WEST OF LODI, CALIFORNIA -- The marchers from Delano had been expecting something to happen for days. On Monday night at the Hotel in Stockton, Cesar Chavez announced to a closed meeting of the pilgrims that the Schenley Corporation wanted to talk. He asked their permission to leave the Pilgrimage. They granted it.

Neither the marchers nor Cesar knew how this was going to be discussed. Some two or three weeks before, on Wednesday morning was a complete surprise. The group was about 3 miles west of Lodi when Cesar called from Los Angeles. The radio telephone car was parked by the road. The reception was poor and the conversation was cut off once. By the time the message was delivered, the marchers were half a mile up the road. When the truck caught up, they were resting in the shade. The message was delivered, the marchers were recovering, and the Schenley agreement had begun to mock a whole lot of apples out of the tree.

Agreement on the Part of the NFWA was announced that the strike at the Schenley Ranch in Delano and San Joaquin Valley would be called off. The agreement was signed by Cesar Chavez and the attorney for Schenley, and was witnessed by William Kirchner, Director of Organization for the A.F.L.-C.I.O. Kirchner was in great part responsible for bringing about this new, two-way conference process. As a matter of fact, the agreement was reached without a strike. There was some disagreement among the A.F.L-C.I.O. officials over the acceptance of the agreement. The NFWA does not have a certified labor dispute at the Schenley Ranch and the Di Giorgio ranch and, consequently, they were not present at the conference. Meanwhile, within the A.F.L-C.I.O., there is a strong supporter of the A.F.L-C.I.O. (ties between the two parties together. According to one source, there was some disagreement among the AFL-CIO officials involved over the acceptance of the agreement. The A.W.O.C. in the agreement, A.W.O.C. does not have a certified labor dispute at the Schenley Ranch and the Di Giorgio ranch, respectively. Within a week, the shock of the Schenley agreement had begun to knock off a whole lot of apples out of the tree.

The Brown-Di Giorgio Plan was announced by the NFWA, in the words of Cesar Chavez, "meaning an olive branch in one hand and a sword in the other," by contacting the NFWA's first, Robert DiGiorgio, a corporation vice-president, calling a press conference, announcing his plan for solving the "mutually antagonistic situation in Delano. In it he called for elections of Di Giorgio workers, but tied them in tightly with pre-condition: compulsory arbitration (protected by every labor union in the country) and a closing clause for no strike during negotiations or at harvest. "It is an absolute right to strike," said Chavez. "It is the right of the workers to determine if there is a legitimate labor dispute and to strike if there is."

The next target will be growers in the Fall, quickly recognized the NFWA as the bargaining agent for their field workers. The next target will be growers in the Fall, quickly recognized the NFWA as the bargaining agent for their field workers.
The big conference over the budget seems to revolve around how medical care programs can be paid for in the current financial situation. Some argue that improvements in medical care can be made by allocating funds more efficiently and ensuring that the poor receive adequate care. Others believe that the current system is too complex and resource-intensive, and that reforms are necessary to ensure that the poor have access to quality care.

The conflict over the budget is further exacerbated by the current legislative environment, where attention is focused on political advantage rather than long-term solutions. The struggle for power and influence among different groups and organizations is sidetracked or ignored, leading to a lack of focus on the real needs of the poor.

The current legislative session in California is focused on promoting and protecting the general welfare and security of the poor by the State Welfare Department. This department has been juggling the books, and it is unclear how much of the new federal money will be used to support the programs. The budget for the current legislative year and beyond may not get hit, with the programs being financed by the low-income families under the AFDC program being cut back in practice to just $5 million.

The spirit of militancy was most evident in the strike. To the ranchers, and to all those who oppose us, we say, in the words of Benito die--: "Every one's first duty is to protect the workers from the greed of speculators who use human beings as instruments to provide themselves with money. We will be patient in our righteous cause, but we shall fight until the very end to win,--to win with our minds,--to win with our bodies."

The strike will continue until we have achieved our goals, and we will not be defeated.

**The Movement**

The movement is not new. It has been growing steadily over the years, and it is now at a critical stage. We have learned the meaning of unity, and we know that together we are stronger than our enemies. We have learned the importance of organizing our efforts in a systematic and coordinated manner, and we have learned the value of persistence.

We are fighting for the basic rights of all farm workers, and we are not afraid to suffer. We believe that the only way to achieve our goals is through peaceful means, and we will not resort to violence.

We are fighting for the recognition of our rights, and we will not be satisfied until we have achieved them. We will not be satisfied until we have achieved our goals, and we will not be satisfied until we have achieved our goals.

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The first night stop — Ducor, a grower town. Not enough shelter. The marchers crammed into five small wooden houses; some slept outside. There were not enough boots, sleeping bags, water. Everything was new: the organizers were exhausted; the marchers sat in kitchens and went to sleep. Who had ever done such a thing before?

The next day donations of shoes and sleeping bags arrived; a radio—telephone truck, one woman cooked breakfast for 60. Never again did they have to go hungry or sleep in the cold; the farmworkers of California were learning about the Pilgrimage.

The choice of towns was deliberate: Porterville, Lindsay, Farmersville. The workers responded with all they had.

In Porterville the Pilgrimage was met by a three-man band — accordion, guitar and snare drum — three farm workers, who joined the march for several days. 300 joined the line as it paraded into Farmersville. Huge meals were cooked in parks, social halls, churches; the tall scarlet NFWA banner hung between trees, over the fronts of buildings.

The first week the Pilgrimage belonged only to the people. There were no newspaper men and TV cameras; the rest of the world seemed to be waiting to see if this strange march was serious and would succeed. The workers in the towns and fields did not need the newspapers — they saw the Pilgrimage themselves — they knew what was meant by "Peregrinacion, Penitencia, Revolucion."

The mass that started the Pilgrimage was held in the dirt back yard of the office of the NFWA. The altar was made of Coca-Cola cases; the Host was held in a Skippy Peanut Butter jar. As the pilgrims moved out, the Delano Police Chief announced they could not march through town; a police cordon was set up at the intersection. Father Kenney led a prayer for the souls of the policemen: after the Amen, he cried "VIVA LA HUELGA!" "VIVA" replied the marchers. After an hour the authorities gave in.

Special MOVEMENT Supplement

Photos by
Gerhard Gscheidle

THE GREAT PILGRIMAGE ....
The candlelight parade was "invented" in Cutler when the Latin-American hall was closed to the Pilgrimage by grower pressure and the priest refused the use of the Parish Hall. 200 marched through the barrio, dogs barking, swirls of dust caught in the headlights, the flicker of candles. The Cutler Park was turned into an auditorium; a flatbed truck into a stage.

Evening meetings were conducted in Spanish. The "Plan de Delano" -- manifesto of the Delano Movement -- was read; the songs of the strikers; the Teatro Campesino, bawdy, comic and bitter, dramatized the hypocrisies of DiGiorgio and Governor Brown, villianized the strikebreakers, satirized the growers. Membership cards were passed out. Every night the songs and speeches poured out over a new audience, hundreds signed the Plan. Each meeting closed with "Nosotros venceremos" -- We Shall Overcome, in Spanish. Then the pilgrims left to sleep in the homes of the workers.

Fresno was a turning point. 1,000 people turned out at the Azteca Theater. The Pilgrimage was serious and famous. Politicians, liberals and middleclass Mexican-Americans were joining the line and expressing support.
Fresno, Madera, Merced, Modesto, Manteca: marching on Highway 99; cars, trucks, exhaust, three NFWA trucks in near-accidents. People stopping on the freeway to take photos, give money. Smokesacks, billboards, shopping centers, suburbs.

A psychiatrist stops his Mercedes, writes out a $20 check, drives off. Two farm workers come out of a shack by the highway, give the Jefe thirty dollars and apologize because that's all they have. A woman runs out and embraces Cesar Chavez.

Every day and night the same problems: drinking water, a home to stay in, food to eat, resting.

People ask why Cesar Chavez did not give a big speech in Sacramento. His reason is part of why this movement may succeed. "The Association should be projected," Chavez says, "not me."

FROM DELANO TO
Jorge Zaragoza, March Captain, does a victory dance, tearing up a DON'T BUY W. HARPER sign.

In Stockton, Cesar Chavez asked the marchers if he could leave to talk with the Schenley Corporation. For two days they waited for word from L.A. When it came it was announced from the top of a car by the side of the road west of Lodi. The cheering went on for a long time. One marcher wept. New signs were made that said, DIGIORGIO, YOU'RE NEXT!

"Now that Schenley has seen the light, let's hope that our Governor will see the light," said Roberto Bustos, March Jefe. That night, Cesar asked for a vote -- Do we want to meet with Governor Brown on any day except Sunday? The motion, passed overwhelmingly, was DOMINGO O NADA, Sunday or nothing.

EASTER SUNDAY, an NFWA flag flew over the Capitol and 6,000 people. Dolores Huerta: "We unconditionally demand a collective bargaining law for California farm workers!"

The Governor had retreated to Palm Springs. "We wish to inform the Democratic Party that we will be counted as your supporters only when we can count you among ours."

The future of American farm workers has been changed.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MISSISSIPPI CHILD DEVELOPMENT GROUP? Part 2: Revolt Against Washington

This is the second part of a three-part article by Dr. Gerald Rosenfield of Berkeley, Calif. The entire article will be published, together with a report by Tom Levin, director of the CDGM, in the Key List Mailing, a publication of San Francisco SNCC.

AS THE Mississip•i Child Development Group program developed, it became clear that the transfer of the program from its national sponsors to the field was a complex and difficult procedure. Many of the problems that the group encountered were due to the fact that the program was designed to operate on a revolutionary basis, but the reality of the situation was that it had to function within the framework of a policy created - not by the Negro people - but by administrators, and administrators in Washington. It was up to CDGM to try to make the program work within these constraints. The first thing that was necessary was the establishment of a central staff. The tone of our summer was set by the central staff meeting, one week into the program. The central staff had the job of getting the full resources of the program flowing to the field. The central staff was responsible for seeing that the program was administered effectively. A key point was that the central staff had to be able to maintain a high level of professionalism.

Central staff was not supposed to be involved in business expenditures without a valid receipt, but this was not working out. It was difficult to get the required receipts, and the central staff did not have the time to process them. The central staff was underpaid and had to be replaced soon. The central staff was paid in the summer, but the paychecks had to be delayed.

If the central staff couldn't effectively carry out what CDGM was required to follow “sound fiscal practices,” the OEO had laid down the rules. The OEO demanded that the central staff be able to show that the money was being spent for the purpose the rules said it should be spent for. The accounting practices were imposed on the centers, via the central staff. The central staff was the middle level of that hierarchy. The fuel that powered the Child Development Group program was the demand for accountability from the federal government.

OEO gave in, but it was another matter. If OEO gave in, we had better follow this procedure. The tone of our summer was set by the central staff. The central staff was the middle level of that hierarchy. The fuel that powered the Child Development Group program was the demand for accountability from the federal government.

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MR. KAPLOW: Mr. Bond, to follow up what you just said about an affinity of people who are working in the war against poverty, what about the struggle of the Negroes in the South or the problems of the American Indian, does that not only is what is characterized in this document, which you enforced and which started this whole thing, from SNCC--not only the United States but also the Communist state? Would you feel that they were also--people were struggling against them?

MR. BOND: The feeling that I have is that people who live in Viet Nam, North and South are struggling to determine their own destiny in some way or another. The impression I get is that they would like very much to be free and they are struggling against this, but by the Viet Cong as well.

MR. KAPLOW: This document, again, which started all this and which was put out by SNCC, only conquers the United States. It doesn't condemn the North Vietnamese or the Viet Cong or any other group—or the Red Chinese.

MR. BOND: Right. I will condemn them here, but my position is endorsing this document and I believe, the point—of course who drafted it was that we are, after all, Americans who live in this country, and I feel a much greater responsibility toward criticizing or praising the actions of this country than I do toward praising or criticizing the actions of another.

MR. KAPLOW: However, if you make your point that the common bond is struggling people, then it doesn't make any difference who is against them, you are against all those who might be oppressing, whether it is an American or Red Chinese or North—

MR. BOND: That is right.

MR. KAPLOW: How else do you equate civil rights with Viet Nam? A lot of the other civil rights groups—of course, the head of the Atlanta Chapter of NAACP—say that you can't do anything about Viet Nam.

MR. BOND: I equate it, I think the opposition to the war in Viet Nam in this country and the opposition to the war at home in this country, if you will, is, in a political sense, it is opposition or people who feel that war is wrong. It is opposition of people who feel that that particular war is wrong on a moral ground. I think that is the same sort of opposition that those who have been engaged in segregated society, has been moral opposition to segregation as well as political and political opposition to segregation.

MR. KAPLOW: Again referring back to that document which is sort of becoming, I guess, the Bible for my questioning, anyway, but you say the United States in its war has done not demonstrated, has not demonstrated intelligent politics, has not demonstrated a coherent purpose. You don't feel that legislation in 57 or, I think, 61, '64 and '65 and a whole string of court rulings all favoring desegregation marks progress against segregation?

MR. BOND: No, the document doesn't say there hasn't been progress, it does say that there has not been, in our opinion, enough progress.

MR. KAPLOW: I think that it is stronger than that. I can't read it here, now, but I think it is drafted so that it says that things has fallen short of carrying out its commitment, is that fair?

MR. BOND: Yes, that is fair. That is my belief.

MR. SCHERER: Mr. Bond, I am wondering what you and your friends see as a central issue here in your difficulties with the legislature. Is it perhaps the right to dissent?

MR. BOND: Right. I think it is two important issues. First, it is certainly the right to dissent, the right of dissent, the right to voice an opinion that may be unpopular, but I think a second and equally as important is the right to the people of a chance, you see, my constituency—is to be represented by someone they choose, their right to make a free choice in a free election, to choose someone to represent them. I think in this instance the Georgia House of Representatives has denied that them that right.

MR. ROBINSON: Just one more thing. You indicated that you admired those volunteers who burned their draft cards. Yet you said you wouldn't burn yours. Why wouldn't you?

MR. BOND: Let me say what I said first, I said I admired the courage of people who burned their draft cards, because I understand, I think, why they do it, and I admire them for doing it, knowing that they face very heavy penalties, five years in jail, a fine of $5,000 and if they are in public office they might be expelled. I wouldn't burn mine, because it is against the law to burn mine.

MR. WICKER: Do you think there is any likelihood that the organized negro movement in America will, in your opinion, in the next five years will take over the political power of this country?

MR. BOND: No, I think so. People in the civil rights movement are worried about the cost of that war for one thing and what the cost of the war is going to mean to the war on poverty in this country, what is to going to mean to social services in this country, I think that are concerned about, and my aynication I think will increase the concern of people here.

MR. WICKER: Looked in terms of American politics, if this happens, what is going to your role in the war and perhaps a stoppage of the level of the war, would this trend be likely to drive members of the Negro organizations not only into the peace movement but out of the Democratic party, which, after all, is responsible for the war?

MR. BOND: I tend to be like Mr. I think I am in the Democratic party, I ran as a Democrat, I don't think it will have that effect, I don't think that people in the civil rights movement--as I said before—are going to just drop their other work, but I do think that there is going to be an increasing participation of people in the civil rights movement in anti-war movement.

MR. KAPLOW: Could you not conceive, then, Mr. Bond, that possibility by becoming active in something else you might dilute the impact of your primary purpose, which was desegregation?

MR. BOND: Of course I can see that, but I don't think it will happen. That is the argument that people have argued against my taking a stand against against SNCC taking a stand and against other people in the civil rights movement who have taken a stand.

MR. KAPLOW: Of the major civil rights organizations, of the half-dozen or so, is SNCC the only one that has done that, and many of the leaders in respect to your case--yes, you should have been tried but they disagree with your position on Viet Nam and don't think it should become an issue?

MR. BOND: Right. A great many people have said right.

SNCC is, I believe, the only organization that has taken a public stand on the war in Viet Nam, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has taken a public stand opposing the war in Viet Nam. James Farmer, when he was executive secretary of CORE, took a position as a private citizen, he said, against the war in Viet Nam.

MR. KAPLOW: I would like to go a little bit more into this business of SNCC as a civil rights organization. Mr. Bond, have you ever used the word, "militant" in quotes a few minutes ago?

MR. BOND: No, I don't agree that the other—

MR. KAPLOW: I don't say that, as far as you are concerned—

MR. BOND: I read it in the paper, I wasn't there when he was supposed to have said it, I assume that he did, I don't agree with that characterisation.

MR. SCHERER: Is that the way you think it is?

MR. BOND: About the other nine Negroes in the Georgia House?

MR. KAPLOW: Yes.

MR. SCHERER: Some of them are friends of mine. Some of them I don't know too well. Most of them made some effort in behalf of my being seated, and I am very appreciative of it.

MR. KAPLOW: Do you feel that they are not makin strong enough efforts for desegregation?

MR. BOND: I don't expect everyone in the country to run around and do exactly what I do, but I think it is important for people to make a stand for their views. I think that the war has fallen short of carrying out its commitment, is that fair?

MR. ROBINSON: I have a suit with two of my constituents, a woman named Mrs. Keyes and a man named Mr. Taylor. This suit was started by the Georgia State Senate and has been pending for over a year now. The House of Representatives has denied them that right.

MR. KAPLOW: Do you feel that they are making strong enough efforts for desegregation?

MR. BOND: Yes, I do.

MR. SCHERER: Mr. Bond, you are out of the Legislature, now. What are your plans for your future back in?

MR. BOND: I have filed a suit with two of my constituents. A woman named Mrs., Keyes and a man named Mr. Taylor. This suit was started by the Georgia State Senate and has been pending for over a year now. The House of Representatives has denied them that right.

MR. NOVAK: Mr. Bond, your organization, SNCC, is trying to build an all-black political organization, the Southern Negro people, to fight for a united front. Is that right?

MR. BOND: Yes, I do.

MR. DRUM: In your opinion, do you think that—

MR. BOND: In your opinion, do you think that—

MR. NOVAK: I think that it is more important to have the Southern Negro people, to fight for a united front. Is that right?

MR. BOND: Yes, I do.

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