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Boycott support keeps growing!

After announcing the start of our boycott of non-union California fresh grapes in July 1984, we made slow but steady growth in gaining support. But in 1985, support grew dramatically as a result of our direct-mail program and extensive boycott trips throughout the U.S. and Canada.

In this issue, we are featuring stories that show we are off to making 1986 a banner boycott year. Our trip to Maryland (page 3) was a gratifying experience as Gov. Hughes, 40 state legislators, and other prominent labor, religious, community leaders signed pledges to boycott table grapes.

Two other articles on endorsements from the Board of Rabbis of Southern California (page 7) and the students at the University of California-Santa Barbara (page 14) reflect a rapidly increasing list of more than 300 official boycott endorsements we have received from various organizations. And thousands of individual boycott pledge cards are pouring into our offices in response to our mailings and publications.

We are convinced that 1986 will be a productive year in making growers come to their senses so that we can achieve our boycott goals: free and fair elections, good-faith bargaining by growers, and better protection from the pesticide peril for both farm workers and consumers. 

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 La Paz, Keene, CA 93570



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Cover picture: Chavez flanked by Maryland Gov. Harry Hughes (left), Ed Lamon, Pres. of the Maryland-Washington, D.C. AFL-CIO (right) at Capitol in Annapolis.

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Photo by Ann Riley

Flanked by House Delegate Rev. Wendell Phillips (left) and Ed Lamon, president of Maryland-Washington, D.C. AFL-CIO (right), Chavez fields boycott questions at press conference in Annapolis.

Maryland Governor and Legislators Endorse Grape Boycott

A resolution which supports the United Farm Workers' boycott of non-union California table grapes was passed by the Maryland State Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee on March 7. Senate Joint Resolution #23 passed after Cesar Chavez, president of the United Farm Workers, held a press conference and testified before the Maryland Senate in Annapolis on February 26.

Lawmakers Endorse Boycott

Chavez was joined by Governor Harry Hughes, 40 state legislators, and labor leaders, religious leaders, and other concerned groups at the press conference. Chavez explained that the boycott has been called by the UFW because "farm workers are being killed and maimed because of exposure to toxic pesticides" used by California

grape growers.

The theme of the new boycott is "The Wrath of Grapes," which Chavez said symbolizes the result of "the reckless use of deadly poisons in agriculture." He stressed that these pesticides leave residues that pose threats to consumers.

Chavez said, "People tend to depend on the government for protection. But they're not doing it. We need help from the consumer to stop this type of poisoning."

Reverend Wendell Phillips, a delegate of the Maryland General Assembly, and Senator Nathan Irby cosponsored the resolution which has the support of 40 lawmakers from both houses.

Delegate Phillips said, "Pesticides can't be washed off. What Cesar is

doing here is creating a public awareness of the problem."

Also attending the press conference were Lorraine Sheehan, Maryland secretary of state; Senator Melvin Steinberg, the president of the State Senate; Senator Norman Stone, chairman of the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee; and Larry Young, chairman of the House Environmental Affairs Committee. The Speaker of the House, Benjamin Cardin, could not attend the conference but expressed his support for the boycott.

In addition to the legislators, several labor leaders from the AFL-CIO were present. Ed Lamon, president of Maryland State and Washington D.C. area AFL-CIO, introduced Chavez to the press.

Tom Bradley, representative of the national office of the AFL-CIO; Henry Koellin Jr., president of the metropolitan Baltimore AFL-CIO; Joslyn Williams, president of the

Washington D.C. AFL-CIO; Edward Mohler, secretary-treasurer of the Maryland State AFL-CIO; Eugene O'Brien, president of the Delmarva, Maryland Central Labor Council; and others also lent their support to Chavez' call for the boycott.

Baltimore Bishop John Ricard was among the religious leaders present at the conference. Bishop Ricard said the resolution "issues a strong call for justice and extends a hand of compassion to our brothers in the vineyard."

At the conclusion of the press conference a large grape boycott pledge card was presented. Governor Hughes was the first to sign the card. He was followed by the legislators and leaders in attendance. By signing the card, the governor and lawmakers pledged to boycott California grapes until farm workers are no longer victimized by pesticide poisoning and can have free and fair union elections.

Chavez then autographed posters

Maryland House Delegate Ida G. Ruben pledges to support the table grape boycott.



Photo by Ann Riley



Photo by Ann Riley

Former farm worker Rudy Arredondo, president of Community Health, Education and Research Associates, Takoma Park, MD testifies on permanent pesticide symptoms he suffers.

of "The Wrath of Grapes" campaign at the request of legislators and leaders.

Chavez Testifies

After the press conference Chavez testified before the State Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee. In his testimony, he cited several instances of farm workers who have been injured or who have died after working in fields sprayed with pesticides.

Chavez claimed, "California does not lead the nation in protection of the food supply." He said that contaminated ground water is common in California because of the widespread use of pesticides. This contamination, Chavez said, puts townspeople at risk of being poisoned.

Chavez also said that the use of pesticides in California has tripled during the past twenty years. He testified: "Pesticides applied to farm land in California's San Joaquin

Valley, the nation's richest agriculture region, have seeped into underground reservoirs over a 7000-square-mile corridor, contaminating the drinking water of one million residents."

Chavez said that the tolerance levels the government of California has set for pesticide residue on grapes are "faulty, inaccurate, inconclusive, incomplete and even fraudulent."

The tolerance levels, Chavez said, are based on information supplied to the government by Industrial Bio-Test, Inc. Three employees of this corporation were convicted of falsifying test data in Chicago in October, 1985. Data tampering had been going on since 1976, according to government officials. Despite the investigation and conviction, Chavez stated that "no company has yet been compelled to remove a pesticide or drug from the market." He noted further that "only about half of the active pesticide

ingredients on the market have been tested."

Chavez called for the banning of five pesticides used in grape production. These pesticides are: parathion, phosdrin, dinoseb, methyl bromide and captan. These pesticides cause birth defects, cancer and other diseases.

The California Department of Agriculture has not done enough to protect farm workers and consumers, Chavez said. He testified that "there were 1470 Notices of Violations and 3000 Notices of Warning issued by the California Department of Food and Agriculture for violations of the Agriculture Code and only eight prosecutions" in 1984.

"We can't do it through the legislature and through regulation," Chavez said. "We know we can do it in the marketplace."

Chavez likened the Department of Food and Agriculture to "the fox guarding the chickens." He stated that the department has proven unworthy to be trusted "with the lives and health of farm workers and consumers."

Siobán Harlow presented a statement from Dr. Marion Moses at the hearing. Dr. Moses is an expert on the effects of pesticides and is the Medical Director of the National Farm Workers Health Group. In her statement, Dr. Moses wrote, "Farm workers' illness and injury rate of 48 per 1000 is the highest in the state of California." Other workers in general industry have an illness and injury rate of 36 per 1000.

Dr. Moses also wrote: "Most pesticides applied to grapes and other food crops have not been adequately

tested to determine whether they cause cancer, birth defects, chronic effects, or affect the genetic material (DNA)."

The effects on consumers are evident because pesticides contaminate air, food supply, and ground water. Pesticides have also been found in "human breast milk," Dr. Moses wrote the committee.

In her statement, Dr. Moses contended that the problems caused by pesticides will not be solved "as long as agribusiness and the agrichemical industry continue to refuse to accept responsibility for the actual and potential harm their products cause workers, consumers and the environment."


Harlow told the committee, "We should be grateful that Cesar is lending his name to a cause for consumers."

A former farm worker, Rudy Arrendondo, also testified before the committee. He stated that the pesticides he worked with caused a permanent rash on his arm.

The Maryland General Assembly is expected to vote on the resolution later this month. The resolution states, in part, "This body encourages all Marylanders to support the table grape boycott in support of Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers."

The Baltimore city and Baltimore County councils have already adopted grape boycott resolutions.

Maryland was chosen as a state to stress the need to boycott grapes because Baltimore is one of the top ten grape consumer areas in the country.

Chavez said that 62 percent of the California table grapes consumed in North America go to the top 10 market areas. 

Rabbis Endorse Grape Boycott

The Board of Rabbis of Southern California officially endorsed the farm workers' boycott of California table grapes at its January meeting in Los Angeles and is now in the process of encouraging "the active participation by its members and the members of their congregations in this boycott."

The 23-member board, headed by President Allen I. Freeling, represents hundreds of thousands of Jewish people from Los Angeles to the U.S.-Mexican border.

The board voted to support the grape boycott after both its full membership and a special subcommittee heard the arguments of the United Farm Workers, represented by First Vice-President Dolores Huerta, and the fresh grape growers, represented by Mike Bozik of Bagdazarian, Inc.

Huerta said she was "deeply moved" by the board's vote of support. "From the earliest days of La Causa and our first boycott, we have had the support of the Jewish community across the country," she said. "I remember how proud we were when grapes were declared non-kosher because they were stained with the blood and tears of suffering farm workers."


But the rabbis didn't stop with an endorsement of the grape boycott. Even after personal testimony from Dave Stirling, Republican Gov. George Deukmejian's appointee as general counsel of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB), the



Rabbi Jonathan Miller of the Stephen S. Wise Temple in Los Angeles, headed the boycott investigating committee appointed by Rabbi Allen I. Freeling, president of the Southern California Board of Rabbis.

rabbis called for a re-evaluation of both "the scope of power of the position ... as well as the current incumbent (Stirling)."

The rabbis criticized Stirling for betraying his role as an impartial prosecutor by his "publicly pronounced position against the leadership of the UFW." They were also critical of the ALRB for its failure "to be effective in ensuring fair labor practices and prosecuting unfair labor practices."

The boycott endorsement by the Southern California rabbis follows previous endorsements by the Central Conference of American Rabbis and several other Jewish organizations. 



Farm workers at one of the public pesticide hearings in Indio, California demand that five of the most dangerous pesticides be banned: "Abajo con los pesticidas."

Hundreds of farm workers picketed public hearings on pesticide protection for agricultural workers held in several California cities in February. The hearings were conducted by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and its director, Clare Berryhill.

Farm labor leader Cesar Chavez attacked the hearings as nothing more than an attempt on the part of Berryhill to appear concerned when at the same time he and the agency are not forcing growers to comply with current pesticide regulations to protect farm workers in the fields, townspeople from pesticides in water supplies, and consumers from pesticide residues on food.

"There is no better example of Berryhill's hypocrisy than the case of Juan Chabolla," Chavez said. Chavez blasted Berryhill for filing no charges

PESTICIDES

Farm Workers Picket Pesticide Hearings, Charge Hypocrisy

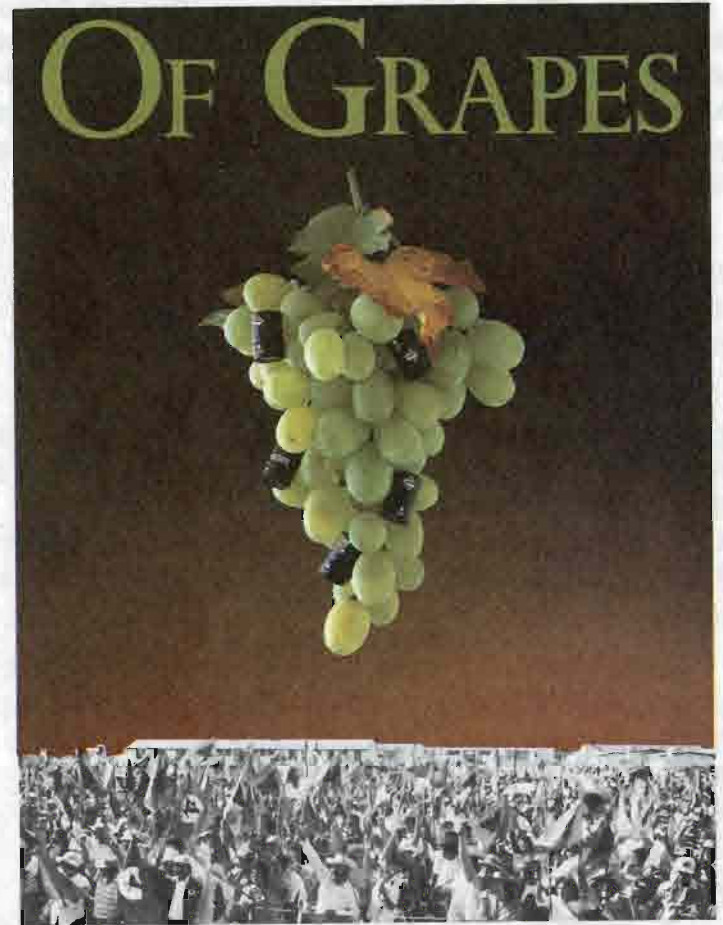
against the San Diego County employer of 31-year-old Chabolla, who dropped dead last August after the grower sent him into a tomato field sprayed only an hour earlier with Monitor, a highly toxic pesticide.

"At the very same time, Berryhill was joining growers in urging Gov. Deukmejian to veto a pesticide-posting bill that could have saved Chabolla's life," Chavez said. (Gov. Deukmejian later vetoed the bill.) "And now what is Berryhill doing? Holding public hearings on better pesticide protection for farm workers!"

Pesticide Threat to Towns

Chavez also cited the dangers of pesticides to people in towns surrounding agricultural fields. He referred to two "cancer cluster" towns: McFarland, where nearly a dozen children contracted nine different kinds of cancer

THE WRATH OF GRAPES



JOIN THE BOYCOTT... AGAIN!





Cesar Chavez

La Paz, Keene, CA 93570

Dear Friend:

Another child, nine-year-old Salvador De Anda, has been diagnosed with cancer. Salvador is the tenth child diagnosed with cancer in the last two years in the Delano-McFarland area in California. Salvador's parents both worked in a field sprayed with toxic pesticides.

We need you to help us stop the abuse of pesticides by California growers. If you are interested in consumer protection and social justice, we would like to hear from you.

The UFW has always led the fight for farm workers' rights and consumer protection. Working with us will give you experience in an effective and socially significant organization. You will learn skills that will enhance your future career. Work with the farm workers is never dull. The rewards are many.

Please contact me for more information. Just fill out and return the card accompanying my letter. This card does not obligate you to do anything; it only lets me know that you are interested in working for a good cause.

Please contact me soon. And don't forget — **BOYCOTT GRAPES!***

Yours in Friendship,

Cesar Chavez
President
United Farm Workers of America

Dear Cesar Chavez:

I am interested in working with the UFW to fight the use of deadly pesticides that threaten farm workers and consumers. Please send me more information.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

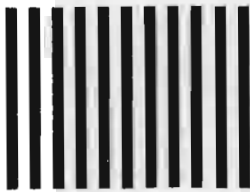
Zip _____

THE WRATH OF GRAPES

JOIN THE BOYCOTT... AGAIN!

*except the 3% of grapes produced under UFW contract

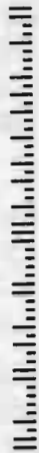
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between 1981 and 1984; and Fowler, where three children developed leukemia during the same period.

State health officials confirmed Chavez' statements. They believe that in both cases the water supply is being contaminated by two possible agents: "nitrates that seep into underground water supplies after farmers apply nitrogen fertilizers, and pesticides that have been injected into the soil and are later detected in well water" (The Los Angeles Times, Sept. 19, 1985).


Pesticide Threat to Consumers

Chavez said consumers are also threatened by Berryhill's continual siding with agribusiness and the chemical industry and by his non-enforcement of pesticide regulations. "State health service officials now tell us nearly 1,000 people were poisoned last summer from watermelons contaminated by aldicarb, the most acutely toxic pesticide registered in the U.S.," he said. "But instead of treating the growers who illegally used the aldicarb like the criminals they are, Berryhill is content to slap them on the wrist with civil instead of criminal charges."

Dr. Marion Moses, director of farm worker clinics and a leading specialist on environmental disease, was also sharply critical of Berryhill and the CDFA for their public policy of opposition to banning certain pesticides and for allowing so-called "safe" levels of pesticide residues on food. "The agricultural industry should not get away with using pesticides which might make their fruit and

vegetables look more luscious but which leave cancer-causing residues on our food," she said.

Moses also criticized Berryhill for caving in to the lobbying of the growers and pesticide producers: "Should we be content to allow decisions about residues of pesticides on food to be based solely on the economic impact to the agricultural and chemical industry? Shouldn't considerations of consumers' health be just as important?"

Chavez vowed to keep the pressure on Berryhill and the CDFA. "We intend to challenge them until they carry out their responsibilities to farm workers, townspeople, and consumers -- and quit cow-towing to growers whose every demand has to be granted just because they gave more than \$1 million to Gov. Deukmejian's 1982 election campaign." 

Hundreds of farm workers protest lax enforcement of pesticide regulations during public hearings in Fresno.





Farm workers and their children live in constant danger to their health from the reckless use of pesticides on grapes and other crops.

Chavez Leads Protest at Grape Growers' Meeting

Farm labor leader Cesar Chavez and 400 farm workers were definitely not on the guest list at an elegant luncheon meeting of the California Table Grape Commission at the Holiday Inn in Fresno in February. But they showed up anyway.

Leading the hundreds of men, women, and children carrying black flags printed with white skulls to dramatize the deadly threat of pesticides, Chavez angrily denounced grape growers for being among the worst California growers whose irresponsible use of deadly pesticides is threatening the lives of farm workers and their chil-

dren, townspeople living near fields, and consumers.

"Nobody's safe anymore," Chavez said. "Growers have flooded this state with so many pesticides that everybody's drowning in them, not just farm workers. Farm workers have to wade through pesticides on the ground and pick fruit and vegetables covered with them. Their babies are born with severe birth defects. Pesticides from fields are seeping into and contaminating the well water of people living in nearby towns. Pesticides air-sprayed on fields are drifting over cities. And consumers would be astounded if they

knew how much pesticide residue remains on the food they buy at supermarkets."

(Reinforcing Chavez' statements was a recent admission made by Steven Schatzow, head of the pesticide division of the Environmental Protection Agency. "Pesticides dwarf the other environmental risks the agency deals with," he said. "...virtually everyone is exposed" [The New York Times, March 6, 1986].)

Dolores Huerta, UFW first vice-president, addressed the large gathering on other issues the UFW is centering its fresh grape boycott on: the breakdown of the farm labor law, the denial of free and fair elections for farm workers, and the refusal of growers to bargain in good faith.

"The farm labor law passed in 1975 has become a dead piece of legislation ever since Gov. George Deukmejian took over in 1983," Huerta said. "So we have to go back to where we were before there was a law. Back to the boycott -- the only thing growers understand and the only thing Deukmejian can't protect them from."

Huerta charged that free and fair elections are no longer possible since Gov. Deukmejian's appointee to the Agricultural Labor Relations Board, Dave Stirling, was appointed its general counsel in 1983. "It's virtually impossible to organize workers now," she said. "Growers fire workers who show interest in the union. They break the law without the slightest fear of punishment. So free and fair elections these days are a farce."

Huerta also denounced Stirling for non-enforcement of the law's regulation requiring growers to bargain in

good faith. "Right now, at many ranches where we have won elections, growers either flatly refuse to negotiate or use stalling tactics that prevent us from getting contracts. They know Stirling will do nothing about it; they no longer have anything to fear from him, from the Governor, or from the law itself. It's a shame when people entrusted to carry out the law simply won't do it."

Bruce Obbink, president of the Table Grape Commission, criticized Chavez for "spoiling" the growers' promotional meeting. Instead of commenting on the pesticide threat to farm workers, townspeople, or consumers, Obbink cautioned growers not "to give the UFW an issue . . . by carelessly handling pesticide materials this year." He also repeated his often-made attack against Chavez for starting another grape boycott and for using "scare tactics" regarding the pesticide peril.

"'Scare tactics,' my foot!" said Mary Johnson, an official of the Democratic Community Action Committee of neighboring Tulare County. "Thank God Chavez is waking up a lot of us to the pesticide threat. If we wait for Obbink or the grape growers or even our state health officials to do something about it, we'll all be dead!"

Besides Johnson, a wide spectrum of supporters -- labor officials and union members, Fresno State University students, and several local political, religious, and community officials -- joined Chavez and the farm workers picketing the grape growers' luncheon meeting. "It's a good sign of how support for the boycott is growing and how concern for the pesticide problem is increasing," Chavez said. 🐦

PESTICIDES



Dr. Marion Moses

Pesticides and Cancer

What is the risk of cancer from pesticide exposure? Is the increased incidence of cancer found in children in McFarland, a small agricultural community in the San Joaquin Valley, due to pesticide exposure? What about agricultural and other workers who are exposed over a working lifetime? What about consumers who eat small amounts of carcinogenic pesticides in their food?

There are many studies that have been done in human populations who are exposed to pesticides during their work which show an increased risk for several types of cancer.

- Cancer of the blood cells (leukemia and lymphoma) has been found in farmers, agricultural workers and pesticide manufacturing workers.
- Cancer of the brain has been found in farmers, pest control operators, pesticide manufacturing workers and children exposed to insecticides in

the home.

- Lung cancer has been found in pesticide manufacturing workers and sprayers.
- Cancer of the bone marrow (multiple myeloma) has been found in farmers.
- Testicular cancer has been found in agricultural workers and workers manufacturing the pesticide methyl bromide.
- Stomach cancer has been found in farmers and farm workers.
- Cancer of the liver has been found in agricultural workers and pesticide manufacturing workers.

Most Americans assume that cancer-causing chemicals (carcinogens) are not permitted in their food supply. They may be astounded to learn that there is actually a federal pesticide law allowing carcinogenic pesticides on agricultural products. This law is known as FIFRA (Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act).

Pesticides on Grapes

In California in 1983 (the last year figures are available), 31% of the reported 8 million pounds of pesticides used in *grape production* were proven or suspect carcinogens. These chemicals and the number of pounds used are listed in the accompanying table.

Carcinogenic pesticides may be used illegally on grapes (such as acephate in 1984). Unless workers or consumers become ill (as with aldicarb on watermelons), we have no way of knowing when illegal use is occurring. Many carcinogenic pesticides may not cause immediate or observable illness, and therefore workers and consumers could be exposed to dangerous levels and not even know it.

With cancer being a leading cause of death, why should carcinogenic pesticides *deliberately* be allowed into our food supply? 🐦

Pesticide	Pounds
Acephate (illegal)	?
Benomyl	18,139
Captan	344,243
Chloropicrin	5,098
D-D (Telone)	933,197
Dibrom (Naled)	37,546
Dicofol (Kelthane)	7,668
Endosulfan	51,558
Guthion	1,481
Maneb	32,040
Methomyl (Lannate)	72,225
Methyl bromide	856,677
Oryzalin (Surflan)	9,177
Paraquat	56,657
Parathion	44,122
Roundup (Glyphosate)	11,504
Sodium arsenite	74,895
Trifluralin	8,306



University of California Students Join Boycott Ranks

Students at the University of California at Santa Barbara have aligned themselves with farm labor leader Cesar Chavez in his fight against the use of deadly pesticides by California growers. By an over-whelming margin (17 For; 1 Against; 1 Abstaining), the Associated Students Legislative Council of UCSB voted to join the 300-plus organizations already supporting the United Farm Workers' international boycott of non-union table grapes.

The boycott was called to the council's attention by El Congreso, a group of concerned Chicano students within the university's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). Harold Kennedy, Student Affairs Officer and advisor to El Congreso, said, "The bottom line is that the students at UCSB are energetically behind the boycott. Many of them have farm worker backgrounds. In particular, the students in El Congreso did a great job educating other students. A lot of them put in a lot of hours."

In addition to supporting the boycott, the council resolved to urge the food service at the university to discontinue purchases of non-union table grapes. And the council clearly stated why the grapes have to go: "The lax enforcement of pesticide monitoring has led to increased abuse of toxic chemicals which jeopardize not only the lives of farm workers but those of consumers."

The council also cited the negligence of the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB). Under

the present California State Administration, the ALRB has become complicit in grower abuses. Because the law no longer works, Chavez has taken the fight to the marketplace, the place where justice works for the farm worker.

The council passed their support bill on February 5. Henry Gonzalez, spokesperson for the Boycott Committee of El Congreso, said, "Student support grew quickly before the vote, and we are now doing whatever we can to stop the university from buying the grapes." Support formed rapidly following speeches at UCSB last spring and summer by UFW's Chavez and First Vice-President Dolores Huerta. 🐦



Chavez meets with student leaders while taking the grape boycott message to the University of California at Santa Barbara: (l. to r.) David Santa Maria, Gustavo Romero, Robert Zuniga, and Tony Cortez.

\$500 AWARD DONATED TO UFW



The McDonald's fast food chain in the San Francisco Bay area recently awarded \$500 to Dolores Mijares Downing for being selected as McDonald's 1985 Hispanic Volunteer of the Year for Alameda County.

Because of her admiration for farm labor leader Cesar Chavez and the farm worker cause, Downing gave the \$500 to the United Farm Workers. "For once, thank God, I can give the UFW more than my usual little bit," she said.

Shown accepting the donation on behalf of the UFW in a ceremony at a McDonald's store in Oakland is the Rev. Fred D. Eyster, co-director of National Farm Worker Ministry.

Patricia T. Barich, spokeswoman for McDonald's, said, "We at McDonald's feel the donation money couldn't have gone to a better cause (and) hope it helps in the continuing effort to obtain rights and dignity for farm workers." 🐦

FROM OUR READERS

Dear Cesar Chavez:

At 78, a lifetime Republican, and chairman of our county Republican Central Committee for 10 years, I guess I am supposed to be against you. But you're a good man . . . Quite a bit of my legal practice was spent representing employers, who mostly wanted me to 'bust' not contract with unions . . . Farmers who don't want to give your people toilets and long-handled hoes are heartless and ought to be put in jail . . . Keep up the good job you are doing for your people.

Philip M. Wagy
Bakersfield, California

Dear Cesar Chavez:

I just read at 3 a.m. (awakened by arthritic pain we 79-year-olds often endure) your "Food and Justice" for January. It warmed my heart to read of your courage in pursuing your vital and urgent cause. I rejoice in your progress and hope this donation will help you in your struggle for economic justice for farm workers.

Frances R. Eisenberg
Los Angeles, California

Dear Cesar Chavez:

I am leery of buying any fruit or vegetables from California these days. I think they over poison everything.

Louise Johnson
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Cesar Chavez:

I hate pesticides sprayed on the foods I eat! Something has to be done to stop it! Doesn't the health and life of human beings matter any longer?

(Mrs.) Jane Movik
Palo Alto, California

Dear Cesar Chavez:

It bothers me greatly to read about the treatment farm workers receive from greedy growers, an uncaring and an evidently devious governor (California Republican Gov. George Deukmejian), and laws that are not enforced. And, believe me, your reports on the dangers of pesticides to farm workers and us consumers scare me.

(Mrs.) Cathy W. Staudohar
Lansing, Illinois

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