

## An Emergency Alert From Chris Hartmire 1972

March 13, 1972

FROM: Chris Hartmire

### An Emergency For Farm Workers!      Please Read Carefully!

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

At 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, March 9, 1972 attorneys for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) filed a petition in the federal district court in Fresno, Ca., requesting a nationwide injunction against the United Farm Workers' boycott. The theory of the NLRB action is that United Farm Workers is a "labor organization" within the meaning of the NLRA and that UFW is therefore prohibited from engaging in consumer secondary boycotts even though farm workers are not entitled to any of the benefits or protections of the federal labor relations law.

- 1) Agribusiness interests have kept farm workers outside the protections of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) since 1935.
- 2) Denied the protections of the law the Delano grape strikers developed the grape boycott as their most effective force for non-violent change.
- 3) For several years growers have pressured the NLRB to use the law to stop the boycott even though farm workers are not covered by the NLRA (the NLRB administers the NLRA: it has 5 members appointed by the President for 4-year terms; Republicans now have a 3-2 majority on the Board).
- 4) The NLRB has repeatedly refused to intervene in the boycott, arguing that since the law does not protect farm workers it cannot be used to punish farm workers. As recently as March 15, 1971, the NLRB wrote UFWOC confirming that they were not a "labor organization" as defined by the law and thus were not covered by the secondary boycott restrictions of the law.
- 5) In the summer of 1971, President Nixon appointed Republican Peter Nash as General Counsel of the NLRB. Mr. Nash has now done what no previous General Counsel has been willing to do: he has filed a formal complaint against the UFW and has gone to court for a temporary injunction against the boycott. The court hearing will be April 6, 1972.

Cesar Chavez has accused the Republican Party of twisting and subverting the law in order to destroy the farm workers' movement. If Mr. Nash and the Republican Party succeed on April 6th they can effectively end the boycott.

YOU CAN HELP IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS

1. Write Senator Robert J. Dole, Chmn. Of the Republican National Committee (310 First St., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003). Ask for fairness and urge him to stop this illegal NLRB action against farm workers.
2. Call your local Republican Committee office (or local Republican candidate).
3. Tell your friends and put articles or notices in newsletters and bulletins.
4. Contact the local UFW Field Office or Boycott Office and offer your help.
5. The lettuce boycott is underway. Please avoid all non-union iceberg (head) lettuce!

This is a life and death matter for Cesar Chavez and the farm workers with him! If you are sympathetic at all, please help farm workers now! How will farm workers continue to make progress if their non-violent methods are destroyed??!