

AFL-CIO ON THE MOVE

Speaking at the dedication of Agbayani Retirement Village, Thomas R. Donahue, executive assistant to national AFL-CIO President George Meany, said that a telephone survey showed that 20 of the labor federation's largest central bodies are setting up boycott committees.

Los Angeles - The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor has installed "boycott banners" on the backs of 140 public buses in Los Angeles County.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 1974

DELANO, CALIF

Delano Record



One of the banners which are to be placed on the back of public buses in Los Angeles County was shown to the crowd at the dedication of Agbayani Retirement Village. These pro-boycott banners were a "gift" to UFW from the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO. - Delano Record Photo.

New York

- At 5 a.m., June 4, two thousand UFW supporters marched through the Hunts Point terminal produce market carrying picket signs, banners, and red and black huelga flags and demanding that the wholesalers comply with the boycott of scab grapes and lettuce. About 200 members of New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO president Harry Van Arsdale's union, Local 3 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, participated in the early morning demonstration, as did members of the Paperworkers, Ironworkers, District 37 of AFSCME, and Hospital Workers 1199.

Cleveland

- The Cleveland Federation of Labor has held three demonstration picket lines in the last two weeks. The produce terminal and the West Side Market were included in the action. The executive board of the Federation plus representatives from AFSCME, OCAW, Retail Clerks and many other locals took part in the demonstrations.

Columbus

- The Columbus-Franklin County AFL-CIO has set up a boycott committee. So far, the committee has met twice and a full program of strategy and implementation has been worked out. The committee will have its first picket line demonstration later this month. Meanwhile, individual locals are being contacted about taking care of their own stores. Locals 138 of AFSCME and 101 of CWA have joined forces and have been doing the informational picketting at the Central Point Kroger for the past month. Local 138's President Ron Page and Local 101's President Jim Ervin and Secretary-Treasurer Dave Harness have all been taking the leadership on this line along with Bill Clark from AFSCME.

WVKO Radio

We'd like to give a special appreciation of thanks to the people at radio station WVKO, 1580 on your radio, for the interest and concern being shown for the UFW. They've been going out of their way to give us air time in an effort to reach as many people as possible to inform them about the problems of the farm workers and about the boycotts. This is an effort rarely seen anywhere. On Saturday, July 20, we will be featured on "Voice of the People" at 4:30 p.m. The people at this station have become very dear to us, and we think they are a good station to listen to.

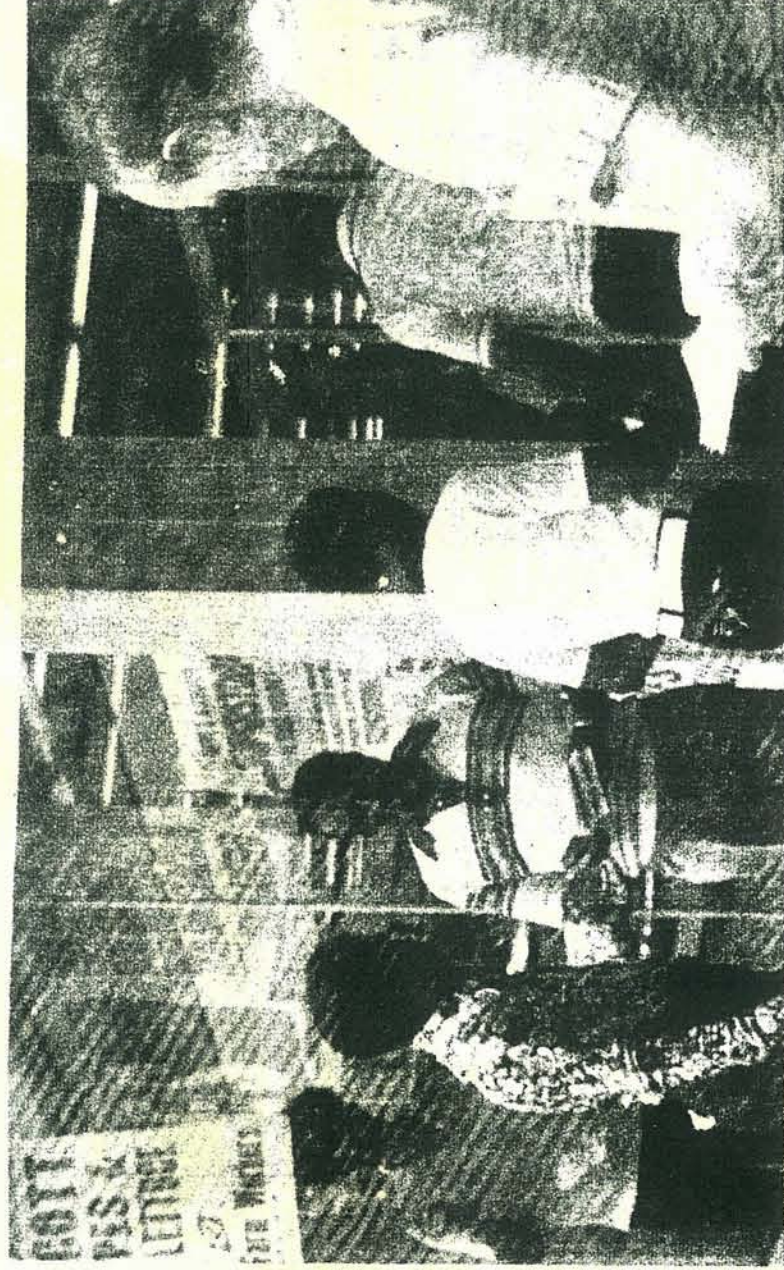
Judge Stops Harassment

Grape grower Kelvin Keene Larson had filed suit against the union seeking to bar the UFW from boycotting and picketing on the basis of the Jurisdictional Strike Act. According to Larson, the Teamsters and the UFW are fighting over who has the right to bargain for his workers, and, he alleges, he is an "innocent" third party and should not be made to suffer. After hearing 51 witnesses called by UFW attorney Sandy Nathan, Riverside Superior Court Judge Fred Matheny has issued a two-fold TRO. First, the UFW can not secondary picket any store that is selling Larson's grapes, and second, grape grower K.K. Larson can not fire, or threaten to fire, any worker who will not join the Teamsters. Larson's contract with the Teamsters, which the workers had nothing to do with, states that all of Larson's employees must become members of the Teamsters. Judge Matheny has just taken the first step in making the phony Teamster contract invalid.

BOYCOTT COMMITTEES

Well, the support of the West Side is expanding! Since the last newsletter, another support committee has come into being, this time in the North West Area. The people involved in this committee have been holding down a good line in front of the Kroger at University City Shopping Center on Olentangy R.Rd. every Saturday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The line is good, but not good enough-We still need you. The committee is also looking into a lot of other possibilities for spreading the word of the boycott and helping raise money that is still so badly needed for the strike fund.

The grapes are being harvested NOW. THIS IS THE CRITICAL PERIOD, it means everything. Won't you reconsider and join us on the informational picket lines on Saturdays? For those of you who have been coming out-Thank You. You know how badly you are needed. If you live in South West Columbus, call Bill Clark at 274-9726. In North West Columbus, call John Reeder at 488-7649. For those of you in other areas, call our office at 258-7568 or 258-9571. We would love to hear from you, anytime, even if just to answer a question or two.



Southwest Area Coordinator Bill Clark (far right) on picket line at Kroger at Central Point Shopping Center. At far left is Ron Page, Acting President, AFSCME 138 and 3rd from left is Jim Ervin, President CWA 101.

We are now organizing a North East Columbus support committee. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, July 17 at 7:30 PM at the home of Carol Foddy, 167 Garden Rd. (off N. High St.). We will show a slide show on the UFW and a short film on the strikes in California last summer. Please come (and bring a friend) and find out the latest news about the farm workers and help organize a strong support group in the North East. For more information call Carol at 263-9373 or me, Madeline, at 258-7568

IUE president blasts Fitzsimmons

April 19, 1974

Mr. Frank E. Fitzsimmons
General President
International Brotherhood of
Teamsters of America
25 Louisiana Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20001

Dear President Fitzsimmons:

Your letter of April 12, 1974, addressed to the Presidents of all International Unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO, has been received and read with amazement.

The amazement stems from your charge that Cesar Chavez does not represent a trade union and that you do not acknowledge him as a trade unionist. This is not the first time you have slandered the character of Brother Chavez.

Not too many weeks ago, in a fit of pique totally unbecoming the leader of one of the largest unions in the world, you said that you, "... wouldn't even let him be a janitor in a trade union office." Such statements are contemptible and an insult, not only to Chavez, but to the entire membership of the United Farm Workers.

... there have been several reports that your union is spending \$100,000 a month from your general treasury to destroy Chavez and the UFW. Most

struggling unions must fight only against reactionary managements. In this case, however, the UFW must contend against reactionary growers and their ally -- the rich and powerful Teamsters Union.

It is difficult for rational humans to even attempt to understand the vendetta the Teamsters are waging against the UFW, since the farm workers are simply attempting to win what most of us in the labor movement attained many years ago -- simple economic and social justice with the establishment of a union and leaders of their own choice.

The UFW's struggle to unite the men and women who harvest the nation's agricultural crops is one of the most inspiring stories in the recent history of the American labor movement. But, because of sustained attacks by the IBT, the UFW's very existence is threatened. Violence against the UFW's pickets has been condoned and used by the IBT and police and has resulted in the arrests of at least 5,000 strikers, the beatings of dozens of them and the killing of several. . . .

For the record, I want you to know that the IUE and I, as its President, fully support the nationwide boycott undertaken by the UFW against lettuce and ta-

ble grapes. If, in so doing, you conclude that we are "taking a definite position against the IBT," then -- so be it.

I share with many the fundamental belief that it is wrong to publicly attack another union or another trade unionist. It is evident, however, that you do not share this belief.

I do not believe there is any room in the labor movement for fence sitters. You do what you feel you must do and we, too, must act accordingly.

As for Cesar Chavez, no amount of smears and sneering remarks can detract from the job he has done. Under his leadership the farm workers are building a union, and while their struggle is far from over, they have taken a great stride forward toward their birthright of freedom, strength and dignity. Cesar Chavez has the gratitude, not only of the grape workers and their families, but that of all agricultural workers and their children and, indeed, of the generations to come who will labor in the fields.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Paul Jennings
President
International Union of Electrical
Radio and Machine Workers

The Manongs:

Struggle is a way of life

New York Times

— NEW YORK, MONDAY, JUNE 17, 1974 —

Farm Workers Union Dedicates Retirement Village in California



DELANO, Calif., June 16 — The United Farm Workers of America dedicated the nation's first retirement village for farm workers yesterday in this arid town, which has been the focal point of the union's struggle to organize the nation's farm workers.

"Our deep roots in Delano shall never be pulled out," Cesar Chavez, the union's president, told a crowd of about 2,000 supporters at the union's 40-acre headquarters here. He said the village was named after Paulo Aghayani, a Filipino member of the farm workers' union who died of a heart attack while on a picket line in 1967.

Aghayani Village is the latest addition to the National Farm Workers Service Center, the union's nonprofit affiliated. It has previously opened a service station, cooperative stores, a credit union, nine health clinics and a number of local Campesino centers, which deal with a broad range of social problems.

Farm Workers Fund

The \$250,000 village has been financed by the Martin Luther King Jr. Farm Workers Fund, which consists primarily of money collected from growers as part of their contracts with the farm workers' union.

The dedication ceremonies were particularly emotional for the 57 men and one woman who will move into the two-acre village this summer. Most of them are Filipinos who have no families here because they came to the United States in the late nineteen-twenties and early thirties, the immigration law prevented the micro bringing their wives with them, and miscegenation laws prevented them from marrying white women. They were also prevented from owning any property until these restrictive laws were declared unconstitutional after World War II.

"This has meant that many former farm workers who are too old to work and whose only income is at most \$235 a month from supplemental security funds have been living in tiny rooms, poor and forgotten.

Special to The New York Times

'A Dream Come True'

Mr. Chavez stressed this when he described Agbayani Village as "a dream come true" for the older workers. "Retirement," he said, "should not be the junking of our senior citizens but the beginning of a second good life."

The 58 persons who will be the first residents of the village sat on folding chairs near the podium, listening to a group of farm worker officers and officials from a score of other unions extol them and their efforts to bring collective bargaining and decent working conditions to the fields.

Most of them were among the 1,800 members of the Filipino Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee who walked out on 33 ranches in the Delano area on Sept. 8, 1965, and began the nation's first major grape strike. Eight days later, the Filipinos merged with Mr. Chavez's National Farm Workers Association. At that time, they were making \$1.10 an

hour. Farm worker union contracts now provide for wages of up to \$2.85 an hour, plus incentive payments for the amount harvested.

Thomas R. Donahue, executive assistant to George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, told the group that the labor federation stood behind the farm workers in their efforts to regain contracts that were switched last year from their union to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The farm workers union is boycotting table grapes, iceberg lettuce and Gallo wines in an attempt to regain the contracts.

One of the happiest "Manongs" (Filipino for older brother) was Sebastian Sahu-gan, a 70-year-old retired farm worker who came to the United States in 1929, worked in canneries in Alaska and hops fields in the state of Washington, and picked grapes throughout California.



BOYCOTT GRAPES BOYCOTT LETTUCE

WEST SIDE OFFICE OPENING

We have just opened an office on the West Side. It's located in Holy Family Catholic Church at 584 West Broad. We haven't got a phone in there just yet, but feel free to drop in and see what's going on. Could really use some help getting things set up, so if you've got some free time, we'd like to see you.

Also, we need supplies for the new office such as mimeograph paper, a typewriter (electric?), and a lot of other stuff. If you have something that you think we might be able to use, call and let us know (258-7568, 258-9571).

United Farm Workers
of America, AFL-CIO
657 South Ohio Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43205
258-7568, 258-9571

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1380 S. Wabash
Chicago, Ill 60605*



UNITED FARM WORKERS OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO

El Aguilá

Columbus Newsletter

August 9, 1974

LABOR PICKET LINE

On Thursday, July 18, the Columbus-Franklin County AFL-CIO and Region 2-A UAW held a joint informational picket line in support of the grape and lettuce boycott. The line was at the Kroger store on High and Arcadia. At a news conferenc that followed, a prepared statement was read to the press:

"We jointly, by informational hand-billing at major supermarkets and stores, are appealing to the consumer NOT to purchase non-UFW harvested head lettuce and grapes.

We are urging church groups, civic organizations, citizens who care, as well as our fellow trade unionists in or out of the AFL-CIO, to join this boycott in order to obtain elementary justice and human dignity for the too long exploited workers who labor in the nation's fields and vineyards. The plight of the farm workers is of vital importance to the entire labor movement.

Labor's experience has proved that the best method for getting a boycott message across to the general public is by picketing and hand-billing at retail stores selling the products in question."

There was wide representation of unions on the picket line. It was led by officers of the Columbus-Franklin County AFL-CIO Central Labor Council and International Staff representatives from the UAW. There were also officers and members from local unions throughout Columbus - I.U.E., Retail Clerks, Plumbers and Pipe Fitters, Bakery Workers and others.

This was the first of many activities planned by the local labor support committee. We invite all interested and concerned people to participate in our future activities, such as the Rally planned for September 14. (see p. 3)



PICKET LINES - KEY TO A&P DECISION

Good news!! The New England Division of A & P has made the business decision not to handle grapes and lettuce. This decision affects 270 stores in 6 states (New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Maine).

This victory is the result of a lot of hard work by the UFW committees in New England. This victory brings us one step closer to winning our contracts back. With a few more victories like this the boycott could end. But we need your help to do it.

We have picket lines every Saturday in Columbus, but we must cover more stores. We have 4 picket captains who take care of their lines every week. If you live near their stores and can help, give them a call. If you don't live near them but can help, give us a call and we will work out the details.

Kroger - 12th & Summit
12th & Summitt
Holly Sperling 299-4680

Kroger
1630 Morse Rd.
Maurice Kitsmiller 861-1751

Northwest Area
John Reeder 488-7649

Southwest Area
Bill Clark 274-9726

UFW Office 258-9571
258-7568

HOUSE MEETINGS

Because summer is the time for vacations and relaxing, many schools close down and community and church organizations cancel their meetings. It is a difficult time to reach groups of people and discuss the farm workers' struggle. This unfortunate because summer is a very important time for farm workers. As we reach the peak of the grape harvest, it is essential that the word of the boycott spreads to as many people as possible.

YOU can help us in Columbus by inviting a few friends over for a house meeting - anytime is fine with us. We will be very happy to come and talk about the UFW and show our new 17-minute movie on the 1973 strikes in California entitled "Why We Boycott".

House meetings are necessary to us and have proven to be a good way for people to learn more about the UFW. If you can help us with this or know anyone who would be interested in a house meeting, please call us at 258-7568 or 258-9571.

OHIO STATE FAIR

Governor Gilligan has declared Monday, August 26 WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY at the Ohio State Fair. In celebration of the day the Governor will introduce OLGA MADAR, President of the National Coalition of Labor Union Women, at 7:00 PM at the Fairgrounds. Ms. Madar will speak in a tent located on the north side of Seventeenth Avenue in the area devoted to the Ohio Folk Art Festival. The tent will accommodate an audience of 300 to 400 people. Please come and bring a friend.

The United Farm Workers will have a booth at the fair in the Buckeye Building. Stop by and say hello and pick up some buttons and bumper stickers. We got a whole lot of "Nixon Eats Lettuce" and "Nixon Drinks Ripple" buttons left over. Get yours today - one day they will be collector's items!!



FLEA MARKET - RUMMAGE SALE

SAT. AUG. 24 9 am - 5 pm

ST. CHRISTOPHER CATHOLIC CHURCH
(1420 Grandview Ave.)

PLEASE HELP US MAKE THIS BENEFIT A SUCCESS. WE WILL BE COLLECTING ITEMS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, FROM 1 PM - 4:30 PM, AND ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, FROM 10 AM-4:30 PM. Bring things to the garage which is located just behind the rectory.

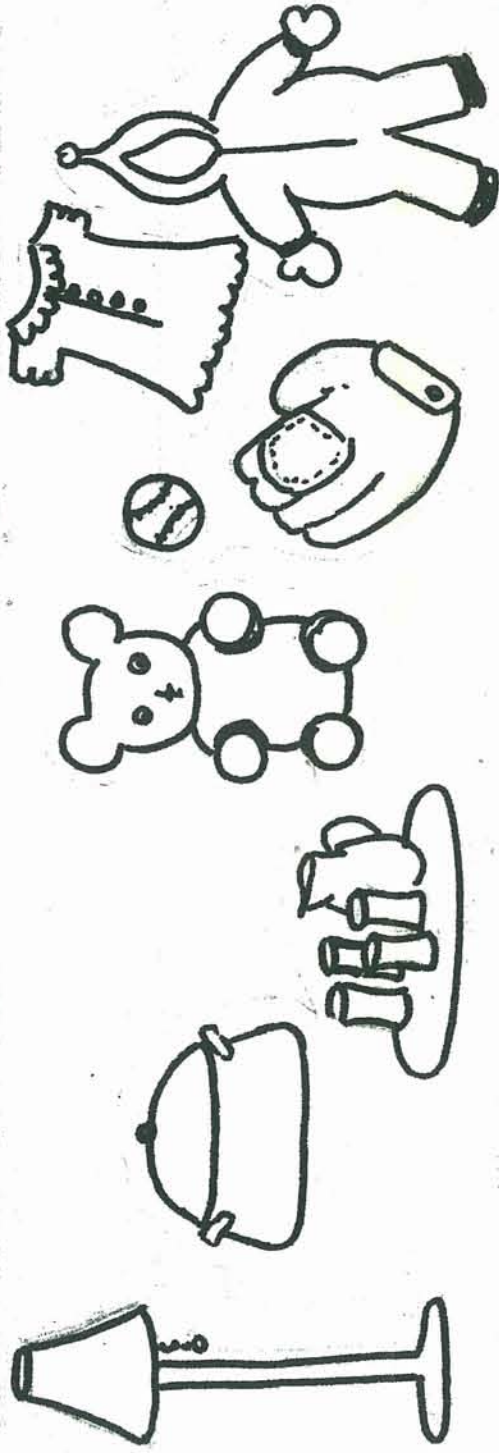
What we need most are household items, children's clothes and children's toys.

Not only do we need your help in supplying us with the items to be sold, we also need your help very badly in running the sale. All we need is a couple hours of your time. For more information call Lucille Bettis at 451-4330, or our office at 258-7568, or 258-9571.

WE NEED YOUR HELP ALL THE WAY WITH THIS. DIG AROUND AND TRY TO COME UP WITH AT LEAST ONE OR TWO ITEMS TO BE SOLD AND THEN VOLUNTEER A LITTLE OF YOUR TIME. AND PLEASE BE SURE TO PASS THE WORD AROUND, SO WE CAN BE SURE TO HAVE A GOOD CROWD.

THANKS!!

all proceeds go to help striking farm workers



RALLY ! SEPT. 14

September 14 and 15 have been declared International Grape and Lettuce Boycott Days. Throughout the nation and the world there will be demonstrations, rallies and marches in support of the boycott of grapes and lettuce.

Here in Columbus, the labor support committee is sponsoring a rally and picket line. More information will be forthcoming. PLEASE RESERVE THE 14th AND JOIN US AT OUR RALLY AND PICKET LINE!!

The "Illegals" and the Grower\$

The abuse of "illegal" Mexican farm workers stands as one of the most vicious forms of exploitation that has ever been practiced by this country's agri-business cartels. It is a practice that must be stopped immediately.

The United States agricultural barons have had a history of importing impoverished workers from other countries, reaping tremendous profits, and then kicking the workers out when they are through with them, like so much trash.

The monopolists have brought in Chinese, Japanese and Filipino farm workers and now, Mexicanos. These poor and exploited people, of course, often have no choice but to immigrate in the hopes of alleviating the hunger that has accompanied the foreign occupation of their respective countries.

The situation for these immigrants was made even worse by the very fact that agricultural unions have not existed to protect them.

Privileged Sector Attacks UFW

Now, such a union exists. And it is the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO (UFW) which has fought for over a decade to gain basic rights that farm workers should have had a hundred years ago.

But, this union is now under attack from the most powerful agribusiness cartels that the world has ever seen. It is under attack from the same companies that also exploit campesinos in Mexico.

The growers, unscrupulous men such as Salvador Giumarra, Hollis Roberts and Ernest Gallo, are part of a privileged sector of society that will resort to the most brutal measures to maintain their high positions and their vast riches.

The privileged "lords" have brought in police and sheriffs to beat up UFW members, have signed sweetheart contracts with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the most corrupt

union in the U.S., and have manipulated the courts and district attorneys in obtaining unconstitutional court injunctions. And now, as "Operation Cleansweep" has revealed, these "lords" have bribed the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in order to bring in thousands of "illegal" Mexican nationals to try and break the back of the UFW.

Aliens Should be Given Rights

The United Farm Workers of America is firmly opposed to the practice of bringing in "illegal" Mexicanos for cheap labor and to be used as strikebreakers.

The UFW believes that any Mexicano or worker from any other country has the right to immigrate to the U.S. to seek a better life for himself and for his family. But, at the same time, all immigrant workers must also be allowed full democratic and civil rights as granted by the constitution, including the right to collective bargaining.

Similarly, in true solidarity of working people, the United Farm Workers of America firmly stands opposed to the practice of workers crossing an international boundary to break a strike in another country.

The monopolists, unfortunately, have used Mexicano nationals and other immigrants as a reserve army of labor to impede unionization in the Southwestern United States and to hold down wages and fatten profits.

There are those who decry the position of the UFW. But these people are unclear about the union's position, nor have they struggled for a decade to build a union, only to see it attacked by police, by the courts, by Teamster goon squads and, finally, by strikebreakers from another country.

The position of the United Farm Workers of America is undaunted - the "illegals" must either be granted full democratic rights, including the right to join a union of their own choosing, or they must go. Thus, for the sake of farm workers and for the future of their children, the UFW takes an unequivocal stand against the use of "illegals" to impede unionization in the agricultural fields of the Southwest.

The use of illegal workers by the growers is a very pressing problem for the United Farm Workers. It is estimated that one out of every three workers in the fields is an illegal and as many as 80% of the workers used as strikebreakers are illegals. If such a massive scab work force was not available to the growers, then there would be no need for the boycott, for farm workers could win their strikes in the fields.

The exploitation and abuse of illegal immigrants and their use to break farm workers' non-violent strikes will continue unless massive pressure can be brought on public officials regarding the actions of the Border Patrol and Immigration Service. Attorney General William Saxbe, as head of the Justice Department, is ultimately responsible for the actions of the Immigration Service.

You can help by writing to your senators and congresspeople, asking them to pressure Attorney General Saxbe into making certain that the Border Patrol and Immigration Department enforce the laws. Initial response from Congresspeople and Saxbe has been that they are attempting to pass new legislation which is a lengthy process. It must be emphasized that new legislation is NOT needed. What is needed is enforcement of the present laws. Legislation now being proposed (the Rodino Bill) puts the responsibility of enforcement on the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service which is the very agency that is now under investigation for corruption and bribery in allowing thousands of illegal Mexicans to enter the country.

So, please write to your senators and congresspeople....this is the only thing that will end the smuggling of human contraband being used to break our strikes.

Sens. Howard Metzenbaum & Robert Taft, Jr.
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Reps. Chalmers P. Wylie & Samuel Devine
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

(Please send us any copies
of letters or telegrams.)

July 12, 1974

2,500 Hear Chavez Speak

By RICK RODRIGUEZ
Californian Staff Writer

A cheering, chanting crowd of about 2,500 heard United Farm Workers director Cesar Chavez renew his condemnation of the Teamsters Union-growers link last night at the Alisal High School gym.

Chavez, speaking both English and Spanish, asserted that the Teamsters would not succeed because UFW is prepared to challenge them "until we throw them out of the fields so we can start the strike again like in 1970."

Chavez said that a first step in renewing a Salinas Valley-wide strike would be for farmworkers to stop paying Teamster dues.

Charging the Teamster interests were purely financial, Chavez urged, "Don't pay them their dues. If there isn't any money in the till, they will leave."

He claimed that the Teamsters' goal "was to get rich by the sweat and blood of the many farmworkers."

Chavez said the rally was called to "continue the struggle against the Teamsters and the growers," and to present a delegation of 26 Catholic priests and nuns representing the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

"It's been well over a year that the Teamsters and growers signed the so-called labor agreement. You and I know that it's not a contract, it's a marriage license," Chavez said.

"If they really have the support of the workers, we challenge them for the 100th time: let the workers have an election. Let the workers have the union they want," Chavez demanded.

The UFW leader termed Teamster protection of the farm-

workers through contract enforcement "a laugh."

He cited cases in which Armando Contreras, a 22-year-old field worker was backed over by a truck and injured in a Merrill Farm field yesterday and the June 11 death of Bruce Church, 19, worker Pedor Diaz in a similar accident, as examples. (Contreras is in satisfactory condition in Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital today.)

Both firms, Chavez noted, have their field workers covered by Teamster contracts. "If they are so interested in the farmworker and want to put an end to accidents, why don't they get together" and buy a back-up warning bell for their trucks? Chavez asked.

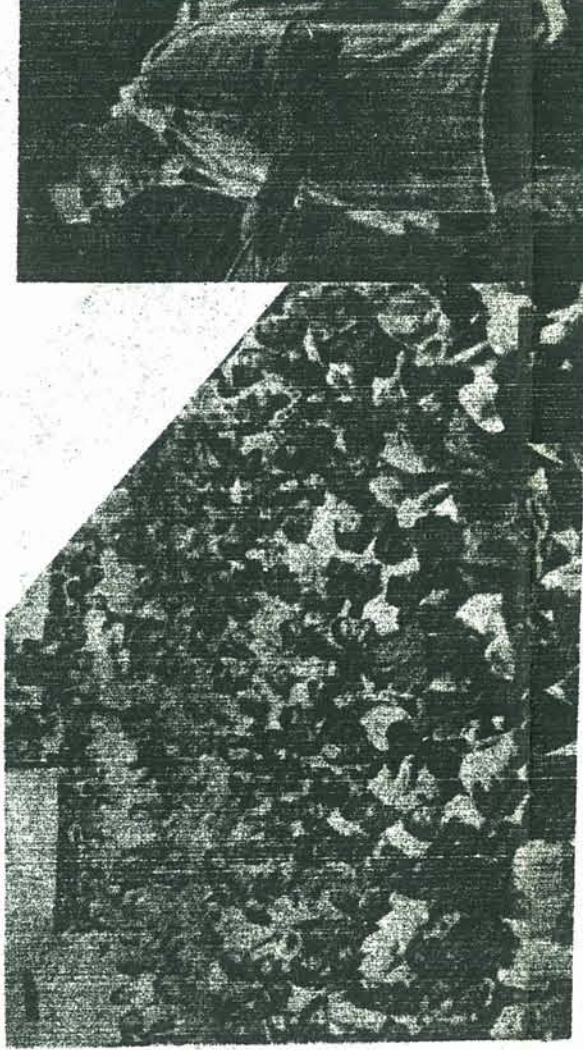
He pointed out that the UFW requested a and received the back-up warning system from Inter Harvest (with which it has a contract) and we've never had any accidents."

While Chavez claimed the Teamster contracts were illegal, "even more illegal" were two increases in union dues without holding a meeting of the farmworkers. "In fact, the Teamsters haven't even had a single meeting," Chavez said.

Speaking for the religious delegation, the Rev. Father Joseph Francis, president of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men said, "In 1970, we voted to support the farm workers in the boycott of lettuce, table grapes and wine. We have renewed that in 1971, 1972, 1973, and just this past month re-stated our support of the United Farm Workers."

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The Children in the Fields

The issue of child labor in agriculture has risen again with the approach of the harvest season for various crops—even though Congress earlier this year prohibited the use of children under 12 in the fields.

Strawberry growers in Washington and Oregon have blocked enforcement of the law by obtaining a temporary injunction from a federal court in Portland. Growers of other crops in those states and others are expected to try to have the law set aside by the courts. In Portland, the court accepted the argument of the strawberry growers that they face the loss of millions of dollars without the labor of children under 12. It was argued that the growers were unaware of the law because it passed without debate and now suddenly find themselves without a major part of their work force.

This argument, if accepted at face value, under-

cuts the growers' position that most children in the fields are members of urban families who encourage youngsters to work the crops as a summertime "lark" to pick up a few extra dollars. Some "lark," if the claim is correct that millions will be lost unless the children hustle into the fields.

Oregon and Washington strawberry growers themselves estimate that 35% of their work force of about 30,000 are either children under 12 or mothers who will not work unless the children are working, too.

The law exempts children who work on farms owned by their parents, but this exception is not part of the present dispute. In fact, most children in agriculture—up to 800,000 nationally under 16—are children of migratory workers. Their employment at about \$1 an hour, and often less, represents a subsidy to the grower, and through the growers to all of us. It is a subsidy that should have been abolished long ago.

"Imposters"

"They're imposters. They don't have the right to say they represent the people," Chavez charged.

Chavez said that the Salinas Valley, with a population comprised of about 40 per cent Mexican and most of whom are farmworkers, has "inferior representation" for the farmworkers' interests.

Msgr. George Higgins, secretary for research for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and consultant to the United States Bishops Committee on farm labor, said that he thought the farm labor struggle "was settled once and for all" in August of 1970 when he helped negotiate an agreement between the two unions.

"Four years later, the struggle still goes on. My only word to the Teamsters is to live up to the contract agreed to in August of 1970, to get out of the fields and give the contracts back to the United Farms Workers," Msgr. Higgins said.

Msgr. Higgins said that if the struggle were a jurisdictional dispute, "I wouldn't for two minutes stand here."

Msgr. Higgins noted whereas there is some disagreement in the Catholic community, "the overwhelming majority of bishops," support the UFW's quest.

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60605

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UFW - Chicago Boycott

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BOYCOTT GRAPES
BOYCOTT LETTUCE

Stop The Illegals

It is easy to slough off the latest charge of the United Farm Workers of America in the San Joaquin Valley against the Nixon administration as a typical example of exaggeration by that Cesar Chavez-led union. That, however, would be the most foolish kind of shortsightedness.

The UFW says the administration and growers are engaged in a conspiracy to import illegal aliens into the valley to break UFW strikes.

As evidence, the UFW refers to documents which it says show that 2,200 illegals have displaced farmworkers in eastern Fresno County alone and the US Border Patrol has done little about it. The UFW contends politics in Washington is the reason for the inaction.

The Border Patrol has been averaging about 50 to 60 arrests of illegals a day in the six valley counties, a 20 per cent increase over last year. That is hardly enough to keep up with the flood of illegals in the valley, however. One in three workers on farms here is said to be an illegal alien.

The agency, in answer to the union, retorts it can't do more because it lacks the manpower. The Fresno office

AN EDITORIAL

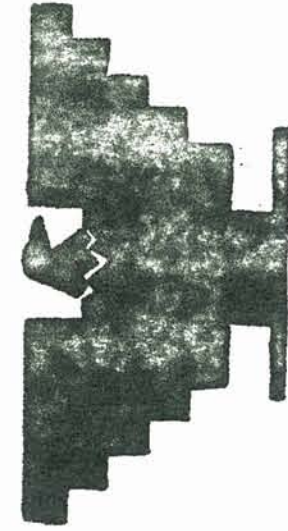
The Fresno Bee
Saturday, July 27, 1974
Vol. 104, No. 18703

has been authorized 13 patrolmen but a lack of funds keeps three of the positions vacant.

The UFW accuses the Nixon administration of deliberately crippling law enforcement agencies like the Border Patrol and the US Immigration and Naturalization Service because of a plot with growers to break the union, which is attempting to organize the state's farm laborers.

One does not have to look that far. Everyone agrees the valley is "saturated"—to use the description of one Border Patrol official—with foreigners working here unlawfully. They are taking the jobs of domestic workers, whether union or not. They often work in violation of minimum wage laws as well as of health and safety standards.

Federal legislation is needed to make it illegal to hire an illegal knowingly. That would help dry up the flood of illegals into the nation and the valley. But, in the meantime, the Border Patrol should be staffed at its authorized strength so it can perform its job adequately. Doing that would do more to counteract the charges of a plot between the administration and the growers than all the unsupported denials in the world. (see pg. 4)



UNITED FARM WORKERS OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO

ElAguila

September 25, 1974

Columbus Newsletter

A FAST FOR JUSTICE

The following statement was issued by Eliseo Medina, Ohio Boycott Director and Executive Board member of the UPW, on September 24, 1974, as he began an indefinite fast in an effort to convince Mr. Carl Fazio, the president of Fisher-Fazio Foods (Gold Circle), to honor the United Farm Workers boycott:

Last week we met with the management of Fazio stores. As the meeting progressed, it became clear to us that they do not really understand the seriousness of the situation facing farm workers. We tried to explain the growers' denial of our basic human rights; that hundreds of people - men, women and children - have been beaten and that two of our brothers were killed since the grape strikes began in April, 1973. We tried to explain that they have the economic power to convince the growers to settle the strike by not buying grapes, lettuce or Gallo wines.

Our pleas went unheard and they told us that all they could do was not to advertise those products. This token concession was meant to appease us, not to help us.

When we returned to our office we received the news that another tragedy had occurred in California. That morning, September 16, 1974, 18 year old UPW member George Mendez was shot to death by a Bakersfield policeman. Three others, Adan Romero, 13, Rodrigo De Avils, 18, and Ignacio Tapia, 19, are in critical condition in the hospital. If Adan Romero lives he will be paralyzed for the rest of his life.

We cannot afford to continue to pay such a high price in lives and suffering. We could not reach Mr. Carl Fazio with our words; perhaps we can reach him with our actions. I have begun a fast to try and open his eyes to the suffering of farm workers, the people who puts the fruits and vegetables on the shelves of his stores. During the fast, I will remain in front of this store in a public appeal to the people of Ohio to abstain from the purchase of grapes, head lettuce and Gallo wines.

It is not a fast of anger, but a fast of hope. I will fast in the hope that Mr. Fazio will search his heart and recognize that he has a moral responsibility to the farm workers. Going without food will be difficult, but it is worse going without dignity, without the right to live and work as free men and women.



On Saturday, October 5, supporters from all over Ohio will travel to Cleveland to be with Eliseo and hold a mass rally in front of a Fisher-Fazio store. Anyone interested in going to Cleveland from Columbus in a car caravan or possibly a bus, please contact us at 258-7568.

ANOTHER TRAGEDY

George Mendez, an 18-year-old UFW member, was shot by a Bakersfield police officer on Sunday night, September 15, 1974. He died in Kern General Hospital at approximately 12:30 AM on Monday, September 16.

He is survived by his parents, Abelardo and Marcelina Mendez, both strong Union members. Sister Mendez is known for the widely used photograph of her being beaten by Kern County sheriff's deputies last summer.

Brother Mendez attended a Mexican Independence Day dance Sunday night. According to an article in the Bakersfield Californian, there had been a disturbance at the dance. The Bakersfield police arrived and then left, to return a few minutes later accompanied by California Highway Patrolmen and Kern County Sheriff's deputies. Most of the crowd had dispersed when the police returned. The police, now claiming rocks were thrown at them, dragged people out of their cars and beat them. When a priest and some women tried to stop the police from aiming their guns at the crowd, they were knocked to the ground. The police fired two or three shots.

George Mendez was killed by Bakersfield police officer Robert V. Mena. According to the police, Mena lost his balance and fired accidentally when he was struck in the head by a piece of brick thrown by Brother Mendez. Then, the police say, when Brother Mendez started to throw another brick, Mena fired the fatal blast from his 12-gauge shotgun. Declarations from eye-witnesses say that George Mendez did not throw anything.

No charges have been brought against Mena. The father of Mena's partner, Officer J.S. Towle, was formerly a Bakersfield police chief.

Three teenagers were very seriously wounded by the police and were placed in the Intensive Care Unit of Kern General Hospital. Wounded were: Adan Romero, 13, Ignacio Tapia, 19, and Rodrigo De Avils, 18. The possibility exists that if Romero lives, he will be paralyzed from the waist down.

The Union will provide legal services to families of everyone involved; regardless of whether or not they are Union members.

The United Farm Workers has asked for a federal investigation into this gross violation of farm workers' civil rights. Letters and/or telegrams to Attorney General Saxbe are necessary to insure this investigation is granted. Please write or send your telegram TODAY to:

US Attorney General William Saxbe
Department of Justice
Constitution Ave. & 10th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

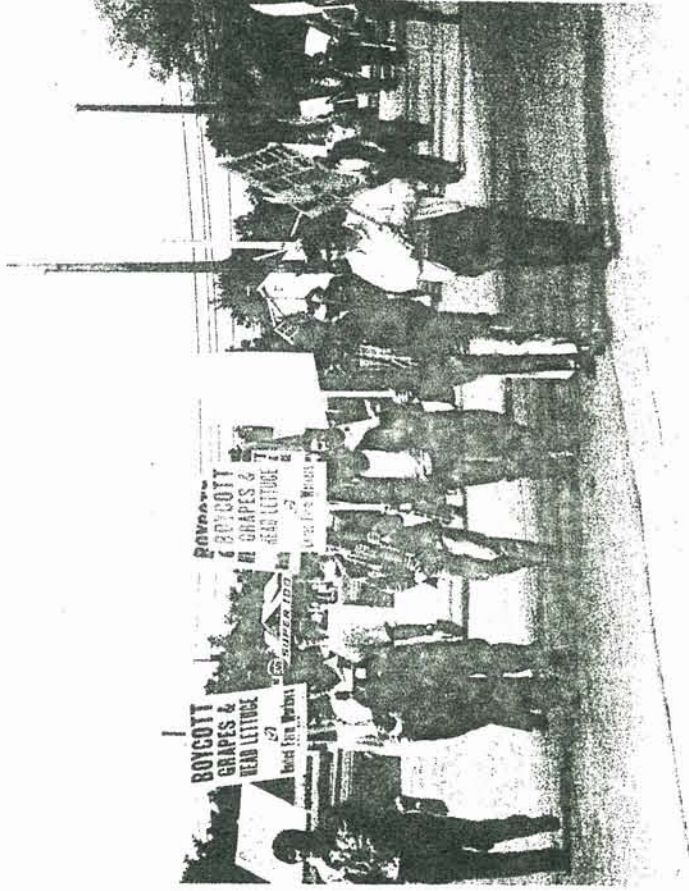
BOYCOTT WEEK

September 9-15 was INTERNATIONAL GRAPE AND LETTUCE BOYCOTT WEEK. All across the country there were rallies and demonstrations in support of the boycott.

Here in Ohio, the Ohio Council of Churches called for a one day fast in observance of the plight of farm laborers. They encouraged their 8500 member churches to use this week to bring the farm worker message to their congregations.

Governor Gilligan declared UNITED FARM WORKERS WEEK IN OHIO and urged Ohioans to "join me in refraining from the purchase of non-United Farm Workers lettuce and grapes from California."

Governor Gilligan's action was attacked by the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and the Teamster leadership. During this election year, it took a lot of courage to make this stand and we urge all those so inclined to write the Governor a short note of support and appreciation. Letters should be addressed to: Governor John Gilligan, Statehouse, Columbus, Ohio 43215.



In Columbus, a rally was held on Saturday, September 14. The speakers were: (M.C.) Bill Farley, Chief Steward, IUE Local 746; Ray Ross, Director, Region 2A UAW; Warren Smith, Sec'y-Treasurer, Ohio AFL-CIO; Ralph Hockman, Executive Sec'y-Treasurer, Columbus-Franklin County AFL-CIO; Rev. Jim Courts, Chairman, Farm Worker Task Force of Metropolitan Area Church Board; Fr. Bernard McClory, Vicar, Catholic Charities and Social Concerns; and Onnie Hinkle, President, Columbus Metropolitan Area Community Action Organization (CMCAO).

The rally was followed by a march to the Kroger store at Great Western Shopping Center where an informational picket line was held.

Washington, D.C.

MEANY REAFFIRMS

SUPPORT FOR UFW

Lashes Out at Teamster-Grower Alliance

Noon, Monday, Sept. 9, 1974. The following is a text of an address delivered by AFL-CIO President George Meany at a luncheon today Monday Sept. 9th, honoring the United Farm Workers of America and its President Cesar Chavez. The luncheon was sponsored by In AFL-CIO Greater Washington Central Labor Council at the Shorem-Americana Hotel in Washington, D.C.

"We are here today because it is harvest time in the vineyards of California and they are harvesting the fruit of oppression and it is that oppression and our continuing determined opposition to it that brings each of us here today.

"We are not here just to pay tribute to a small and valiant union. Although we hold this union and its members in the highest esteem, we're not here just to honor Cesar Chavez the leader of that union although we hold him in high regard.

"We are here to do something concrete in the name of decency and justice and right to promote the boycott of table grapes and head lettuce harvested by scabs. "The cause of the United Farm Workers of America, the cause of Cesar Chavez, the cause of the AFL-CIO, the cause of which we today reaffirm allegiance is the right of the workers to control their own economic destiny, to be free and equal under the law in the eyes of their fellow men.

"Even if our instincts of straight unionists were not so aroused by the vicious attack on the United Farm Workers we would still be here today for our sensibilities as reasonable and compassionate people would come under support of this cause.

"So make no mistake about what we are here today to rally public support to the United Farm Workers and the boycott of table grapes and head lettuce, but we the AFL-CIO are not cheerleaders, we do not stand on the side lines and root this side or the other side.

"We are involved and we are going to stay involved until the our grapes of oppression taste sweet again.

"There is little point in repeating the sordid facts of the Teamsters raid on the Farm Workers. You all know them, we have made everything a matter of public record. We have disclosed every detail of the long negotiations we had with the Teamsters and its president. We have revealed the text of the agreement we had reached with the Teamster and on which President Frank Fitzsimmons rene-

"On that record, we say that Fitzsimmons has made the Teamster an agent of the growers — turning his back on the principles that trade unionists hold dear.

"The aim of the growers, the Teamster and the farm bureau federation is the destruction of the Farm Workers Union.



George Meany

rights, civil rights and equal rights.

"They are not slaves, not chattel. They are people, and, by all that is decent and fair, farm workers are going to be treated like people — if we have anything to say about it.

"Complicating the problem of the UFW is the dismal record of the U.S. government in enforcing the immigration laws.

"The growers know that if the UFW is destroyed, that the spirit of the workers will be broken. And, the workers will be more manageable."

"The growers don't want to deal with the farm workers as human beings, much less equals at the bargaining table. They prefer the labor contractor system — the patrones.

"The United Farm Workers have pushed the labor contractors out of the fields but the Teamster have brought them back.

"Of course, labor contractors are a throwback to the days of slavery. Instead of buying and selling slaves, today growers can "rent them" through labor contractors and the Teamster.

"The growers may not like it, but this is the 20th century. Farm Workers have human

"More than 600,000 illegal agents were apprehended in 1973 in the Southwest alone, and the estimate of the numbers who remained at large, take jobs away from U.S. workers run into the millions.

"These millions of illegals could be stopped, could be returned to their own country if the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service did what it should be doing — enforcing the law.

"At the same time, they are moved by the Mexican government and the U.S. State Department to reinstitute the bracero program — the importation of Mexicans to work in the fields — to work cheap. Cheap labor is the reason the growers forged an unholy alliance with the Teamster to break the United Farm Worker.

"Cheap labor is the reason the growers now seek a return of the bracero program. The question, then, is what are we going to do about it?

"First, we're not going to let the dream of farm workers for their own union — the United Farm Workers of America — be shattered. The boycott will continue.

"It will gather momentum, it will not end until the growers recognized the legitimate aspirations of the farm workers to have the union of their choice — the UFW.

"Second, the AFL-CIO will press relentlessly for enforcement of immigration laws. The phrase "law and order" lost its prominence in recent weeks, but we are going to demand that the law be obeyed.

"We urge the new President — clean up the Immigration and Naturalization Service — enforce the law — do not continue human misery for any reason.

"Additionally, we're going to press for new laws that will penalize the growers and other employers for hiring illegal aliens.

"The legislative fight, quite frankly, may take sometime. So, let us talk about immediate action — the boycott. Action that we can take ourselves.

"The reports that are coming into headquarters about the effect of the boycott are heartening — but we are not satisfied, we will not be satisfied until the UFWA is recognized as a legitimate union of Farm Workers.

"In many areas of the country, the boycott and its related activities are progressing very well. In other areas, much more still must be done to assist the farm workers. And right now — harvest time — is the time to do it.

"This means new efforts that will gain public attention and support for the product boycott of the table grapes and the head lettuce not picked by the UFW members.

"The summer vacation season is over, so it should be easier for the state and local central bodies to obtain volunteers. Every program that is now in the planning stage should be implemented without delay.

"Now is also the time for the labor press to redouble its efforts and I should expect that new materials will be forthcoming from the Union Label and Service Trades Department.

"Our field service people are all ready working hard on the boycott and I am certain that Allen Kessler and Don Slayman will impress upon them the urgency for even greater efforts.

"We have a big job to do to inform every union member, every union family, every union friend of the issue and to urge of the boycott of table grapes and head lettuce.

"The reports, thus far, as I have said, are good. The boycott is beginning to have its effect on the growers. Those who proudly display the UFW label on their crates are reporting excellent sales, and they should, for the UFW labels stand for fair play and decency.

"Now we must take the boycott message overseas. We must reach free trade unionists in other lands and solicit their support for the United Farm Workers. "I hope the unions of the AFL-CIO that have close ties with unions in other free countries or with a very straight secretariats will take action to secure overseas trade union cooperation.

"We must all remember that the success of the boycott is dependent upon thousands of millions of individuals decisions not to buy the product. People with good intentions sometimes forget and have to be reminded and reminded again.

"It is individual commitment on the part of trade unionists, the members of their families and all other citizens who believe in fairness that we must constantly strive to obtain.

"Individual commitments against the oppression of a minority, individual commitments against union busting individual commitments for the United Farm Workers of America.

"We must not relent — we must not relent.

"Our goal is decency, justice and democracy in the vineyards and fields . . . and, that is a goal we can win — we must win — we shall obtain.

How the farm labor bill died

On Wednesday August 21, 1974, the conservative California Senate killed the Farm Labor Election Bill which was sponsored by the United Farm Workers of America and the California Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO. The Teamsters and the growers lobbied hand in hand to kill the bill.

The following is a letter from Assemblyman Richard Alatorre, the chief sponsor of the bill, explaining how the bill was defeated:

Assembly California Legislature

RICHARD ALATORRE
ASSEMBLYMAN

LEGISLATIVE ADDRESS:
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO 95814
PHONE. (916) 448-7887

DISTRICT OFFICE:
2916 NORTH FIGUEROA STREET
LOS ANGELES 90042
PHONE. (213) 255-7111

COMMITTEES
WAYS AND MEANS
HEALTH, VICE CHAIRMAN
LABOR RELATIONS
WELFARE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
PRISON REFORM AND
REHABILITATION

JOINT COMMITTEE ON
SITING OF TEACHING HOSPITALS

ALHAMBRA, EAST HOLLYWOOD, ECHO PARK, EL SERENO, GLASSELL PARK,
HIGHLAND PARK, LINCOLN HEIGHTS, MT. WASHINGTON, SILVERLAKE

CHAIRMAN, SELECT COMMITTEE ON FARM LABOR VIOLENCE

Mr. Cesar E. Chavez, President
United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO
Post Office Box 62
Keene, California 93531

Dear Cesar:

By now you have probably received word that the State Senate has dealt a mortal blow to the secret ballot elections bill for farm workers. The freakish defeat of the bill in the Senate on a parliamentary technicality shocked most people in the State Capitol. This is the first time in recent history that the State Senate has refused to waive the rule to allow for a legislative hearing for an Assembly Bill. Out of 300 bills this session that have been requested for waiver, none has ever been denied. To add insult to injury, while the Senate was debating the motion to waive the rules on AB 3370, they waived the rule for some 30 bills, including a controversial one that will allow finance companies to gouge low-income consumers.

It now has become clear to me that the Teamsters and the growers are not serious about secret ballot elections. They have from the very beginning tried to kill this measure which gives farm workers the right to elect their own union.

The most significant thing about the action is that the Teamsters have killed a bill that would allow secret ballot elections for farm workers. We know now that the Teamsters are scared to death of secret ballot elections. This fear of free elections prompted the Teamsters to unleash the full force of their political muscle to cause defeat of a bill even before it reached committee.

I am sorry that the situation turned out as it did, but I can assure you that we must not give up the battle to give farm workers a voice in the selection of their union.

Sincerely,
Richard Alatorre

RA:prt

RICHARD ALATORRE

We have no alternative now but to continue to use every non-violent tool at our disposal. We must intensify the boycott. We must send word of the disgraceful and cowardly defeat of our bill to every friend in the country.

We have no intention of giving up on our efforts to bring secret ballot elections to farm workers. In the meantime we must intensify the boycott of head lettuce, table grapes and Gallo wine.

“Strike in the Sun”

‘HUELGA’ HALTS YUMA LEMON HARVEST

San Luis, Arizona — Yuma County is hardly known for its labor battles and is best recognized for its territorial prison and its sweltering 120 degree heat.

Yet last August 26 more than 1,400 lemon workers staged a “strike in the sun,” bringing this desert county’s 10 million dollar lemon harvest to a halt.

The ‘huelguistas,’ most of them Chicanos and Mexicanos, are demanding wage increases, a collective bargaining agreement, and recognition of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO.

The strike, which began spontaneously, was sparked when 475 workers walked off their jobs at eight of the largest orchards in this border town 22 miles south of Yuma.

The workers are now in their third week of the strike and are protesting the low wages saying that the \$6 a day is simply not enough to feed their families and maintain their households.

In addition, the workers are demanding union recognition of Cesar Chavez’ UFW and union officials have reported that over 90% of the pickers have signed authorization cards.

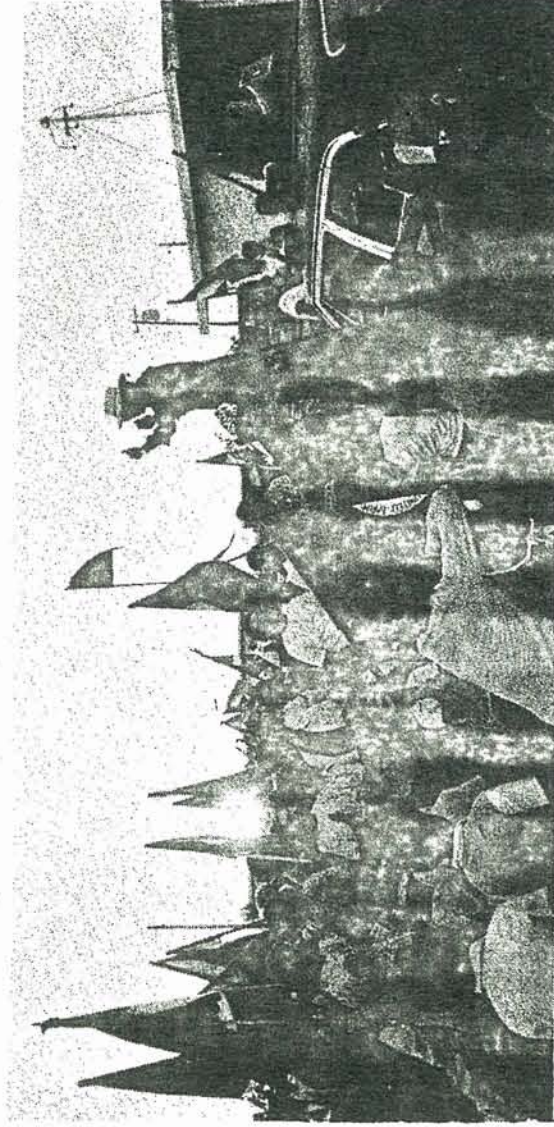
Growers’ attorney Steve Shadle denounced the UFW when he said, in apparent reference to a strike?

“I would then tell that I couldn’t make the strike by myself but that they were the ones that would make the strike and I could only support them.”

Catarino Torres, San Luis UFW Director, however says that the strike was completely spontaneous and that the union came in only after the workers asked for support, for a collective bargaining agreement and union recognition.

Observers say the strike has been very effective noting that the orchards are virtually empty

would come to the office five or



UFW organizer Al Rojas speaks to strikers at sundown at the Dixon Migrant camp.

Children Farm Workers Strike Black Co-op

Albany, Georgia — The black eagle flag first flew over the fields of Georgia on August 19th, when 50 Black farm workers, most of them under 16 years of age, walked out on strike at New Communities, Inc., a farming cooperative near here.

As the strike enters its fourth week, only management and eight workers are gathering the harvest at this 6,000 acre farm.

The strikers walked out for a living wage and humane working conditions.

Not only must they work behind machines spraying lethal pesticides, but there is no definite pay scale.

Wages paid by New Communities vary from 67¢-\$1.63 per hour, and management pays each worker whatever they please, according to personal preference.

Strikers say they must put in unnecessary overtime, on a half-hour’s notice, at ungodly hours because the farm is poorly managed.

With so few scabs left in New Community’s fields, the UFW’s first strike in the southeast area (outside of Florida) may also bring the first of many UFW contracts to these fields that were once harvested by slave labor.

Morgan Hill, Calif.—Over 80 mushroom pickers and packers went on strike September 7 protesting low wages, irregular hours and discrimination in a small processing plant here.

The farm workers also are demanding that Steak Mate, Inc., a subsidiary of Purina, recognize the United Farm Workers of America (UFW) as their sole collective bargaining agent.

According to local UFW leaders, the strike in this small agricultural town 15 miles south of San Jose, has every likelihood of victory as Steak Mate profits tumble. Company production is down 85% and Steak Mate is losing over 30,000 pounds of mushrooms per day (mushrooms generally sell at 59¢ per pound on the market).

According to Ricardo Villalpando, a strike leader, workers earn 79¢ for every 10 pounds of mushrooms harvested, however, the company incorrectly measures the amount and therefore steals about two pounds for every ten.

Steak Mate, Inc., which employs about 125 persons, pro-

vides no guarantees for work, the workers do not receive days off, and, according to Villalpando, “the workers are treated bad and human relations are not real good between the supervisors and the workers.”

The pickets, led by Oracio Esparza, picket captain, have kept out all scabs except one, although the management and office personnel continue to work.

Because of the great losses suffered by Steak Mate, strike leaders believe the company will capitulate in a matter of weeks.

Mushrooms and Labor

MORGAN HILL HUELGA