

BLOOD ON THE GRAPES

Last week two farm workers were killed in California--one shot in the back by a strikebreaker, the other beaten to death by a Sheriff's deputy. Juan de la Cruz and Nagi Daifullah were poor men who asked only the right to improve their living and working conditions through a union of their own choice.

Thousands of farm workers are on strike because the California farm owners have joined corrupt officials of the Western Conference of Teamsters in a conspiracy to crush the infant United Farm Workers Union led by Cesar Chavez.

The unholy alliance of Teamsters and farm owners is attempting to return farm workers to the position of rented slaves. They have re-instituted child labor. They have abolished union meetings and the system of elected representatives at each ranch. They have taken away the rest periods, fresh drinking water, and controls on pesticides required by United Farm Workers contracts. Worst of all, they have re-instituted the labor contractor system.

Farm labor contractors are the last vestige of the sweatshop system in America. They act as body merchants, selling the labor of farm workers to the owners and pocketing most of the wage.

According to the California Supreme Court, "it appears clear that by mid-August 1970, at least a substantial number and probably a majority of field workers desired to be represented by the United Farm Workers Union and expressed no desire to have the Teamsters represent them."

The Western Conference of Teamsters has supplied farm owners with hired thugs (armed with lead pipes, shotguns, knives and clubs) to persuade field hands to keep working. In the first weeks of this year's grape harvest, the Teamster enforcers compiled a police record which includes attempted murder, kidnapping, assault with a deadly weapon, and arson.

WE CAN HELP END THE VIOLENCE AND BRING JUSTICE TO THE FARM WORKERS.

1. Please write Attorney General Elliott Richardson, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. Ask him to send federal marshals or FBI agents to California to protect the civil rights and physical safety of the farm workers.
2. Write Frank Fitzsimmons, President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, 25 Louisiana Avenue, Washington, D. C. Demand that the Teamsters permit the farm workers to choose their own union through free secret ballot elections, and that the Teamsters end their acts of violence and their corrupt alliance with the farm owners.
3. Boycott grapes and lettuce, unless you see the farm workers' union label--the Aztec eagle--right on the plastic wrapper.
4. Donate money to feed the families of striking grape and lettuce workers. Make checks payable to United Farm Workers.

United Farm Workers National Union, AFL-CIO
1915 Park Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106 233-7234
17 Belmont Street, Hamden 288-4905



Boycott Grapes! Boycott Lettuce!

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR SLAIN FARMWORKERS

Hartford: Wednesday, August 22
7:00 P. M.

Meet at Federal Building, 450 Main Street
March to St. Peter's Church, 214 Main

New Haven: Thursday, August 23
7:30 P. M.

Meet at Federal Building, 141 Church Street
March to Center Church on the Green