

TAPE ARC-55, TC 12:00:00

CBS

12:00:15 CESAR CHAVEZ: Thank you very much. President Gruin(?). Executive Secretary Henning, officers.....AUDIO CUT...In a most difficult struggle in the Salinas and Santa Maria valleys greetings to you and thanks for your help. And I also bring thanks to you from a very happy group of workers in Delano and Fresno and other places. This is the grape workers who want me to tell you that they, want me to tell you that they are having a heck of a good time with their new contract. They're getting more money and they're extremely happy and they want you to know that. Yesterday morning before President Meany spoke to you I talked to him and gave him an up to date report on the grape situation. We have only a few growers in the Lodi area.....AUDIO CUT.....you see in Salinas vegetable and lettuce workers, in Santa Maria and Imperial county have been waiting patiently for their turn to organize. Well this Salinas in 19, early 1966 I had to take a flying trip to Salinas on more than five occasions to ask workers not to strike but to give us a chance to conclude the grape boycott and then they would be second. We had hoped that at the end of the grape boycott and strike that at the successful conclusion of this strike that this would give us the springboard to organize workers and to permit us to have our own programs and at our own, own speed and where they were going to be organized. But no sooner we were on the threshold of that victory we found that another labor organization had signed an agreement with the employers where they did not represent, not even two percent of the farmworkers employed. An agreement with employers for their farmworkers where the represen.....AUDIO CUT....Because the choices between not fighting and losing the union or fighting and gaining our own union. We would hope that every union leader in this state would see the trade union morality involved here. We would hope that every

leader would recognize that the problem stays by us and the problems that can develop from this kind of struggle in Salinas can be extremely dangerous to the whole labor movement in California. You know that the forces of, that the forces are opposed to labor movement are at work. Just last week the National Right to Work Committee sued us and the employers in Delano, the grape growers in Delano for signing a union shop contract. And they're taking advantage of this. Such fights to raise the money and the spirits of those who hate labor to try to do a job not only on the farmworkers and teamsters but on every labor union in the state. Seems that the Salinas struggle gave these forces a perfect excuse to go to work. We know that Governor Rea, Governor Reagan doesn't have any love for us. In fact we know that Governor Reagan very much hates us. In 1966 when we started on the pilgrimage from Delano to Sacramento he said that it was a 300 mile Easter Egg roll. When we signed the contract with the Delano growers last month he turned, he said that it was a tragedy. I'm sure that the hate that the governor has for our movement doesn't mean that he loves you. And I'm sure that the goals that you have set for your unions, for our union this convention cannot be realized without the unity that's so important and so necessary to carry the work forward and through. I'm sure the programs that have been formulated at this convention will be very difficult to realize in Sacramento in the face of this disunity that we see now in the Salinas problem. We know that every union leader in California is anxious that there be maximum unity for the....AUDIO CUT.....the workers or most of the last men have made a commitment that they want their own union, they want the United Farm Workers Union, they wanna be a part of the AFL-CIO, they wanna be free, they wanna have their own, make their own determinations of what union's going to represent them. Now that they will realize, the other unions will realize that we are not seeking any fights with them. That we have enough, more than enough

with the employers. We need the encouragement and the advice from all of you to do something to end this type of fighting in the fields in California. 'Cause I think nothing good could come from it and all of us have much to lose by it. I brought a committee of workers with me who are sitting.....

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