

Memo from Jim Drake to Boycott Staff. 1966

Memo to boycott staff re: the nature of everything...

3/2/66

The strongest impression gathered from my short visits in Chicago, Washington, D.C., NYC, and Boston is that you are all in need of inside facts from Delano to keep you informed about the directions the strike is taking. Phil Farnham and I will try to do this, the more often the better, but I should warn you that Delano is twice as busy since you left, and we are working without many of the best full time staff here...the boycott having taken you from our presence.

- 1) Solodow will continue as coordinator of Northeastern cities and staff. His "territory" will include all that N.E. of a line drawn south from Minneapolis to St. Louis and east to Washington, D.C. His responsibilities will include visitations to each city where full time staff are located, and setting up active boycott committees along the routes between such places. Please communicate with Bob and send us carbons of any reports made to him. Do this weekly if you want to receive weekly reports from Delano. As soon as possible Bob will be the center for all printed materials, such as pledge cards, etc. In the mean time write us for these items. Reach Bob at 1444 Rhode Island Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. His phone is 202-332-9527.
- 2) Finances: As mentioned earlier, please let us know ahead of the crisis time so that we can MAIL you money rather than wire it. Continue to send money and receipts to Delano, but raise support for specific items (paper, rent, etc. letting us know who to thank for such aid). Some of you have done wonders getting labor in your cities to send money. Ida is ahead of the pack, with several checks Ohio Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, Cleveland Joint Board. Others could be reported from other cities. Eddy has shaken loose support from Teamsters, with letter of support from Mr. Jules Bernstein and Florian Bartosic, House Counsels sending letter.
- 3) Delano: Cesar is meeting with Marshall Ganz, Alex Hoffman, Dolores Huerta, and picket captains to plan march from Delano to Sacramento. This march is to be kept confidential for the present. We can probably expect Brown's labor friends who want to save his majesty from embarrassment, so the march has to come somewhat as a surprise. Pruning is about 95% finished, and will probably be exhausted by the 18th of March when March is to start. Harrison Williams has agreed to hold Senate Farm Labor hearings in Calif. including one in Delano. If this gets called off, it will be because Brown got to him and is using it as a way of trying to bribe us not to march. NFWA WILL MARCH REGARDLESS OF BROWN, WILLIAMS, AND THEIR LABOR PALS

Reporter for the Sunday supplement section of N.Y. Times is here today, and yesterday. He is a very sympathetic man and we should get an excellent report. Watch for it.

AT last night's meeting (Tuesday, March 1) I told about my visit to boycott staff and my conversations with Bob Solodow. After the report there was a long applause, the sort of thing that is embarrassing to gabacho, who really doesn't know what suffering is about. But what I want to convey is that the applause from the huelgistas was not for me but was meant for you. It is amazing how much hope has been pinned on the boycott. We just have to make it work.

I have had some subtle reactions from a few of you about not visiting your locations. I apologize. Actually, I was on Migrant Ministry business throughout the trip and the boycott business was incidental. I wish I could have seen all of you.

Cesar is very tired and run down. No one seems to know how to get him to rest. But he shows more confidence than ever about the certainty of victory. He and Wendy have cooked up a weekend vacation for pickets in the foothills beyond Porterville. It will be time to plan the boycott. Everyone would like to see you there too. Viva! Jim Drake

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