

men's compensation and become eligible for unemployment insurance; the House knocked out an effort to bring them jobless benefits but another attempt will be made in conference. Agricultural workers must be brought into the mainstream of American labor.

Sweet Grapes

Long years of patient labor in the vineyards of trade union organization, nonviolent protest and national boycott have at last resulted in a historic contract between the grape pickers and grape growers in California. "We are overjoyed that peace has come to the valley," said the owner of a vineyard in San Joaquin. "All grapes will be sweet grapes again," said Cesar Chavez, the leader of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee.

From supermarkets on Long Island to shopping centers in San Francisco, "La Causa" had enlisted the support of families who refused to buy nonunion grapes, knowing that the migrant workers and campesinos were paid miserably and deprived of benefits enjoyed by other laborers. The boycott had slowly built up force; it began to hurt the big orchards.

The contract covering growers of about two-thirds of California's table grapes is expected to end the boycott as the rest of the industry falls into line. To most workers in other fields the terms of the agreement will not seem unusual and certainly not inflationary—wages of \$1.80 an hour, an incentive of another twenty cents for each box picked, and grower contributions to a health plan plus new safety requirements on the use of pesticides.

The settlement at last gives recognition to farm workers who traditionally have been exploited and denied access to normal human rights. In recent weeks their plight has been described before Congressional committees—lack of medical care, poor housing and sanitation facilities, uncertain employment for the workers, inadequate or no education for their children.

The harvest of human peonage will begin to be reversed by the new contract but it is only a beginning. Farm workers deserve to be protected by work-