membership and the union.

Said Dora Sanchez, a lettuce cutter from Mexicali, "Since we signed we have been pushed harder by the foreman. We told a Teamster we needed somebody else on the (lettuce cutting) machine. They promised to get somebody but never did. The Teamsters only come to the field one time a month to sign up people. They never talk to the people or try to help them at all."

Leonides C. de Rodriguez, a woman who was refused work at one Teamster ranch by a labor contractor, said more of the companies and contractors are refusing to hire women "because they cannot be pushed to do as much work as men."

The Teamsters' system is one of traditional trade union practices, but in California's vast expanse of land, where the workers move with the harvest, the system is fraught with problems. Chavez



An army of Teamsters goons were part of the Coachella strike. The goons resemble the mercenary armies in other parts of the world who also are used to terrorize other workers from unionizing.

knew that when he first began organizing and the Teamsters are slow to learn it. As far as Castro can tell, everything is fine. "There's always room for improvement and I think we have improved the overall picture of the Teamsters' farmworkers union," he said.

But he hasn't improved it to the satisfaction of Mrs. Esther Mendoza of Mexicali. Last January 15, Mrs. Mendoza's husband, Manuel and three of their children, were riding a labor contractor's bus on a two-hour drive from Mexicali to a lettuce ranch near Blythe which had a Teamsters' contract. Just outside Blythe, the bus careened around a corner and crashed into a ditch. Nineteen of the 58 farmworkers on the bus were killed, including Manuel Mendoza and his teenage sons.

(The incident pointed up the pernicious role contractors play in farm labor. The Teamsters have tried to explain away the fact that they permit them to operate. No amount of rationalizing can justify their continued existence.)

Since Mendoza was a Teamsters' member, his widow was eligible for \$2,000 in life insurance benefits. For more than nine months, she waited for her check, finally getting it after the repeated intercession of an attorney. The treatment according to Mrs. Mendoza, who finally had to call on the UFW for help, is not an isolated example. Numerous farmworkers have complained of shabby treatment at the hands of the Teamsters when they try to collect on promised benefits.

The situation deteriorated to the point that the Western Growers Association, whose Teamster members fund one of the major medical insurance plans, had to change administrators because of the continual complaints of workers.

One worker, Ramon Gallo of El Centro, said he developed a sore on his leg which had to be treated by Mexicali doctor. Though the Teamsters helped him fill out his insurance forms, there was a snag after that. "In June 1973 I received \$5 from the Teamsters. I am still paying the doctor bill of \$80 because the \$18 is still owing."

Another Imperial Valley worker, Humberto Flores, working under a Teamster contract, tried to get the union to pay \$60 of his wife's medical bills that he understood was due him. The bills weren't paid because the Teamsters said he didn't qualify for benefits after all.

This is not unusual, however, because the eligibility requirements are so restrictive that many workers, especially seasonal and migratory, can't qualify.

To be eligible, a Teamster member must have worked 80 hours during the

previous month. This is fine during the peak harvest season when a worker might work six days a week, eight hours a day.

But when work slows down in the fall and winter the benefits lapse, leaving the worker unprotected just when he may be most needy. For permanent workers, who work more or less year-round, it is not so bad.

By contrast, the UFW's Robert F. Kennedy Medical Plan permits workers to accumulate up to 250 hours so that their coverage can extend up to nine months of the year.

The second-class treatment of seasonal workers extends to another fringe benefit—pensions. The Teamsters have loudly trumpeted the fact that early next year farmworkers will be eligible to retire on a pension of \$150 a month at age 65, something not available to members of the UFW.

But the requirement of hours accumulation helps permanent workers and hinders seasonal employees. The pension administrator, Michael Thomacello, said the plan "was designed for permanent employees, not seasonal workers. The short-term guy pays for the long-term guy. You've got enough turnover, enough people coming in and going out without collecting (benefits) so you can pay the benefits."

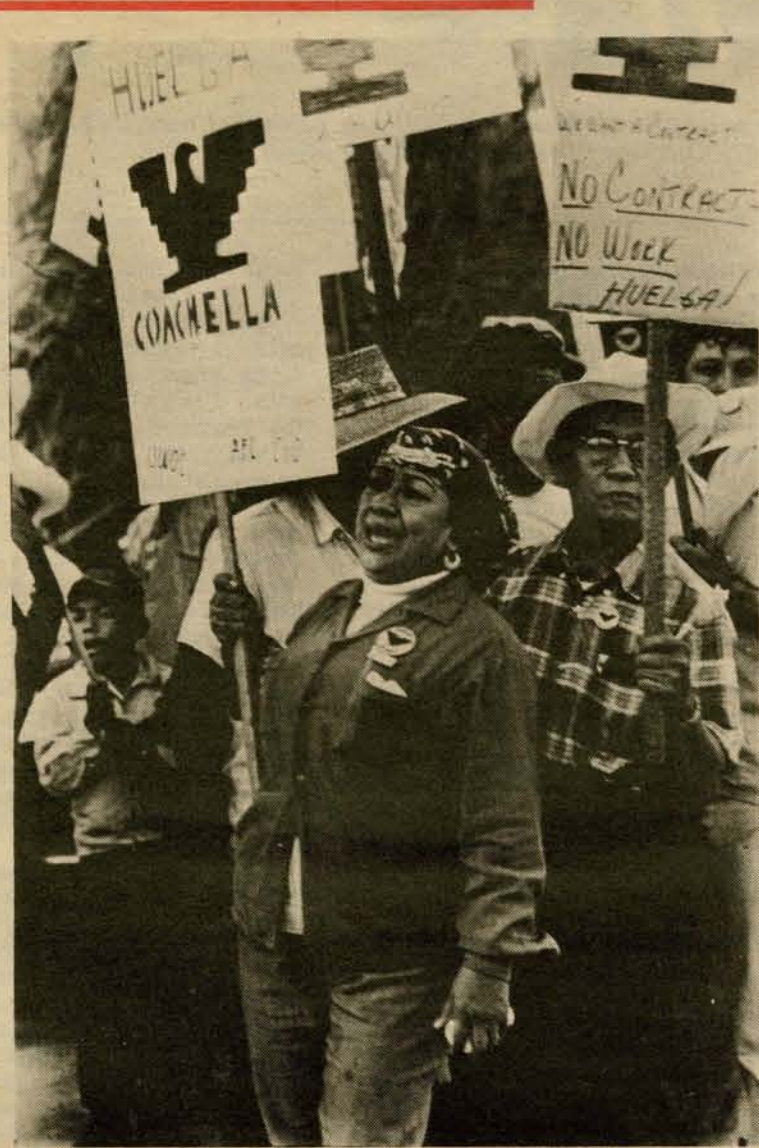
Chavez, whose organizing schedule ends at infinity, remains supremely confident his cause will win in the end. One of his favorite expressions is, "We have more time than money."

"Normally, a small, struggling union like ours would have been destroyed by the combined opposition of the powerful union... and growers with great influence in their community. But it is not going to destroy us. Our boycott will be more effective than ever. WVE are going to beat them!"

For years Chavez has opposed the kinds of state and federal legislation for secret-ballot elections that have been proposed. But recently he changed his mind. Last year, with strong state AFL-CIO backing, the UFW sponsored a secret-ballot election bill which did not carry the usual riders ruling out boycotts and harvest-time strikes. Ironically, the growers and Teamsters, who have made much of their desire for elections, lobbied successfully to kill the bill in the State Senate after it had won in the Assembly. Chavez has also opposed inclusion of farmworkers under the National Labor Relations Act, from which they are now excluded, because the NLRB would also restrict the use of boycotts.

There is an excellent chance that an unadulterated election bill—which would give the workers the right to choose their union—will become law, especially since UFW all Edmund G. Brown Jr. will be the new governor. With such a bill on top of the strikes and boycotts, says UFW counsel Jerome Cohen, "We will be able to kick the Teamsters out of the fields."

That is, if the workers don't do it first. "The union's greatest strength, he says, is the workers. 'What it is really all



VIVA LA HUELGA! A farm worker woman demands recognition of the UFW in a militant protest during the Coachella strike. (EL MALCRIADO photo)

EDITORIAL

A TIME FOR RECKONING

It has been almost twenty months since the growers signed "sweetheart contracts" with the Teamsters union and no doubt they have had plenty of time to reflect if the romance has been worthwhile.

Last month, moreover, there were signs that the affair is just about kaput, except for the alimony, amidst rumblings of a purge in Teamster farm workers Local 1973 in which at least 30 of top teams were stood up and left out in the cold.

The Teamsters have apparently been unable to satisfy the growers and are now in deep trouble thus having to shake up their entire farm worker command. The growers, on the other hand, are rapidly approaching a debacle only slightly less humiliating than Custer's shutout at the Little Big Horn.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, for example, has revealed in its weekly statistics that yearly grape sales are down significantly throughout the country. In the country's two largest grape markets, for example, sales are down from 1,524 carlots in 1969 to 1,378 in New York while in Los Angeles the number of carlots is down from 1,809 to 1,625 for the same time period.

Carlots sold as of the week of December 6:

	1969	1974
Los Angeles	1,809	1,625
New York	1,524	1,378
San Francisco Bay Area	707	677
Philadelphia	527	495
Denver	201	186
Providence	75	38

The growers must be pondering the next move in their relationship with the Teamsters. They should be. For now is the time for reckoning and deciding whether the "sweetheart contracts" with a disreputable union must be worth a nationwide boycott of their grapes.

If we are to believe the USDA statistics, then there is also good reason to think that the Teamster-grower affair has turned sour in one of the most costly honeymoons in recent memory.

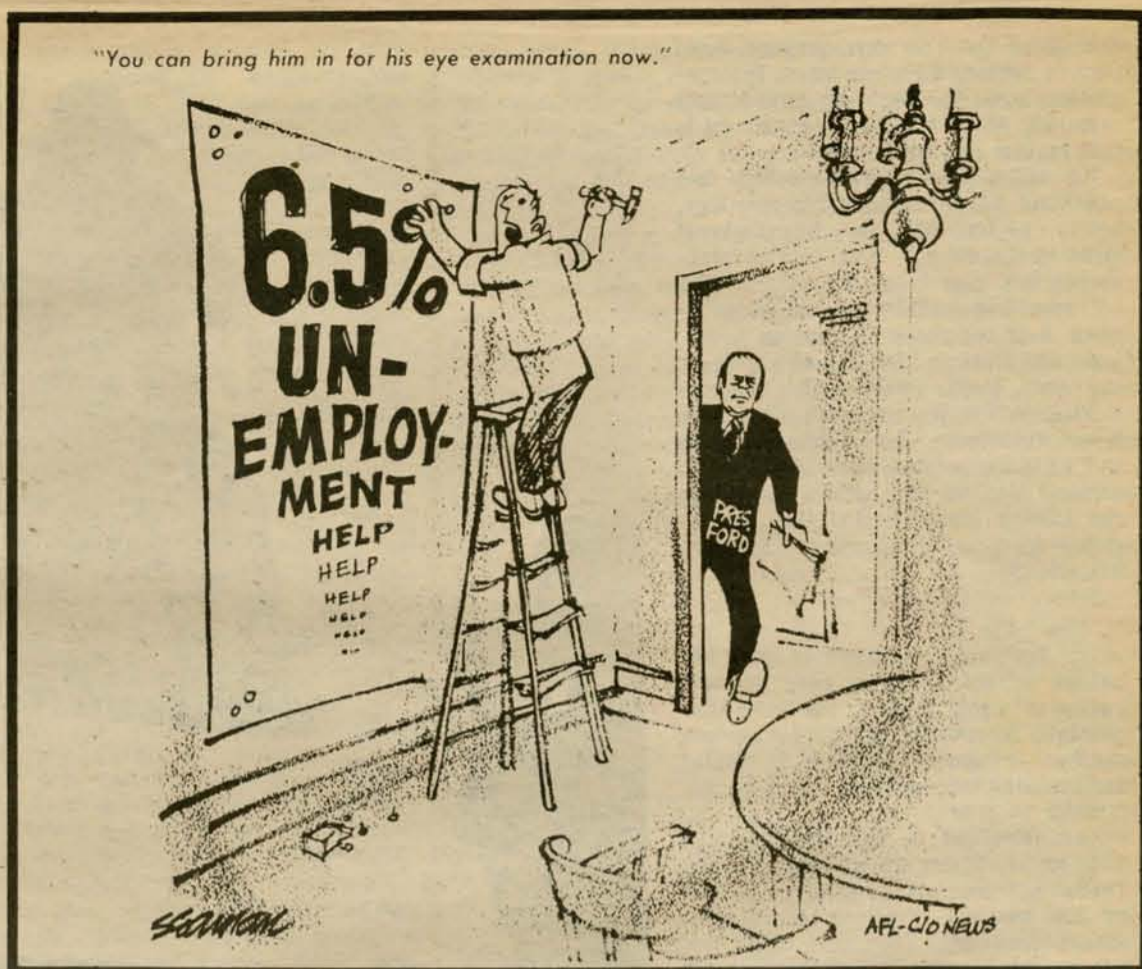


EL MALCRIADO, the Official Voice of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, is published in Keene, California under the direction of the National Executive Board of the union:

Cesar E. Chavez, President
 Gilbert Padilla, Secretary-Treasurer
 Dolores Huerta, First Vice-President
 Philip V. Vera Cruz, Second Vice-President
 Pete Velasco, Third Vice-President
 Mack Lyons, Executive Board Member
 Eliseo Medina, Executive Board Member
 Ricardo E. Chavez, Executive Board Member
 Marshall Ganz, Executive Board Member

Correspondence with the newspaper should be addressed to

EL MALCRIADO
 P.O. Box 62
 Keene, California 93531



Christmas Fund Launched: Striking Sloane Workers

By Peter Bommarito
 URW International President

Since March 1973, more than 300 members of URW Local 621 have waged a difficult struggle in their strike against the callous, unfair treatment of the R & G Sloane Manufacturing Co.

Many URW local unions such as yours as well as our brothers and sisters throughout the labor movement have rallied to the cause of these workers which is, in truth, the cause of all members of the trade union movement. Contributions to the strike fund for these URW members have combined with strike assistance in the form of strike benefits from the URW to make it possible for these loyal trade unionists to continue their struggle for decency and justice. However, the Strike Relief Fund is now depleted.

Now, in the closing

months of 1974, our minds and consciousness are faced with another imminent need. Christmas this year can be bleak indeed for the families and children of the struggling Sloane workers unless help comes from their brothers and sisters throughout the labor movement.

The URW is launching a nationwide appeal for contributions to a special Christmas fund so that Santa Claus may be able to make his visit to the little ones whose parents are making such a tremendous sacrifice in support of the high principles which are the heart of the trade union movement. This appeal is also going out from the AFL-CIO to all its affiliates across the nation.

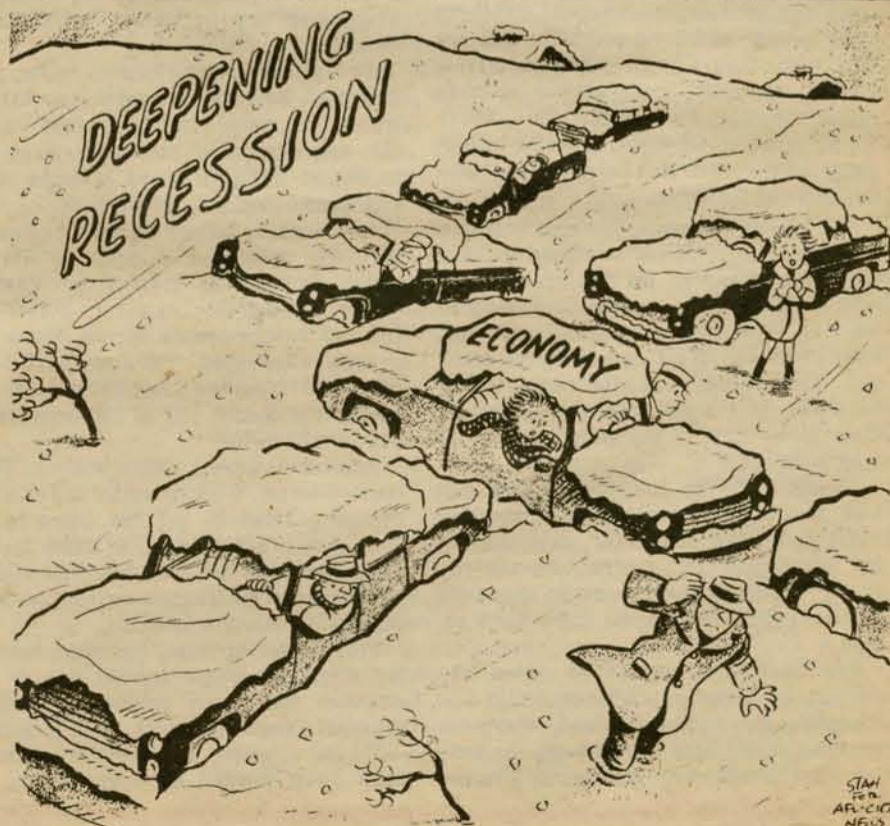
We call upon your local union to make as great a contribution to this cause as is possible, and we also ask that union officials, union members and their

families and friends make individual contributions.

Please give this appeal your earliest possible attention. We urge you to carry the importance of this appeal to your membership.

Checks should be made payable to the R & G Sloane Strike Relief Fund and should be forwarded to the URW District 5 Office, 100 East Ocean Boulevard, Suite 429, Long Beach, Calif. 90802. In order to meet the purpose for which they are intended, all contributions should reach us by Dec. 15, 1974.

Certainly your generosity will be greatly appreciated and long remembered, not only by those at Sloane whom you will have benefited directly, but by all citizens who hold to the truth that those who toil have a just right to negotiate with their employers through their unions for the wages, working conditions and other benefits to which they are entitled.



The American economy is dangerously close to disaster.

Inflation continues to mount, with the sharpest rise in living cost since 1947, after the end of World War II.

The recession that started in late 1973 is deepening. Production and sales are falling. Layoffs are spreading and unemployment is rising. Even worse, there is no end in sight. This recession is rapidly becoming the most prolonged and deepest since the 1930's.

The banking system is severely strained, over-extended and increasingly vulnerable to troubles at home and abroad. It has already suffered the largest bank failure in American history, after \$1.75 billion of government loans could not save it from insolvency. Fortunately, most depositors were protected by government insurance.

The peril to the American economy from the restrictive Burns-Nixon policies, of which we have warned consistently, has grown much greater, particularly with the increased complications and dangers that flow from the world-wide oil crises. Yet these policies of tight money and high interest rates remain in effect, with no indication of any basic change.

These facts are an indication of the national economy's grim condition:

Unemployment has already climbed 1.4 million in the past 12 months - from 4.1 million or 4.6 percent of the labor force in October 1973 to 5.5 million or 6 percent last month. On the basis of present trends, unemployment is heading to 7 percent or approximately 6 1/2 million jobless before the middle of 1975.

The accelerating rise of living costs-up 12.1 percent in the past year- is reducing the living standards of retired people and low and middle-income families with children. It is washing out workers' wage gains. The buying power of the average worker's weekly take-home pay, in September, was down 5.2 percent from a year ago and 7.4 percent from the peak reached in October 1972. Buying power is now below the level of 1965.

In contrast, corporate after-tax profits, led by the soaring rise of oil company profits, jumped 17 percent in the first half of 1974, despite the recession. Preliminary reports indicate an even greater increase in the July-September quarter-essentially based on price-gouging, hoarding and profiteering by many companies. These fabulous profits, in the midst of a deepening recession, follow boosts of 17 percent in 1971, 25 percent in 1972 and 26 percent in 1973.

Reflecting the drop in buying power, the real volume of retail sales, after accounting for higher prices, began to move down in the summer of 1973. In recent months, it has been about 4 percent to 5 percent below the same month of last year. Moreover, consumer confidence is at a record low. The real volume of retail sales is unlikely to pick up significantly until workers' buying turns up and confidence is restored.

Home-building, which was hit first and hardest by the Federal Reserve's tight money and high interest rates, began to decline in the spring of 1973. Today, it is in a depression. Housing starts are down more than 50 percent from the early months of last year. This condition has brought

U.S. ECONOMY NEARS DISASTER

falling sales, production and employment to companies engaged in the production and distribution of building materials.

The real volume of business investment in plants and machines, which was the only sector of the private economy to move ahead in the first half of this year, declined a bit in the July-September quarter. Further declines are under way. Hit by high interest rates and inflated fuel prices, many companies - especially public utilities - have cancelled or postponed plant expansion and modernization programs. This drop in business investment is hitting heavy construction-with the unemployment rate among construction workers up to

12.2 percent-and resulting in cutbacks of orders for machinery and equipment.

With no strong economic sector, and several in sharp decline, business curtailed additions to its huge inventories by cutting back orders, production, working hours and employment. In view of their bloated size, such spreading cutbacks of inventories, with their depressing impact on the economy, may continue for many months.

Under intense attack from almost every group in the population, the Federal Reserve has shifted its policy slightly and the prime interest rate has moved down from 12 percent to 11 percent. But this slight shift is woefully inadequate. It is concentrated on short-term loans and there is not yet any decline of peak interest rates on mortgages and other long-term loans. A significant shift in the Federal Reserve's policy, away from tight money and high interest rates, has not yet occurred.

The Federal Reserve's policy is adding considerably to mounting inflation. High interest rates have added to costs and prices throughout the economy. The deepening recession, created by this policy, is suppressing the advance of productivity and adding to pressures on unit cost and the price level.

Lax regulation and the pursuit of quick profits in the past decade have weakened the banking system. This weakness has been complicated by the mushrooming growth of international banking operations to 750 branches of U.S. banks abroad and 143 foreign bank branches in the U.S. The floating of the world's major currencies, following two formal devaluations of the American dollar in 14 months, has been accompanied by gambling in foreign currencies, with losses of tens of millions of dollars and bank failures overseas, as well as severe strains at home. Short-term investments of Arab oil funds in domestic and foreign commercial banks, as well as tight money and declining economic activities, are increasing the vulnerability of America's overextended banking system.

Against this background, we have weighed President Ford's economic message to the Congress last month.

He offered no measures to halt the recession and only promises to curb inflation.

The President's proposals of aid for the increasing number of unemployed were shockingly inadequate.

His proposed \$3 billion in widened, permanent tax loopholes for the corporations and the wealthy were combined with tax relief of 54¢ a week for the working poor and temporary 5 percent surtax on individuals with incomes of over \$7,500 and families whose incomes are over \$15,000 and on corporations.

These proposals fail to face up to the realities of America's deepening economic mess. They are inequitable and unbalanced.

A decisive change in the government's economic policies is needed immediately-to begin to curb the rising price level and to turn the economy around towards expanding sales, production, buying power and employment. Only such decisive change, based on fairness and equity and balance, can begin to restore public confidence in the government's ability to manage the nation's economic problems.



SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES ATTACK picketing Machinists outside the Dalmo Victor Co. plant in Belmont, Calif. One plain-clothes officer aims a gun at other pickets who attempt to assist a striker knocked to the ground by a uniformed deputy. IAM members have been on strike at the Textron Corp. division's plant since June 2 in an effort to negotiate a pattern three-year contract that more than 470 other area firms have accepted this year. (AFL-CIO NewsService Photo)

U.S. THWARTS FAMINE RELIEF EFFORT AT WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE



Rome, Italy (LNS)--Thousands of angry Italians protested the appearance of Henry Kissinger November 5 at the 12-day United Nations World Food Conference in Rome. Kissinger laid out a complicated scheme for a long-range plan to combat world hunger, but refused to discuss the amount of emergency food aid countries afflicted with famine could expect from the U.S.

It was this refusal--ironically, since experts agree that the U.S. can itself eliminate the world's entire food deficit --that thwarted the conference's attempts to provide emergency food assistance to famine-stricken areas.

"No tragedy is more wounding," Kissinger told the delegates from 130 governments and four liberation organizations, "than the look of despair in the eyes of a starving child." Later that evening, Kissinger ate caviar and sipped wine at a reception thrown by Mexican President Luis Echeverria, on the marble rooftop of the luxurious Palazzo dei Congressi. Kissinger then departed for Washington, leaving the U.S. delegation in the hands of Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz.

The crisis that prompted the conference is urgent and obvious. Famine is at its most critical level in decades. The delegate from Bangladesh estimated that over 100,000 of his country people have starved to death already this year.

In the northwestern provinces of India, thousands have died for want of food in the past few months, and in the Eastern region of Africa's Sahel (from Senegal to Ethiopia) an estimated 50,000 have starved to death since the spring of 1973. And the UN Food and Agriculture Organization calculates that 5,000,000 children have died already this year from diseases associated with starvation.

The famine is extremely widespread. People in thirty-two different countries face an imminent threat of starvation, and, the World Food Conference warns, 20 million people may starve to death in the next year unless massive emergency food deliveries start immediately. To avert such a spectre, the Conference says that a minimum of eleven to fifteen million tons of food must be shipped to famine areas by next spring.

The causes of the current situation are extremely complex. It is true that crop failures were world-wide in recent years with droughts in the United States (the worst since 1936), Africa's Sahel region, India and Indonesia. The Soviet Union, Argentina, Canada and Australia, all large grain producers, also suffered large crop losses, while Peru, whose fishmeal industry has the capacity to feed half of Latin America, suffered a near collapse.

In addition, fertilizer shortage, estimated by delegates at the Conference to be 10 percent less than what is needed world-wide, was also responsible for low production yields, especially in the Third World.

The main cause of the current famine, however, is not due to production, but rather to unequal distribution. Even with this year's crop loss and with an additional 1.5 billion more people in the world, the world's grain production per capita, has increased 10 percent since 1954.

It was just this question of the distribution of the world's food resources that brought out the most serious criticism of the United States from the other delegations. Over and over again, delegates from the Third World rejected the notions put forth primarily by the U.S. that population, bad weather, and high fertilizer prices were to blame for the food crisis.

"Centuries of colonial rule have distorted the pattern" of agriculture in the Third World," the delegate from India pointed out. "Even the industrial raw materials exported by the developing countries were purchased at prices which hardly covered the cost of production."

"Restrictive trade and tariff policies were further devised to deprive the poor nations from earning any proper income through exports."

In a message to the Conference, Algerian President Houari Boumediene described the food crisis as a result of the "politics of domination" by "certain developed countries" and called for fundamental changes in international commerce to accompany efforts of developing countries to increase production.

A delegate from Argentina concluded that "by way of reparation of the damage it has caused the world, the U.S. should allocate a significant portion of the food it produces towards the needs of the poorer countries."

The American delegation, in the person of Earl Butz, however, said that the Third World countries were not pulling their share. "During the two decades of the 1950's and the 1960's, grain increased 63 percent in developed countries and only 32 percent in developing countries," Butz told the conference, ignoring that this difference was largely due to the vast amount of fertilizers the developed countries use.

Instead, Butz gave the conference a lecture on the "American Way."

"To produce requires incentive," Butz said. "In my country, farmers respond to the incentive of profits. I strongly suspect that this is true in other countries as well as my own. Is it not true that your farmers respond best when they are rewarded with the means to live better and provide better for their own families? Call it profit. Call it by another name, it's still a response to economic rewards."

Finally, on the specific proposal of a world food reserve large enough to ensure that no starvation took place, Butz said the proposal just wouldn't provide the "incentive" farmers needed.

"We do not favor food reserves of the magnitude that would perpetually depress

prices, destroy farmer incentives, (or) mask the deficiencies in national (Third World) production efforts."

In fact, Butz had previously tried to deny in the U.S. that there even was a world-wide food crisis.

"The doomsayers say we are already in trouble," Butz told the Future Farmers of America in mid-October. "I say this is false, that most of the world's people eat better than any other time in history. We are not in a food crisis in this country or in the world."

A week before going to Rome, Butz was confronted by a reporter who had pointed out that Americans use more fertilizers on suburban lawns, cemeteries and golf courses than India uses for its entire agricultural production. (Had India been allowed to use this fertilizer, it could have increased its national yield by six million tons, thus becoming agriculturally self-sufficient). Butz countered by saying, "I think Americans want their golf courses."

Butz had also advised other members of the American delegation, "Let's not get hysterical" and had earlier told Time magazine, "Food is a weapon. It is now one of the principal tools in our negotiating kit."

And the U.S. has much with which to negotiate, for U.S. influence on food exports far out distances the Arab countries' influence on oil exports. The U.S. is the exporter of over one-half of the world's cereal grains, and of 95% of the world's soybean export crop. U.S. income through agricultural exports has risen from \$5 billion in 1964 to over \$20 billion in 1974.

"FOOD IS A WEAPON. IT IS NOW ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL TOOLS IN OUR NEGOTIATING KIT."

Food, of course, is sold by the U.S. for the price the market can bear, which means it goes to nations that can most afford to pay for it. In 1973, 65% of U.S. agricultural exports went to developed countries, principally Japan and the European Common Market.

Only five countries on the U.S. "underdeveloped nations" list could afford to buy significant amounts of U.S. agricultural exports. And all of these countries--Spain (\$390 million), South Korea (\$300 million), Taiwan (\$220 million), Brazil (\$110 million) and Israel (\$100 million) -- could afford to buy the food only because of the massive economic transfusions the U.S. provides to other areas of their economies.

At the same time that the U.S. has increased its sale of food to wealthy countries, it has drastically reduced food aid to needy countries, from a high of 18 million tons per year in the mid-1960's to 3.3 million tons in 1973. Despite a full-scale famine in the Sahel and the making of one in Bangladesh, the 1973 food aid total was the lowest in the 20-year history of the U.S. food aid program.

President Ford has rebuffed efforts in Congress to increase food aid to foreign countries by one million tons next year. He said such a commitment would be "inappropriate" and inflationary. Actually, such a "commitment" would be insignificant and would only bring total U.S. food aid to 4.3 million tons (half that of 1972 level) and would be far short

of the 12 to 17 million tons of food hungry countries will need by next June.

It is noteworthy that the U.S. government had no qualms about inflation when it sold 28 million tons of grain to the Soviet Union in the famous secretly-negotiated 1972 grain deal. This deal resulted in the raising of U.S. grain prices from \$60 to \$200 per ton on the world market and the doubling of bread prices on U.S. supermarket shelves.

The fact is that the U.S. food policy is constructed solely to insure high profits to agribusiness concerns, not to produce and distribute food equitably. If there is a high food demand, but low food supply, a higher price can be demanded for the food.

By paying subsidies to agribusiness corporations for not growing food, and by refusing to commit itself to increased food aid in 1975, the U.S. insures a high price for its agricultural commodities on the world market.

The U.S. delegation did indicate that it would consider contributing to an international food reserve, but only if the oil producing countries would finance the major part of it. The oil producing nations indeed possess a great deal of uninvested capital (they are expected to net \$50 billion this year alone), but they strongly resented Henry Kissinger's charge at the Conference that "a major responsibility must rest with the oil producers, whose actions aggravated the problems of the developing countries."

The oil producers pointed out that world-wide inflation was not precipitated by the late 1973 rise in oil prices, but by the earlier sharp rise in food prices in 1972. Had the United States produced more food in the past few years, the oil producers said, not only would there be more food at prices hungry nations could afford, but the whole world-wide inflationary cycle would not have been so severe.

The oil producers further charged that the fertilizer shortage had less to do with the higher cost of petroleum, than it had to do with the wasteful practices of Western oil companies.

The companies normally burn off natural gas at oil well-heads in the Middle East. With a little capital investment, this gas could have been converted into fertilizer, the oil producing nations said. Instead, the oil companies have followed a policy which decreases the supply of fertilizer, thus increasing its world market price.

Several long-range ventures were established by the Conference which have been badly needed in the past. Data sharing on climate changes and crop forecasts were established for the first time. Internationally financed programs designed to help developing nations increase their fertilizer production and agricultural research were also launched.

But at the end, the Conference could only adopt a distinctly hollow resolution that "all governments able (should) substantially increase agricultural aid (and) reduce to a minimum the waste of food and of agricultural resources."

Gallo Landgrabs Increase Agribusiness Monopoly

Livingston, Calif.--More than three million family farms have sold out to agribusiness corporations from 1945 to 1974, including some 100 small growers swallowed up by Gallo in this grape-producing area.

The effect on this once-typical American farming town, according to a longtime resident, has been to change a community of neighborhoods into a "corporate community" no longer responsive to local needs.

The Gallo family held only two small vineyards before World War II. In 1946, Gallo merged with Valley Agricultural Company and not long afterward bought out American Vineyards, then the biggest Thompson grape grower in the area with roughly 1,200 acres.

Since then, Gallo family members plus the giant Gallo winery and its subsidiary businesses have acquired at least 16,000 acres in Merced, Madera and Stanislaus counties. The land expansion goes on today.

The John Mitchells are a typical small farm family that saw their traditional homestead succumb to Gallo's big money and aggressive business tactics.

John Mitchell's grandfather established the family farm in 1862. By 1964, Mitchell's elderly mother was faced with growing tax problems and a lucrative offer from the Gallos to sell out. The question of selling divided the sons and daughters, with the latter urging the sale.

The deal they were offered probably typical of Gallo's land buying tactics.

Mitchell's mother was to get an assured \$3,500 per year rental of the 74-acre farm for five years, then a top-dollar sale price of \$900 per acre.

During the five-year rental period, the Gallos were able to level the land and set up a grape vineyard -- an expensive investment -- without paying the usual capital gains taxes since the improvements were made on someone else's property. The sale contract provided no back-out clause for the seller, only for the buyer.

John Mitchell, now trying to survive as an economic unit with a new venture into almond trees, sums up the land situation:

"Gallo is not good for the small production unit, the family farm, which is being destroyed. That's why they're not good for the area. They've swallowed up roughly 100 farms.

"In this immediate area, Gallo has displaced 40 families that lived here, worked here, spent their money here, and sent their kids to school here -- it was a balanced neighborhood community. Now we have a corporate community, with the Gallos buying direct in bulk from wholesalers, instead of from local businesses. Livingston is becoming a 'Grapes of Wrath' type of place."

Jake Kuniyama, a Japanese-American grower who resisted Gallo encroachment by sticking with his producers' cooperative, says Gallo has vast sums of money to play with in buying lands, and is able to use its own grape acreages as a "wedge" in driving hard bargains on grape prices. He says Gallo "buries"

its costs in vineyard development through the lease-purchase arrangements. In addition, Gallo is able to directly affect the field prices of grapes with a grape output below the small growers' cost of production.

The Gallo businesses are privately held, or family-owned, corporations so they are not required by law to issue public statements on their assets.

Editors at the Modesto Bee newspaper say the Gallos have always been "very tight-lipped" about their business and operate like a "medieval fiefdom -- they don't follow anybody, they lead."

The newspaper's files for the past 30 years show no public record whatever of Gallo's land acquisitions. But courthouse records show the results of Gallo's expansion:

At least 159 land acquisitions are listed since 1946.

The E & J Gallo Winery company owns at least 3,236,245 acres, plus 369 leased acres as of July 1973. The total includes 2,640 acres owned at Livingston Ranch, and 189 acres leased from Merle McCulloch Coffill and Edith and Allen Good -- land owners who are not known to longtime residents of Livingston and who are not listed in the Livingston phone book.

The winery also held 515.55 acres owned and 180 acres leased at Fresno Ranch. The winery itself and supporting facilities are located on a 119-acre site in Modesto.

The Modesto Bee newspaper files show the Gallo concerns "growing fantastically" and "almost continually expanding" in the mid-Sixties, but the newspaper provides no details supporting these characterizations other than what Gallo chose to tell in its press releases of the time.

Among the several Gallo subsidiaries is Gallo Glass Company of Modesto, which owned 3,385 acres at Livingston Ranch, 2,217 acres at Snelling Ranch and 252 acres at Modesto Ranch.

Ernest and Julio Gallo's younger brother Joseph E. Gallo owns Gallo Vineyards, Inc., which held at least 748 acres at Livingston Ranch. Vincal Vineyards, Inc., with 1,318 acres at Snelling Ranch, is owned by Ernest and Julio's children, Robert J. Gallo, Susan Gallo Coleman, David G. Gallo and Joe E. Gallo.

The Gallo brother, Joseph E. Gallo, also owns the Gallo Cattle Company which held 983 acres at Livingston Ranch and 765 acres in the Stanislaus County mountains.

Joseph E. Gallo himself is listed in public records as owner of 3,522 acres and leasor of 4,967 acres, as of July 1973.

The Mitchells say they hear Joseph E. Gallo now is buying ranches along Highway 140 on Lander Avenue between the towns of Turlock and Los Banos. Reports are that thousands of acres of marshland south of the Merced River are being reclaimed.

Although the senior Gallos insist that Joseph E. Gallo is not part of their operation, he is listed as selling grapes to E & J Gallo Winery.

While the subsidiary Gallo Glass Company produces the bottles for Gallo's wines, the affiliates Mid-cal Aluminum, Inc. and Fairbanks Trucking Inc. of Modesto produce the bottle caps and haul the product.

Although Gallo grape vineyards are under 10,000 acres out of more than 550,000 grape acres in California, Gallo buys at least 70,000 acres worth of grape production from contract growers.

In 1974 Gallo bought less than was expected from other growers, sending reverberations throughout the industry. Gallo's contracts with growers include an escape clause that cites labor strikes as a reason for backing out.

Among the contract growers have been Bonadelle Development Co. and Joseph E. Gallo of Merced County; John Hancock Realty Co. Ar-Kay Vineyards, R.V. Cloud Ranch and Ronald Cloud Ranch of Madera County; and Edward Johnson, Pirronne Wine Cellars, L.R.B. Ranch and R & J Ranches of Stanislaus County.

All these financial relationships are of course beyond the ken of a small grower like John Mitchell, whose modest farm on North Griffith road in Livingston sits adjacent to one of Joseph E. Gallo's properties.

"This is the sin of all sins," says Mitchell. "The extremely wealthy are protected in every way, money's power is concentrated in capital monopolies, for whom the growers become mere hirelings."



CHALE CON EL GALLO! Some young huelgistas exhort workers to not break the Gallo strike during the 1973 fight against the Teamster-grower alliance. (EL MALCRIADO photo)

The Farmworkers Need You Now

"Join the struggle!" Subscribe to El Malcriado, the official voice of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, and read of the day to day struggles of the UFW in its search for a new life of dignity and justice for farm workers.

You can become a part of this movement by receiving first hand reports on the many strikes and organizing drives launched by the UFW in its fight to end the exploitation of farm workers by U.S. agribusiness.

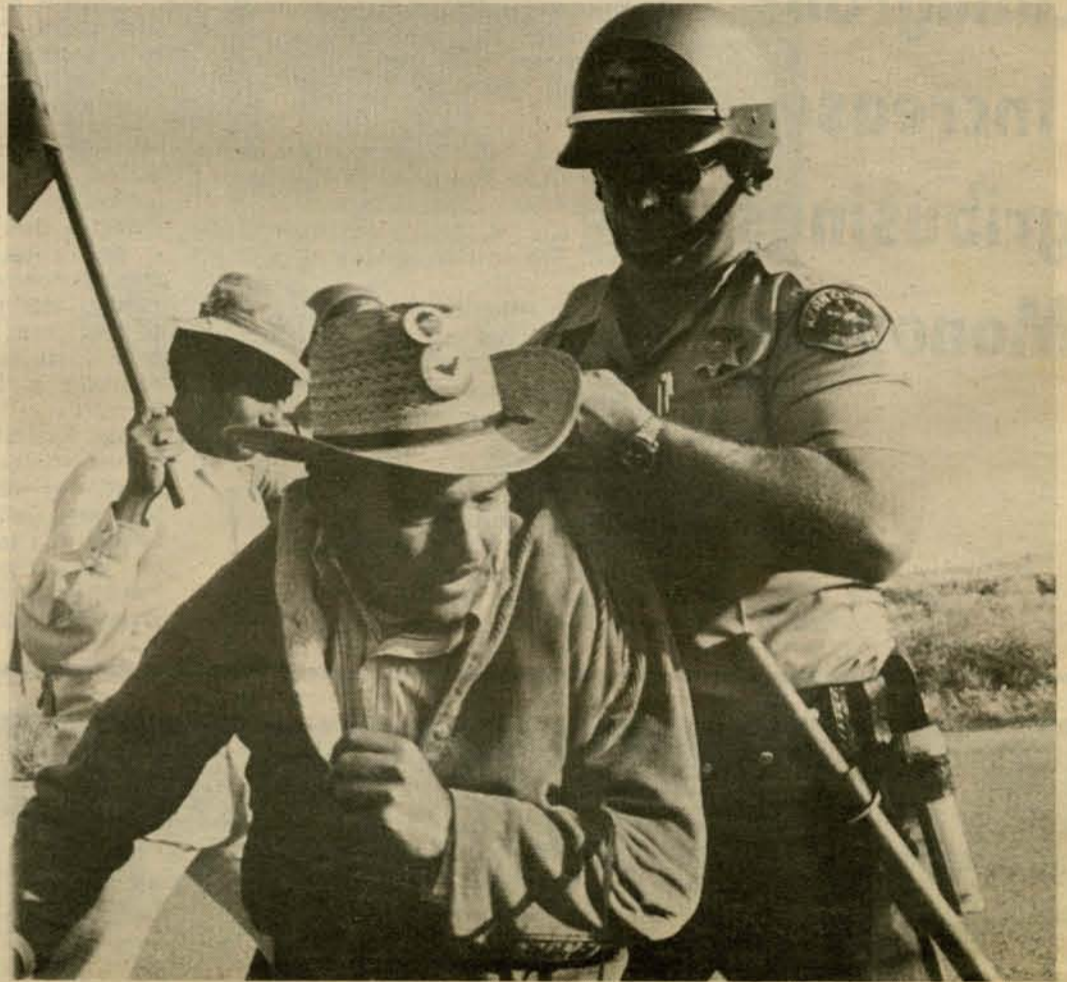
- English
- Spanish
- \$10 for one year
- \$5 for six months
- \$20 for institutions

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____



SUPPORT THE UNITED FARMWORKERS

STOP THE GRAPES

Bumper Sticker
day- glo orange on black
(Not shown)

#FWPS... \$.25



ÚNASE CON NOSOTROS.



No Compre Uvas ni Lechuga

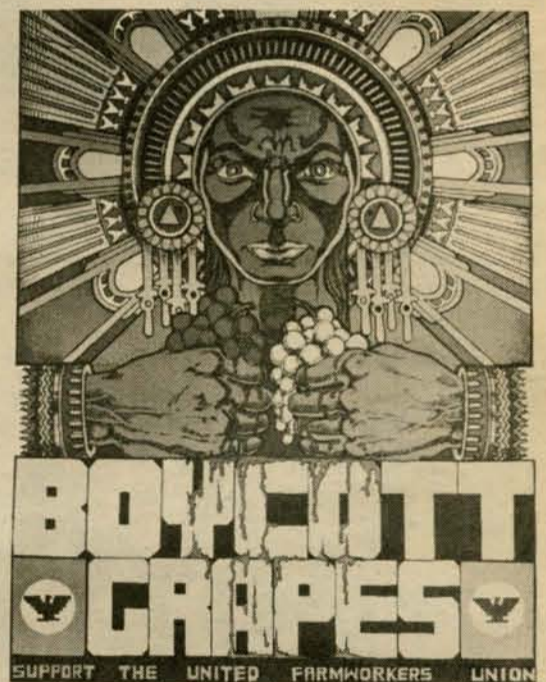
STAND WITH US

by Andy Zermefio
Color print portraying
farm workers in theme
of hope and determination
#FWP . . . \$1.50

BOYCOTT GRAPES

by Xavier Viramontes
Brilliant multi-colored
Aztec Indian squeezing
grapes.

#XV . . . \$2.50



QUANTITY	ITEM #	PRICE PER ITEM	Total
	# XV	2.50	
	# FWP	1.50	
	#FWPS	1.50	
Subtotal -			
(Calif. Residents add 6% Sales Tax)			
Please add 10% for Shipping -			
Contributions -			
Total -			

Name _____

Street Address _____

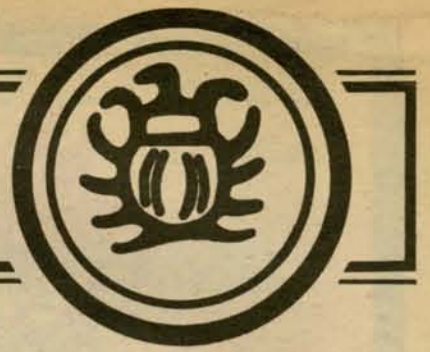
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

El Taller Grafico
P.O. Box 62
Keene, Ca. 93531

Please include your check or money order made out to El Taller Grafico.



THE RANCH COMMITTEE



AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN

Keene, Calif. - Until farm workers are covered by unemployment insurance - and that day is coming - the jobless farm worker and his family can apply for cash help from a program called "Aid to Families with Dependent Children" (AFDC).

This government program is for children and their parents (or whoever takes care of the child) if they are poor.

For a family to qualify, the child must be without support because of the death, absence, incapacity, or unemployment of one or both parents. If the father is working, the family can still receive AFDC if he works less than 23 hours a week or less than 100 hours a month.

The family must be needy to qualify. Being needy is determined by how much the family needs, how much income it has and how much property it owns. If a family has less income and property than it needs, then it qualifies.

The family's child must be unmarried and, if between the ages of 16 and 18, must regularly attend school or a training program, or be employed to help support the family unless he or she is disabled. A child may be eligible up to age 21 if regularly

attending school or a training program.

A family can apply for AFDC if it has only lived in the state or in the country for one day. There is no residency requirement. Also, there is no requirement for citizenship to qualify.

Generally, the eligible family cannot own real property (real estate) with an assessed value of more than \$5,000 (less amount owed on it), household furnishings worth more than \$1,600.

Employable parents must be available for and seeking work, or be training for work. This means registering and cooperating with "EDD" (Employment Development Department). You do not have to accept a job "made available by a labor dispute".

AFDC is financial aid (and services, if wanted) for needy families with children until the family can again become self-supporting.

The county welfare department determines the monthly amount of money needed by the family for food, housing, utilities, clothing and other necessities. The aid payment (grant) is determined by subtracting the total monthly income (if any) from the amount needed.

The limit to the amount of money a family can receive depends upon the size of the family.

Medi-Cal and Food Stamps are also available to the AFDC family.

How To Apply

The family can apply to the county welfare department in person or by phone or letter. Every person has the right to apply. The date of application is the date the verbal request is made, or if by letter, when the letter is received by the county.

A welfare form called the WR-1 is a one-page application form which a person signs when requesting aid.

The county welfare department must process a claim within 30 days of the application. A multi-page form called the WR-2 also is required for AFDC. Help with this form is given by Campesino Centers. When the form is returned to the welfare department in person, an official will ask about the information and perhaps for documents to verify it. A Campesino Center worker will go to the welfare department to help.

When immediate need exists, aid payments can be made immediately.

Immediate need is when the family doesn't have enough money for food, clothing, shelter, medical care or other "non-deferrable" needs during the period of evaluation for AFDC.

There are at least six basic rights to which welfare recipients are entitled. These are:

Basic American rights. The California Welfare regulations state: "Assistance is to be administered in a manner which is consistent with and will help achieve basic program purposes; which respects individual rights under the United States Constitution, State and Federal laws and which does not violate individual privacy or personal dignity."

The right to receive welfare. Welfare is not a "hand-out" of charity but a government program established by law.

The right to fair treatment, according to welfare regulations. In administering welfare programs the county welfare departments must adhere to laws, regulations and guidelines dictated by State and Federal government.

The right to information from the welfare department. Re-

ipients have a right to inspect their case records at the welfare department.

The right to representation. Welfare recipients have a right to designate an "authorized representative" to help get information from the welfare department or to serve as an "advocate" protecting a recipient's rights. It is extremely important for a Campesino Center worker to go with the applicant or recipient to the welfare department. The Campesino Center worker serves as a witness to the treatment the recipient receives and acts as an advocate in talking to department officials.

The right to appeal actions by the welfare department. A request for a hearing can be made whenever there is disagreement with any action of the department. Any person can be designated to represent the applicant or recipient in the hearing request. If the welfare department says that aid is going to be cut-off call or go to the nearest Campesino Center. If a hearing is requested within ten days of the cut-off, aid will be given back until the hearing and decision by the welfare officials.

San Luis Elections

(Continued from Pg. 1)

attorneys battled law enforcement attempts to prosecute union members under a riot law never used before; to deny union members the right to jury trials; and to harass union members with "bad faith" arrests.

Rutkowski reported how the conspiracy to break the strike came about:

-- After scores of union members charged with crimes won acquittals from jury trials in October, Yuma Justices William Steen and Herman Flaufferer stopped granting jury trials in November.

-- On Nov. 5, 24 union picketers were arrested and charged with felonies under an Arizona riot statute limiting assemblies of two or more persons. A similar Chicago law has been declared unconstitutional.

-- On Nov. 14, police attacked picketers with clubs and teargas, then on Nov. 19 they attacked with chemical mace, trapping stri-

kers in their cars and spraying the disabling weapon through the windows. Chavez publicly denounced the "breakdown of law in Yuma County" that same day and the Congressmen visited a week later to investigate.

Rutkowski said the union has delayed the trial of the riot felony cases with motions for dismissal that claim the riot law is unconstitutional and that the arrests were discriminatory because the law was never used before. Another motion asked that the trials be moved to Phoenix, if held at all, because of prejudicial pre-trial publicity in the Yuma newspapers.

The UFW also has asked the State Supreme Court to rule on the constitutionality of Yuma authorities denying jury trials to UFW defendants in at least 12 instances. Yuma District Attorney Mike Smith recommended the denials, saying jury trials are not guaranteed for petty misdemeanor cases, but the union claims the various trespass, peace disturbance and assault charges carry six-month jail penalties worthy of a jury's deliberation.

Rutkowski said some 200 union members have been arrested so far, with 24 trials still scheduled to be held. He said 120 of those spent time in jail awaiting bail, including the 54 persons arrested Sept. 25 who did five days and were late acquitted, and the 24 persons charged with felonies who were held in jail for nine days before winning release on their own recognizance.

The Phoenix UFW attorney cited the case of 26 picketers who were arrested Sept. 16 as evidence of "bad faith" prosecution. Those union members were chased down a highway at 4:30 am and forced to sit on the pavement with hands over their heads, but three months later the charges were dropped against all but one huelguista. The single striker was convicted Dec. 10 of disturbing the peace after being denied a jury trial.

Yuma Superior Court Judge Carl Muecke on Dec. 6 denied the union's claim of bad faith prosecution in refusing to grant a restraining order against the district attorney and Yuma Sheriff Bud Yancy. The restraining order would have prohibited

them from the use of excessive force and unnecessary arrests.

Judge Muecke ruled that the union members who were arrested did not suffer irreparable injuries that would justify such an order.

He said they can still win damage claims as part of the \$10 million suit the union filed against the growers, Smith and Yancy on Nov. 19 that cited their conspiracy to break the UFW strike.

Rutkowski said the union now is proceeding with the damage suit, taking depositions from "good witnesses" about the tactics employed by the sheriff's department and the district attorney.

Sheriff Yancy, meanwhile, warned UFW organizer Rodriguez on Dec. 7 to be on the lookout for scabs armed with clubs who might attack union members. UFW bus driver Ray Chavez reported huelguistas have been injured through beatings and sling-shot attacks by such goons.

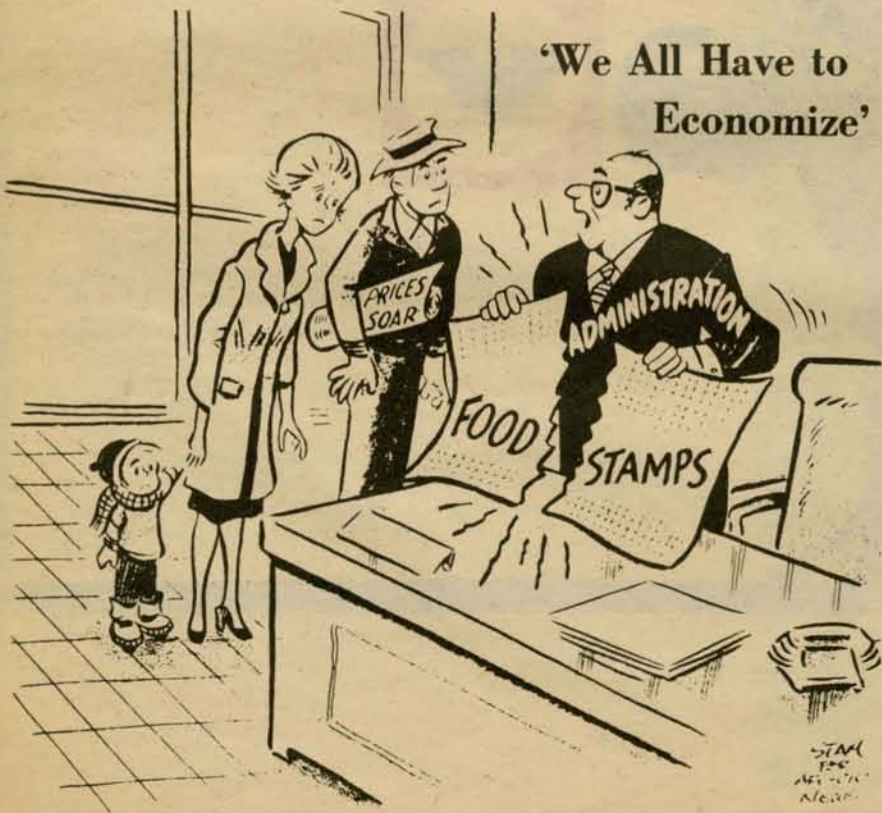
The Yuma Chamber of Commerce, however, charged the union on Dec. 2 with encouraging "inflammatory and dangerous activities" but offered no specifics to justify its rejection of Cesar Chavez' call for a peaceful resolution of the strike.

The reason might be the growers' increasing anguish over financial losses suffered in the strike. Attorney Shadle conceded Dec. 8 that his previous estimates of a \$3 million loss were "too low, and since the early high-market we've spent a lot of money on all those fine trips to the courthouse as well as extra recruiting costs."

Though Shadle claimed the harvest was 60 per cent completed with 2,500 pickers working in the groves, the EL MALCRIADO tour of the groves Dec. 9 found only five to six scab cars at each site, usually bearing Oregon, Washington and Utah license plates.

The trees were loaded down with fruit and UFW picket captains estimated only 20 per cent of the crop was picked.

A squad of two to three deputies and three to four goons, often armed, followed the UFW picketers from grove to grove, rigidly enforcing a September court order limiting to 25 persons the number of pickets allowed at each grove.



**CESAR'S
GREETINGS**



**DON'T BUY
GALLO WINE
GRAPES OR
LETTUCE!**

