

# Latino Workers and the Fight for Equality



BY THE VOGUE COACH RANK AND FILE CAUCUS

*Labor Donatéc*



## Introduction

Vogue Coach is a recreational vehicle factory located in the San Fernando Valley just north of Los Angeles. It normally employs about 500 workers, the majority Mexicano and undocumented.

The conditions these workers face are unbearable and typical of the conditions facing Latino immigrant workers. Most of the work is done by hand, including heavy lifting. The pay is sub-standard, for example an electrician receives about \$3.00 an hour, less than half the standard for the Southern California region. Workers were submitted to such uncontrolled hazards as flying fiberglass. They faced constant humiliation from the foremen and management and yearly raids by "la migra" (the Immigration and Naturalization Service - INS).

In response to the inequality they faced, workers at Vogue Coach began a unionization drive in April of 1977, asking for union representation from the United Auto Workers (UAW). This drive was a special one, for some 80% of the workers at Vogue Coach were undocumented.

The company used every conceivable trick to crush the worker's movement. They distributed illegal leaflets of anti-union propaganda, laid-off large numbers of workers and fired pro-union activists. Still, in the summer of 1977, the union won the election by a margin of 4 to 1. The company contested the election, delaying certification until January 17, 1978.

In the next stage of the struggle, during the actual contract negotiations, the company consistently stalled signing a binding agreement. They attempted to divide the workers according to nationality. In place of the laid-off Mexicano workers, the company hired Black and Chicano workers as well as a large group of Anglo workers. The new workers were given privileges the Mexicano workers did not receive, such as higher wages. The company used these privileges to foment anti-union sentiment among the new hires. In addition, the company conspired with the INS to harrass the Latino immigrants.

### INS USED TO PERSECUTE UNION ACTIVISTS

The Vogue Coach plant was raided by the INS in February, 1978. This raid took place before contract negotiations and was an obvious attempt to break the union drive. Dozens of workers were arrested while many others were forced to flee. The deported workers were able to return to work the very



next day (to the surprise of the company) and continue the struggle within the plant. The company then arranged for the INS officials to interrogate all the Mexican workers and get them to sign so-called "voluntary departures". Those who refused to be questioned and sign the papers were immediately terminated. However, 13 workers rebelled against this blatant injustice, boldly confronted the company management and INS officials, and declared they would not sign any papers. They were immediately arrested and taken to INS headquarters in Los Angeles and now face deportation.

The case of the Vogue Coach workers has been appealed by lawyers from the United Auto Workers (the 13 are members of Local 509) and their case is now pending in Washington. Workers from the factory have rallied to their support, signing petitions of support calling for a reversal of the deportation decision. To build even wider support the workers have formed a Vogue Coach Rank and File Caucus. This Caucus is attempting to unite workers and other progressive people in order to stop this injustice. Being members of UAW Local 509 the members of the committee especially feel that the UAW and other trade unions need to take a strong public stand against deportations and especially immigration raids that are designed to break the trade union movement. This use of the INS is a blatant violation of the democratic rights of Latino immigrants, especially the right to organize.

### **VOGUE IS NOT AN ISOLATED CASE**

The Caucus has produced this pamphlet in order to inform all people about the countless abuses Mexican workers at Vogue Coach have been forced to suffer. The Caucus also is aware that the case of the 13 is not isolated, but is part of the overall national oppression suffered by the Mexican people in this country. The struggle of the workers at Vogue Coach is in essence a struggle for equal rights, and as such is a symbol of the struggle which the Mexican people are waging in this country.

The Caucus hopes that the articles in this small pamphlet can give the reader a better understanding of the immigration question as it affects the Mexican people, though by no means have these articles answered all questions. The pamphlet is a collective effort by members of the Caucus and we welcome constructive criticism of our efforts and any other comments people may have on the articles.

## **Fighting for Justice And Equality at Vogue Coach**

For years we worked and did as the boss pleased. We lived through experiences such as racial discrimination, speed-ups, threats and abuses from the foremen, and suffered the yearly raids of "la migra" (the Immigration and Naturalization Service). This went on for years, and while we suffered the company gained in profits and grew in size.

One day we just got tired of this injustice. We began a unionization drive and the company responded by firing fellow workers, using the excuse of lack of recreational vehicle sales and a gas shortage. This attack only served to accelerate our union drive. We began to see the need for organization in the shop since 60% of our fellow workers who we see as part of our own flesh and blood had been fired.

The company felt the full might of the workers as those who had been fired and those who remained united as one to fight for a union. The company continued to ignore our desire to be represented by the UAW even after receiving notice from the Department of Labor Relations to recognize our petition for collective bargaining.

### **COMPANY'S COUNTLESS UNION BREAKING TACTICS**

We continued to fight many obstacles placed by the company to avoid unionization. Some of the methods the company employed were the distribution of anti-union bulletins promising the workers a pie in the sky. They divided the workers - making foremen out of one pair and paying them an excessive salary. They also brought in a "labor consultant", i.e., a union breaking specialist named Juan Garza. The workers responded angrily to all this and the company intensified their attacks by bringing in special guards and fencing in their property all the while saying this was to "protect" the workers.

The "migra" (INS) played a very important role in trying to destroy our union drive. In February, 1978, we were arrested by the migra. During negotiations at the end of February, 1978, the notorious "migra" raided our factory. Dozens of workers were arrested, while many others were forced to flee. The factory was emptied of all workers. As the INS agents escorted us onto the bus the company bosses bid us an "adios" with a smile of triumph on their faces. They thought we wouldn't return!

That same day we were taken directly to Tijuana and dropped off. The next day the majority of us returned and were back on the



job. The company officials were angry and put out a bulletin that advised us the INS would return to check out everyone's papers. Despite the threat they didn't pull a surprise raid. Instead five immigration agents returned a week later to interrogate us. This began the case of the "13". As the agents waited in the office, the foremen pushed us to present ourselves, saying that whoever refused should punch his time card out and quit. In some cases the foremen punched worker's cards and fired them.

### 13 REFUSE TO SIGN "VOLUNTARY DEPARTURES"

The INS agents were there to get all of us to sign a so-called "voluntary departure". At that point 13 of us decided to refuse to sign any "voluntary departure". Before the bosses, the foremen and the INS agents who were interrogating us, we made a conscious decision to rebel and refused "voluntary departure". Hearing this the INS agents told us our refusal was an "offense" against the U.S. government and that later we would have problems arranging legal residence. The 13 of us were then taken to the INS office in Los Angeles.

Our arrival threw the office into a turmoil as the agents in the office (and their staff) realized 13 undocumented workers refused to sign the "voluntary departure" papers. This was unheard of



and they became enraged devils. They screamed abuses at us. They threatened to beat us. Even other people who had been arrested (but who had no connection with us) were viciously abused.

Using the foulest language, one "migra" agent of Latino origin entered and walked toward us. He carried chains in his hands and threatened to beat us with them. He forced 50 workers to squat in one corner of the room. He then hurled the chains to the floor, rolled up his sleeves and attempted to provoke us. He called us "chickens without !\*++\*!" But we refused to answer him, as we noticed that the door to the other office was purposely open and all the other "migra" agents were standing in the doorway as spectators to all this. We had forced them to work overtime. It was now after 7 p.m.

It was then that they began to divide us. Two young men were convinced to sign their "voluntary departure". Four of the 13, after being given the understanding they would have hearings in Los Angeles, were sent to El Centro, California. The remaining seven were jailed in the notorious city jail—"The Glasshouse"—to begin the process again the next day.

### WORKER ABUSED BY INS

As we traveled by bus to El Centro it occurred to one companero to sing Mexican songs to help pass the time away. The INS agent in charge of the bus ordered the bus stopped before reaching San Clemente and threatenly came up to us using the foulest of language. He grabbed the singer and proceeded to beat him viciously. Also they made us sit six in a seat which can only comfortably sit three persons. When we arrived in San Clemente, the INS agents took the singer off the bus, then tied him up and two of them beat him viciously again.

We continued onto Chula Vista where they took us to the infamous "Corral". I hadn't been in that center for six years. It was 2 o'clock in the morning when we arrived. I recognized many pig agents I hadn't seen in six years. They immediately sent us to the barracks and proceeded to wake everyone up by banging a giant cymbal that makes a noise like a bomb.

The stop at the "corral" was a learning experience. When I passed through that center seven years ago I by chance witnessed inhumane acts being committed. In March of 1972 one cold and rainy night, I witnessed INS officials marching a naked man outside the barracks. Six years later on the 8th of March, 1978, at 2 o'clock in the morning, they again were



marching a Latino stripped of all his clothes and again it was cold and rainy. I don't believe this was a coincidence. I'm sure it happens often.

From the "corral" in Chula Vista we were transported to another camp in El Centro. There I also recognized "migra" agents who I first saw in 1972. Upon arrival they began to inspect and strip the people who were on the bus. One Mexican who had been stripped naked was beaten for refusing to "pose" in order to have his interiors checked.

### OUR COMMON PROBLEMS

Once I was inside the "corral" I had the opportunity to talk to many people who were being detained. I lived with Europeans, Chinese, Canadians, Africans and a large number from South America. A common problem of these people is that they have no money to return to their native countries, many have no friends who they can communicate with in order to send them money. As a result they must endure many months in the camp.

I also talked with many Mexicanos about the problems we all face, which have their roots in the system that has forced us into this situation. Each week the Mexican consul talks with the people in the camp. However, we are immediately informed that the Mexican consulate can do nothing for us until we agree to send our paychecks to our addresses in Mexico. I on two occasions have wanted to see the consul, and to do so one must wait in a long line. When I finally arrived at his desk all I can remember hearing him say is "next". The whole line is told "next" and no problems are actually resolved.

It was at that moment that the idea of forming some type of commission was developed in the depths of my soul. I wanted to go out and expose our case all the way to the Mexican capital if necessary. I wanted to expose the irresponsible Mexican consulate for not doing his job.

So now I ask, who can help us? Is it the Mexican government? The police? The INS --"la migra"? The lawyers? The only ones who can solve these problems are the people themselves -- the people united. The people must unite --documented and undocumented. We must tell them we don't need their repressive laws. We must demand respect for human rights and do it in a united struggle. We workers at Vogue Coach, who are also aware of other struggles, say to every worker: It doesn't matter if the U.S. government is the most powerful in the world: united we can triumph!

*By a worker at Vogue Coach*

## Auto Workers and The Struggle for Equality

Every year thousands of Latin American (primarily Mexican) immigrants crowd into the bustling barrios of Los Angeles and the surrounding communities. A large percentage of these immigrants are undocumented and live in constant fear of being discovered by the Immigration and Naturalization Service ("la migra").

These immigrants form a vast reservoir of cheap labor, especially for the labor intensive industries such as garment, the foundries and the recreational vehicle assembly plants. Generally immigrant workers in these industries find themselves facing lives of bitter exploitation and discrimination.

### WHY WE UNIONIZED

Latino immigrant workers at the Vogue Coach recreational vehicle factory do not escape the general oppression facing their peoples. Vogue Coach saw its profits grow dramatically, but solely at the expense of these foreign born workers. Workers were paid barely the minimum wage, despite the rising cost of living. Until 1978 the workers had no union and lived in constant fear of losing their jobs if they protested the working conditions in the plant, or organized for their rights. Finally, fed up with the tyranny of the company, the workers risked everything and fought for representation by the United Autoworkers Union.

Vogue Coach workers contacted the UAW in 1977 and demanded the company recognized the union as the sole bargaining representative of the workers in the plant. The company responded by trying to break the union drive--harrassing, intimidating the workers--even setting up raids by the INS.

In 1977 the Vogue Coach workers contacted the UAW and demanded the company recognize the union as the sole bargaining representative of the workers in the plant. The company responded by trying to break the union drive--harrassing, intimidating the workers--even setting up raids on the plant by the INS. The rank and file remained united though. Finally the bosses caved in and recognized the UAW. But the company refused to end all harrasment.



and called in their old friend, "la migra", to interrogate the active participants of the union drive just prior to contract negotiations. Despite the personal harrassment suffered by many of the workers at the hands of the INS, a contract was won.

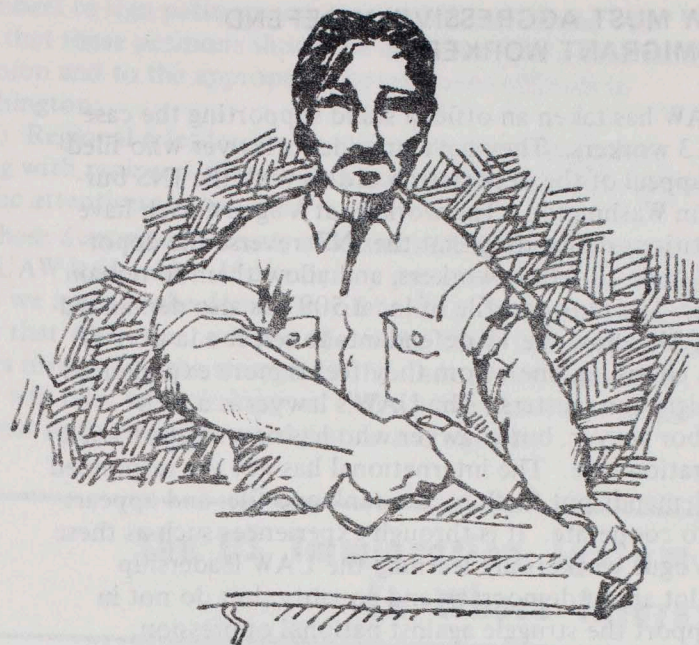
Just winning the unionization drive itself at Vogue Coach was a major step forward for the workers in the plant. Now they have organization and a method by which they may take up their grievances. And more importantly, they now have a means to pressure more concessions out of the company. While these advances are important, they do not obscure the serious weaknesses in the contract and within the UAW leadership.

### PROBLEMS IN THE CONTRACT

In their negotiations with Vogue Coach, the UAW international representatives from Region 6 made major concessions to the company. UAW leadership negotiated the lowest possible standard labor contract. The contract granted wages that are well below standards generally won for other auto workers. The "general assembler" job classification, for example, has a base pay scale of \$3.20/hour, and rises only to the classification of "precision assembler" at \$4.75/hour. Across the board raises were not written into the contract. Raises are at the discretion of the bosses, through the notorious "merit system" which is used universally to keep workers divided among themselves.

The UAW did not demand that all present workers must join the union. This major concession is similar to the well-known "open shop" system which leaves the door wide open for the company to grant privileges to certain workers who did not join the union thus keeping the workers divided. However, due to the militancy and unity of the workers at Vogue, all production workers did join the union.

The present union contract expires on May 19, 1979. The workers have demanded major language changes in the contract and significant wage increases (beyond Carter's 7% wage guide lines). Countering the worker's demands, the company has argued a "major energy crisis" is affecting the recreational vehicle industry. They have begun to lay off workers in large numbers. Probably the company will use the "energy crunch" as a convenient excuse to deny any significant wage gains.



### ENERGY CRISIS USED TO JUSTIFY EXPLOITATION

But, ironically, the international representatives of auto's Region 6 are echoing the same concerns as Vogue Coach's owners. At the April 4th Local 509 union meeting, the international's reps told workers NOT to expect major gains due to the depressed state of the industry. In other words, these so-called "representatives of labor" told the Latino workers at Vogue Coach they should bear the weight of the "energy crisis" on their own backs! All the international's talk about social justice and equality for minority workers becomes empty rhetoric when it is compared to their actions "defending" the Latino workers at Vogue Coach.

The other major problem facing the workers at Vogue Coach is the immediate threat of deportation for 13 of the rank and file who were picked up in an INS raid on the plant last year. During the contract negotiations the company called in the INS as a last ditch effort to try to smash the union drive. 13 of the most vocal proponents of the union were grilled by the migra, and arrested when they refused to sign "voluntary departure" orders.



## THE UAW MUST AGGRESSIVELY DEFEND IMMIGRANT WORKERS

The UAW has taken an official stand supporting the case of these 13 workers. They have provided a lawyer who filed a formal appeal of the deportation orders with the INS bureaucracy in Washington. The workers at Vogue Coach have signed petitions demanding that the INS reverse the deportations of their 13 fellow workers, and allow them to remain in the U.S. The rank and file of local 509 has also demanded that the UAW allow the 13 defendants to select a lawyer of their own choosing, one whom they feel is more experienced with immigration matters. The UAW's lawyer is a well-known labor lawyer, but a lawyer who has never before tried an immigration case. The international has not yet responded to these demands put forth by the rank and file, and appears unlikely to cooperate. It is through experiences such as these that the Vogue workers are learning the UAW leadership "talks" a lot about democracy and equality, but do not in reality support the struggle against national oppression.

The outcome of the struggle at Vogue Coach must concern all workers regardless of nationality or race. The history of oppression at Vogue Coach is testimony that inequality and racial discrimination continues to exist in this country and is like a wedge being driven between the workers of different nationalities and races. Any honest worker can see that this situation only can serve to weaken the working class.

The struggle of the Latin American workers at Vogue Coach should be put forth as a symbol of the struggle that must be waged against national oppression in this country. It is a struggle that must be fought by ALL workers, including the Anglo-American workers, and it is thus the duty of the United Autoworkers Union to educate its membership for the need to wage this great battle.

The rank and file of Local 509 has called upon the UAW leadership to do the following:

A) All locals within Regional 6 must be informed about the case of the 13 workers at Vogue Coach. Time during local union meetings should be made available to the workers from Vogue Coach to address their fellow union members in other locals;

B) All UAW locals within Region 6 should urge their

members to sign petitions supporting the case of the "13" and that these petitions should be delivered to the International union and to the appropriate government officials in Washington;

C) Regional 6 leadership should call a press conference along with rank and file workers from Vogue Coach to draw public attention to the case.

These demands are reasonable and not difficult to be met by the UAW leadership. If democracy prevails within the union, then we are sure the demands will be met. We are also confident that when the rank and file of the UAW understands the issues involved in the struggle of the undocumented worker, they will rally to their support. All workers have a common interest in fighting for social justice and equality.

## The US Immigration System -- In Whose Interest?

Since the time of the conquest of the Southwest by the U.S. expansionists, we have witnessed the brutal exploitation and oppression of the native peoples - Mexicanos and Indians.

No treaty ever made by the U.S. government with the indigenous peoples of this continent was ever respected. Their lands were systematically stolen by any means necessary including the outright extermination of the native population. As was also the case of the Afro-American people in the South, all non-whites were denied the right to testify against whites in the courts, vote or attend schools with whites. Non-white peoples were also denied the right to use their native languages in the schools.

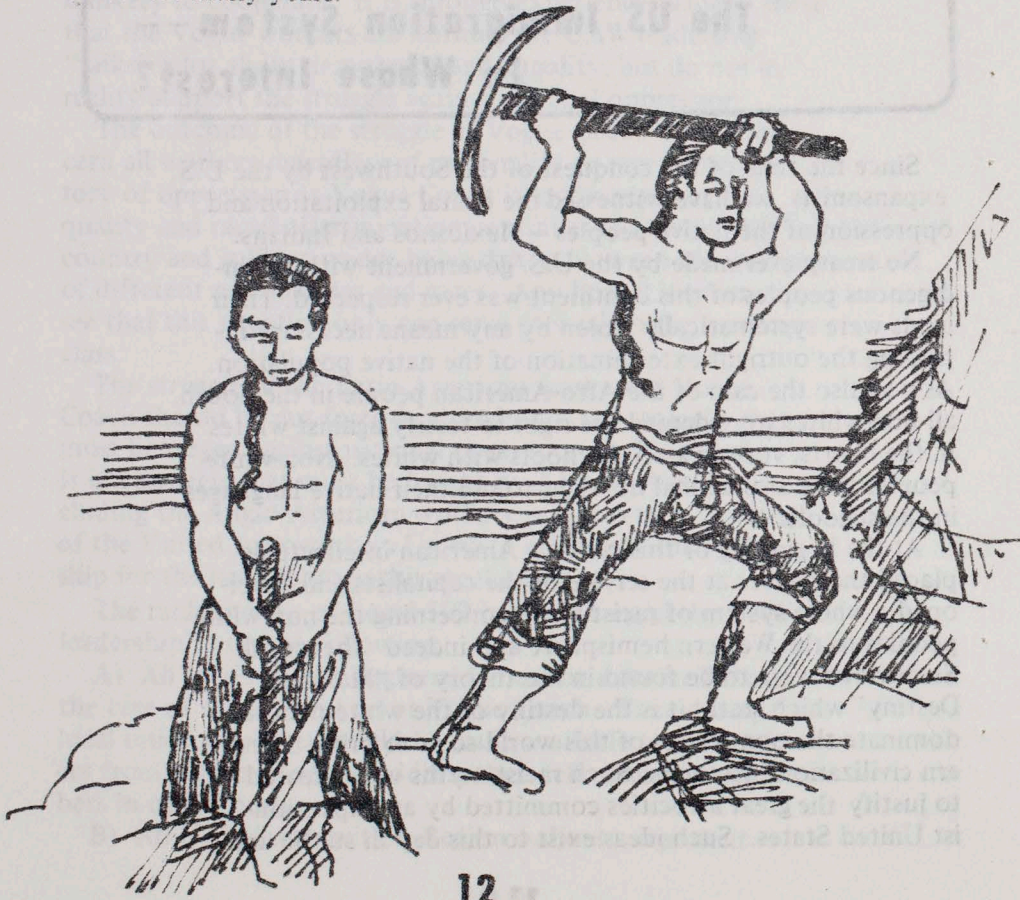
At the beginning of this century American intellectuals placed themselves at the service of the capitalists and developed a whole system of racist views concerning the non-white peoples of the Western hemisphere and indeed the world. Such views were to be found in the theory of "Manifest Destiny" which states it is the destiny of the white man to dominate the non-whites of this world so as to bring "Western civilization" to them. Such racist myths were created to justify the great atrocities committed by an expansionist United States. Such ideas exist to this day in subtle and



not so subtle ways and have influenced the development of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). The INS cannot be separated from the system of national oppression that has taken root in this country since its development.

### FIRST USED AGAINST CHINESE

The first major immigration law was the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1880. The Chinese had previously been the principal cheap labor force of the western United States. Brought from China as semi-slaves, they developed the majority of the railroads, agricultural fields and mines of that era. They suffered every conceivable type of indignity. For instance, they were denied the basic human right of bringing their wives from China or to marry other nationalities. There was a wave of massacres and racist movements that eventually excluded Chinese immigration into the United States for many years.



The immigration system has become one of the principal methods to oppress and terrorize Asian and Latin American immigrants in the United States. The INS has always served to deny them their basic legal rights. Most important to understand is that the INS itself serves as a "legal" instrument of the government to terrorize and intimidate the masses of Asian and Latin American immigrants in the U.S.

### A WEAPON AGAINST THE LATIN PEOPLES

In the case of the Latino people, the border of the U.S. and Mexico stayed open until 1924 when it served the U.S. capitalists to close it for the first time. The Chicano and Mexicano people had become the principal source of cheap labor in the Southwest and in response to their oppression they had developed many militant and well-organized movements, such as the C.O.U.M. Many leaders of these movements were arrested and deported during the Palmer raids of the 1920's, and during the massive "repatriation" of Mexican people in the 1930's.

During the Second World War, the Latino community was attacked in many forms. There was the infamous riot of Anglo sailors and marines called the "Zoot Suit Riots" in which many Chicano and Black youth were attacked and beaten seriously. At the same time, the U.S. began to bring "braceros" (temporary contract labor) from Mexico to work in both industry and agriculture. After the war, this system became one of semi-slavery for hundreds of thousands of braceros who were contracted out to large growers in the Southwest.

The Immigration Service is famous for arriving at a field on pay day, or at a factory where workers are exercising their right to unionize. In times of political or economic crisis, the INS is always used to increase the inequality that the immigrants suffer.

### THE REPRESSION OF THE 1970'S

Repression against the people in general has increased in the the 1970's. The Latino community is being attacked by such things as forced sterilizations, cut backs in medical care and police terrorism. One out of every five black, Latina and Indian women has been sterilized. Some twenty cases of Chicanos and Latinos killed by the police and Immigration agents have been exposed in the last few years.

Immigration raids increased during the 1970's. The border



patrol has been expanded with "temporary forces". There are also a number of repressive laws that have been enacted, experimented or proposed. In December, 1976, the Eilberg Law went into effect, forcing more and more people into the category of "illegals". Now they cannot immigrate based on their U.S. born children until the child reaches the age of 21.

## NEW LAWS AGAINST IMMIGRANTS

The California "Dixon-Arnett" law and the federal "Rodino Bill" have been used to increase discrimination in employment using fines against owners who "knowingly hire illegals". The "amnesty" proposed by President Carter is also generally a repressive measure. Under the "amnesty" plan the overwhelming majority of undocumented workers would become "temporary residents", registered with the government, but the NO guarantee of being conceded any type of permanent legal status.

The government is also cooperating with the infamous racist/fascist organization, the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) that terrorizes blacks and attacks immigrants and Indians along the U.S.-Mexican border. At the present time, the U.S. government is attempting to put up a new fence with electronic sensors as part of its overall plan to increase repression on the Latino immigrants. In the urban centers the media is whipping up hysteria against the undocumented workers and their families and is molding public opinion against the so-called "illegals". In Los Angeles the Board of Supervisors has passed regulations which cut back "non-emergency health care" to undocumented workers.

The movement in the Latino community has also developed in the last few years. Many militant demonstrations have been organized along the border and in the cities of the Southwest against the wave of attacks on undocumented workers. The struggle of the Vogue Coach workers demonstrates that the undocumented workers and immigrants are not about to passively accept their unequal status in this country. They are fighting not only the company bosses and sold-out union bureaucrats, but a whole century of systematic discrimination and oppression. It is a movement for equality and justice and worthy of support.

## What is the Legal Case Of the Vogue Workers?

Under the U.S. Constitution all workers, irregardless of their citizenship or immigration status, are afforded certain rights. They have the right to unionize in their work places. They have the right to procedural "due process", to assure a fair hearing of the charges against them. They also have the right to be protected against unreasonable search and seizure by agents of the government.

During the INS raid on the Vogue Coach plant, and the subsequent arrest of 13 workers, all these rights were violated. It is upon these points that the appeal of their deportations is based.

## INS UNION - BUSTING

Historically the management of unorganized shops employing large numbers of undocumented workers has used the threat of deportation as part of their campaigns to keep the undocumented workers servile. When it appeared clear that the Vogue worker's union drive was going to succeed, the company's owners called in the INS to interrogate and harrass the workers, especially the activists in the union drive.

Federal law (in this case the National Labor Relations



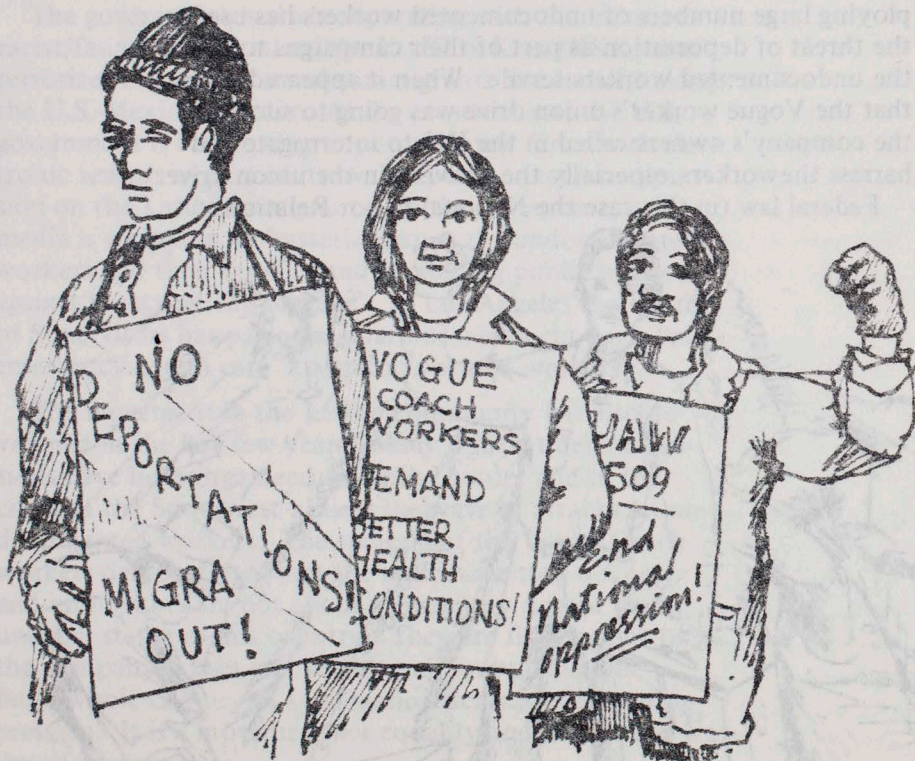


Act-NLRA) affords all workers, irregardless of their citizenship or immigration status, the right to unionize free of harrassment or terrorism on the part of the company. Theoretically this means free of the threat of deportation also.

But the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), who preside over all labor arbitration in the U.S., has ruled that they have no right to interfere in the activities of the INS, EVEN if the INS is being used for union busting.

## RACE DISCRIMINATION

Under the law the INS must have reasonable suspicion that a person has entered the U.S. illegally. The law specifically forbids basing this judgement solely on a person's appearance—their facial features, the color of their skin, their clothing. The workers at Vogue did nothing on the day of the raid to arouse the suspicions of the immigration agents in the plant. They did not run, they did not at-



tempt to hide. Yet the INS did not question all the workers in the plant? they singled out only workers who appeared to be of Latin descent. Under the threat of firing, these workers were forced to submit to the Migra's interrogation.

## RIGHT TO DUE PROCESS

Persons being interrogated by the INS have the right to remain silent when questioned. They have the right to contact the consul of their respective countries. They have the right to have a lawyer present to defend their interests. The workers at Vogue were not informed of any of these rights at the time of the INS raid on the plant.

In a deportations case, the INS must prove that an alien crossed the border illegally. This is exceedingly difficult to prove, so the migra relies on the process of intimidating undocumented workers into confessing that they entered the country illegally. Not only did the migra get the Vogue workers to admit they had crossed the border illegally, but the union appointed lawyer (who was supposed to defend the interests of these workers) told the Vogue workers to admit this to the presiding judge at their hearing!

## A DIFFICULT, IMPORTANT BATTLE

Winning a deportations appeal is no easy victory. As we have seen with the Vogue workers, the INS usually harrasses undocumented workers into admitting their guilt, and then, later, into signing voluntary deportations. In the last year, undocumented workers throughout the country have begun to fight the union-busting tactics of the INS, and have slowly begun to win their deportation's appeals. It is no easy matter. But the Vogue workers hope to show other undocumented workers, through their own example, what legal recourses they do have. The legal struggle is but a part of the battle to remain in the U.S. and organize. Without the support of other trade unionists and the broadest possible segments of the population the government will not be forced to even listen to these undocumented workers. The government must be forced to overturn these deportations and end their harrassment of undocumented workers who seek to unionize.



# El Obrero Latino Y la Lucha Por la Igualdad



POR EL COMITE DE BASE DE VOGUE COACH

*Mano de Obra por Donacion*



## Introducción

Vogue Coach es una fabrica de vehiculos de recreación que se encuentra en el Valle de San Fernando al Noroeste de Los Angeles. Emplea unos 200 trabajadores, la mayoría siendo Mexicanos y gran parte de ellos sin documentos. Las condiciones de los trabajadores son insoportables y típicos de las condiciones que los trabajadores inmigrantes confrontan. El pago es inferior al normal por ejemplo, un electricista ganaba \$3.00 por hora, menos que la mitad de lo normal por la region del Sur de California. Los trabajadores trataron con tales peligros como polvo de vidrio flotando en el aire, así también enfrentaron humillaciones constantes de los mayordomos y la administración y redadas anuales de la migración.

Para responder a tal desigualdad, los trabajadores de Vogue Coach empezaron una campaña de sindicalización en Abril de 1977, pidiendo representación del Sindicato U.A.W. (Trabajadores de Autos Unidos). Esta campaña sería muy especial ya que un 80% de los trabajadores eran indocumentados.

La compañía uso cada trampa imaginable para aplastar el movimiento de los trabajadores, por ejemplo, paso docenas de hojas de propaganda ilegal contra los sindicatos, quitaron los trabajos en grandes cantidades a trabajadores y despidieron a activistas pro-sindicalistas. Aún, en el verano de 1977, el sindicato gano la eleccion 4 votos pro-sindicato por cada voto en contra. La compañía disputo la eleccion, retrazando la certificación del sindicato hasta el 17 de enero de 1978.

En la siguiente etapa de la lucha durante las nuevas negociaciones por el contrato, la compañía hizo todo lo que podía para evitar firmar un acuerdo obligatorio. La compañía intento dividir a trabajadores según su nacionalidad. En sus lugares de los trabajadores Mexicanos a quienes le habían quitado sus trabajos, la compañía empleo a trabajadores Negros y Chicanos y también un grupo grande de trabajadores Anglos. Los nuevos recibieron privilegios que los trabajadores Mexicanos no recibieron, tales como sueldos mejores, para formar un resentimiento contra el sindicato dentro de los nuevos empleados. Además, la compañía conspiró junto con la migración a perseguir los inmigrantes Latinos.

Sr. Amorá

Chyanaca college

Sara Gallardo  
4641980 x 214

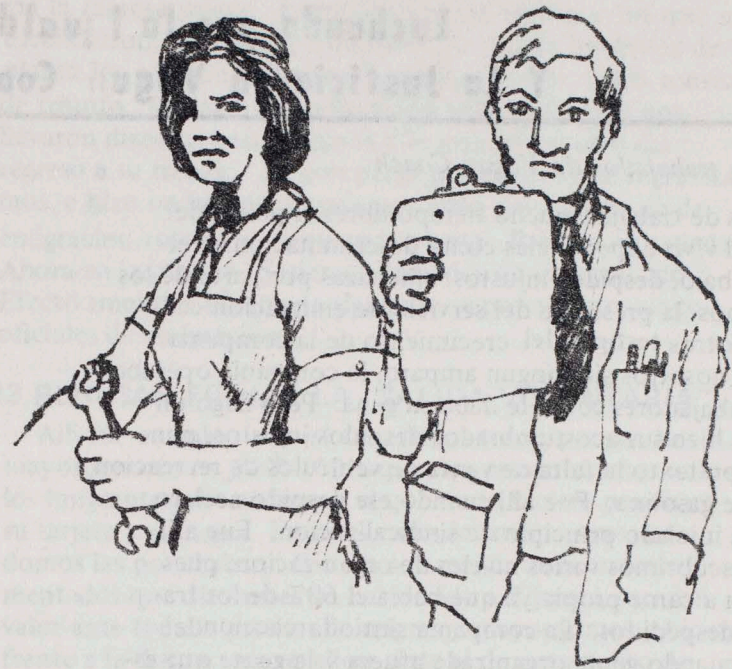


## LA MIGRA USADA PARA PERSEGUIR A ACTIVISTAS PRO-SINDICATO

La fabrica fue redada por la migración en febrero de 1978. Esta redada tuvo lugar antes de las negociaciones y fue un atentado obvio de quebrar al sindicato aun antes que se firmara un contrato. Docenas de trabajadores fueron arrestados mientras que muchos otros fueron forzados a huir. Los trabajadores deportados lograron regresar a sus trabajos al siguiente dia (sorprendiendo a la compania) continuando la lucha. La compania entonces arreglo que oficiales de la migración interrogaran a todos los trabajadores Latinos y que se les forzara a "salir voluntariamente". Los que rehusaron a ser investigados y firmar el papel fueron despedidos inmediatamente. Sin embargo, 13 trabajadores se rebelaron en contra de esta injusticia descarada y valerosamente confrontaron a la administración de la compania asi tambien a los oficiales de la migración y declararon que por ningun motivo firmarian.

Fueron arrestados inmediatamente y llevados hasta el centro de la migración en Los Angeles y actualmente enfrentan ser deportados. Asi nacio el asunto de los 13 de Vogue Coach.

El caso de los 13 de Vogue Coach ha sido apelado por abogados de los trabajadores de Auto Unidos (los 13 son miembros del Local Numero 509) y su caso esta pendiente actualmente en Washington. Los trabajadores de la fabrica se han reunido para apoyarlos—firmando peticiones y exigiendo un reverso a la decision para deportarlos. Para crear un apoyo aun mas amplio los trabajadores han formado el Comité de Base de Vogue Coach. El Comité de Base quiere unir a trabajadores y otras personas progresistas para poner fin a esta injusticia, siendo miembros del Local 509 de los Trabajadores de Auto Unidos, los miembros del Comité especialmente creen que la U.A.W. y otros sindicatos necesitan tomar una fuerte opcion publicamente en contra de las deportaciones y especialmente en contra de las redads de inmigración que son designados a quebrar el movimiento de los sindicatos. Tal uso de la migración es una violación descarada de los derechos democraticos de los inmigrantes Latinos, especialmente el derecho de sindicalizarse.



## LA LUCHA DE VOGUE NO ES CASO AISLADO

El comite de Base ha producido este panfleto para informar al publico acerca de los abusos incontables que los trabajadores Latinos en Vogue Coach han tenido que sufrir. Tambien el Comité esta consciente de que el caso de los 13 no es un incidente aislado, sino es parte de la opresion nacional sufrida por los pueblos Latinos en este pais. La lucha de los trabajadores de Vogue Coach es en su esencia una lucha por derechos iguales, asi como un simbolo de la lucha que los pueblos Latinos estan llevando a cabo en este pais.

El Comité de Defensa espera que los articulos en este panfleto corto pueda dar al lector un mejor entendimiento de la cuestion de la inmigración como efectiva a los pueblos Latinos, aun que claramente estos articulos no explican todo completamente de esta cuestion. El panfleto es un esfuerzo colectivo por miembros del Comité de Defensa, asi damos la bienvenida a la critica constructiva. Cualquier comentario que la gente tengan acerca de los articulos.



## Luchando por la Igualdad Y La Justicia en Vogue Coach

*Por un trabajador de Vogue Coach*

Después de trabajar mucho tiempo libres al placer del patron y al vivir experiencias como discriminación, aceleres de trabajo, despidos injustos, amenazas por parte de los mayordomos, la presencia del servicio de emigración cada año, y nosotros testigos del crecimiento de la compañía, seguimos nosotros sin ningún amparo, la compañía operaba con los trabajadores como le daba su gana. Pero llegó un día en que hizo sus acostumbrados despidos injustos, poniendo por pretexto la falta de venta de vehículos de recreación y la alza de gasolina. Fue allí cuando ese despido aceleró nuestro ya iniciado principio de sindicalización. Fue allí cuando descubrimos varios niveles de organización, pues nos llegaba a carne propia ya que había el 60% de los trabajadores despedidos. La compañía sintió la reacción de nosotros, cuando gente organizada afuera y la gente que estaba a dentro era una sola, y se fue de espaldas cuando la compañía recibió noticia del departamento de relaciones laborales de que se hacía la petición para que la UAW nos representara en un contrato colectivo.

### LAS TACTICAS ROMPE SINDICATOS INCONTABLES DE LA COMPAÑIA

Tuvimos varios obstáculos que pasar, como la preparación de la compañía para evitar que nos sindicalizáramos. Unos de los sistemas conocidos que empezaron a funcionar con la compañía son boletines antiunión donde la compañía prometía el cielo y las estrellas. Usó nuestra misma gente para dividirnos. Hizo mayordomos al por de trabajadores, los mayordomos con excesivo salario, y la presencia de un especialista rompeuniones llamado Juan Garza. Hubo gran movimiento en la compañía para todo esto. Tuvieron que poner guardias. Tuvieron que cercar toda la propiedad con la promesa falsa que era para protegernos mejor.

La Migra jugó un papel muy importante en tratar destruir nuestra unión. Ya estábamos en negociaciones y por supuesto que la compañía las alargaba y pedía más ex-

tenciones, y para fines de febrero del 1978 hizo su presentación la famosa migra. Entre los que escaparon y los que se escondieron la planta quedó vacía, y al salir los buses de la planta los administradores nos dieron un adiós con sonrisa de triunfo. Creían que no íbamos a volver. Ese día nos llevaron directos hasta Tijuana y la mayoría al otro día regreso a su trabajo. La compañía no le gustó que regresáramos, e hizo un volante donde nos avisó que el servicio de emigración volvería a chequear la planta. Pero ya no quedaba. Ahora en la oficina. Seríamos llamados de uno por uno. Efectivamente a la semana siguiente se presentaron cinco oficiales de emigración.

### 13 REHUSAN FIRMAR LA "SALIDA VOLUNTARIA"

Allí fue cuando nació el caso de los trece, porque los mayordomos nos pucharon a que nos presentáramos ante los inmigrantes, diciendo que el que no lo hiciera ponchara su tarjeta y se fuera. En unos casos los mismos mayordomos las ponchaban. Ese día solamente trece indocumentados que días antes ya habían ido a Tijuana, sacaron valor ante toda la presión de migras y mayordomos e hicimos frente a la disyuntiva una revelión, ante el departamento de justicia. Ya estando dentro de las oficinas de Vogue, entrevistándonos los migras, decidimos no firmar "deportación voluntaria", ya allí los migras nos decían que si no firmábamos voluntarios era ofender al gobierno y después tendríamos problemas para arreglar residencia legal.

Así con esos consejos nos llevaron a Los Angeles y allí empezó lo bueno. Toda la oficina de migras se puso en desorden cuando se dieron cuenta de que trece individuos no firmaban deportación voluntaria. Parecían diablos enjaulados, bostiferaron; nos amenazaron de golpearnos y hasta la demás gente que estaba arrestada allí también pagaban por nosotros. Después de usar las palabras más bajas, un migra de aspecto Latino entró hacia nosotros, haciendo estruendo con lengua y con cadenas. Nos amenazó con golpearnos con las cadenas, y nos presionó como a cincuenta individuos a incrustarnos en una esquina. Después lanzó las cadenas al suelo. Se recogió las mangas y nos incitó. Nos dijo "gallinas faltos de !\*+\*!" y nadie le dijo nada, porque para esto dejó la puerta abierta y ya todos los migras que trabajaban allí estaban atrás de él como espectadores. Para esto ya los habíamos hecho trabajar bastante ya pasaba de las siete p.m.



Alli mismo nos dividieron. Dos muchachos fueron convencidos y firmaron su deportacion voluntaria. Despues de pedir fianzas altas y no podernos comunicar con los abales y pedir nuestras audiencias en Los Angeles, cuatro companeros consintiendo que estariamos en Los Angeles fuimos mandados a el Centro California y siete companeros tuvieron que ser encarcelados en la carcel de vidrio para que al dia siguiente siguiera el proceso.

### TRABAJADORES ABUSADOS POR LA INMIGRACION

En el camino al Centro, ibamos en el bus, y un companero de viaje se le ocurrio ir cantando canciones Mexicanas en el camino. El migra que llevara el bus paro el bus antes de San Clemente y enfurecido llego ante nosotros usando vocabulario poco oido y golpeando al cantante y si los asientos eran de tres, nos recargo seis en cada asiento. Llegamos a San Clemente. El migra bajo al cantante y amarrado los golpearon entre bajo al cantante y amarrado lo golpearon entre dos abajo; seguimos hasta Chula Vista y nos llevaron al Corralon. Hacia seis anos que yo no visitaba ese centro. Eran las dos de la mañana. Alli reconoci migras perros que no veia desde hacia seis años. Nos pasaron por las barracas y para despertar a los que estaban durmiendo alli usan un plato gigante que hace un ruido peor que bomba.

### TRABAJADORES ABUSADOS POR LA INMIGRACION

Hubo gran experiencia en esa visita a Chula Vista de paso al Centro. Hacia seis anos que tambien iba de paso, y me toco como coincidencia ser testigo ocular de los mismo que paso en marzo de 1972, cuando una noche con mucho frio y lluviosa los oficiales traian marchando un hombre desnudo fuera de las barracas. Esta vez tambien el 8 de marzo de 1978 a las 2 de la mañana traian marchando a un Latino desnudo y hacia el mismo clima que aquel tiempo. No creo en la coincidencia. Estoy seguro que esto lo hacen amenudo. De alli llegamos al Centro. Tambien alli me toco reconocer migras perros, unos mas viejos ya por los años y mas gordos. Llegando, a nuestra gente que iba en el bus, empezaron a revisar y a ordenar que se desnude la gente. Vi alli cuando un migra golpeaba a un Mexicano desnudo porque no se ponía en pose para que le vieran bien su interiores; ya a dentro en el corral me toco hablar con mucha gente que esta detenida, convivi con gente de Europ-

a, gente China, Canadiense, de Africa y mayormente con gente de Sud America. Los problemas de toda esta gente (excepto los Mexicanos), que duran muchos meses alli porque les falta dinero para regresar a sus paises de origen. Les faltan amigos que no se ve que se acuerden de esa gente que se encuentra alli.

Tambien me relacione con muchos Mexicanos multiples de problemas que se asemejan a otras, pero todos por la misma causa. Solamente un sistema nos tiene alli. Cada semana va un Consul Mexicano a hablar con la gente, pero para ir con el advierten que no puede hacer nada solamente si le quedaron a deber su cheque para que se los manden a su domicilio en Mexico. Yo en dos ocasiones he querido ver al Consul en la carcel del Centro y he ido a hacer cola y donde esta el, estan dos migras en la puerta, y al ir llegando la gente que esta en cola lo unico que contesta el "next" y toda la cola es "next" y no arreglo nada. Esa vez me nacio del alma formar una comision e ir y exponer nuestro caso hasta la Capital. Y exponer si asi es como ganan el dinero el consul irresponsable. Por eso digo yo ahora; Quien nos va ayudar? Acaso el gobierno Mexicano? El gobierno Americano? La policia? La Migra? Los bomberos? Los abogados?

Los unicos que solucionaran los problemas es el mismo pueblo, la misma gente unida. La gente que tiene sus documentos en regla estara unida tambien para tacharles en la cara que no necesitamos de estas leyes; leyes aderidas que nosotros los Latinos no necesitamos. Debemos exigir respeto a los derechos humanos pero lo debemos hacer todos juntos y trabajadores de Vogue testigos de otras luchas, les pueden decir, no le hace que sea un gobierno mas poderoso del mundo, todos juntos venceremos.





## Los Trabajadores de Auto Y la Lucha por la Igualdad

Cada año miles de inmigrantes Latino Americanos (la mayoría Mexicanos) entran en los barrios congestionados de Los Angeles y las comunidades circunvecinas. Un gran porcentaje de estos inmigrantes son indocumentados y viven con el temor constante de ser descubiertos por la migra (el Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización).

Estos inmigrantes forman un gran depósito de mano de obra barata especialmente para industrias de labor intenso como la costura, las fundiciones y los vehículos de recreación para nombrar algunos. En la mayoría de los casos el trabajador inmigrante se encuentran enfrentando vidas de explotación y discriminación.

Los trabajadores inmigrantes en la fábrica de vehículos de recreación de Vogue Coach no pueden escapar a la opresión general que enfrenta a sus pueblos. Vogue Coach ha visto sus lucros crecer dramáticamente, pero completamente por resultado de la explotación de estos trabajadores nacidos en el extranjero. Los trabajadores apenas reciben el sueldo mínimo, a pesar del aumento de la costo de vida.

A principio de 1978 los trabajadores tuvieron sindicato por primera vez, y antes vivían con el miedo constante de perder sus trabajos si protestaran las condiciones del trabajo en la planta, o trataran de organizarse para existir sus derechos. Finalmente, enfadados de la tiranía de la compañía, los trabajadores arriesgaron todo y lucharon por representación por la UAW (Trabajadores de Autos Unidos).

En 1977, trabajadores de Vogue Coach hicieron contacto con la UAW y exigieron que la compañía reconozca al sindicato como el único agente de negociación para los trabajadores en la planta. La compañía respondió por tratar de quebrar la campaña de sindicalización—molestando y persiguiendo a los trabajadores—hasta arreglando redadas por la inmigración en la planta. La base de los trabajadores fue que quedaron firmes y así al fin y al cabo los patrones se rindieron, y reconocieron a la UAW. Pero la compañía rehusó poner fin a todas las molestias y persecuciones y llamaron a su gran amiga "la migra" a interrogar a los participantes activos en la campaña para la sindicalización a-

penas que antes las negociaciones por un contrato. A pesar de la persecución que los muchos trabajadores sufrieron personalmente por la migración, se ganó un contrato.

El triunfo de una campaña de sindicalización en la planta fue un gran paso para adelante para los trabajadores en la planta. Ahora tienen la organización y un método por medio del cual se puede procesar una queja. Y más, ahora tienen una manera de poner presión para recibir más de la compañía. Aun que estos avances son significantes, no opan la seria debilidad en el contrato y dentro del liderazgo de la UAW.

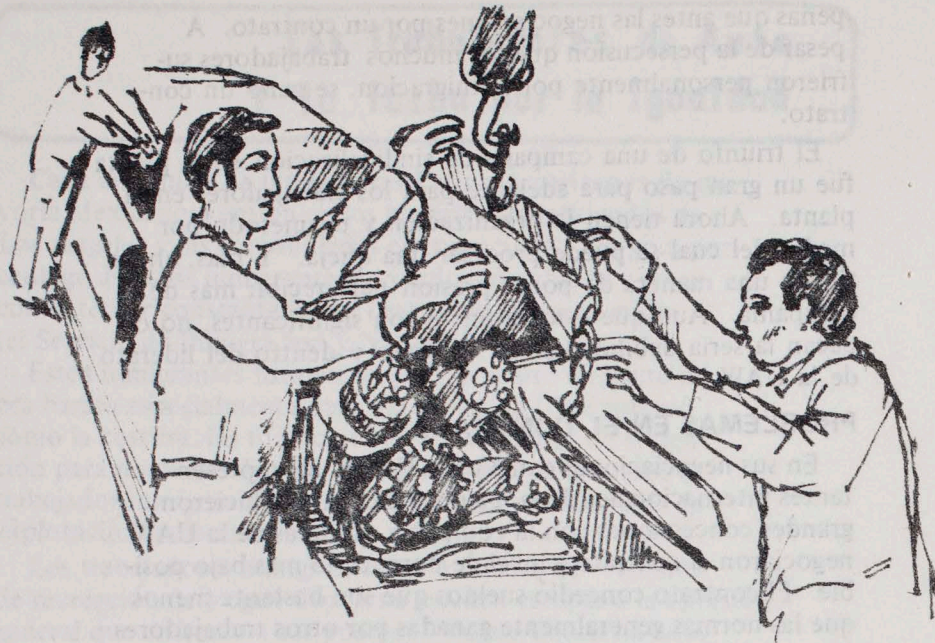
### PROBLEMAS EN EL CONTRATO

En sus negociaciones con Vogue Coach, los representantes internacionales de la región 6 de la UAW hicieron grandes concesiones con la compañía. Líderes de la UAW negociaron el contrato a nivel de norma a lo más bajo posible. El contrato concedió sueldos que son bastante menos que las normas generalmente ganadas por otros trabajadores de auto. La clasificación de empleos de "ensamble general", por ejemplo, tiene un mínimo pago de \$3.20 por hora y solo llega hasta la clasificación de "ensamble de precisión" a \$4.75 por hora. Aumentos automáticos por todos los trabajadores no eran escritos en el contrato. Los aumentos se efectúan según la voluntad de los patrones, usando el famoso "sistema de méritos" que está conocido universalmente para mantener los trabajadores divididos entre sí mismos.

La UAW no exigió que todos los trabajadores empleados actualmente se hicieran miembros del sindicato. Esta concesión principal es semejante del sistema bien conocido de "planta abierta", que deja que la compañía da privilegios a ciertos trabajadores que no se hacen miembros del sindicatos, y así mantener el esfuerzo laboral dividido entre sí. Pero por resultado de la unidad militante de los trabajadores de Vogue, todos los trabajadores de producción siempre se hicieron miembros del sindicato.

El contrato del sindicato actual se expira el 19 de mayo de 1979. Los trabajadores han exigido grandes cambios en el lenguaje del contrato y aumentos de sueldos significantes (más que la guía de Carter de 7%). Para contradecir las demandas de los trabajadores, la compañía ha argu-





mentado que una "gran crisis de energía" está afectando la industria de vehículos de recreación. Han empezados a quitar grandes numeros de trabajadores. Probablemente, la compañía usará la "carestía de energía" para no dar ningún aumento significativo de sueldos.

### LA CRISIS ENERGETICA USADA PARA JUSTIFICAR A LA EXPLOTACION

Pero irónicamente, los representantes de la internacional de la Region 6 de auto están tomando el mismo punto de vista que los dueños de Vogue Coach. Durante una junta del Local 509 del 4 de abril, los representantes del internacional dijeron a los trabajadores que no deben esperar ningún aumento significativo, a causa del estado deprimido de la industria. O sea que los llamados "representantes de labor" dijeron a los trabajadores Latinos de Vogue Coach que ellos deben llevar todo el cargo de la "crisis de energía" en sus propias espaldas! Los de la internacional hablaron acerca de justicia social e igualdad para los trabajadores minoritarios, pero era nomás retórica vacía cuando es comparado a sus acciones de "defensa" en Vogue Coach de los trabajadores Latinos.

El otro problema mayor de los trabajadores de Vogue Coach es la amenaza de la deportación de 13 de los trabajadores quienes fueron recojidos por fuerza en la planta el año pasado. Durante las negociaciones del contrato la compañía llamó a la migración en su ultima esfuerza para tratar de aplastar la compana de sindicalización. 13 de los más activistas de la unión fueron interrogados por ma migración y además fueron arrestados cuando se reusaron a firmar al orden de "salida voluntaria".

### LA UAW DEBE DEFENDER AGRESIVAMENTE A LOS TRABAJADORES NO - DOCUMENTADOS

La UAW han estado apoyando oficialmente el caso de estos 13 trabajadores. Ellos han propocinado un abogado quien submitió una apelación a la orden de deportación con la burocracia de la migración en Washington.

Los trabajadores en Vogue Coach han firmado peticiones demandando a la migración revocar la deportación de sus 13 compañeros de trabajo, y permitirles a quedarse en los Estados Unidos. También los miembros del Local 509 han demandado que la UAW permite que los trabajadores se seleccionen un abogado para la defensa de los 14 por sí mismos y que además sea un abogado que tenga mucha experiencia con los problemas de la inmigración. El abogado de la UAW es un abogado laboral bien conocido, pero un abogado que nunca antes ha trabajado en un caso de inmigración. La internacional todavía no ha respondido a estas demandas propuestas por los trabajadores de base, y parece que no van a cooperar. Es atraves de experiencias como estos que los trabajadores de Vogue están aprendiendo que el liderato de la UAW "habla" mucho acerca de la democracia y la igualdad, pero en la realidad no apoyan a la lucha en contra de la opresion nacional.

El éxito de la lucha en Vogue Coach debe interesar a toda la gente trabajadora, no importa su nacionalidad o raza. La historia de opresión en Vogue Coach es un testimonio que la inequalidad y discrimina ion continuan existiendo en este país, y acuña a los trabajadores de diferentes razas y nacionalidades. Cualquier trabajador honesto puede ver que tal situación sólo sirve para debilitar a la clase obrera.

La lucha del trabajador Latino-Americano se debe promover como un símbolo de la lucha que se debe llevar a cabo en contra de la opresión nacional en este país. Es una lucha



que debe ser llevado por todos los trabajadores, inclusive los trabajadores Anglo-Americanos, y así es el deber del sindicato de los Trabajadores de Auto Unidos hacer conciencia a sus miembros acerca de la necesidad para luchar esta gran batalla.

La base del Local 509 ha solicitado que el liderato de la UAW haga lo siguiente:

A) Que todos los locales dentro de la Región 6 sean informados acerca del caso de los 13 de Vogue Coach. Tiempo durante las juntas locales del sindicato debe ser reservado para que los trabajadores de Vogue hablen publicamente a sus compañeros de sindicato de otros locales:

B) Todos los locales del local dentro de la Región 6 deben urgir que sus miembros firmen peticiones apoyando el caso de "los 13" y que estas peticiones sean entregadas al sindicato internacional y a los oficiales apropiados en Washington:

C) El liderato de la Región 6 debe llamar una conferencia de prensa juntos con los trabajadores de base de Vogue Coach para atraer atención público al caso.

Estas demandas son resonables y no difíciles para que el liderato de la UAW los implementen. Si la democracia sobresalga en el sindicato, estamos seguros que las demandas serán aceptadas e implementadas. Somos confidentes que ya que la base de la UAW entienda bien la lucha de los trabajadores indocumentados, se unirán a apoyarlos. Todos los trabajadores tienen un interés común en luchar por la justicia social y la igualdad.



## El Sistema Estadounidense De Inmigración -- ¿Por el Interés de Quién?

Desde los tiempos de la conquista del Sudoeste por los E.U., los poderosos de los E.U. se pusieron a desarrollar diferentes formas para oprimir a los Indios, Chicanos y Latinos y Asiaticos que eran indigenas de la region, o traídos para ser su mano de obra barata.

Ningun tratado hecho por los E.U. nunca fue respetada. Las tierras de la gente indigena de la region fue robado, mediante masacres o por el terrorismo y trampas "legales". Asi como a los Negros del Sur, a toda las razas no-blancos les prohibieron testificar contra los Anglos en la corte, votar, asistir a las escuelas de los blancos. Tambien les prohibieron usar sus lenguas nativas en las escuelas y crearon mitos racistas en su contra para justificar las grandes atrocidades cometidos en su contra.

Al fin del siglo 19, los intelectuales Norte Americanos se pusieron al servicio de los capitalistas y desarrollaron un sistema completa de actitudes racistas acerca de los pueblos no-blancos del hemisferio occidental y del mundo entero. Tales actitudes se echaron a ver en la teoria de "Destino Manefesto" que declaro que el destino del hombre blanco es la dominacion de todos los pueblos no-blancos para traerles a ellos la "civilizacion" occidental. Tales mitos racistas fueron creados para justificar las grandes atrocidades comitidas por los E.U. en su expansion. Tales ideas existen hasta el presente y en varias maneras, sutiles y no su iles, han influido al desarrollo del Servicio de Inmigracion y Naturalizacion. La migracion no puede ser separado del sistema de opresion nacional que ha sido una parte integral de este pais desde su desarrollo.

### PRINCIPIO PARA USAR EN CONTRA DE LOS CHINOS

La migracion se desarrollo como parte de este sistema de opresion nacional. La primera gran ley de la migracion fue el Acto para Excluir a los Chinos de 1880. Los Chinos entonces habian sido la raza principal en la fuerza laboral del



Oeste. Traídos de su tierra como semi-esclavos, desarrollaron la mayoría de los ferrocarriles, campos y minas del oeste de aquellos tiempos. Sufrieron toda clase de indignidad. Por ejemplo, se les negaron el derecho de traer sus esposas desde China o casarse con las otras razas aquí. Había una ola de masacres y movimientos racistas en su contra, que llegaron a excluir a esta raza de los E.U.

La migración a sido una de los metodos principales para oprimir a la gente Latina y Asiatica, en el Oeste de los E.U., porque siempre ha servido a negarles los derechos basicos legales y como un pretexto "legal" por el terrorismo y molestaciones en contra de la gente.

### UNA ARMA EN CONTRA DE LOS PUEBLOS LATINOS

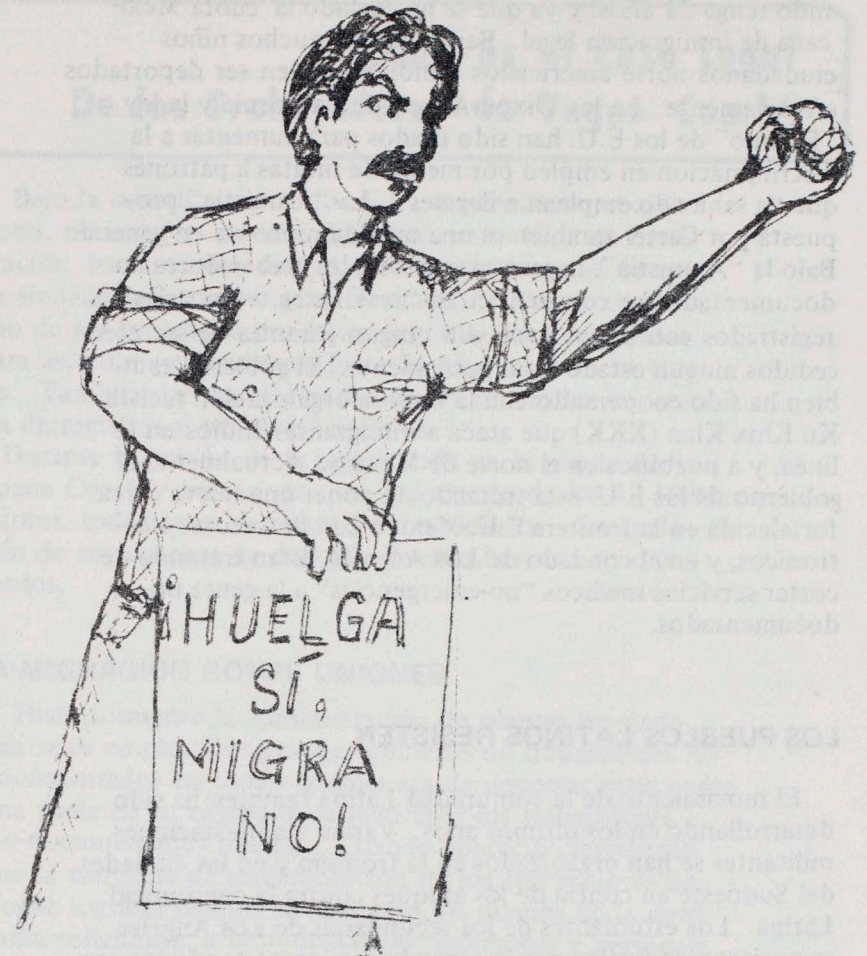
En el caso de la gente Latina, la frontera de los E.U. y Mexico se quedo abierta hasta 1924, cuando les servio a los E.U. cerrar la frontera por la primera vez. La gente Chicana y Mexicana ya llevaba un papel principal en la economia del sudoeste, y varios movimientos militantes y bien organizados habian sido desarrollados por ellos. Varios lideres de estos movimientos fueron deportados durante las "Redadas de Palmer" de los años 1920's, y en los años 1930's, casi medio millon personas de desendencia Mexicana fueron "repatriados" a Mexico.

Durante la segunda Guerra Mundial, la comunidad Latina estaba atacada en varias formas. Habia un motin famoso de soldados Anglos llamada el "Motin de los Zoot Suits" en que varios jovenes Chicanos y Negros fueron matados. A la vez, los E.U. empezo a llevar "braceros", o sea trabajadores contratados temporales de Mexico para trabajar en ambas industria y agricultura. Despues que la Guerra, este sistema se convierto en un sistema de semi-esclavitud por cientos de miles de braceros quienes fueron contratados a los agricultores grandes del Sudoeste.

La migracion es famosa por llegar a un campo el dia de pago, o a una fabrica o un campo donde la gente estan llevando a cabo su derecho de sindicalizarse. En tiempos de crisis economico o politico, la migracion siempre ha sido usada para aumentar a la desigualdad sufrida por la gente.

### LA REPRESION DE LOS 1970'S

La represion de la gente en general se ha aumentado en los años 1970's. La comunidad Latina esta siendo atacada por



tales casos como esterilizaciones forzadas, programas cortados de fondos, y terrorismo policiaco. Una mujer de cada cinco mujeres Latinas, Negras o Indias ha sido esterilizada, y se han descubiertos unos 20 casos de personas Chicanos y Latinos matados por la policia y la migracion en los ultimos pocos años.

Las redadas de Latinos han aumentado en los años 1970's, y la patrulla fronteriza se ha extendida por medio de esfuerzos "temporales". Tambien se han efectuado, experimentado o propuesto varias leyes represivas. En diciembre, 1976, se efectuo la ley "Eilberg", que forza a mas y mas gente Latina en la catagoria de "ilegales", ya que no se pueden inmigrar por niños nacidos en los E.U. hasta que el



niño tenga 21 años, y ya que se ha cortado la cuota Mexicana de inmigración legal. Bajo esta ley muchos niños ciudadanos norte americanos también pueden ser deportados efectivamente. La ley Dixon-Arnett de California y la ley "Rodino" de los E.U. han sido usados para aumentar a la discriminación en empleo por medio de multas a patrones que "a sabiendo emplean a ilegales". La "Amnistía" propuesta por Carter también es una medida represiva en general. Bajo la "Amnistía", la gran mayoría de los trabajadores no documentados se convertirán en "residentes temporales", registrados con el gobierno, sin ninguna garantía de ser concedidos ningún estado legal permanente. El gobierno también ha sido cooperando con la famosa organización racista Ku Klux Klan (KKK) que ataca a inmigrantes Indios en la línea, y a pueblitos en el norte de México. Actualmente el gobierno de los E.U. está tratando de poner una nueva cerca fortalecida en la frontera E.U.-México con detectores electrónicos, y en el condado de Los Angeles, están tratando de cortar servicios médicos "no-emergencias" a la gente no documentados.

## LOS PUEBLOS LATINOS RESISTEN

El movimiento de la comunidad Latina también ha sido desarrollando en los últimos años. Varias manifestaciones militantes se han organizado en la frontera y en las ciudades del Sudoeste en contra de los ataques contra la comunidad Latina. Los estudiantes de los secundarios de Los Angeles se pusieron en huelga por la segunda vez, protestando los cortes de programas de verano. El movimiento para sindicalizarse sin la intervención de la migración ha sido extenso en la agricultura, y otras industrias, tales como los vehículos de recreación.

Es por esto que necesitamos el apoyo de toda la gente en general para los trabajadores de Vogue que enfrentan esta deportación, porque ellos no solo están peleando en contra de una compañía, sino en contra de más que un siglo de discriminación sistemática. Su lucha ha contribuido al movimiento de otros trabajadores Latinos, y puede inspirar y fortalecer al movimiento de toda la gente que luchan por la justicia.

## ¿Qué es el Caso Legal De los Trabajadores de Vogue Coach?

Bajo la constitución de los E.U., a todos los trabajadores, no importa su ciudadanía o estado legal de inmigración, les conceden ciertos derechos. Tienen el derecho de sindicalizar en sus lugares de trabajo. Tienen el derecho de ser procesado por la ley según las normas fijadas para asegurar una audiencia justa de los cargos en su contra. También tienen el derecho de ser protegidos en contra de registros y capturas excesivas.

Durante la redada de la inmigración en la planta de Vogue Coach y posteriormente del arresto de los 13 trabajadores, todos estos derechos fueron violados. Su apelación de sus ordenes de deportación son basados en estos puntos.

## LA MIGRACION ROMPE UNIONES

Historicamente la administración de plantas no-sindicalizadas empleando grandes números de trabajadores no documentados ha usado la amenaza de deportaciones como una parte de su campaña de mantener los trabajadores no-documentados dociles. Cuando apareció claramente que la campaña de sindicalización de los trabajadores de Vogue lograría plantar su sindicato los dueños de la compañía solicitaron a la inmigración, interrogar y perseguir a los trabajadores, especialmente a los activistas de la campaña de sindicalizarse.

La ley Federal (en este caso el Acto Nacional de Relaciones Laborales-NLRA) concede a todos los trabajadores, no importa su ciudadanía o estado legal de inmigración, el derecho de sindicalizarse libre de persecución o terrorismo por parte de la compañía. Teóricamente esto quiere decir libre de la amenaza de ser deportado también. Pero la Mesa Directiva Nacional de Relaciones de Labor, quien procesa todos los casos de arbitraje laboral en los E.U., ha decidido no tener derecho de intervenir en las actividades de la inmigración, aún si la migración está siendo usada para quebrar a un sindicato.



## DESCRIMINACION POR RAZAS

Segun la ley, la inmigración debe tener una sospecha razonable de que una persona haya entrada ilegalmente en los E.U. La ley prohíbe especialmente a basar este discernimiento exclusivamente en la apariencia de una persona—sus facciones del rostro, el color de su piel, su ropa. Los trabajadores de Vogue no hicieron nada para excitar las sospechas de los agentes de la inmigración en la planta. No corrieron, no atentaron esconderse. Sin embargo, la inmigración no interrogaron a todos los trabajadores en la planta, enfocaron exclusivamente en los trabajadores que parecían ser de descendencia Latino. Bajo la amenaza de ser despedidos, estos trabajadores fueron forzados a la interrogación de la inmigración.

## PROCESAMIENTO POR NORMAS FIJADAS

Personas siendo interrogados por la inmigración tienen el derecho de mantener silencio cuando son cuestionados. Tienen el derecho de hacer contacto con el consulado de sus países. Tienen el derecho de tener un abogado presente para defender a sus intereses. Los trabajadores de Vogue no eran informados de ninguno de estos derechos durante sus interrogaciones por la inmigración.

En un caso de deportación, la inmigración tiene que probar que el extranjero cruzó la frontera ilegalmente. Esto es demasiado difícil probar, y por eso la inmigración se da a la tarea de intimidar a los trabajadores no documentados a confesar que entraron en el país ilegalmente. No sólo pasó que la inmigración logró hacer que los trabajadores de Vogue admitiera que habían cruzado ilegalmente por la frontera, sino el abogado asignado por el sindicato (que se suponía debía defender a los intereses de estos trabajadores) les dijo a los trabajadores de Vogue admitir esto al juez procesando sus audiencias.

El ganar de una apelación de deportación no es una victoria fácil. Así como hemos visto con los trabajadores

## UNA BATALLA DIFICIL E IMPORTANTE

de Vogue, la inmigración generalmente persigue a los trabajadores no-documentados y les hacen admitir ser culpables, y después, a firmar la "salida voluntaria". En el año pasado, los trabajadores no documentados



atraves del país han empezado a luchar en contra de las tácticas de la inmigración, como es de quebrar a los sindicatos, y ellos tentamente pero seguros han empezado a ganar sus apelaciones de deportación. No es una cosa fácil. Pero los trabajadores de Vogue esperan enseñar a otros trabajadores no-documentados por medio de su propio ejemplo, cuales recursos legales que la gente tiene. La lucha legal es no más una parte de la batalla para permanecer en los E.U. y organizarse. Sin el apoyo de otros sindicalistas y los sectores más amplios posibles de la población, el gobierno no será forzado ni siquiera a escuchar a estos trabajadores no-documentados. El gobierno tiene que ser forzado a revocar a estas deportaciones y poner fin a la persecución de trabajadores no-documentados en busca de la sindicalización.

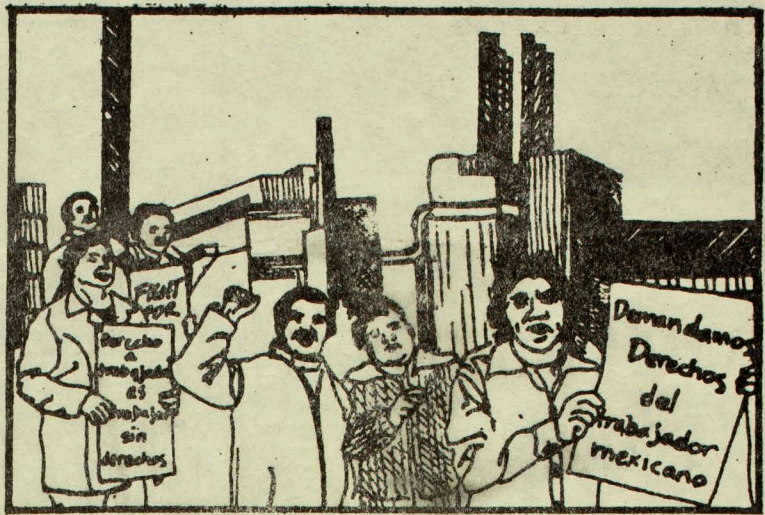


ask Herman Bach for

PICKET LINE

IN SUPPORT OF THE

# VOGUE COACH WORKERS STOP POLICE HARRASSMENT



The strikers from Vogue Coach need your support. The Vogue Coach workers have been on strike for a little over three months. The just demands of the workers for better wages, better working conditions and a clause in the contract that the company will not use the immigration against the workers has been met by attacks by the company to break the strike.

Vogue Coach is typical of many companies in the San Fernando Valley who have enriched themselves from the exploitation of predominantly Latino people. They have payed miserable wages and when the workers have stood up to their rights, the company has used the "migra" in an attempt to break the struggle of the workers for their rights.

Today, the company is using the police. 5 workers have been arrested, and the police are aiding the company in escorting strikebreakers. They have gotten the police to give tickets to the parked cars of the strikers. They do not want the strikers to even have a fire to keep themselves warm in these cold days. It has become clear to the strikers that the police are used to deny workers their rights, just as in our communities they carry out their harrasment of the people for no reason at all.

The company also thinks that it can break the strike with the courts. It has obtained a court order against the strikers. But even with all these attacks the workers have **remained united** and firm to fight on against these injustices. We call upon the people of the community, workers, students, the youth and all organizations, to defend the rights of our fellow Latino workers. The struggle of the Vogue workers is a struggle of all our people, that are affected by the discrimination of the companies, the deportations, and the harrasment of the police.

We invite you to come to a rally and program in the community on Monday the 18.

SUPPORT THE VOGUE COACH STRIKERS! STOP POLICE HARRASSMENT!

DOWN WITH LA MIGRA!

WHEN: SATURDAYS

WHERE: VAGABOND COACH  
2434 El Camino Real West  
Mountain View

For More Information, Call  
(408) 293-0748  
(415) 967-7187

Sponsored by the Vogue Coach Strike Support Committee

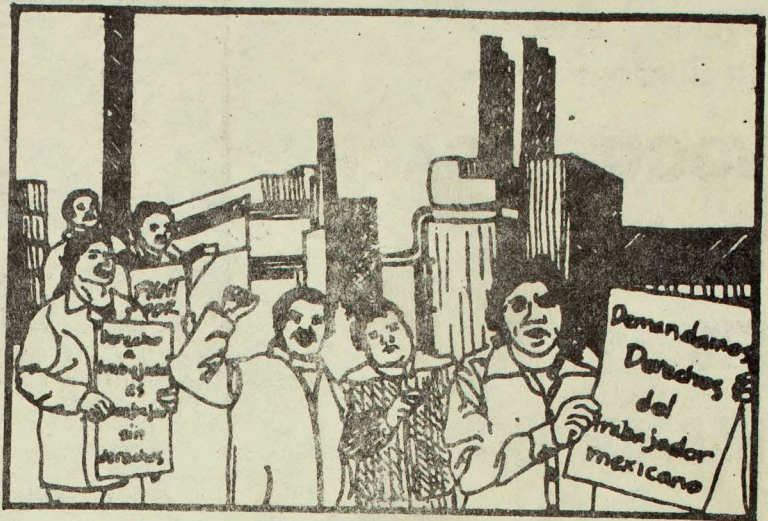
Labor Donated



LINEA DE PICKETEO

EN APOYO DE LOS

# OBREROS DE VOGUE COACH ALTO AL HOSTIGAMIENTO POLICIACO



Los huelgistas de Vogue Coach necesitan su ayuda. Los obreros de Vogue Coach tienen casi tres meses de estar en huelga. Las demandas justas de los trabajadores por mejores salarios, mejores condiciones de trabajo y una cláusula en el contrato para que la compañía no use la migra contra los trabajadores, estas demandas han sido atacadas por la compañía y hoy atempta de quebrar la huelga.

La compañía de Vogue Coach es típica de las compañías en el Valle de San Fernando quienes se han enriquecido de la explotación de la gente Latina. Ellos han pagado salarios miserables, y cuando los obreros se han parado en defensa de sus derechos, la compañía ha usado la "migra" para tratar de quebrar la lucha de los trabajadores por sus derechos.

Hoy, la compañía está usando la policía. 5 trabajadores han sido arrestados, y la policía está ayudando para que entren rompehuelgas. También han dado tickets a los carros parciados de los huelgistas, ni quieren que los huelgistas tengan un fuego para calentarse en estos días fríos. Se ha visto claro para los huelgistas, que la policía se está usando para negar a los obreros sus derechos, haci como en nuestras comunidades nuestra gente también es maltratada por ninguna razón.

La compañía también piensa que puede quebrar la huelga con las cortes. Ha obtenido una orden de corte contra los huelgistas. Pero hasta con todos estos ataques, los trabajadores se han mantenido unidos y siguen luchando adelante contra todas estas injusticias. Llamamos a la comunidad, al trabajador, estudiante, jóvenes y organizaciones, que defiendan a nuestros trabajadores Latinos. La lucha de los obreros de Vogue Coach, es una lucha de toda nuestra gente, que es afectada por la discriminación de las compañías, las deportaciones, y el maltratamiento de la policía.

**! APOYE A LOS HUELGISTAS DE VOGUE COACH! ! ALTO AL HOSTIGAMIENTO POLICIACO!**

**!ABAJO CON LA MIGRA!**

CUANDO:	Los Sabados
DONDE:	VAGABOND COACH 2434 El Camino Real West Mountain View

Para Más Información,  
llame a

(408) 293-0748  
(415) 967-7187

Labor Donada

Patrocinado por el Comité  
de Apoyo de Vogue Coach



COMITE VOGUE COACH I3

Julio 7, 1980

Sr. Herman Baca

Lider por la organizacion C.C.R. en San Diego Calif.

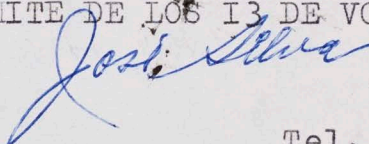
La participacion de Huelguistas de Vogue Coach representando a los Vogue Coach I3 en su conferencia que se llevo a fines de Mayo en San Diego, y donde vimos que usted lleva una gran lucha por los intereses de los indocumentados, y aprendimos que es necesario levantar la conciencia de nuestra gente, y demostrar en masa como usted lo ha hecho en la frontera con San Isidro; esta vez, los huelguistas de Vogue Coach patrocinan un evento y lo invitan a que participe con nosotros y dirija algunas palabras a nuestra gente, gente que fue afectada por la migra en 1978, y nos impusimos al servicio de inmigracion rechazando sus practicas, pero aun todavia afecta otras areas.

Para el proximo 03 de Agosto queremos tener un programa donde Usted junto con dos Abogados, un Sacerdote, y un miembro de los I3 de Vogue Coach dirijan sus experiencias a la concurrencia ; siempre alternado con musica, Folklor, y antojitos. Dejenos saber si acepta nuestra invitacion para el dia 3 de Agosto de 1.00 a 5.00 P.M. en el parque Sun Valley 15 millas al Norte de los Angeles por el Fwy. # 5.

Que siga la lucha. "VIVA LA HUELGA "

Sin mas por el momento.

COMITE DE LOS I3 DE VOGUE COACH.



Tel. 896-3053  
89I-446I (2I3)



July, 1980  
Daniel Hernandez  
P.O.Box 4847  
Panorama City, CA 91412

Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of the Vogue Coach Strikers and the Vogue Coach Strike Support Committee, we would like to express our gratitude to you.

Had it not been for your efforts before and during the UAW Convention, we might have not been successful in persuading the UAW International to endorse a National Boycott of Vogue Coach Recreational Vehicles.

In obtaining this endorsement, our struggle took a great leap forward. However, much work remains to be done in order to assure final victory in our struggle.

With this end in mind there are a number of ways you may continue to help us. We suggest the following:

1. Organize a Boycott Committee in your local area.
2. Organize a speaking tour for Vogue Coach Striker to your area.
3. Organize a slide show presentation (a history of the Vogue Coach struggle, past and present).
4. Organize fundraising events such as:
  - . gate collections at plants
  - . collections at your locals
  - . community fundraising events

Make all correspondence to: Vogue Coach Support Committee  
P.O. Box 4847  
Panorama City, CA 91412  
Attn: Daniel Hernandez  
Carlos Ruiz

Make all checks payable to: Maria Castellanas  
P.O. Box 4847  
Panorama City, CA 91412

For your information, we have included a chronology of the Vogue Coach struggle and a summary of the case of the Vogue 13. For more information call (213) 891-4461 or (213) 283-5325.

En Lucha,

Daniel Hernandez  
Carlos Ruiz  
Dolores Sanchez



## CHRONOLOGY

### APRIL 1977: The Union Drive Begins

During the month of August elections are held, and the union is voted in. The Vogue Coach workers are now part of the UAW Local 509.

### FEBRUARY 1978: La Migra and Major Layoffs Occur

The company helped the INS to stage a massive raid of workers at the Vogue Coach plant. Over 70 workers are deported, many others flee from the migra and lose their jobs.

Between March of 1978 and November of 1979 a series of major layoffs occur. In March of 1978 Vogue Coach has over 300 workers, and by November of 1979 the company has only 70 workers.

### MARCH 1978: The INS and the COMPANY Work Together AGAIN

The company sends an open letter to the workers. This letter informs the workers that the INS would be screening all the workers (alphabetical order) for legal residency. Any worker who refused to be interrogated would be immediately fired.

### MARCH 8, 1978:

Thirteen of these workers refuse to sign voluntary deportation slips. Thus the case of the Vogue 13 was born. A case that is being fought in the courts and in the community.

### APRIL 29, 1979: The Negotiation Begins for the 1980

### MAY 19, 1979:

During the negotiations, the company forces the workers to extend the 1978 contract until November of 1979. This extension provided no improvements for the workers.

### NOVEMBER 1979:

The contracts expires and the company offers only 25¢ increase and a five or ten cents in the future. The company also demanded that the workers work an 12 hour day.

### NOVEMBER 19, 1979: The Strike Begins

The workers fight back and demand:

- . Cost of living increase
- . No forced over time
- . Better working conditions
- . Good wage increase
- . NO MIGRA RAIDS



DECEMBER 1979 to FEBRUARY 1980: Police Harrassment

The police is used by the company in order to break the strike. They arrest several workers and protect the scabs.

During the month of December students from San Fernando Valley Junior College organize a Christmas part for the children of the strikers. Food and toy drives are also organized by other community groups.

APRIL 1980: The National Boycott Begins

During this month the workers vote to boycott. Boycotts are established in Van Nuys, Irvine, and Mt. View-San Jose. Boycotts in San Diego and Bakersfields remain to be established.

JUNE 1980: UAW Convention

A dinner is held in support of the Vogue Coach Strike, over 200 delegates attend.

JUNE 6, 1980: The International Gives Endorsement to the National Boycott.

Support for the Vogue Coach Struggle has come from students, workers, community and religious groups. We thank all these organizations and hope that you may also reach out to these groups in your local areas.



# THE VOGUE COACH STRIKERS NEED YOU

After nearly 8 months, the strike at Vogue Coach Recreational Vehicle Plant in the San Fernando Valley is still in progress. The workers are still strong, determined to make do with less than subsistence level income (\$50 a week for a family) until they win the strike. The company, on the other hand, has refused even to negotiate with the strikers. They are only asking for a decent contract that will bring them up to \$4.50/ hour, just above the minimum wage, a pension plan, cost of living and no forced overtime. Consistently the police have aided scabs (at least 1 city police car and 1 labor police car are there at all times and sometimes 3 and 4 carloads) and allowed them to enter the plant. Now the company is threatening not to rehire the strikers.

## What Can Turn the Tide?

The unity and support of the people---from the community, from the churches, and factories can help win the Vogue Coach strike. The UAW has endorsed a nation wide boycott of Vogue Coach products. Summertime is the biggest season for recreational vehicles, so a well-organized boycott could force Vogue Coach to the bargaining table. Already a dealer in Chicago has agreed to stop selling Vogue Coaches.

## Why Is This Strike So Important?

There are hundreds of these small shops employing workers like the Vogue Coach workers, mostly Latino and many without papers. They rake in extra profits by paying substandard wages while keeping the threat of calling in the Immigration Department as their ace in the hole, should anyone complain. But the Vogue Coach workers stood up---they brought in the United Autoworkers Union. When they were deported, they came back and continued to struggle---now for a decent contract.

Winning the Vogue Coach strike would set an important precedent and serve as a warning to all shops who use immigrant workers as slaves. It would be both an inspiration and a concrete gain for the struggle for equal rights for undocumented workers.

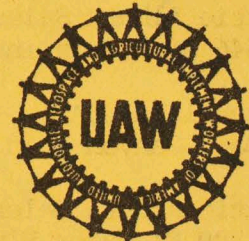
We are planning a Day of Solidarity for Sat., Aug. 9. We will have large picket lines at dealerships selling Vogue Coaches. The lines will start at 11:00.

\*\*\*Ottie Alburn Sales  
5546 Sepulveda in Van Nuys

\*\*\*Traveland USA  
Sand Canyon Road exit off Highway 5 in Irvine

\*\*\*Ottie Alburn Sales  
1100 El Cajon Blvd., El Cajon, San Diego

Please come out and lend your support.



Labor Donated



# Los Huelguistas de Vogue Coach Te Necesitan

Después de cerca de ocho meses, la huelga de Vogue Coach, una planta de vehículos recreacionales en el Valle de San Fernando continúa. Los trabajadores siguen manteniendo el espíritu de lucha y determinación a ganar la huelga a pesar de que solo cuentan para su subsistencia y de sus familias \$50 semanales. En la otra mano, la compañía sigue rehusándose a negociar con los huelguistas. Los cuales solamente están preguntando por un contrato decente que les traeria \$4.50 en la hora justamente sobre el salario mínimo, un plan de pensiones, costo de vida y no al fozoso tiempo extra. Debido a la cooperación de la policia con la compañía, envezes tienen mas de un carro de patrulla para proteger a los rompe-huelgas que entren a trabajar en la compañía. Aún mas la compañía se ensarra diciendo amenazante que no va a aceptar a los huelguistas de regreso nunca.

## ¿Que Puede Cambiar La Situacion?

La unidad y apoyo de la gente de la comunidad, de las iglesias, fabricas pueden ayudar a ganar la huelga de Vogue Coach. La UAW Sindicato de la Industria Automotriz ha endorzado un boycoteo nacional de los productos Vogue Coach. El Verano es una gran estación, para vehículos recreacionales, entonces un bien organizado boycoteo forzaria a la Compañía Vogue Coach a regresar a la mesa de negociaciones. Debido al boicot un vendedor en Chicago ha aceptado de no vender Vogue Coaches.

## Porque Es Esta Huelga Importante?

Existen cientos de esos pequeños talleres donde la mayoría de los empleados son latinos y muchos sin documentos donde las compañías barren extra ganancias pagando bajos salarios a los trabajadores manteniendolos bajo la amenaza de hablar a la "migra" para que nadie proteste esta situacion. Los trabajadores de Vogue Coach se revelaron en contra de las deportaciones y al sindicato de la Industria Automotriz. Ahora se encuentran luchando por un contrato decente.

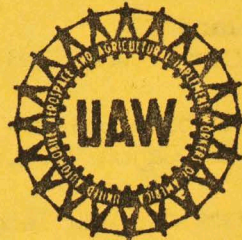
Ganandose la huelga de Vogue Coach se sentaria un importante precedente en la lucha de los inmigrantes no sindicalizados concentrados en pequeños talleres en los cuales se encuentran trabajando bajo condiciones de esclavitud. Y seria una inspiración y una concreta ganancia en la lucha por conquistar sus derechos civiles y políticos e igualdad de derechos para los trabajadores indocumentados.

Los invitamos a un Día de Solidaridad para el 9 de Agosto, Sábado, en el piceteo que se llevara acabo en las ventas de Vogue Coaches. El piceteo se principia a las 11 de la mañana.

\*\*\*Ottie Alburn Sales  
5546 Sepulveda in Van Nuys

\*\*\*Traveland USA  
Sand Canyon Road exito de Highway 5 en Irvine

\*\*\*Ottie Alburn Sales  
1100 El Cajon Blvd., El Cajon, San Diego



Por favor ven y ensena tu apoyo.

Labor Donado



## IMPORTANT UPDATE OF THE STRIKE

Brothers and Sisters and friends of the Vogue Coach strikers:

At the July 7 meeting of the strike a new inter. rep. was sent in to replace Paul Blutto. The message that this new rep brought was that the "strike was futile to continue", "that if we would have wonned, we would have woned by now", "that it was a loosing cause", etc. That what we had to do now was to negotiate and go from there. He also informed the membership, that though, the Executive Board of the UAW had endorsed the boycott, that no money had been allocated to it, and that no international rep. assign to coordinate it. At that meeting the strikers voted to see about negotiations taking place, but by unanimous vote, did not agree to having the representatives changed.

Negotiations were held with the co. Monday, July 14, and that evening the strike meeting took place where these rep. Casiglis, put forth the proposal of the company and even brought along the federal mediator who's Latino to convince the workers to accept. What the proposal called for was that the co. would give a 40 cent wage increase (since that it is giving the scabs these wage increase by law it has to give it to the strikers). That no one would be hired back, if they were to sign the contract today, unless it needed one or two people. That it expected to close the plant down in maybe a month or so, and that it did not know for how long it would be close and then, it would recall the strikers back according to seniority, while at the same time continuing to say though that they don't want to get rid of the scabs. To top it off, it would be a one year contract, that would end this coming January, as if the contract would have been signed back in January.

The international rep. did everything he could to try to convince the people to accept this miserable proposal, that would make it for there to be a contract with Vogue, with the strikers left in the streets, and the scabs working. As far as his "strategys" for continuing the struggle once the contract was signed, he put forth that one of the ways that we would get rid of the scabs, was to make them have to sign up and pay to get into the union, that they would automatically quit their jobs, etc. Along with his many arguments, such as the one of "lock, in six months will have another shot at the contract, and then we could strike them or do a boycott on them", he also stated that it was very possible that the International Unuin, may possiibly in two weeks or maybe two months, would call an end to the strike, so that it was best that people accept it now, etc.

Through out the whole meeting when he was laying out his arguments, worker after worker, responded, breaking down his arguments. He was even asked by one workers who was he there represententing the union or the company. Many workers pointed out that this strike was not only in the interest of their families, but it was in defense of our union the UAW. That it was unfortunate that this rep. was taking this stand, but that we expect something like this to begin to take place. After all his arguments were exposed by the rank and file, the only thing he had left was to let the federal mediator try to convince the people, and once he was asked to stand up and speak, the only thing he could say in order to avoid being put on the spot, was to give the strikers his blessings.

Afterwards, the strikers voted. The vote was 42 to reject the proposal and 5 to accept. The international rep. did not even stay to make the anouncement to the people. He split, and told some one else to make the anouncement. After all this when the meeting continued. The people discuss, that this had been a victory, and that we were more determined then ever to continue in building the boycott, to a trzgly national boycott. But we have no illusions, and expect to have some problems in the course that were taking.

Friends, we think it important to know the situation, since now we have to cover not only the front, but our backs. Only we your continued support, can we show the strenth of our cause, not only against the company, but against anyone who may want to betray us.

Que Viva La Huelga!



Brothers and sisters,

May, 1980

As the Vogue Coach Strike Support Committee, we are writing this letter to update your information and to ask your help to urge our union, the United Autoworkers Union, to take up a nationwide boycott of Vogue Coaches.

The Vogue Coach recreational vehicle factory is located in the San Fernando Valley, just north of Los Angeles, California. The majority of the workers are Latino immigrants. In 1977, the Vogue Coach workers successfully won their unionization drive, bringing UAW local #509 into the plant--in spite of the company's use of the I.N.S. (Immigration and Naturalization Service) agents to harrass and intimidate the workers.

The issues the workers are taking up today in their strike around the contract include the substandard wages (which are three times lower than the average scale of other UAW shops), the fact that there is no cost of living allowance, no pension plan, and the mandatory 60 hour work week. One of the main issues involved is the company's use of I.N.S. harrassment; and the Vogue Coach workers are demanding that this stop. 13 employees still face unjust deportation charges for taking part previously in the 1977 unionization drive.

At this time, the Vogue Coach workers are calling for a nationwide boycott of Vogue Coaches at the dealers which sell them. This is because the company has not responded positively to the workers' demands; instead they have even sent the police to try to intimidate and harrass the workers.

The Vogue Coach workers have received support from organizations and individuals in the Chicano community, from progressive rank and file caucuses in the UAW, as well as from other communities and students.

At the same time, the Vogue Coach workers feel that it is also the responsibility of the UAW leadership to give formal backing and financial support to a nationwide boycott. If the International of the UAW takes on the nationwide boycott, this would also facilitate the support of all its local unions throughout the country, and the success of the boycott would be further enhanced.

The strikers have asked the executive Board of the United Autoworkers Union to take on this national boycott. They met with the Regional Director Jerry Whipple, and in this first meeting, he committed himself to take on a boycott. However, now he has taken the stand that the executive board has to decide.

We feel however, that he is stalling by making remarks such as that he's "not sure, because it may take 2 to 3 million dollars", "that only the rich buy Vogue Coaches anyway, so the boycott will not have an effect", etc. We also think that some of his hesitation comes from what the Vogue Coach workers' struggle also represents--that undocumented workers are demanding that the UAW defend the rights of the undocumented workers, in action.

The effect of the Vogue Coach workers' struggle has been that other people in the UAW have begun to raise the issue of support for undocumented workers. Several of the locals that the Vogue Coach workers visited have



responded by taking up the issue.

We have even written a letter, asking if we can send two strikers to the next executive board meeting to speak on the importance of the boycott, but we have gotten no response.

Yet, while all this is going on, we have not sat still; it is being shown that the community is very concerned about the issues at Vogue Coach and supports the boycott. We have begun to picket dealers that sell Vogue Coaches, and on April 26, pickets took place in Van Nuys, Mountain View, Irvine, Chicago, and we also spoke to a dealer in San Diego. Again, this was done by the strikers and supporters, without any support from the Regional Director who even refused to help us print the boycott leaflet "because the International has not decided yet".

The strike support committee and the strikers have set the organizing of a boycott in California as our immediate objective, which includes the cities of San Diego, Van Nuys, Irvine, Bakersfield, Mountain View, and Lodi. We are beginning to do this work, with the help of many organizations and individuals in those cities, as well as through financial donations and plant gate collections, are paying for our printing and outreach trips taken by the strikers outside of Sun Valley.

In a word, we are beginning to organize the boycott ourselves, because this is a matter of the livelihood and rights of the strikers and their families. If we only had \$10,000 of those "2 to 3 million dollars" they're talking about, we could be going all over the country organizing the boycott.

It is over this question of the role that the union officials are playing, that we need your support, to help us put pressure on the executive board and the regional director (who is a member of the executive board) to fully support the boycott.

In particular, organizations and individuals in the Chicano community, in the Latino community, who have been the most consistent in the struggle in the defense of undocumented workers and against the oppression of our peoples, can help greatly in demanding from the UAW that they take up in deeds fighting for the equality of our peoples. The UAW leadership must be accountable to our concerns and in particular take up the defense of the undocumented workers, and fully support the boycott against Vogue Coach--especially when the Vogue Coach workers are members of that union, who have fought hard for that union.

We also welcome support from other communities and progressive organizations and individuals, including other minorities who have faced similar problems.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? -----We would appreciate it very much if you could write letters to the International Executive Board of the UAW and to Jerry Whipple, Director of Region 6; and to please also send copies to the Vogue Coach strikers. Your letters can state that you are aware that the Vogue Coach workers have begun to picket the dealers that sell Vogue Coaches; that you as an organization or individual support the boycott; that you encourage the UAW to do all that is possible to make it successful; and that you are awaiting an answer from them.

For representatives of the Chicano community, you can express your interest in meeting with the International Executive Board when they have their convention in Anaheim (June 1st-6th), or with any designated representative of the executive board to discuss the particular problems that our Chicano, Mexicano, Latino and



and undocumented workers face in their workplaces and what the UAW is doing about these problems.

We think that if we unite around putting pressure on the UAW leadership to support the boycott and are able to force them to meet to discuss questions affecting the strikers, that it will aid not only the Vogue Coach workers, but all the undocumented workers, particularly in the UAW.

Que Viva la Huelga

*Carlos Ruiz*

Carlos Ruiz

Vogue Coach Strike Support Committee

Please send letters to:

Douglas Fraser, President  
United Autoworkers Union  
Solidarity House  
8000 E. Jefferson Ave.  
Detroit, Michigan

Jerry Whipple, Director  
Region 6, UAW  
5150 E. Gage Ave.  
Bell, Calif. 90201

Also, send copies to the Vogue Coach Strike Support Committee,

c/o Carlos Ruiz  
954 S. Bonnie Beach Pl.  
L.A., Ca. 90023

For more information, call (213)261-1852 or (213)283-5325



April 18, 1980

Dear Friends of the Vogue Coach workers:

Saturday, April 26, 1980, as most of you probably know by now, we plan to kick-off a national boycott against Vogue Coach Corporation. We are planning picket lines in front of five dealers in California on that day.

Two weeks ago the UAW Region 6 leadership announced that they are going to launch a nationwide boycott of Vogue Coach as a pressure tactic against the company. At this point A SUCCESSFUL BOYCOTT IS CRUCIAL TO THE MORALE OF THE STRIKERS! The strike has gone on for more than five months now. The company has refused to change its original offer. Strikers are living on \$60 to \$65 a week in strike benefits, and the hardship is having its effect on the families. The company says that if they accede to the demands of the strikers, they will have to shut down the plant. But almost unanimously, the Vogue Coach workers are resolved to keep up the strike until the end.

Your support has meant a great deal to the strikers. For many months MECHISTAS throughout the state and La Raza Unida Party/San Fernando have been raising money for the strike and publicizing the case of the Vogue Coach 13 who are facing appeals on deportation orders in the federal courts in San Francisco. Fellow workers from Ford Pico Rivera, Ford Milpitas, GM Van Nuys, Price Pfister, Cyclone Fence and many other union locals have raised money and brought up within their unions the struggle of the Vogue workers as an example of the discrimination faced by immigrant workers in this country. Chicano activists from throughout the Southwest marched with the Vogue workers recently against the police harassment the strikers have suffered. Your support has been crucial to the continuing success of the strike. Cannery workers and MECHISTAS from San Jose have been boycotting a Vogue Coach dealer for several months now in Mountain View, CA ON A WEEKLY BASIS. Their constant support has heartened and inspired the strikers and the Support Committee.

You're probably wondering "why bother to boycott a RV manufacturer that produces \$60,000 'homes on wheels'". Vogue Coach is distributed through independent dealers who also sell campers and smaller RV's, things that working people can afford. While we are doing a PRIMARY BOYCOTT, and boycotting ONLY the vehicles of Vogue Coach, we feel that the impact of picket lines in front of dealers throughout the country will have a serious effect on these dealers, and ultimately, Vogue Coach Corporation.

Boycott committees already exist in the Bay Area and the Los Angeles area. We will include phone numbers of persons you may contact about participating in the April 26 picket lines. We are also

*Camperland Inc.  
6828 Federal Blvd.  
Lemon Grove, Calif. 92045  
(714) 582-1900*



2/

targeting San Diego, Bakersfield and Sacramento (Lodi). As committees do not yet exist in those areas, we will be contacting you by phone in the next few days to try to hook up people, like you, who have shown their support before for the Vogue struggle. If you know of other people who have supported the Vogue struggle, please help us and contact them yourselves so that we can get the boycott going as quickly and efficiently as possible.

We are also asking that especially now that the UAW Region 6 director, Jerry Whipple, has sanctioned the boycott that you contact different locals and the AFL-CIO local boards in your area asking them to participate in the Saturday, April 26 pickets with you.

Once before we asked you to send letters condemning the Vogue Coach management's refusal to negotiate with the strikers. We ask you now to send letters to the dealers in California stating that your organization or union local is participating in the Vogue Coach boycott. We are including a list of the names and addresses of dealers throughout the country.

Up until the recent strike by the OCAW (oilworkers), the Vogue strikers were sending rotating crews to work the boat docks in San Pedro. The day wages were a much needed addition to their strike benefits. Since the oilworkers strike, the Vogue workers, as well as other trade unionists, have had a difficult time encountering work on the docks as the place is overflowing with strikers from the entire LA area. Many of the strikers have found temporary jobs and are not only spending 8 to 10 hours a day at the new job, but are walking their picket line shifts during the other hours of the day.

**THE VOGUE COACH STRIKERS STILL DESPERATELY NEED YOUR DONATIONS OF FOOD AND MONEY.** Just last week the brothers and sisters from Ford Milpitas sent the strikers a pick-up truck load of canned goods they had collected. Workers from Price Pfister donated more than \$300 in a plant gate collection a week ago. MECHISTAS in the San Fernando Valley have been having fundraising parties and bake sales to help raise money for the strikers. All that you have done has been greatly appreciated by the strikers. We hope that you will be able to continue!

In a few days each city will receive a partial press packet we are working up here, giving some background on the strike and boycott. Please feel free to develop your own, or use the one that we are sending. If you have any questions, please contact us at:

Vogue Coach Strike Support Committee  
P.O. Box 4847  
Panorama City, CA 91412

Daniel Hernandez at  
(213) 891-4461

Donations may be sent to:  
UAW Local 509  
14544 Nordoff St.  
Panorama City, CA

In the Bay Area contact about the boycott the following numbers:  
(408) 293-0748, 967-7187 and  
(415) 797-0327



VOGUE COACH DEALERS

ALASKA

Anchorage Camper Sales  
2756 Commercial Dr.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99504  
(907) 277-0556

ARIZONA

Robert Crist Co.  
2025 E. Main St.  
Mesa, Arizona 85203  
(602) 834-9410

Robert Crist Co.  
8833 No. Black Canyon Hwy.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85021  
(602) 997-2611

ARKANSAS

Fred & Jack Trailer Sales  
10318 New Benton Hwy. I 30 W  
Little Rock, Ark. 72209  
(501) 565-0231

CALIFORNIA

Ottie Alburn Sales Inc.  
5546 Sepulveda Blvd.  
Van Nuys, CA 91401  
(213) 787-2200

Motor Homes of Calif.  
1415 N. Harbor Blvd.  
Santa Ana, Calif. 92703  
(714) 839-7550

Pensinger RV  
1780 Golden State Hwy  
Bakersfield, Calif. 93301  
(805) 325-5055

Camperland Inc.  
6828 Federal Blvd.  
Lemon Grove, CA 92045  
(714) 582-1900

Vagabond RV Center Inc.  
2434 El Camino Real  
Mountain View, CA 94040  
(415) 968-1212

Geweke Ford Inc.  
248 E. Kettleman  
Lodi, Calif. 95240  
(209) 369-1027

COLORADO

Havana RV Inc.  
242 Havana  
Aurora, Colo. 80020  
(303) 344-5774

DELAWARE

Brown P. Thawley Inc.  
Box 339  
Rehoboth Hwy.  
Milford, Del. 19963  
(302) 422-3391

FLORIDA

Kropf Eldorado, Inc.  
6915 14th St. W.  
Bradenton, Fla. 33505  
(813) 755-1586

GEORGIA

A & H Campers Inc.  
4360 Covington Hwy.  
Decatur, GA 30032  
(404) 284-5907

ILLINOIS

World of Recreation  
280 W. North Ave.  
Addison, Ill. 60101  
(312) 620-8585

Riteway Automotive  
Rt. 136 E.  
Rantoul, Ill. 61866  
(217) 892-9694



INDIANA

RV Americas Inc.  
2010 Cassopolis  
Elkhart, Indiana 46514  
(219) 264-9621

Marion Motor Homes  
3413 S. Western Ave.  
Marion, Ind. 46952  
(317) 674-7737

Midwest RV  
7711 Pendleton Pike  
~~Lawrence~~ Lawrence, Ind. 46266  
(317) 542-1469

IOWA

Hay Automotive Service  
401 Euclid  
Des Moines, Iowa 50313  
(515) 244-4661

Johnny Ketelsen RV  
598 57th St.  
Marion, Iowa 52302  
(319) 377-8244

KANSAS

Cholfield's Winnebago Inc.  
11516 E. Kellog  
Wichita, KA 67207  
(316) 684-0236

Wolfe Camping Center  
7707 State St.  
Kansas City, KA 66112  
(913) 334-1900

LOUISIANA

Friendly Camper Sales  
9205 St. Bernard Hwy.  
Chalmette, La. 70043  
(504) 278-5186

OKLAHOMA

Motor Home Sales Inc.  
15091 Admiral Place  
Tulsa, Okla. 74116  
(918) 437-0044

Motor Home Sales of Oklahoma Inc.  
7207 NW 39th Express way  
Bethany, Okla. 73008  
(405) 495-0716

OREGON

Vacation Vehicle Center  
4736 SE 82nd St.  
Portland, O.,e. 97266  
(503) 777-5555

PENNSYLVANIA

Ansley & Lewis Inc.  
New 6th Ave. Rd.  
Duncansville, PA 16635  
(814) 695-9817

Glem's Trailer Sales  
RD #2, Box 1294-A  
Ellwood City, PA 16117  
(412) 758-7398

TENNESSEE

Truex Chevrolet  
Hwy 45 S.  
Box 128  
Jackson, Tenn. 38301  
(902) 424-7703

TEXAS

Buchanan's Campers  
4209 Forest Lane  
Garland, TX 75042  
(214) 276-8542

Sam Montgomery Oids Co.  
13800 N. Freeway I. 45  
Houston, TX 77090  
(713) 443-2810



Western Trailer Sales  
3701 Andrews Hwy  
Odessa, TX 79762  
(915) 366-2782

Dale's Mobile Chalets  
2305 Gateway Blvd. So.  
El Paso, TX 79903  
(915) 565-6901

UTAH

HL Franks Co.  
2050 S. Main St.  
Bountiful, Utah 84010  
(801) 292-7231

VIRGINIA

Cheek & Shockley Auto Trailer Sales  
2600 Mechanicsville Pike  
Richmond, VA 23223  
(804) 649-7508

Cheek & Shockley  
600 W. Hundred Rd.  
Chester, VA 23832  
(804) 748-2221

MICHIGAN

Northwoods RV Center Inc  
G-6369 N. Dort Hwy.  
Mt. Morris, Mich. 48458  
(313) 686-4330

Dick Loehr's Inc.  
8308 Shaver Rd.  
Portage, Mich. 49081  
(616) 361-6677

MISSOURI

Lewis & Clark Chrysler/Plymouth  
12060 Lusher Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63138  
(314) 741-6900

MONTANA

MONTANA

Magic Carpet RV Inc.  
5124 Laurel Rd.  
Billings, Montana 59001  
(406) 252-6855

NEW MEXICO

Suburban RV Sales Inc.  
6022 Second St. NW  
Albuquerque, N.M. 87107  
(505) 344-3584

NEW YORK

South Camp RV  
5051 Camp Rd.  
Hamburg, NY 14075  
(716) 649-4600

NORTH CAROLINA

County Motor Co.  
801 Hanford Rd.  
Graham, N.C. 27253  
(919) 226-6301

NORTH DAKOTA

Corral Sales  
617 6th Ave. SE  
Mandan, N.D. 58554  
(701) 663-9538

OHIO

S & W RV Center  
17432 N. Dixie Hwy.  
Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895  
(419) 645-4115

S & S RV & Marine  
1898 Hebron Rd.  
Newark, Ohio 43055  
(614) 522-1528

Yonak's Travel Trailer Sales  
R #2  
Belmont, Ohio 43718  
(614) 686-2999



WASHINGTON

Luxury Motorhome Corp.  
E. 3999 Sprague Ave.  
Spokane, Wash. 99202  
(509) 534-0444

Motorhomes Northwest Inc.  
23122 Hwy. 99 N.  
Edmonds, Wash. 98020  
(206) 778-9594

CANADA

Motor Home Country  
8051 Argyll Rd.  
Edmonton, Alberta  
(403) 469-4651

Feldman's Trailer Ranch  
12716 Ken George Hwy.  
Surrey, B.C.  
(604) 525-8844

Hughes Motor Homes  
RR #2  
Orangeville, Ontario  
(519) 941-0759



# LOS 13 DE VOGUE COACH

Hace mas de tres anos que los obreros latinos de la compania ensambladora de Vogue Coach (localizada en Sun Valley, California) iniciaron una campana para ser representados por el sindicato de UAW (Union de Trabajadores Automotrices).

La compania intentando quebrar la unidad de los trabajadores que luchaban por sindicalizarse, repetidamente llamo al Servicio de Inmigracion y Naturalizacion para intimidar a los trabajadores a que abandonaran su derecho a ser sindicalizados.

Los obreros inmigrantes atreves del pais han sido continuamente maltratados y secuestrados por la migra en las fabricas.

Y fue esto lo que tambien sucedio en Vogue Coach que despues de muchos meses de estar sufriendo las redadas en la fabrica, 13 de los trabajadores decidieron dar la lucha y pelear por no ser deportados en las cortes.

Ellos esperaban que su caso ayudaria para parar la constante represion contra sus companeros.

Recientemente la corte de Apelacion del Circuito Noveno escucho los argumentos, y la apelacion de los 13 de Vogue Coach.

Companeros y Companeras les pedimos su apoyo en la defensa de nuestros 13 hermanos el parar la deportacion de estos hermanos significaria una victoria para toda la gente que lucha contra la opresion.

Solo la unidad de la gente puede garantizar justicia para nuestros 13 hermanos.

**UNAMONOS EN LA DEFENSA DE LOS 13 DE VOGUE COACH!**

**INMEDIATA RESIDENCIA LEGAL E INCONDICIONAL PARA  
LOS OBREROS INDOCUMENTADOS!**

Para mas informacion--

El Comite de los 13 de Vogue Coach  
P.O. Box 4847, Panorama City, CA 91412

**TRABAJADORES INDOCUMENTADOS!**

**¡DEFIENDE LOS DERECHOS DE LOS**



# VOGUE COACH 13

More than three years ago the predominantly Latino workers at the Vogue Coach assembly plant in Sun Valley, California began a union drive to have the United Autoworkers Union represent them.

The company, in an attempt to break the unity of the workers for a union, repeatedly called in the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in an effort to intimidate the workers into abandoning their right to be in a union.

Immigrant workers throughout the country were being harrassed continually by the INS factory raids. As long as the immigrant workers were willing to work for substandard wages, under often intolerable conditions, they were relatively safe from the INS raids. As soon as they tried to organize themselves into unions their employers would call the INS, who then deported the workers.

Such was the case at Vogue Coach. After months of raids on the plant, 13 of the workers decided to fight their deportation orders in the courts. They hoped their own case would serve to halt this constant repression against their brothers and sisters.

Recently the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments in the deportation appeal of the Vogue Coach 13. This appeal should have far reaching effects on the actual right of immigrant workers to organize themselves into unions.

Brothers and Sisters, we ask for your support in the defense of our 13 brothers. A victory in stopping their deportation will be a victory for all people who are against oppression. Only the unity of the people can guarantee justice for our 13 brothers.

**BROTHERS AND SISTERS, UNITE IN DEFENSE OF THE  
13 FROM VOGUE COACH!**

**IMMEDIATE UNCONDITIONAL RESIDENCE FOR ALL  
UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS!**

For more information--

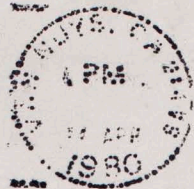
The Vogue Coach 13 Committee  
P.O. Box 4847, Panorama City, CA 91412

**DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS!**

labor donated



NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO UNIONIZE UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS  
8601 LANKERSHIM BLVD.  
SUN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 91352



Mr. Herman Baca  
1837 N. Highland  
National City, Cal 92050