

BOYCOTT DEPARTMENT
United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO
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TO: ALL BOYCOTT STAFF & VOLUNTEER SUPPORT COMMITTEES

FROM: Nick Jones

Dated: September 9, 1976

D O L E F O L D S U N D E R S T R I K E A N D B O Y C O T T !

After months of stalling, the giant Castle & Cooke Company gave in to the pressure of a 100% effective strike and increased boycott pressure across the U.S. and Canada. Eliseo Medina, UFW Board member and David Burciaga led the negotiations for the UFW which were wrapped up at 6:00 a.m. Monday, Sept. 6th.

The Company gave in on every major issue. They agreed to a master contract - the hiring hall, no probationary period for workers, 9 paid holidays, one to four weeks' vacation pay, pesticide controls and \$3.30 per hour starting pay. The workers ratified the contract 139 to 1.

Gilbert Padilla, UFW Secretary-Treasurer, had been involved in earlier negotiations stated, "It's clear that the Castle & Cooke Company was stalling so that the certification date would run out in December and we'd have to hold a new election at West Foods before beginning negotiations all over again." The West Foods workers decided they didn't want to wait another year to get a contract and walked out Monday, August 30th, leaving the mushrooms to harvest themselves. Eliseo asked the boycott department to increase pressure around the country with delegations to Castle & Cooke (Dole) offices.

Boycotters in the U.S. and Canada organized delegations to 26 Dole offices September 1st, 2nd and 3rd. On Friday, the last day of delegations, boycotters sat in at 22 Dole offices and held "seminars" with the Dole executives in San Francisco by telephone. Two to six hours were spent in each office and not one arrest took place.

Along with picket lines, demonstrations and sit-ins, many cities got very good TV and newspaper coverage throughout the month of August. Forty large grocery and produce retailers with over 2,600 stores, honored the Dole boycott. On Friday, September 3rd, a Castle & Cooke executive said they did nothing in San Francisco offices except answer the telephones from boycotters and grocery store executives urging them to negotiate a contract.

Just three months ago, Clarence Adams, president of the National Food Chain Assoc. told grocers and growers that the UFW boycott wouldn't have any "real effect upon grocery retailers anymore because the 60's were gone and students were more interested in getting their education . . .!"

Proposition 14 Heats Up

Proposition 14 has now become a full blown political fight with Carter, Brown and others endorsing the Proposition at the UFW's first political convention in Fresno, September 5th.

Over 1,200 farm worker delegates met and endorsed local, state and federal politicians who had endorsed the farmworker proposition. The highlight of the Convention was Carter's call into the Convention where he finally got off the fence and gave his endorsement.

80 More Boycott Staff Coming in to Work on Proposition 14

80 more boycott staff are coming in to California to work on Proposition 14 bringing the total from the boycott department up to 285. Each city will be left behind with only 1 or 2 people to carry on the boycott work until November 2nd. For those of you staying in the cities, we want to maintain picketing and leafletting with supporters on Fridays and Saturdays. We'll be concentrating on Maggio-Tostado (Sun World), H. P. Metzler and table grapes. . . All grocers should know about the Dole victory and be asked to honor the demands on no grape ads, no Sun World and no H. P. Metzler. Please send us a written update on grocers who are cooperating on those demands by September 20th.

!VIVA LA HUELGA . . VIVA EL BOICOT . . VIVA LA PROPOSICION 14!