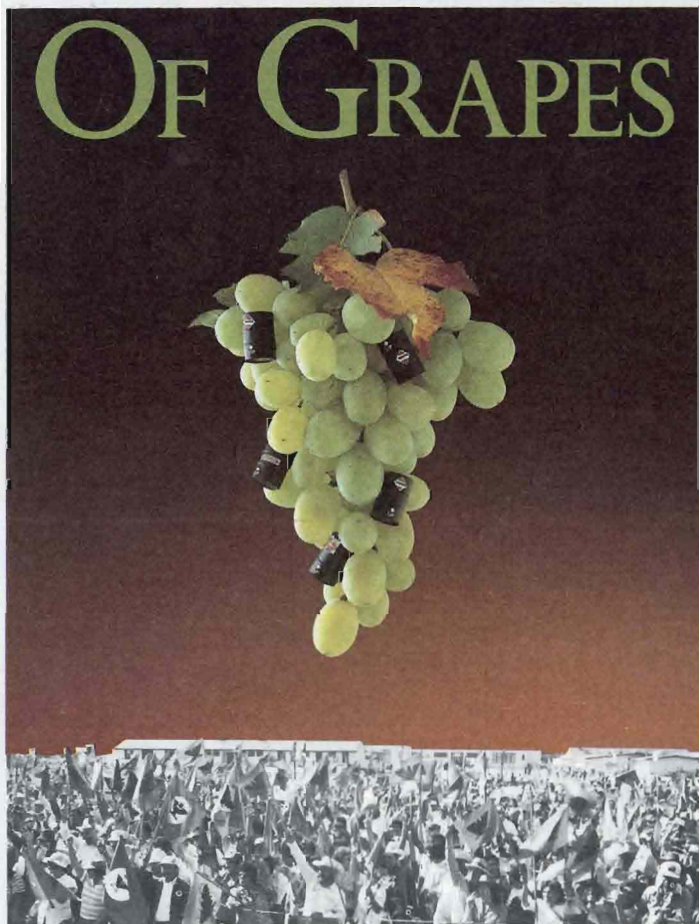


FOOD AND JUSTICE

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THE WRATH OF GRAPES



JOIN THE BOYCOTT... AGAIN!





Last summer grape workers marched in Delano behind a large black banner featuring white skulls and decaying "The Scourge of Pesticides" (see October 1985 *Food and Justice*).

Each year 300,000 farm workers in the United States are poisoned by agricultural chemicals. In California alone, the number is increasing at a rate of 14 percent each year. Pesticide-caused illnesses, permanent injuries and deaths plague our people.

Unlike the infamous Black Death of the 14th century, there is nothing mysterious about this modern plague. In 1984, California growers dumped 310,289,990 pounds of toxics on their field and crops -- more than half of the 600,000,000 pounds of regulated chemicals sold in America that year.

These statistics are grim. But the human agony they represent is even more tragic. In this issue of *Food and Justice* we present the stories of pesticide abuse victims (see pages 4-7). We also chronicle the United Farm Workers' "Wrath of Grapes" crusade -- our renewed campaign to battle the poisoning of both farm workers and consumers by building support for the international boycott of non-UFW fresh grapes (see page 3).

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 Workers of America, AFL-CIO
 La Paz, Keene, CA 93570



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"Wrath of Grapes" Campaign to Counter Grape Growers' Natural Snack Theme



California state legislators stood with Cesar Chavez as he kicked off the UFW's new "Wrath of Grapes" campaign at a State Capitol news conference.

"The Wrath of Grapes" is the new theme of the United Farm Workers' international boycott of non-UFW California fresh grapes, farm labor leader Cesar Chavez announced on January 7 at a packed Sacramento news conference.

Chavez was joined at the State Capitol event by 25 legislators who signed a huge placard pledging their support for the world-wide grape boycott (see page 15).

The new boycott message will counter grape growers' television ads featuring fresh grapes as a natural snack. It will appear on posters, buttons, bumper stickers, and decals plus mailers delivered within the next six months to 10 million consumer

households in the United States and Canada. Two million California consumers will receive the mailings in their homes.

Chavez said "The Wrath of Grapes" symbolizes the threats posed to farm workers and consumers by "the reckless use of deadly poisons in agriculture."

"Grape growers continue their TV ad campaign to convince consumers that fresh grapes are a natural snack," Chavez declared. "But our 'Wrath of Grapes' campaign will tell the North American people the truth about what pesticides are doing to farm workers and about the pesticide residues on the grapes they buy."

"The Wrath of Grapes" — The Tragedy of Pesticide Poisoning

During the 1930s, John Steinbeck immortalized the plight of California migrant workers in *The Grapes of Wrath*. In the 1980s, farm workers and consumers face a new menace: "The Wrath of Grapes" -- growers' reckless use of dangerous pesticides on fresh grapes and other produce.

Statistics reported by the Washington, DC.-based World Resources Institute and other sources (see editorial, page 2) expose the use of a massive quantity of farm poisons in this nation and the world. Nowhere is the spread of field toxics more widespread than in California; more agricultural chemicals are used there than anywhere else in the world.

That's not surprising, farm labor leader Cesar Chavez said. For 20 years

California agribusiness has resisted a modest bill requiring growers to post warning signs in fields which have recently been sprayed with dangerous pesticides.

The bill, by state Sen. Nicholas Petris (D-Oakland), was finally passed by the Legislature last August. But Gov. George Deukmejian vetoed it at the insistence of growers who had contributed more than \$1 million to his 1982 election. Paying for the costs of the warning signs is more than agribusiness -- a \$14 billion-a-year industry -- can afford, Deukmejian explained in his veto message.

Deukmejian's veto of the field posting bill came less than two months after farm worker Juan Chabolla died in a rural San Diego County field.



California lawmakers wait for autographed posters as "The Wrath of Grapes" campaign begins at the State Capitol.

At 8 a.m. on August 5, Chabolla started working in an unposted field that had been sprayed only an hour before by helicopter with Monitor, a deadly pesticide. A few hours later, he collapsed.

Instead of taking Chabolla to a nearby hospital, the grower drove him across the Mexican border and left him in a Tijuana clinic. He was dead on arrival. (See September 1985 *Food and Justice*, pages 3-5.) Chabolla, 32, left his wife, Maria, and four small children to work in California. After the funeral, his young widow said, "Before we had nothing, and now even Juan has been taken away."

Poisoning Tragedies

Every year thousands of farm workers who don't die right away from pesticides suffer poisoning symptoms. The World Resources Institute revealed that 300,000 U.S. farm workers are poisoned annually.

Maria Flores was in the first trimester of her pregnancy when she and a crew of workers were ordered

into a Salinas Valley field sprayed the day before with a formulation of Phosdrin, Metasystox-R, and Methomyl. All became sick within an hour. Most required overnight hospitalization. Maria and Felipe Morales' daughter, Mariana, was born with severe birth defects and died two weeks later.

Amalia Larios, 3, was born with a piece of her spine missing. She is paralyzed from the waist down and doctors say she will never walk. Her parents, Francisco and Gloria, are convinced their little girl's birth defect is the result of pesticides they were exposed to when they worked on San Joaquin Valley crops near Bakersfield.

Adrian Esparza, 7, son of farm worker parents living in McFarland, near Delano, is one of nine children within a six-block area who were diagnosed with cancer within a 12-month period. McFarland's water supply has been contaminated with pesticides from nearby fields.

For many years Manuel Amaya, 53, was an irrigator for a huge corporate



Juan Chabolla's friends brought him home in a plain grey box. He died after exposure to the highly toxic pesticide Monitor.

"Before we had nothing," Maria Chabolla said. "And now even Juan has been taken away."

grower. Doctors had to amputate his right hand because of infection from powerful herbicides added to the water he worked with. Amaya worked for the company 12 years before he lost his hand...and then his job.

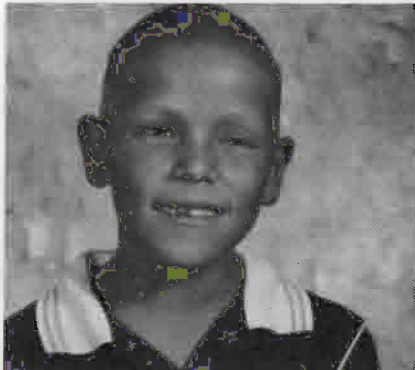
Pesticides and Boycotts

The current boycott of non-UFW California fresh grapes is making three demands on agribusiness. Two affect farm workers' rights: that growers bargain in good faith and allow workers to vote in free and fair elections.

The third -- protection from dangerous pesticides -- affects both farm

workers and consumers. As a first step, the UFW is asking that five of the most toxic chemicals be banned from use in agriculture. They are parathion, Phosdrin, Methyl Bromide, Dinoseb, and Captan.

" 'The Wrath of Grapes' symbolizes the killing, maiming and poisoning of thousands of farm workers -- and their children -- through the reckless use of deadly poisons in agriculture," Chavez said in Sacramento. "It also represents the threats posed to consumers by pesticide residues contained on fresh grapes and other produce."



Adrian Esparza, 7, one of nine children within a six-block area in McFarland diagnosed with cancer in a 12-month period.



Manuel Amaya lost his hand -- and his job -- after being poisoned by herbicides in the water he handled at work.

Amalia Larios' farm worker parents believe pesticides they were exposed to caused her to be born with a piece of spine missing.



Juan Chabolla's mother grieving alone with her son.

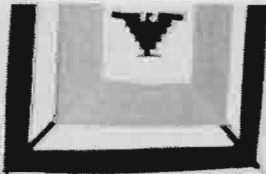
Grape Boycott Barnstorming From Coast to Coast

Farm Labor Leader Cesar Chavez made it home for the holidays -- barely.

After a month-long automobile tour across the length of Canada in October, Chavez barnstormed through Michigan and the east coast in November. He ended 1985 with two week-long visits to Florida and the Pacific Northwest.

Chavez' exhausting travels brought to an end the first year of intense boycott activity against non-UFW California fresh grapes. The new grape boycott was formally declared on July 11, 1984. But the UFW didn't really start pushing the boycott until 1985.

"It takes a while to gear up for a full-scale international boycott," Chavez said, "but we are farther ahead now after a year than we were at the same point in all our other boycotts. It'll still take a long time and a lot of hard work."



Mayor James A. Sharp, Jr. and the City Council of Flint, Michigan endorsed the fresh grape boycott.

The East

The stops in Chavez' east coast trip were Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh. In the nation's capital, Chavez appeared on nationwide news and interview programs including Mutual's "America in the Morning," CBS' "Night Watch," CNN's Tom Braden-Robert Novak "Crossfire," C-Span's "Evening Call-In," and "Nuestros Noticias," a radio show for Spanish-speaking listeners.

In Baltimore -- one of the top 10 grape-consuming centers in the U.S. -- Chavez held a major news conference and met with top area labor leaders. Henry Koellein, Jr., president of the Metropolitan Baltimore Council of the AFL-CIO, issued a strongly-worded statement of support for the boycott: "It makes me mad that farm workers and their children are being poisoned by pesticides and many consumers are also in danger from poisonous residues still on grapes and other produce when we buy them."

Chavez visited Philadelphia and Pittsburgh for one week. He joined supporters at picket lines and fundraisers, and received extensive media coverage. Chavez stressed the moral message the farm workers bring: "When growers send workers into fields just sprayed with highly toxic pesticides; when agriculture exploits little children to survive; when growers need to use violence to prevent workers from having freedom of association; when agribusiness bases its profits on the destruction of family life and keeps vast numbers of people in a vicious cycle of poverty -- then it's a moral issue, not an economic question."

In Pittsburgh Chavez met with Mayor Richard Caliguiri and the City Council.

Both formally endorsed the grape boycott. Caliguiri expressed "the support of the Pittsburgh community for the boycott of non-UFW grapes by the farm workers in their consistent struggle for their rights."

At a luncheon sponsored by the United Steelworkers of America, Edgar Ball, USW international secretary, expressed regret that farm workers continually have to battle for their rights. "The UFW is in another desperate fight," he said, "and we are honored to participate in it and help them win again."

Michigan

The boycott tour of Michigan got off to a fast start at the State Capitol in Lansing, where Chavez addressed the State Senate and received support from numerous legislators as well as prominent church and labor organizations.

In Detroit, Mayor Coleman Young declared Nov. 21-28 "UFW Grape Boycott Week," and added his personal endorsement to a measure

PROCLAMATION CITY OF DETROIT OFFICE OF THE MAYOR United Farm Workers

The United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO have maintained a consistent struggle for the rights of the thousands of farm worker families they represent. The people of Detroit and the Detroit labor community must stand with the Farm Workers in their resolve to improve the lives of America's farm workers and their rights to safe working conditions and decent living wages and benefits.

Therefore, I, Coleman A. Young, Mayor of the City of Detroit, issue this Proclamation declaring the week of November 21 through November 28, 1985 UNITED FARM WORKERS GRAPE BOYCOTT WEEK and welcome on behalf of the people of Detroit, Cesar Chavez, President, United Farm Workers and urge all of my fellow Detroiters to join with me in support of the United Farm Workers Grape Boycott

Coleman A. Young



Cesar Chavez met with Owen Bieber, international president of the United Auto Workers, who announced his union's support for the grape boycott at a Detroit news conference.

passed earlier by the Detroit City Council. The mayor's support was announced at a news conference that also featured Owen Bieber, international president of the United Auto Workers; Tom Turner, president of the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO; Bishop H. Coleman McGehee, Jr., of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan; representatives of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit and the AFL-CIO's Labor Council for Latin American Advancement; plus local political leaders. Chavez wound up his trip with visits to Saginaw, Flint, Adrian, and Windsor.

Pacific Northwest

Chavez' swing through the Pacific Northwest began with a meeting with reporters followed by an enthusiastic rally of farm workers at St. Luke's Church in Woodburn, Oregon. Chavez told the rally, "If you don't get organized, growers will keep their foot on your necks and you'll be suffering the same indignities you face now for 100 years to come."

The next day in Portland included a breakfast meeting with religious

leaders, a luncheon with labor leaders, many TV and radio appearances, and a news conference to announce boycott support with Irv Fletcher, president of the Oregon AFL-CIO; Ron Fortune, president of the Northwest Labor Council; Bill Wiseman, president of Oregon Fair Share; and Barbara J. George, executive director of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

The remainder of Chavez' week in the Northwest was highlighted by a long stay in Seattle and a tour of the agricultural Yakima Valley.

Announcing their support for the UFW in Washington State were Marvin Williams, president of the State Labor Council; Ricardo Sanchez of the Concilio for Spanish-Speaking People; Roberto Maestas of the Centro de la Raza; and leaders of religious denominations.

In addition to a hectic schedule of news interviews and media appearances, Chavez attended a breakfast meeting for religious leaders at St. John's Lutheran Church, a noon meeting for labor leaders, and other special sessions with Seattle minority and community organizations.

Florida

Chavez wound up 1985 with a boycott tour of Florida in December. His primary stops there were Miami, Tampa, and St. Petersburg.

Labor, religious, and community leaders joined Chavez at a press conference in Miami. Among those announcing their support were Miami Beach Mayor Alex Daud; Edward Stevenson, president of the South Florida AFL-CIO; Chick Charles Perez, president of the Fort Lauderdale AFL-CIO; Monsignor Brian Walsh of the Archdiocese of Miami; and several state representatives and senators.

Mayor Daud presented the key of the city to Chavez and promised he would do whatever he could to ensure that there would be "no more grapes in Miami Beach."

In addition to TV and radio interviews, Chavez promoted the boycott in long sessions with *The Miami*

News; The Miami Herald; The Voice, a Catholic weekly; and *Replica*, a Spanish-language weekly. He also met with students at Miami-Dade Community College.

Among those present to endorse the boycott at a news conference in Tampa's United Methodist Church were labor leaders Jerry Cain, Rosette Walsh, and Ernest Hartless; City Councilman Perry Harvey; and Steve Jacobs, director of the Florida Consumer Action Network, a coalition of labor and consumer groups.

In addition to local media appearances, Chavez met with Catholic Bishop W. Thomas Larkin of the Diocese of St. Petersburg and Pat Farmer, president of the Gulf Coast Council of Religion and Labor.

Chavez left Florida and flew back to California. The new year brings more non-stop boycott travels. 🐦



Fr. John Nowlan, pastor of St. Rita's Church in Detroit and a long-time supporter of farm workers, pledges support for the boycott.

UFW's 20-Year Pesticide Fight

The United Farm Workers' current battle against growers' reckless use of pesticides is not new. It's a battle Cesar Chavez and the farm workers have waged for almost 20 years.

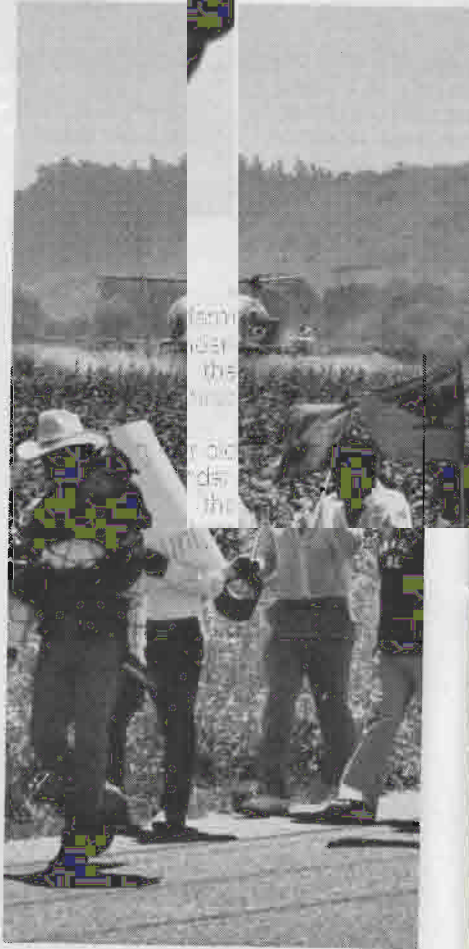
The first UFW table grape contracts were signed in 1970. The very first ban on the use of DDT was in a UFW contract three years before the state-wide DDT ban in California went into effect. And aldrin, endrin, and dieldrin were banned in UFW contracts four years before the U.S. Environment Protection Agency restricted the use of those poisons.

Dr. Marion Moses, director of the farm workers' California clinics and a leading specialist on environmental diseases, said "The signing of the first fresh grape contracts was delayed at least a year because the workers refused to compromise on the issue of worker and consumer health and safety in regard to pesticide use."

In 1978, Robert van den Bosch, professor of entomology and chairman of the Division of Biological Control at the University of California at Berkeley, exposed what he called "the pro-pesticide Mafia," a consortium of various groups battling pesticide control for their own self-interests. This "club," he said, which includes growers and chemical companies, "owns politicians, bureaucrats, researchers, county agents, administrators, and elements of the media, and it can break those who don't conform."

The UFW is emphasizing pesticide poisoning in its third major boycott against the fresh grape industry. Chavez explained: "There is something more important to the UFW than winning

better wages and working conditions. That is protecting farm workers -- and consumers -- from systematic poisoning through the reckless use of agricultural poisons."



Helicopter sprays crops as United Farm Workers' members march by.

Dinoseb: One of the "Deadly Dozen"



Dr. Marion Moses

Two years ago, a 24-year-old farm worker who neither spoke nor understood English went to work in the cotton fields of south Texas. Three days later he was dead.

Six months ago, another 24-year-old farm worker who didn't speak or understand English went to work in the cotton fields of California's southern San Joaquin Valley. Only a month later, he began to lose vision in his left eye.

Two years ago, two brothers, 26 and 32, went to work in the cotton fields of Riverside County in California. After three weeks, they became so ill they were unable to work. One almost had to be hospitalized.

All of these workers had been exposed to the highly toxic pesticide, Dinoseb.

The farm worker in Texas was applying Dinoseb with a backpack-type sprayer. He wore regular work clothes. No protective clothing had been supplied by his employer. He was not

aware of the dangers of the chemical he was working with.

After three days, he collapsed in the field, was taken to a hospital where he was inappropriately given aspirin, which makes Dinoseb poisoning worse. He died about an hour later with a temperature of 110 degrees.

The worker who lost vision in his left eye had also been spraying Dinoseb when a hose broke and the chemical splashed into the eye. He also had not been provided proper protective equipment. His request to see a doctor was denied. The foreman told him that washing his eye out was sufficient.

The two brothers in Riverside County were spraying Dinoseb from tractor rigs without protective equipment in 114-degree heat. Dinoseb is rapidly absorbed through the skin and hot weather exacerbates poisoning. It is slowly excreted so the workers were accumulating potentially lethal amounts of it in their bodies. When they became ill and asked for protective clothing, they were told to buy plastic garbage bags and cut holes in them for sleeves.

When the brothers asked the foreman the name of the pesticide they were working with, he lied to them. He told them they were working with a much less toxic chemical. Their request to see a doctor was also denied.

Dinoseb is a member of a very toxic group of pesticides that includes dinitrophenol and dinitrocresol (DNOC). Acute poisoning from these compounds, which can resemble heat stroke, has caused many occupational deaths. Dinoseb causes yellow staining of the skin, hair and fingernails. With chronic exposure, weight loss may

occur. In fact, DNOC was used as a weight-loss agent in the early 1930s but was discontinued because it was too toxic and produced cataracts.

In 1983, 728,212 pounds of Dinoseb and related herbicides were used in California. Of that total, 136,005 pounds -- or 19% -- were used on grapes, Dinoseb's largest food use. It is not usually found on marketed crops, but it is a significant contaminant of ground water. And it is very toxic to fish.

There are safer alternatives to the dinitrophenols, so there is no reason

why farm workers should risk their lives, their vision, and their health from these chemicals. Employers won't observe the laws regarding the use of these chemicals and the state can't enforce the laws (even in California, with its undeserved reputation for strong worker protection). Workers fear pesticides and want to be protected, but they are afraid of losing their jobs if they complain.

For these reasons, Dinoseb is on the "Deadly Dozen" list of pesticides we believe should be banned from all use in agriculture. ♀



Farm workers are often unaware of the dangers of pesticides they are ordered to work with.

California Legislators Pledge Boycott Support



Twenty-five California lawmakers pledged support for the grape boycott as the UFW's new "Wrath of Grapes" campaign began at the State Capitol in Sacramento (see page 3).

Signing a huge "Wrath of Grapes" boycott pledge card were five state Senators: Paul Carpenter, Bill Greene, Nicholas Petris, Herschel Rosenthal, and Diane Watson. Twenty members of the Assembly also signed: Art Agnos, Tom Bates, Charles Calderon, Robert

Campbell, Peter Chacon, Lloyd Connelly, Gray Davis, Jerry Eaves, Dave Elder, Richard Floyd, Tom Hayden, Teresa Hughes, Johan Klehs, Burt Margolin, Gloria Molina, Jack O'Connell, Mike Roos, Sally Tanner, John Vasconcellos, and Maxine Waters.

Please take a moment to send in your boycott pledge, an endorsement from your group, and the names of people we can contact to spread our boycott message.

(detach and return to)

Cesar Chavez, La Paz, CA 93570

Dear Cesar Chavez:

- I pledge to boycott California fresh grapes*.
- Enclosed is my group's endorsement of the boycott.
- Enclosed are addresses of people who I know will join the grape boycott if they are contacted.

Sincerely,

Name _____
(please print)

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

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