

# STRIKE SPREADS from COAST to COAST

## El Malcriado

"The Voice of the Farm Worker"

NO. 26

10¢



**E1 Malcriado**

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## EDITORIAL: BECAUSE OF OUR STRUGGLE NOW---

IN THE PAST MONTHS WE HAVE SEEN THE IMPOSSIBLE BECOME A REALITY. WE HAVE SEEN THOUSANDS OF RESIGNED AND DESPAIRING FARM WORKERS AROUSED WITH A NEW HOPE; WE HAVE SEEN SOME OF THE STRONGEST MEN IN THE VALLEY BLOCKED IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO USE WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS ABSOLUTE POWER; WE HAVE SEEN THE CONSCIENCE OF THE WHOLE NATION AROUSED.

THIS HAS HAPPENED ONLY BECAUSE OF THE MOVEMENT, BECAUSE OF AN IDEA. WHAT IS THE MOVEMENT? IT IS A DIRECT PERSON-TO-PERSON RESPONSE TO INJUSTICE. IT IS AN IMMEDIATE, COURAGEOUS REACTION AGAINST LIES AND DISHONESTY. IT IS THE IDEA THAT A MAN'S DIGNITY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING ELSE. IT IS THE HOPE THAT BECAUSE OF OUR STRUGGLE NOW, OUR CHILDREN'S LIVES WILL HAVE MEANING TOMORROW.

THE IDEA OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IS NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN UNDERSTAND UNLESS YOU HAVE BEEN CHEATED ONCE TOO OFTEN OUT OF YOUR DOLLAR AN HOUR; UNLESS YOU HAVE BEEN SENT TO AN AREA OVERFLOWING WITH WORKERS BY A GREEDY CONTRACTOR OR A PUPPET FROM THE FARM LABOR OFFICE; UNLESS YOU HAVE HEARD YOUR CHILDREN ASK YOU FOR FOOD OR A BLANKET WHEN THERE IS NO FOOD AND NO BLANKET.

SO, IN THE FIVE YEARS SINCE THE FIRST LITTLE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL FARM WORKERS ASSOCIATION IN FRESNO, WE HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO SEE A BEGINNING OF A SOLUTION. THE HUELGA IS A PAINFUL THING FOR EVERYONE. BUT THE HUELGA IS LIKE THE BAD-TASTING MEDICINE THAT CURES THE SICKNESS.

THE SICKNESS OF DELANO THAT IS EVIDENT IN THE EVENTS OF THESE DAYS IS SOMETHING THAT EVEN THE BIG MONEY OF THE GROWERS CANNOT SILENCE. AS THE DAYS GROW LONGER IN 1966, WE SEE A NEW FREEDOM EMERGING FOR THE FARM WORKER, A HOPE WHICH GOES BEYOND DELANO, A HOPE WHICH LIGHTS EVERY CORNER OF CALIFORNIA, A HOPE WHICH GOES AS FAR AS THE 57¢-AN-HOUR CAROLINA FIELDS AND THE \$1.50-A-HUNDRED TEXAS COTTON. TODAY IN DELANO THERE IS THE BEGINNING OF A MOVEMENT.



WALTER REUTHER, LEADER OF 14 MILLION WORKERS, MARCHES DOWN A STREET IN DELANO WITH CESAR CHAVEZ, DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL FARM WORKERS ASSOCIATION, AND LARRY ITLIONG, LEADER OF THE A. W. O. C.

## BOYCOTT!

With thousands of unions, churches and just plain citizens helping, the National Farm Workers Association called a nationwide boycott of Delano grapes and Schenley products.

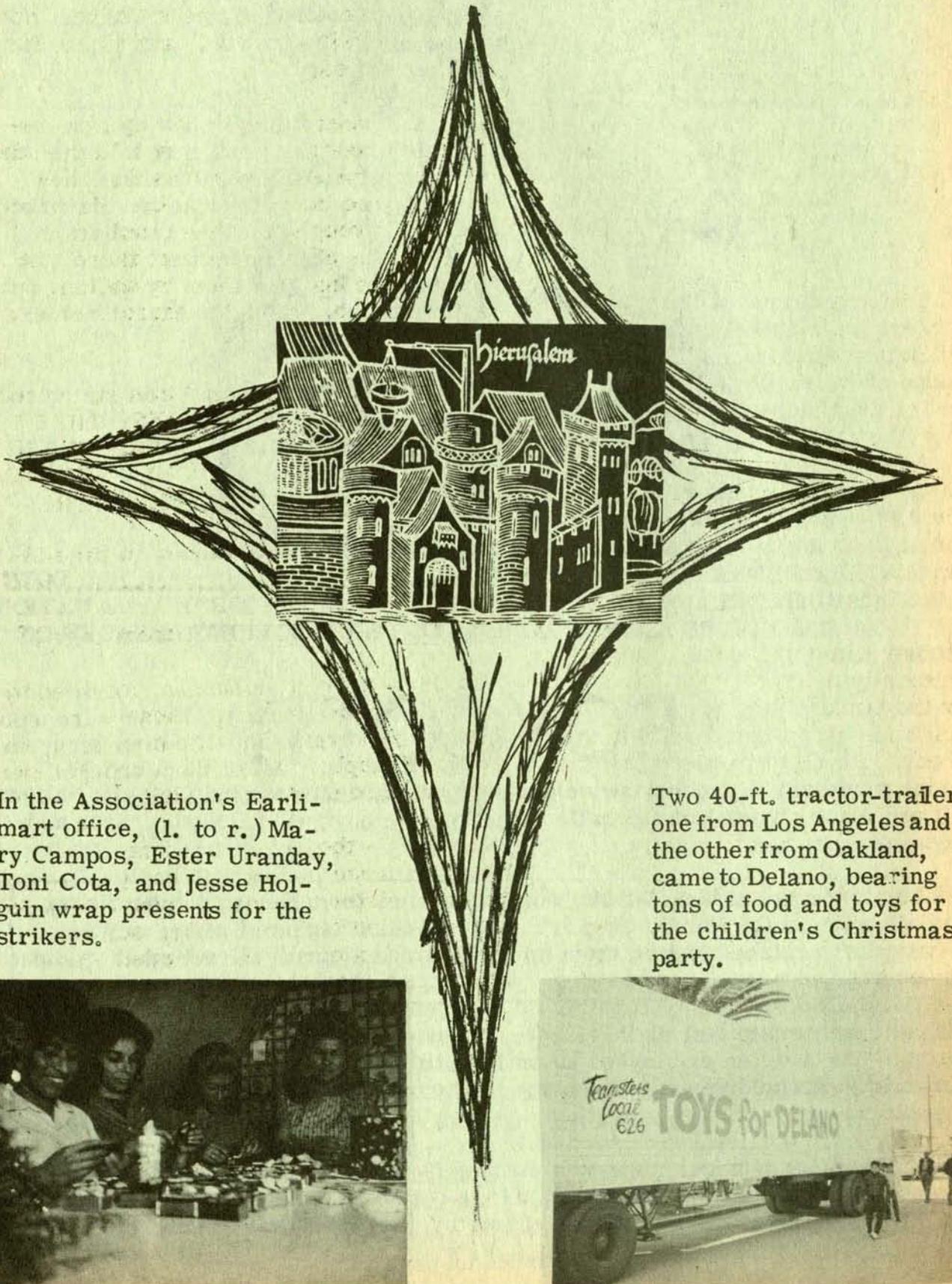
In a separate action \$50,000 worth of grapes from Delano's huge Sierra Vista Ranch (DiGiorgio Corp.) rotted on Pier 37 in San Francisco when workers refused to load them on the Ship Rio Negro Valley bound for Europe.

The first cities to feel the huge boycott were Washington, New York and Chicago. The service employees union in California promised that no hotels and restaurants would serve grapes from Delano or wine from the vineyards of the strike.

The 14 million member AFL-CIO pledged 100% support of the boycott. The national civil rights groups promised all-out help. And on Saturday December 18, two tractor-trailers full of food and toys (one from Los Angeles; one from

(--Continued on page five)

# Christmas in Delano



In the Association's Earli-  
mart office, (l. to r.) Ma-  
ry Campos, Ester Uranday,  
Toni Cota, and Jesse Hol-  
guin wrap presents for the  
strikers.



Two 40-ft. tractor-trailers,  
one from Los Angeles and  
the other from Oakland,  
came to Delano, bearing  
tons of food and toys for  
the children's Christmas  
party.



# MEN OF CONSCIENCE STAND FAST

## AUTO WORKERS

PLEDGE \$10,000

## FOR CHRISTMAS

"You have the support of 14,000,000 workers from unions all over the United States and Canada." This was the pledge of Walter P. Reuther, President of the 600,000 member United Auto Workers, and Vice President of the AFL-CIO, which includes every major industrial union in the country. The AFL-CIO, in an official resolution at their annual convention in San Francisco, promised all possible help to the Delano grape strikers.

Reuther came to Delano last week to personally deliver a \$10,000 check for the strike and to pledge \$5,000 a month for every month until the strike is won. He also promised that the unions would aid in the nationwide boycott of Delano grapes and Schenley Liquors.

Reuther told how the U. A. W. had been a small union in the 1930's. But it grew and won strikes against the big car-makers because its cause was just and the workers stood together. Now auto workers retire at \$7,000 a year. Reuther demanded a \$2 an hour minimum wage for all farm workers, unemployment insurance, and other benefits, and promised an all-out effort in Washington to get new laws passed to help farm workers.

Eleven church leaders from all over the United States came to Delano last week to meet with Cesar Chavez, and to meet with growers, and to see for themselves.

The growers didn't show up at a luncheon meeting. But they told the ministers, priest and rabbis that they could see them later at the Slavonian Hall (stronghold of the ranchers). When the churchmen went there, the growers insulted them by walking out in a group. Thus the churchmen saw for themselves.

The churchmen issued this statement: "WE REJECT THE HERESY THAT CHURCHES AND SYNAGOGUES ARE TO BE CONCERNED ONLY WITH SO-CALLED 'SPIRITUAL' MATTERS.

Continued on page 13

## NATIONWIDE BOYCOTT(from page 3)

Oakland) arrived in Delano, followed by a caravan of 40 cars. These were union leaders and rank-and-file members, and church people. All of them brought money and good will for the strike.

Meanwhile the growers fought back against these measures: one grower beat up a minister who was helping the strike; on a Delano street at night; someone else fired a gun at the crowded Farm Workers Association headquarters (no one was hurt). At the same time growers boards-of-directors held emergency meetings, voting to spend huge sums of money to fight the strikers in every way. Cesar Chavez, preparing for the strongest attacks yet against the Huelga, reaffirmed the unyielding non-violent philosophy of the strike.

## "PIXLEY JUSTICE"

**PIXLEY JUSTICE COURT  
M.W. DEL RE JR. JUDGE**

George Dulcich, grape grower ("Blue River" and "Maruska" table grapes) and son of a notorious Earlimart rancher, stands accused of brutally attacking and viciously strangling F. W. A. picket Eugene Nelson. The incident occurred on October 16th near the Dulcich ranch. There were many witnesses, including a minister and one of Dulcich's own security guards. Witnesses agreed that the attack on Nelson was completely unprovoked and appeared to be attempted murder. Nelson had been peacefully picketing and was not even on Dulcich's property.

But according to the Pixley "Justice" Court, Mr. Dulcich can get away with his horrible crimes, without any punishment, because he is a rich rancher. Dulcich did not have to pay any bail. He was not charged with attempted murder, as he should have been. In fact, it appears that the police and the District Attorney's office did not want to charge him with any crime. But Nelson demanded that Dulcich be tried, and a "trial" took place in December.

It was a fake trial. They didn't care about justice at all. The jury that tried Dulcich was specially selected to include personal friends of Mr. Dulcich. The judge, Mr. Delre, implied that he too was a friend of Dulcich. And the assistant District Attorney, Theodore Berry, seemed eager to let Dulcich get away with his crimes. They would not even let Nelson speak in court, and tell all of his side of the story. In such a phoney trial, justice is impossible. The ranchers and their friends were very happy when the stacked jury returned the verdict "Not Guilty".

El Malcriado says: There is no "Justice" Court in Pixley. Judge Delre permitted a travesty of justice to be conducted in his court. Since his statements inferred that he was a friend of Dulcich and knew him well, he should have disqualified himself, and let some impartial person be the judge. El Malcriado also charges that Deputy District Attorney Theodore Berry is either extremely incompetent or is guilty of the most outrageous conspiracy to let Dulcich get away with his crimes. Berry is quoted as saying, "We don't even like to accept these cases" against growers. He thus openly admitted that the Tulare County District Attorney's office does not apply the law equally to ranchers and to workers. When there is no equality before the law, there can only be tyranny and injustice. "Pixley Justice" is tyranny.

There was a cotton strike back in 1933. And it was during that strike 32 years ago that Pixley was the scene of a shocking massacre. On October 12, 1933, a group of ranchers attacked a group of strikers (who were peacefully having a meeting in town) and murdered two and wounded a dozen others. Eleven ranchers were positively identified as being in that group of murderers. But no one was punished for that crime. Pixley has not changed. "Pixley justice" is the same. Ranchers can still attack workers, without any reason or cause, and get away with their crimes.

# 1965 THE YEAR IN PICTURES

**El Malcriado**



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**El Malcriado**



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## EL MALCRIADO--ONE YEAR OLD

With this issue EL MALCRIADO has been publishing for one year. It has grown from an all-Spanish circulation of 1,000 to over 3,500 Spanish and 3,500 English copies of each issue. EL MALCRIADO is sold in stores from Southern Kern to Sonoma counties. The Farm Worker Press will soon publish its first book.

## MEMBERSHIP GROWS; NEW BENEFITS AND SERVICES



**Credit Union's  
Helen Chavez**



**FIRST MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION, Fresno, March, 1961**



**Association Meeting, September, 1965.  
Thousands come to hear Cesar Chavez,**

Membership in the Farm Workers Association has grown steadily, from a few dozen members in 1961 to over 2,000 paid-in and dues-paying families in 1965. An additional 4,000 people have authorized the F.W.A. to act as their bargaining agents in gaining a contract. The F.W.A. is increasing benefits and services to members, with new offices to handle welfare cases, wage claims, insurance and social security. The Farm Workers Credit Union has assets of \$28,000, up from just \$37 in November of 1963.

# The Year in Pictures:

## THE GREAT GRAPE STRIKE



How can farm workers support their families on \$1.20 an hour? Striking grape pickers ask for \$1.40 an hour. "Poor as we are, we have stood firm for 100 days. We are determined to win a decent life for our families."



### UNITY OF THE WORKERS

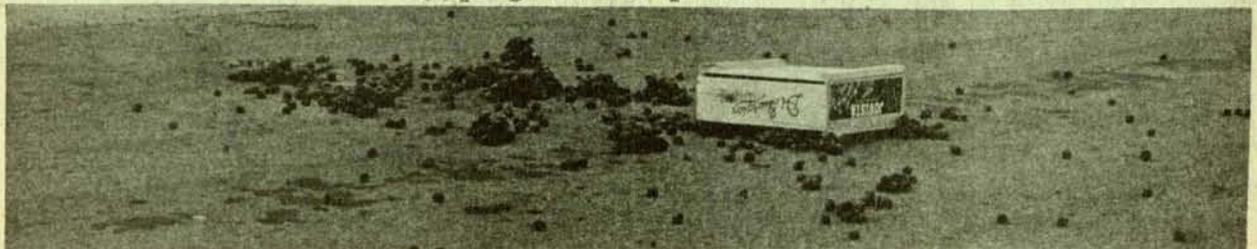
Larry Itliong of the Filipino Union and Julio Hernandez of the Association attend a unity conference to map strategy.

Hundreds attended the Farm Workers Mass. Many priests and ministers came to help the strikers. As Father Keith Kenny said, "Where the poor are, Christ should be, and IS."

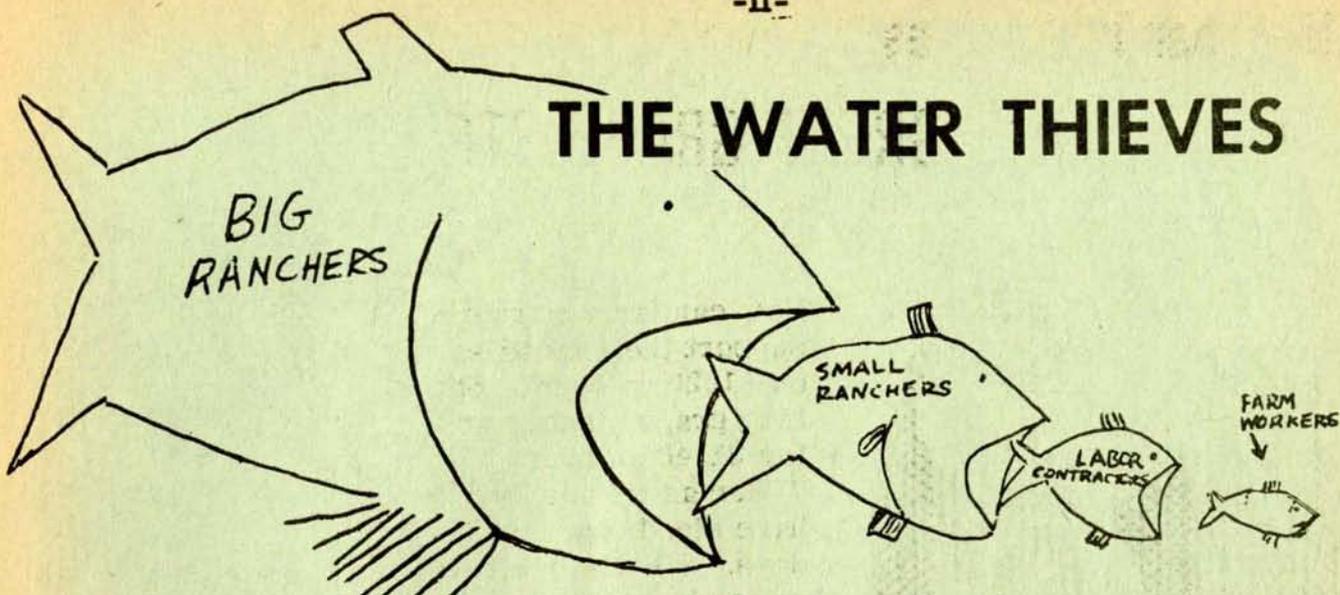


"JOIN THE STRIKE."  
Over 5,000 did.

Grape growers upset?



# THE WATER THIEVES



While farm workers must support their families on \$1.20 an hour, usually under \$2,000 a year, they also pay taxes which are spent in the billion-dollar hand-outs to the already rich ranchers. Workers, consumers, and taxpayers chip in million of dollars each year in direct "donations" to California's sugar-beet and cotton ranchers. But the biggest hand-out of all is the water subsidy, to almost all ranchers. And the people who foot most of the bill for water to irrigate the millions of acres of California's ex-deserts, the San Joaquin and Imperial Valleys, are YOU, the taxpayers.

About 100 years ago, the U. S. Government agreed to help farmers to get a start in the West. Farmers got free land and help in getting water. In 1902, a law was passed which said that the government would help any man irrigate up to 160 acres of farm land. The Government spends taxpayers' money to build dams, canals, and the whole system to distribute the water.

It costs about \$700 to irrigate an acre of California land for a year, and the farmer only has to pay \$123, according to the late Senator Clair Engle. In other words, the Federal Government (you, the taxpayers) and electricity users (you, the consumers) pay over \$90,000 a year of a small farmer's expenses (over \$180,000 a year for a 320-acre farm). It was specifically written into the law that farmers could get his hand-out only for small holdings (160-, 320-, or for some "family farms" of up to 640-acres). For any land that they owned above the '160-acre limitation' they themselves had to pay for their water, at the same price that city users or workers or industry had to pay. But the big ranchers (i. e., Di Giorgio Fruit; "L. A. Times"-owned Tejon Ranch, 168, 531 acres; Kern County Land Company, 348, 026 acres) want the \$577 bonus for every acre that they own. They scream, "No limitation" on government hand-outs. They want taxpayers to pay all their irrigation expenses--all their water bills.

EL MALCRIADO says: The government can help the small farmers. It is good that the government builds canals and dams. BUT DAM THE HAND-OUTS to those that are already millionaires!

# DELANO NEEDS DOCTORS

Kern and Tulare counties are sitting on top of a pile of federal money which could be used to start a free medical clinic in Delano and in other places where it is desperately needed.

These facts were released this week by Cesar Chavez, director of the National Farm Workers Association. "Our movement," he said, "is a continual fight for rights for the people. Medical care is one of these rights."



Chavez assigned Association volunteer Peggy McGivern to investigate the situation and to start some action. Her first activity was to set up a makeshift part-time medical clinic for strikers. The clinic was staffed by doctors who traveled from San Francisco to treat those who could not afford the exorbitant local doctors' fees, and others who had been turned away by the county hospitals.

But no local doctors have volunteered their services and the Farm Workers Association Clinic cannot continue without regular support from doctors in this area.

The next project in Chavez's medical campaign was to get widespread support for a local program of medical care. Work on this has just begun. If the federal medical money cannot be used here, we intend to find out why. We will let the people know who is sitting on the money

Here is a report by a nurse who has been trying to help people get medical care. This report was sent to the state government as well as to the local county hospitals. The nurse says: "For seven weeks now I have attended and assisted patients who live in these two counties. I have witnessed firsthand the lack of concern and lack of communication when I have "waited" with these patients in Tulare and Kern County Hospitals in order to attempt to solve their health problems. They leave the hospital often knowing no more about their condition than when they arrived. I have been observing the vast screening process which the out-patient clinic and emergency service at both hospitals attempt. I have witnessed the tremendous number of persons waiting to be seen. I have been appalled at the attitudes of persons who are present to give services."

What will be done about this? See the next issue of El Malcriado.

## MEN OF CONSCIENCE

Continued from page 5

**THE SUFFERING OF FARM WORKERS AND THEIR CHILDREN CRIES TO HEAVEN AND DEMANDS THE ATTENTION OF MEN OF CONSCIENCE."**

The church leaders were of all religious faiths and were from New York, Chicago, Washington, D. C., Texas, Los Angeles, and Indianapolis. They had travelled here to see what is beginning to be called the "Shame of Delano". Sixteen growers, including some who had committed unpunished acts of violence against pickets earlier in the strike, insulted the Men of God.

The visit by the clergymen was one of the strongest acts of interfaith cooperation in recent church history. It also offered proof of the church involvement in the Farm Workers' strike movement. National magazines such as TIME and NEWSWEEK have begun carrying stories of the strike so that people all over the United States now know what the local struggle means.



Think of the Future

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# THE HOT LINE



SIX WEEKS AGO WE BEGGED THE LOCAL MINISTERS AND THE LOCAL CITIZENS TO RECOGNIZE US. "WE TOO ARE CHILDREN OF GOD" WE REMINDED THEM. LAST WEEK THE CITY OF DELANO GAVE US THEIR ANSWER. THE CITY COUNCIL, THE CITY MANAGER AND THE POLICE TOOK AWAY THE WARMING FIRES WHICH THE PICKETS ARE USING IN THESE SUB-FREEZING DAYS AND NIGHTS. AND THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER SAID OF THE VISITING ELEVEN MINISTERS: "THEY ARE PITIFUL". AND THE GROWERS INSULTED THE VISITORS. AS IF THIS WAS NOT ENOUGH, THE NEXT DAY A GROWER SLUGGED REV. DAVID HAVENS, A CHURCH OF CHRIST MINISTER WHO HAS BEEN HELPING THE STRIKE. ALL THESE EVENTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

## 'HUELGA'

by Eugene Nelson



A fully documented account of the historic grape strike in Delano, the greatest attempt since the 1930's by farm workers to join together and win decent wages. Not since Grapes of Wrath has any book dealt so honestly with the plight of farm workers in their struggles for justice. Illustrated by dozens of photographs.

HUELGA -- Farm Worker Press -- P.O. Box 1060 -- Delano, Calif.

Please send me \_\_\_ copies of HUELGA at \$1.50 each.

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# What The People Are Thinking

Dear Editor:

I was quite interested in reading the letter on the front page of your December 7th issue. It is rather refreshing to get a "rural" view of life again. The letter by Mr. Pickett states that the Filipino workers have been in Delano for 40 years. It occurs to me to ask, "Why after 40 years, are these people still on the bottom of the economic ladder?"

The orientation of the letter seems very much like the southerners who speak of our "niggers". The writer refers to the Filipino being "quick with his hands". This strikes one as being similar to the myths about other races that are held by other wealthy groups, viz.; "Japanese are good gardeners," "Negroes are good domestic servants," "Chinese are proficient cooks" and "Mexicans are hardy stoop laborers." I might point out that human beings are a little more versatile than that--if given an opportunity.

The writer makes much of the fact that laborers there can make \$1.80 an hour. Union laborers in the City of Oakland make close to \$600 per mo plus fringes.

The writer asks about these people's future. After 40 years under the auspices of the growers what kind of future have they had?

Wm. H. Koethke  
Oakland, Calif.

Gentlemen:

As a former member of both the ILWU and the SUP it is good to see the unorganized being organized.

Yours,  
Ken Turner  
Sacramento, Calif.

Dear Editor:

By means of this letter I wish to send my sincere thanks to all the honorable people of San Francisco; I had the opportunity of talking with various residents of that city who are members of different unions there. They are people who understand thoroughly the problems of all working people, and there is not one of them who denies his help when it is necessary.

I have no words to express the admiration I feel for these people. I hope that someday we may repay all these people for all that they have done to help the people on strike here in Delano.

Epifanio Camacho  
McFarland, Calif.

Dear Editor:

God always has His chosen ones for a good work, and for the sacrifices necessary for the welfare of the people. We have seen that you are a valiant man in your struggle for the workers, and we are assured of triumph, because you have already given the growers a good scare.

May God continue to be your captain and pilot and lead you on to victory.

Sofia Bojorquez  
San Jose, Calif.

Dear Editor:

The Agricultural Workers Association pledges its complete support of the Delano grape strike, Cesar Chavez, and the National Farm Workers Association.

Jose Centeno, President  
Agric. Workers Ass'n  
Gilroy, Calif.

TO THE COMPAÑEROS IN DELANO

It is cold. It rains.  
The wet wind congeals the spirit.  
The grey sky afflicts me.  
It afflicts the soul, it afflicts sleep, life itself,  
the heart--What am I!--  
the lungs, the air.  
The air hangs heavy,  
the humidity on the windows stifles me.  
And even the fire  
crackling  
into the chimney  
afflicts me;  
the air hurts.

And I think about the brothers in Delano;  
about the strong, the valiant, the tenacious.

I think about their women, about their children,  
about their tin-roofed shacks  
beneath this rain;  
in the cold without heat,  
their children without milk,  
their mothers without fear.

Brothers, friends,  
you must go on with your struggle.

We, the comfortable,  
the sad; we, who have heat,  
and milk and shelter and bread;  
we, who know nothing,  
because we own too many things,  
because we possess too many objects,

we need what you have so much of--valiant friends,  
powerful, tenacious and strong--:  
one cause, my friends,  
one common cause,  
soul and courage,  
life and heart;  
arms and a leader:  
Cesar Chavez.

Friends of Delano, brothers,  
you must go on with your struggle.  
You must go on with our struggle.

by Mireya Jaimes-Freyre  
Goleta, Calif.  
translator: Luis Valdez

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