

I requested a meeting with Cesar last week and we met for about an hour on the above subjects. I told Cesar that it was obvious that he and maybe other officers no longer trusted Virginia and me. He said that was true. He told me how people had infiltrated the UFW and were doing a lot of screwing up. He mentioned a woman from the Health Group and Joe Smith as examples. He thought that I knew the woman but I didn't. He said that I fell into one of three categories: a) I was one of them and leading the group of "leftists"; b) I was naive in letting the "leftists" into the Union; and c) I wasn't part of them but using them to gain some political advantage inside the UFW.

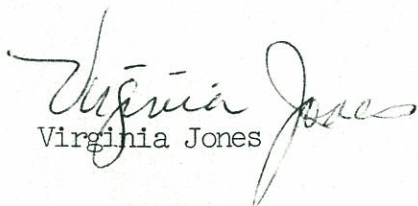
I told Cesar how we had always defended the officers and Union in our ten years on every issue and had always brought staff working under my direction into line on issues such as illegals, dropping the secondary boycott and the Israeli support statements. I told him that we had always fought negative sniping at the Union by any staff member. He said that he felt that I was responsible for bringing the spys into La Paz and that "time would tell if we were guilty." He told me how I had kept him informed about "splinter groups" but never "mainliners". He was referring to Communists and I told him I had never been given any reason to since I had never had any problems from communists. I told him that had I become aware of anything detrimental to the UFW stemming from communists, I would have informed him.

During a review of staff from the Proposition, Larry Tramutt said that Steve Rivers, who we recruited in New England, had acted strangely and was "always listening in on other people's conversations in the Proposition office and had screwed up Dolores' schedule during the campaign. He said that he shouldn't be trusted and as a result is being sent out of La Paz to the Boycott. Other staff from La Paz, some we worked with, have been transferred or fired in the past week.

All of the above happenings point out a serious and damaging problem that exists within our Union that have to be solved if we are to grow as a principled, effective Union. To any of our brothers and sisters who learn of the reasons for our resignations we will urge them to continue their dedicated service to the United Farm Workers Union as the only Union for U. S. farm workers. To the officers and leadership of UFW, we urge you to begin ending the real disruption by setting guidelines for fairly and responsibly weighing each staff member's work instead of basing decisions on chisme and cheap accusations.

To bury our heads concerning these problems and not deal with them will only slow our progress in building a union of and for the benefit of all farmworkers.

Our prayers and our active support will continue to be with you and the United Farm Workers of America as the struggle for dignity and justice and improved working and living conditions for farmworkers and their families continues.


Virginia Jones


Nick Jones