

TAPE ARC-56, TC 13:00:00

CBS

13:01:15 CESAR CHAVEZ: Well of course they'll have, they'll have a radical union, I don't know. Maybe they do I just don't know. I know that the only places they get contracts is where, the only places they get contracts is where we go we shake the tree and they pick the fruit. Otherwise they couldn't get contracts. If a grower tells 'em we don't wanna sign with you there's no way they can make 'em sign with them.

13:01:37 REPORTER: Is there anything you ought to learn from the teamsters?

13:01:41 CESAR CHAVEZ: Anything we'd learn from the teamsters? No I, I'd...

13:01:44 Q: They say you've got the workers they've got the growers, can the teamsters teach you anything about getting the growers?

13:01:48 A: We don't want the growers. We want the workers. Our job is not to represent the growers. Our job is to represent the workers. Period. Let the farm bureau represent the growers or let the teamsters represent the growers if they want to. But it's not up to us. See it's all, see the teamsters aren't organizing. They don't have uh, they don't have contracts because they went and they told the growers sign with us and the growers said well we represent the people or we signing because you're pushing us to sign like we do. The only contracts they have, every single contract, every single contract in agriculture is either, for we had a contract before and the growers wanted to sign with the teamsters because they could get a better deal or we went to the grower and demanded recognition and the growers went to the teamsters. See what I mean?

13:02:40 Q: Why do you think they're going with teamsters? What makes them do that?

13:02:44 A: Well it's obvious. It's very obvious. They go there because they feel they get.....AUDIO CUT

13:02:48 Q: where the teamsters get into this yet?

13:02:51 A: Over 200 or so.

13:02:52 Q: What's it down to now?

13:02:55 A: Well we have uh, not many we have very few contracts right now.

13:02:59 Q: Is that getting pretty close to the end of the line for United Farm Workers?

13:03:06 A: I've answered that one fifty million times. No it has nothing to do with contracts. It has to do with people and the people are here you know and it's just a matter of time....AUDIO CUT... And so we have the workers and it's just a matter of time before the workers, the teamsters not uh not gonna stay in the fields if the grower don't want him to stay there. And our object,our objective is to get the grower to, to want to sign with us. At the point that the grower begins to lose money they'll ask the teamsters to leave and they'll sign contracts with us.

13:03:36 Q: Where all this started what happens if you don't get these 29(?) contracts back?

13:03:43 A: We'll get 'em.

13:03:44 Q: How?

13:03:46 A: We'll strike and we'll boycott until the people are there, you know thousands of people in the picket lines. We'll just get 'em just like we got 'em before. It just takes a little time but we'll get 'em.

13:03:56 Q: The National Farm Bureau publication quoted a Chicago column.....AUDIO CUT

13:04:09 Q: Are you going to be asking for additional money for the strike fund?

13:04:12 A: No we have enough money. We don't need more money. We still have over half of what we got you know.

13:04:17 Q: What type of tactics can and will you use here to win?

13:04:21 A: Exactly what we did five years ago. The people are just getting back from Coachella say that they see grapes all over the place you know. And some growers didn't, there was one grower, one grower that only picked one day. We estimate now that they pick, they pick no more than 60% of the crop. They couldn't possibly pick more than that. There's no way. And they sold, with the exception of two guys signing the contract, they sold 80% of those grapes sold, were sold for below cost.

13:04:54 Q: In the Coachella valley?

13:04:55 A: They might wanna take another one. And next year we'll get to do it to them even worse.

13:05:00 Q: Will you return back to the Delano area?

AUDIO CUT

13:05:38 Q: How do you so feel coming back to Delano after starting here five years ago and seeing the union down to the level it is now?

13:05:48 A: Yeah, I thought about that yesterday and this morning. We're in heaven now. In those days we didn't have an office. Uh, in those days when we started in 1965 uh, we were treated like worse than dogs. Uh, the police every time I'd climb in the car they'd follow us. Uh, we had a, we fin...

AUDIO CUT