

STATEMENT  
BY  
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NATIONAL FARM WORKERS ASSOCIATION  
MARCH 23, 1966

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On March 8, 1966 I sent a letter to State Senator J. Eugene McAteer seeking his support for the current Delano grape pickers' strike and asking him to cooperate with the National Farm Workers Association's boycott of all Schenley liquors.

As you know, Senator McAteer is part owner of two of the San Francisco Bay Area's most popular restaurants, the Spinniker and Tarantinos'.

We received no answer from the Senator. Last Sunday, March 20, 1966 we sent a telegram to the Senator again seeking his support, pointing out to him that if we did not receive his cooperation we would instigate a consumer informational picket line at his Tarantino's restaurant at 3 P.M., Wednesday, March 23, 1966.

On Monday, March 21, 1966 Senator McAteer talked to me by telephone from Sacramento demanding that we not picket his restaurant, stating that we were an independent union and that we had not received the sanction of either the AFL-CIO or the Teamsters.

Since we have received no official communication from Senator McAteer, I am therefore, instructing our picket captain to proceed with the aforementioned plan this afternoon.

We are at a complete loss to explain Senator McAteer's lack of cooperation in this matter and his belligerent attitude toward the NFWA. We have always thought of him as a friend of the poor and oppressed and an advocate of social justice for all workers.

As a former member of the State Agricultural Committee Senator McAteer must realize the plight of the agricultural labor force in California. The farm laborer has no protection by either state or federal law of those rights so readily enjoyed by other workers in our country and therefore must resort to the strike and the boycott.

At this time we not only again request the Senator to remove the Schenley products from his restaurants but we direct his attention to the entire third section of the recent "Statement of Policy on Rural Poverty" passed by acclamation at the annual California Democratic Council's convention in Bakersfield, California.