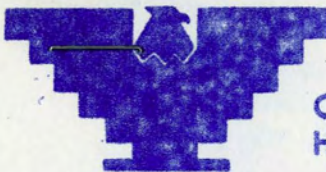


1974



UNITED FARM WORKERS, AFL-CIO

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CESAR CHAVEZ TO VISIT CONNECTICUT

Cesar Chavez, President of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, and well-known as an advocate of a non-violent boycott of lettuce, grapes, and Gallo wine, will make a number of public appearances in Connecticut next week, as part of a seven-day tour of New England. Planned events will dramatize church, labor, and minority group support for the grape and lettuce boycott, and give Connecticut residents a rare opportunity to meet with the farm worker leader.

Included in the wide diversity of scheduled activities are a concert and rally in Hartford; a march in Waterbury; a picket line in Orange; a luncheon in Hamden with labor and religious leaders; a Mass in Bridgeport; and a convention of Spanish-American union members in Meriden.

Chavez's first public appearance will be at a rally on the Green in Waterbury, on Wednesday, July 31, at 12:15 P.M. Waterbury Mayor Victor Mambruno will speak at the rally. Also addressing the rally in support of the UFW will be Kenneth Knott, President of the Waterbury AFL-CIO Labor Council; Nicholas D'Andrea, President of the Western Area UAW CAP Council; and the Reverend William Sexton, President of the Waterbury Area Council of Churches. After a short talk by Chavez, the assembled throng will march to the A & P on Cooke Street in Waterbury, to form a picket line.

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Later in the day, Chavez will join another picket line at the A & P store on the Post Road in Orange, beginning at 5:30 P.M. In recent months, UFW boycott efforts have focused on A & P, which union leaders say is the only major chain in Connecticut refusing to cooperate with the boycott.

To further the cause of union solidarity, Chavez is expected to join strikers of Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union Local 217 on their picket line at the Holiday Inn, 815 Lafayette Boulevard, Bridgeport, at 5:15 P.M. on Wednesday, July 31. On Thursday, August 1, at 7:00 P.M. he will be guest speaker at the founding convention of the Connecticut branch of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement. The convention will be held at the Meriden Latin American Society, 399 South Colony Street, Meriden. The Labor Council for Latin American Advancement is an organization formed by the AFL-CIO to promote union organization of Puerto Rican, Mexican-American, and other Spanish-American workers, to represent the special needs of such workers, and to conduct voter registration and political education campaigns.

On Thursday, August 1, at 12 noon, Chavez will be the guest of honor at a luncheon hosted by the Most Reverend Joseph Donnelly, Auxiliary Bishop of Hartford, in the Alumni Hall of Quinnipiac College, Mount Carmel Avenue, Hamden. Bishop Donnelly is Chairman of the U.S. Bishops Committee on Farm Labor and has long been a supporter of UFW efforts to secure union protection for farm workers. He played a key role in winning the unanimous support of the American Catholic Bishops for Chavez's union.

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The luncheon will bring together over three hundred religious and labor leaders, including the Reverend Dwight Kintner, General Secretary of the Connecticut Council of Churches; John Driscoll, President of the Connecticut State AFL-CIO; Eugene Elander, Connecticut Area Director of the American Jewish Committee; ^{and} Anthony DeLorenzo, Director of United Auto Workers Region 9-A. Jack Middleton, Executive Director of the Office of Urban Affairs of the Archdiocese of Hartford, will be Master of Ceremonies.

Also at the luncheon will be Mrs. Sarah Houck of Roxbury, Connecticut, who was one of the "Coachella Pilgrims" sent to California by the 1973 General Synod of the United Church of Christ in support of the grape strikers.

Part of the luncheon program will be a showing of the film "Why We Boycott," a movie made on the picket lines in California's Coachella Valley last summer and showing the violence and intimidation suffered by the farm workers in their struggle for human dignity.

Roman Catholic support for the UFW will be highlighted by a Mass sponsored by the Spanish Apostolate of the Diocese of Bridgeport, at 7:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 31, at St. Mary's Church, 540 Pembroke Street, Bridgeport. At 8:00 P.M. (immediately after the Mass) there will be a public rally at St. Mary's Parish Hall, 555 Pembroke Street, Bridgeport. At the beginning of the rally, Chavez will meet with the Bishop's Commission on Human Rights, a group which has already announced its support for the grape and lettuce boycott.

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In a brief ceremony on Thursday, August 1, at 6:00 P.M., the East Hartford Town Council, will present Chavez with a resolution lauding his efforts to secure better working and living conditions for migrant farm workers through union organizing. The resolution, declaring that the Town Council "commends and supports" Chavez, will be presented in the Town Council Chambers, 740 Main Street, East Hartford.

Chavez's Connecticut tour will culminate in Hartford on Thursday, August 1, at 8:00 P.M., with a concert and rally at the Horace Bushnell Congregational Church, on the corner of Albany Avenue and Vine Street. Featured will be a showing of the film "Why We Boycott" and a talk by Chavez; with entertainment by Sandy and Caroline Paton, folk singers from Sharon, Connecticut; and the "Voices for Christ," a Gospel choir from Hartford. Master of Ceremonies will be Leonard Sengali, Minister of Outreach at the Horace Bushnell Church. and Director of the Upper Albany Community Organization.