

TO: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD
UNITED FARM WORKERS OF AMERICA

November 14, 1976

FROM: Nick Jones, Director, UFW BOYCOTT DEPARTMENT

Virginia Jones, UFW Boycott Administration Department

We are deeply concerned about what we perceive to be serious internal destruction of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO. We feel so deeply about this that we are hereby resigning from our positions in the Union so our concern might be heard objectively and constructively.

After twenty years of combined full time service to the UFW, we are deeply hurt and saddened by the circumstances leading up to this serious decision. We had fully hoped and expected to spend our entire working lives with the Union.

In resigning, we hope that our action will help correct an acute problem existing within the UFW concerning accusations and firings of full time staff based on the flimsy say-so, whims and innuendo which the accuser(s) are not held responsible to substantiate. We hope that our leaving will result in the Executive Board establishing written guidelines for handling accusations and grounds for firing full time staff.

Our decision is the result of incidences, all seemingly related, that have occurred since the UFW Executive Board meeting in September, 1976. They can best be summarized by saying that we feel we are no longer trusted by the UFW leadership and are seeing the disruptive and damaging results of that mistrust. There have been accusations of our harboring "leftists" and disrupters in the Union, the firings of staff suspected of being "subversives" and the transfer of some staff out of La Paz who are on the suspect list.

At the September NEB meeting, the first edition of the UFW's Union news-paper was criticized with the writer/editor and manager present along with officers and department heads. After some heavy criticisms concerning the new edition, Joe Smith, whom we helped recruit into the UFW four years ago, was accused of deliberately sabotaging the UFW by screwing up the articles in the new edition. Towards the end of the meeting Cesar asked for comments from the officers and department heads present. When it came my turn, I explained the necessity of checking out articles with officers of the Union before printing the paper and told how damaging the old union newspaper had been two years previous because it was constantly attacking AFL-CIO union and we had a difficult time explaining that to union officials in our boycott cities. I ended my criticism by defending Joe Smith's integrity saying that I had never been given any reason to suspect him of being a disrupter or spy. The union paper was shut down and the staff sent out to work on the Proposition. At personnel meetings recently, Joe Smith was again accused of being an "agent" and on November 13th, 1976, he was fired.

On October 6, 1976, Cesar phoned me at La Paz and among other things, accused Charlie March, the Northeast Division Director, of sending five volunteers to the Proposition Campaign in order to disrupt the Union. Cesar said that the five volunteers were either on their way or had recently returned from Red China and that they were going to attend some 'communist' school in Chicago. As far as we know, there has never been any effort made to require the accuser(s) who gave this information to Cesar, to be responsible for and substantiate this accusation. This is not to say that these volunteers should not have been terminated but that they, and others, should not be irresponsibly slandered. We recruited Charlie March three years ago in New England and know that he has no different ideology than UFW officers. He has never done anything detrimental to the Union and has provided faithful, above average, leadership to the Boycott Department. I answered Cesar's phone call by a memo on October 7th; a copy of which is attached to this resignation statement.