

United Farm Workers



ACTION NEWS

AGRICULTURE LABOUR RELATIONS
ACT FUNDED....

ELECTIONS TO BEGIN AGAIN!!!

46 UFW CONTRACTS TO DATE

The boycott **MUST** continue!

P.O. BOX 461 ADELAIDE ST. STATION, TORONTO ONTARIO.

summer 1976

FARM WORKER ELECTIONS TO RESUME

It has just been announced that the California state legislature has voted to provide \$6.8 million to administer the Agricultural Labour Relations Act! The ALRF has been inactive since February because legislators sympathetic to grower interests had held up funding for the law. Certification of past election results and hearings on unfair labour practices will start right away. Elections are expected to resume in the fall. Three new board members and a new general counsel have been appointed.

The UFW Organizing Department has begun preparations for organizing in the San Joaquin Valley for the upcoming elections. The union's boycott effort is being maintained to ensure fair elections and decent contracts.



UFW CONTRACTS NOW TOTAL 46

As the new harvest begins, the number of United Farm Worker contracts has mounted to 46. The contracts, negotiated at ranches where the UFW won union representation elections, cover over 17,000 workers in lettuce, tomatoes, cauliflower, broccoli, celery, flowers, pepper, melons, and apples. One year ago the union had 10 contracts covering 4500 workers. This tremendous progress was possible...



THANKS TO YOUR HELP

The unrelenting pressure of the boycott forced the growers to accept the Agricultural Labour Relations Act (ALRA) and union elections. But the growers have not accepted that farm workers should have their own union. Using intimidation during elections and their political lobby to cut off funds for the ALRA, they have resisted in every way that they can. Every step of the way, farm workers have counted on public support in their struggle to gain their rights. In April nearly 3/4 million California voters signed petitions in the UFW initiative campaign to put the ALRA on the November ballot. Passage of the initiative would guarantee elections, strengthen some sections of the law, and make amendments possible only by the same initiative process. Faced with this prospect, many growers are already having second thoughts about their opposition to funding the present law.



KEEP ON BOYCOTTING

Most workers have not yet even had the chance to vote. In order to gain the right to vote and to get contracts, the boycott continues and consumers are asked to buy only UFW label grapes and head lettuce.

There are still a number of ranches where elections were won and contracts have not been signed. This unfair list of growers who won't negotiate will be the target of a selective boycott this summer.



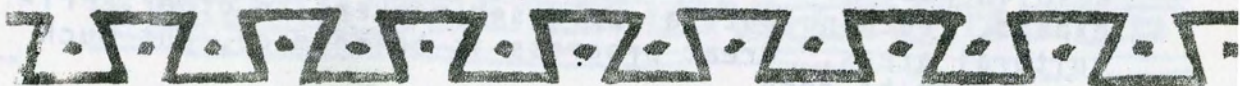
While the ALRA was operating the UFW won elections representing 30,804 workers. There are almost 300,000 farm workers in California and a total of 2½ million. As a solid base is built in California, the union plans to expand, reaching out to oppressed workers in other agricultural areas. Great progress is being made, but much remains to be done.



SUMMARY OF ACTION



when	UFW	growers
Fall '73 May '75	boycott pressure from consumers and store chains on growers	lose money- forced to accept farm labour law providing for union elections
June - Sept. '75	educate workers to rights and organize for elections	intimidate and fire workers for supporting the UFW
Oct. - Nov. '75	Pressure on Gov. Brown and ALRB to enforce the law	
Nov. - Feb. '76	win overwhelming percentage of elections in Imperial Valley to bring total wins to 205	use political lobby to cut off funds for ALRA and stop elections
Feb. - June '76	-Pressure legislators to refund ALRA -boycott SUNMAID SUNSWEET to stop opposition to funding -petition to place UFW initiative on ballot	46 growers sign contracts -opposition to funding ended by SUNMAID/SUNSWEET -prepare to spend millions to defeat UFW initiative



WATCH FOR THE UFW LABEL

UFW produce is being sold in many places in Canada! The UFW Aztec eagle has been spotted on lettuce, grapes*, cauliflower, and other vegetables. An increasing amount of UFW lettuce will be available this summer. UFW lettuce growers include: Interharvest, Salinas Marketing Co-op, California Coastal Farms, Admiral Packing, West Coast Farms, Green Valley Produce, Mann Packing, Harden Farms, and J.J. Crosetti. The label appears on the wrapper of box. Look for and ask for the UFW label. The demand you create will mean more contracts for farm workers.



*There is a big grape company, David Freedman Co., which carries the UFW label. Their grapes come from the Coachella Valley and are usually available until the middle of the summer. Canadian produce is also not boycotted

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN CANADA

- Chris Hartmire, director of the National Farm Worker Ministry, came from L.A. to Toronto and Montreal in April. He spoke to enthusiastic groups of UFW supporters in both cities and to members of the religious community about continuing their vital aid.
- Farm Worker Week, May 2-8, involved many churches in spreading the farm workers' message. Successful bazaars raised \$1500 in Toronto and \$1700 in Montreal.
- The 2nd Mexican Fiesta in Toronto, held June 5, was sponsored by Toronto Labour and featured authentic Mexican food and great music. 500 people enjoyed the evening as close to \$5000 was raised for the farmworkers' cause.
- The same evening a benefit dance, featuring the Stephen Barry Band, was held in Montreal.
- People from Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto met on June 19 at the Canada Mobilization for a day of workshops, films, reports, singing, acts, and dancing. Focus of the day was on what the union is doing, how it works, and how people can help.

BOYCOTTONS!!

Thirty-five Quebec cyclists participated in a 160 mile bike-a-thon from Montreal to Quebec City on July 2-4. Cyclists of all ages pedaled through the many towns along the shore of the St. Lawrence River. Attracting attention all along the route, they met people waving from porches, cars honking support, and warm hospitality on rest breaks and overnight stops. Sunday morning's beautiful sunny riverside ride, gave the cyclists a new burst of energy to attack the last formidable hill up to the Plains of Abraham, where they were greeted with a rally. Andre Noel, Quebec Labour Council president and CLC representative, addressed the group. The event received wide media coverage in Quebec City and raised nearly \$5000 in pledges! VIVA LES CYCLISTES QUEBECOIS!



NEW CONTRACTS MEAN NEW RESPONSIBILITIES

The UFW has created a new department of Contract Administration under the leadership of Executive Board member Eliseo Medina. Field offices are being reorganized to deal with the new contracts and to ensure that the union lives up to its side of the agreement. Ranch committees and crew stewards are being elected and trained to serve the workers.

The Boycott Department, headed by former New York director Nick Jones, has been divided into 8 regional divisions, of which Canada is one. Reorganization throughout the union is taking place to improve administration and meet the responsibility to the workers.

SUPPORT THE UNITED RUBBER WORKERS

The rubber workers have been on strike against the big 4 giant U.S. tire manufacturing corporations since the spring. Firestone Tire and Rubber Company's attitude at the bargaining table has typified the joint unwillingness of these corporate giants to offer a reasonable package of wages, COLA provision, and benefits to striking workers. The UFW boycott against the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. has been officially endorsed by the United Farm Workers and action is being taken to promote and support their boycott efforts.

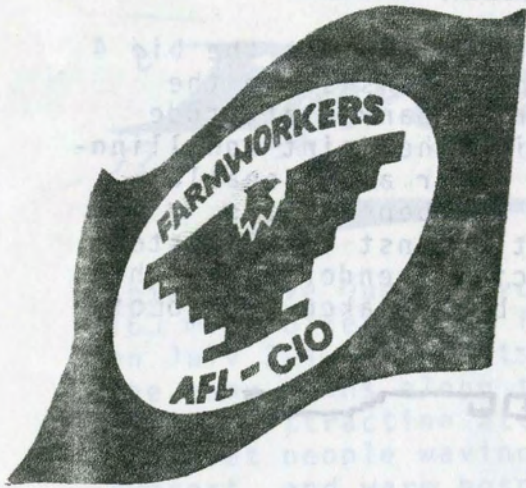


FULL TIME WORK WITH THE UFW

The farm workers are looking for full time workers to help build their boycott and their union. We're looking for people who like a challenging job and are willing to learn. People with special skills are also needed. Room, board, and \$5 a week is provided. If you are interested in this opportunity, please call the nearest UFW office. (Toronto 416/961-4434, Montreal 514/525-3936)



There is an immediate and urgent need for doctors to work in our clinics for the next year.



WE'RE LOOKING FOR ...

car (6 cylinder)
filling cabinets
mimeograph machine
shelves
office supplies
cleaning supplies-
(vacuum cleaner,
broom, mops).

✦ WHAT YOU CAN DO ✦

1. **Keep on boycotting.** Demand **UFW** label grapes and lettuce.
2. Join or organize local boycott activities- leafletting, checking stores, fundraising projects,....
3. **Make a donation or monthly pledge to the United Farm Workers.**
4. Spread the word of the boycott to your friends.

Watch for benefit concert, picket lines, area committee meetings, pot luck picnics,...

