

# EL MALGRIADO

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March 23, 1973

## TYPHOID HITS FLORIDA WORKERS

TWO CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM TYPHOID FEVER ARE LOADED ONTO AN AMBULANCE AT THE SOUTH DADE LABOR CAMP, DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA. *story on page 5*



## POISONED LETTUCE HEARING ERUPTS

See pages 8 & 9



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...AND MORE

**"The truth brings justice, and the thirst for justice creates La Causa and the people involved in La Causa will be victorious."**

## **An interview with Cesar Chavez**



**EL MALCRIADO:** Cesar, in this time of struggle what should be the participation of Union members in the defense of their Union?

**CESAR:** The strength of a movement comes from its members. It's just the same as with a tree. The strength of a tree comes from its roots. Union members should participate in the defense of their movement. They should defend their movement not just economically, but also politically, so that they can continue to participate in the political life of this society.

The forces that attack us trying to destroy our movement don't attack us just because we are a union. They attack us because we are also a political movement, because we are union with our own philosophy.

Every member must learn that we are going to be attacked from different directions. The major attacks will be on the political and economic fronts and also on the racial front, because of the racist tendencies of the growers and the Teamsters.

**EL MALCRIADO:** Our enemies are trying to confuse public opinion by presenting the lettuce boycott as a struggle between the Union and the Teamsters. Can you comment on this?

**CESAR:** Yes. In this case, the Teamsters are letting themselves be used by the growers, they are selling themselves to the growers; but still, the real fight is between the growers and us.

In this situation, the Teamsters are a company union that is cooperating with the growers in an attempt to confuse our working class sisters and brothers in the cities who support us.

We have to make every effort to explain to our friends in the cities that our struggle is not one of Teamsters and growers and the United Farm Workers. There are only two sides: our Union and the growers, who use the Teamsters as an instrument to fight us.

**EL MALCRIADO:** Concretely, how are farm workers responding to the attempts by the Teamsters to force them to sign up with them?

**CESAR:** They are fighting back. We have been able to send in our organizers to give them the moral support and help they need. Many farm workers prefer to be fired than to sign up with the Teamsters. They know that to sign that card and join the Teamsters means that the labor contractors will continue to exploit them and the machines will come right in.

What the growers and Teamsters want to do is to destroy the democratic distribution of jobs, based on seniority, that is carried on by our hiring halls and to leave the labor contractors in complete control of the jobs.

Growers don't want the hiring hall because it forces them to be fair in the hiring of workers. But if we let the Teamsters enter the picture, so will the labor contractors, and they will destroy everything we have won in terms of protecting the dignity and the rights of workers, and then, will come the machines because the Teamsters will not fight the machines, just as they don't fight the reckless use of dangerous pesticides.

We must understand why the Teamsters don't make their contracts public. They won't show their contracts. They pass out "fact sheets" about their contracts, but no the complete contracts because in them is the sellout.

**EL MALCRIADO:** After your journey across the country, how do you think the public is responding to the boycott of Safeway and A&P?

**CESAR:** The people in the cities, the urban industrial workers, the churches, the students, the minority groups such as chicanos, and blacks, are supporting us more strongly now than during the Grape Boycott. We have tremendous support.

What is important is that the public is already educated. During the years 1967-70, our supporters were easily confused by the opposition. Now, the support we are receiving comes not only from the heart, but also from knowing the truth. They know what we are fighting for and they are committed to join us in the struggle.

I am very happy with this trip for several reasons: because the farm workers with whom I went, the 70 D'Arrigo strikers, know how to act with dignity; they have a tremendous desire to win; and they are determined to make every sacrifice, which is helping them to win the hearts of people everywhere.

**EL MALCRIADO:** In the struggle with the growers, how would you look at the situation in which we find ourselves?

**CESAR:** The growers are riding a skyrocket, they have only one way out and that's up. The growers supposedly signed contracts with the Teamsters, but that did not put an end to strikes and the boycott is still on, along with all the headaches that come with fighting the workers.

So what kind of contracts do they have? It is clear that the growers are in a worse position than that of the workers. The growers say they have contracts with the Teamsters, but contracts or no contracts the headaches and the stomach aches that come from having to fight our movement have not ended and will not end until they sign contracts with the United Farm Workers, the only true farm workers' union.

The growers are indeed in a very bad and difficult position and I imagine they must ask each other, "What did we gain by signing contracts with the Teamsters, if our problems with the workers have not been resolved?"

**EL MALCRIADO:** Cesar, what do you think is the responsibility of EL MALCRIADO in our present struggle?

**CESAR:** Every movement must have its instrument for education and information. We have seen how other movements rely on the press. A movement's press dedicates itself to educate, in our case, farm workers.

EL MALCRIADO has an extremely important role to fulfill because it is the only way in which we can inform our people about the truth of events. The conventional press is not always interested in what we are doing. When it does become interested it cannot give all of the details of particular events and sometimes, even sides with the opposition.

The position of EL MALCRIADO in the movement is as important as our union organizers. There are three great weapons in the movement: the strike, the boycott, and EL MALCRIADO.

**EL MALCRIADO:** Brother, do you have some final words for farm workers and our supporters?

**CESAR:** For farm workers, just as we have said since we started this movement 11 years ago, we have to go all the way. There is no way the growers and Teamsters can beat us. Because the power we have comes from the truth.

The truth inspires us to sacrifice, the truth gives us the support of the churches and other unions and people in general. The truth gives farm workers the strength and the courage to continue fighting.

The truth, then, is making the growers and Teamsters extremely uncomfortable because they have to misrepresent themselves and because they have a case full of lies. The truth is a tremendous weapon. The truth brings justice, and thirst for justice creates La Causa and people involved in La Causa will be victorious.

# CONFIDENTIAL LETTER UNMASKS TEAMSTER- LABOR CONTRACTOR CONSPIRACY

LA PAZ, Calif.-- Every day mounting evidence demonstrates how the grower-Teamster alliance is aimed at destroying the Union and keeping farm workers poor and power less.

First came the sweetheart contracts between the growers and Teamsters, and then, the alliance between Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons and the American Farm Bureau Federation, which has been sponsoring anti Union legislation across the country.

And now, EL MALCRIADO's information network has uncovered the following "confidential" letter by Guinn Sinclair, President of the National Farm Labor Contractor's Association, to labor contractors throughout California, which we print in its entirety:

## NATIONAL FARM LABOR CONTRACTOR'S ASSOCIATION

TELEPHONE (209) 488-2511  
P. O. BOX 2326  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93723

### CONFIDENTIAL

February 14, 1973

Dear Contractor:

This confidential letter contains information this is usually restricted to our members only. It is important that this information remain very confidential.

At the present time we are in closing negotiations with the Western Conference of Teamsters, Agriculture Workers Organizing Committee. You may recall that we have been meeting with them for over two years. It appears that we will be in a position to have a final draft of an Agreement in the immediate future.

If and when we sign the Master Agreement for the Farm Labor Contractors it will be a death blow to the hiring hall and Chavez's ambition to be Commissar of California. Political domination of agriculture labor will be coming to an end.

However, we represent only our members in this matter! United we have been able to carry on these costly negotiations and hire experts to represent us at a very small cost per member. Individually it would cost many hundreds of dollars to do the same with little chance of the individual to obtain as favorable an Agreement with the Union.

The end is coming rapidly and now is the time for you to make application for membership if you wish to be included in this service (and the other advantages of membership). Fill in and return the enclosed card together with your check for the \$50.00 dues. After we sign the Agreement, new members will have to pay their individual added costs to be included in the Agreement plus the regular dues, so you save considerable money by joining now.

We urge you to act now, send your dues in by return mail!

Sincerely,

*Guinn Sinclair*

Guinn Sinclair  
President

NOW, WITH OUR AGREEMENT WITH THE TEAMSTERS I CAN MAKE YOU WORK LIKE A MACHINE AND I CAN LUBRICATE YOU WITH PESTICIDES.



## Imperial Valley Farm Workers In Constant Danger of Being Poisoned

CALIFORNIA, California-- "Farm workers in the Imperial Valley are constantly in danger of being poisoned," declared Union organizers Manuel Chavez and Hector Reyes March 7.

They charged that as long as Imperial Valley growers do not stop the use of Monitor 4 and other dangerous pesticides, thousands of farm worker families are in grave danger of being poisoned.

Manuel and Hector charged the growers with the reckless use of pesticides which are

"a great danger to health". In order to increase production, they said, the growers do not wait long enough between the application of the pesticides and the time they bring workers into the fields.

The two Union organizers reported that many cases of pesticide poisoning are being uncovered among farm workers in the valley who are unprotected by Union contracts. They warned all farm workers to keep a close eye on their health. Some of the symptoms of pesticide poisoning are the following: NAUSEA,

DIZZINESS WITHOUT APPARENT CAUSE, VOMITING, HEADACHES, GENERAL FEELING OF WEAKNESS, PROBLEMS WITH BREATHING, DIARRHEA, SWEATING WITHOUT CAUSE, EYE TROUBLES, PERSISTENT ITCHING AND WELTS ON THE BODY. Manuel and Hector warned: "If you have experienced any of these symptoms go to the Union office in Calexico immediately. Your health is of the utmost importance. Don't permit yourselves to go on being poisoned like animals. WE ARE HUMAN BEINGS!"

# LOCAL NEWS

## Fresno

### MALCRIADO COMMITTEE TO SHOW "SI, SE PUEDE"

by Guadalupe Guzman

DINUBA, California The MALCRIADO Committee of Fresno County will show the film "SI SE PUEDE" for the first time in this area Saturday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 1385 11th Street, in Reedley, California.

Several dancing and singing groups will perform. REFRESHMENTS FREE. DON'T MISS OUT.

### FARM BUREAU PICKETED

by Juan Salazar, Selma Field Office

On February 21, 1973 about 12:30 p.m., there were about 550 farm workers in front of the Fresno Convention Center picketing the annual meeting of the Farm Bureau.

The pickets marched yelling "Cesar sí, Teamsters, NO." "Down with the Farm Bureau and other good things. The people were protesting because they know that the Farm Bureau is an enemy of the farm workers and because of their attempts to destroy our Union with Proposition 22 and repressive legislation.

Inside the Convention Center the Farm Bureau members were talking about how to destroy our Union. As long as the Farm Bureau and the Teamsters, or any one else threatens our Union, we will demonstrate against them. VIVA LA CAUSA Y EL BOICOTEO.

## Santa Maria Valley

### UNION ORGANIZER RUNS FOR SCHOOL BOARD

SANTA MARIA, California--A Santa Maria United Farm Workers Union organizer is moving into the political life of the community, inspired by the problems he has seen through his work with the Union and community committees.

The organizer is Manuel Echavarría, and he has filed candidacy papers for the Board of the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District.

Echavarría's work with the Comité Consejero de Educacion following riots at one of the two local high schools in 1971 showed him the need for a greater voice for Chicanos in the school district.

"There has never been a Chicano on the school board, yet more than thirty percent of the population is Chicano. We need complete community representation on this school board. The time is now for the direct inclusion of Chicanos in the affairs of the schools," Echavarría said.

Echavarría has recently been appointed to the Santa Barbara County Democratic Central Committee, which is the official party organization in the county. He is one of four representatives from the northern Santa Barbara county area.

Echavarría is also one of the "Guadalupe Ten" who were arrested by mail and convicted of disturbing a public meeting following a parent teacher meeting in the Guadalupe grade school last March when Mel O'Campo, a well known grower puppet, spoke on "The Trugh Behind the Chicano Movement." The case is currently under appeal in Santa Barbara Appellate Court.

Echavarría was one of three men from the Santa Maria office, including Director Paulino Pacheco and organizer Luis Ayala, who were arrested at Tani Farms for "trespassing" in late February.

That case is pending in the Guadalupe Justice Court with Judge Robert Stewart, who was quoted last year in a Santa Barbara newspaper as saying "all our Mexicans are happy."

### CESAR CHAVEZ: "DON'T THIN LETTUCE."

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Santa Maria and vicinity:

First I want to thank you for the splendid work you are doing there in Santa Maria. You are making a good name for our Union through your solidarity.

Our work is not complete until the last campesino is free from exploitation by the growers and the labor contractors.

I am going to ask all campesinos to Boycott the lettuce in the field and not thin it. The reason for this measure is to ensure a more effective lettuce boycott in the major cities and small towns.

Also, we are undertaking this measure to protect the farm workers and consumers from a possible contamination of dangerous pesticides, especially Monitor 4. These chemical elements that the farmers are applying in our foods are being found in many fields in the states of California and Arizona.

All farm workers must unite to defend your movement. Together we must struggle and fight against the growers and the Teamsters. Our lives must be clean and free from the uncontrolled application of dangerous pesticides in the fields of California, Arizona and in all agricultural land in the United States.

Finally, "Do Not Thin Lettuce."

SI, SE PUEDE

Your brother,  
Cesar Chavez

## Salinas Valley

### CRLA FIGHTS SHORT HANDLE HOE

SAN FRANCISCO, California--California Rural Legal Assistance has filed a petition with the State Industrial Safety Board seeking to prohibit the use of the "short handled hoe" or "cortito" in California farm work. A hearing on the petition is scheduled here March 6.

The petition points out that the short handle hoe requires farm laborers to work in a stooped position for extended periods of time and causes serious harm, often permanent and total physical disability.

The petition cites testimony from doctors, including orthopedic specialists, concerning the dangers of the hoe, in addition to direct testimony from farm workers injured by its use.

"We farm workers who make our living out working in the fields find ourselves having to return to work everyday with backs, necks and legs that still hurt from working the day before," says Jose Romero. "The short handle hoe ruins the farm worker's back, and before he is 50, he is so disabled he must go on welfare."

### REPRESSION IN WOODLAKE

by Jesús H. Martinez

MALCRIADO

Representative: Leobardo Renteria.

PLACE: Woodlake, California

DATE: March 9, 1973

SITUATION: Owner of "El Venadito" billiard hall granted permission to some youth to paint a mural on Mexican history, including Mexican heroes Benito Juarez and Miguel Hidalgo, along with a section on La Causa complete with the Black Eagle of the United Farm Workers. The labor contractors in the area went to the authorities saying that the mural was distasteful to the residents of Woodlake. POLICE ACTION: Local authorities try to pressure the owner to cover the mural with a solid-colored paint.

The police also refused to let the MALCRIADO Committee continue its door-to-door campaign to push the Union newspaper's distribution. DETERMINATION OF COMMITTEE: To meet using constitutional rights. To finish the task of bringing EL MALCRIADO to every farm worker home in Woodlake, California.

## Wyoming

### FARM BUREAU BILL DIES

by José Gómez

WYOMING--A farm labor bill sponsored by the Farm Bureau died in committee, as the legislative session drew to a close on February 24. Many Union supporters, especially the Sisters of Loretto, were instrumental in preventing the bill from moving out of committee.

## Washington

### S.B. 2550 DEFEATED

by José Gomez

An anti-farm worker bill, S.B. 2550 sponsored by Yakima Valley grower George Gannon died in the Senate Labor Committee after hearings on February 16. Sarah Welch reports that "our part of the hearings were impressive with Attorney Michael Fox giving legal criticisms, Ricardo García (Mexican-American Commission) giving an excellent run-down on Gannon's anti-Union activities, and Joe Davis, President of Washington State AFL-CIO and the United Labor Lobby stealing the show with an eloquent speech about the need of farm workers to organize."

## Arizona

### RECALL CAMPAIGN CALLED A "MOVEMENT"

PHOENIX, Ariz.--Arizona's nine-month recall campaign against Gov. Jack Williams enters a new phase March 26 when more than 165,000 signatures will be turned in.

Only 105,000 valid signatures are needed to force a recall election.

Pollock, who has walked 1,200 miles in the last three months to every town and city in the state ended his march with a five-mile walk to the state capitol and the rally site.

Cesar Chavez and about 1,000 Pollock supporters joined him for the final five miles, and about 1,500 jammed the hall at the rally, including several Democratic State Senators, county supervisors and the chairman of the Maricopa County Democratic Central Committee.

Cesar said the recall, which was initiated by t

by UFW after the Governor signed one of the most repressive anti-farm labor bills last May, had launched a "new politics in Arizona" and he praised Pollock as a courageous and honest man "who has a desire to see change."

During his talk Cesar also expressed his concern for the Indians at Wounded Knee. "We cannot condemn them," he said. "While we believe in non-violence, we'd rather have a man take a stand than a coward sit in front of a TV set."

Pollock gave a slashing attack on Gov. Williams, promising to reverse the Governor's opposition to Medicare and his support of the farm-labor bill.

Noting the press's vicious attacks on Cesar, Pollock endorsed a Democratic Central Committee proposal that the newspapers be boycotted. "Every man that helps working people has been maligned by the newspapers," he said. "That's why I'm proud to have Cesar Chavez here today."



# Typhoid Epidemic Hits Florida Farm Workers

HOMESTEAD, Florida—Dozens and maybe hundreds of Florida farm workers are suffering from typhoid fever here in what one local doctor has called the worst typhoid epidemic in United States history while Eliseo Medina, director of United Farm Worker Union activities for the state, charges that local public health officials have been very slow to respond to the crisis.

"If this had happened down in Miami Beach, they would have been down there right away," Medina said, "but since it's 'only farm workers,' nobody is in much of a hurry."

The first evidence of the disease surfaced on January 29, and not until the first weeks of March were people receiving the proper treatment, Medina said. By March 5 over 500 people had been examined and over 130 hospitalized.

The grisly story starts in the Dade County Camp for farm workers, run by the Homestead Housing Authority near Homestead, Fla. According to Medina, people in the camp had

complained to the housing and health authorities as early as November and December that there was something wrong with the water, but no one knows yet if either agency did any investigation of the problem at all.

What is known is that on January 29 the first case of typhoid fever was diagnosed by the Family Medical Division of the Community Health Clinic in Goulds, Fla., and that the child who had the positive identification was sent to the Variety Childrens' Hospital nearby.

But, according to Medina, public health officials did little else—an unusual response with a disease as severe and communicable as typhoid fever.

Between February 20 and 24, two or three more cases were diagnosed at the Martin Luther King Clinic in Homestead. Medina says that Florida law requires that public health officials be notified as soon as typhoid is identified, but there is no evidence of any response to the situation on the part of local

health officials.

On February 26 the Goulds Clinic diagnosed another case of typhoid in a Mr. Diaz, a 19 year-old farm worker, and sent him to the Jackson Hospital in Miami. Finally, on February 27 Dr. Ben Baitz of the Goulds Clinic and Dr. Nitskin of the public health department announced that they had a very serious situation on their hands.

They did indeed. On the next day, February 28, fifteen more people were sent to the hospital with suspected typhoid.

On March 1, another fifteen went. One of those was sent to Larkin General Hospital, where he was refused admittance unless he could raise \$200, Medina said.

In response to the crisis, the Martin Luther King Clinic called a meeting between themselves, public health representatives, the Goulds Clinic and local family planning officials to see if an emergency clinic could be set up in the camp. Medina says that the public health people were opposed to the idea at first, but the sentiment of the others was strong enough that such an emergency clinic was established at the camp.

Nonetheless, the numbers kept climbing. March 2 saw another fifteen people sent to the hospital and also saw the Jackson Hospital in Miami refuse to admit any more patients, claiming their beds were all full.

In the next couple of days the emergency clinic had processed 383 patients in the camp, and sent tests on to the local public health officials. But the test results were slow in returning, and hospitals were closing their doors for lack of beds—so people, potentially very sick people, were being sent home.

Under the pressure of the situation, Jackson Hospital reopened its doors on March 4, and by the next day the emergency clinic had processed over 500 people and sent 130 on to the hospital. Of those 130 only 46 had complete test results by March 5, but every one of them were positive for typhoid—so the probability is high that most of the people have been infected.

Medina is trying to get local government representatives to pressure the health department people into correcting the situation. He has arranged for a meeting between Representatives Gwen Cherry and Kenneth Meyers of the State Congressional Health and Rehabilitation Committee, Senator Ralph Poston, who heads the Dade County delegation to the Florida Congress, and Mr. Emmett Roberts, head of the Florida Health Department and Dr. Milton Soslaw of the Dade County Health Department.

"We want to know who is responsible for checking the water at the camp, and why it took the health department so long to respond," Medina said. "We are especially concerned about what will happen when the workers get out of the hospital. About 15 percent of them will be carriers, capable of infecting other people. Who will keep track of them when they migrate to new jobs? Will they be forced to stay in the area? If so, who will compensate them when their local jobs disappear?"

As of March 9 there were, officially, 187 people hospitalized with suspected typhoid, and 75 confirmed cases. According to Dorothy Johnson of the Union's Florida office, by March 13 100 cases had been confirmed.

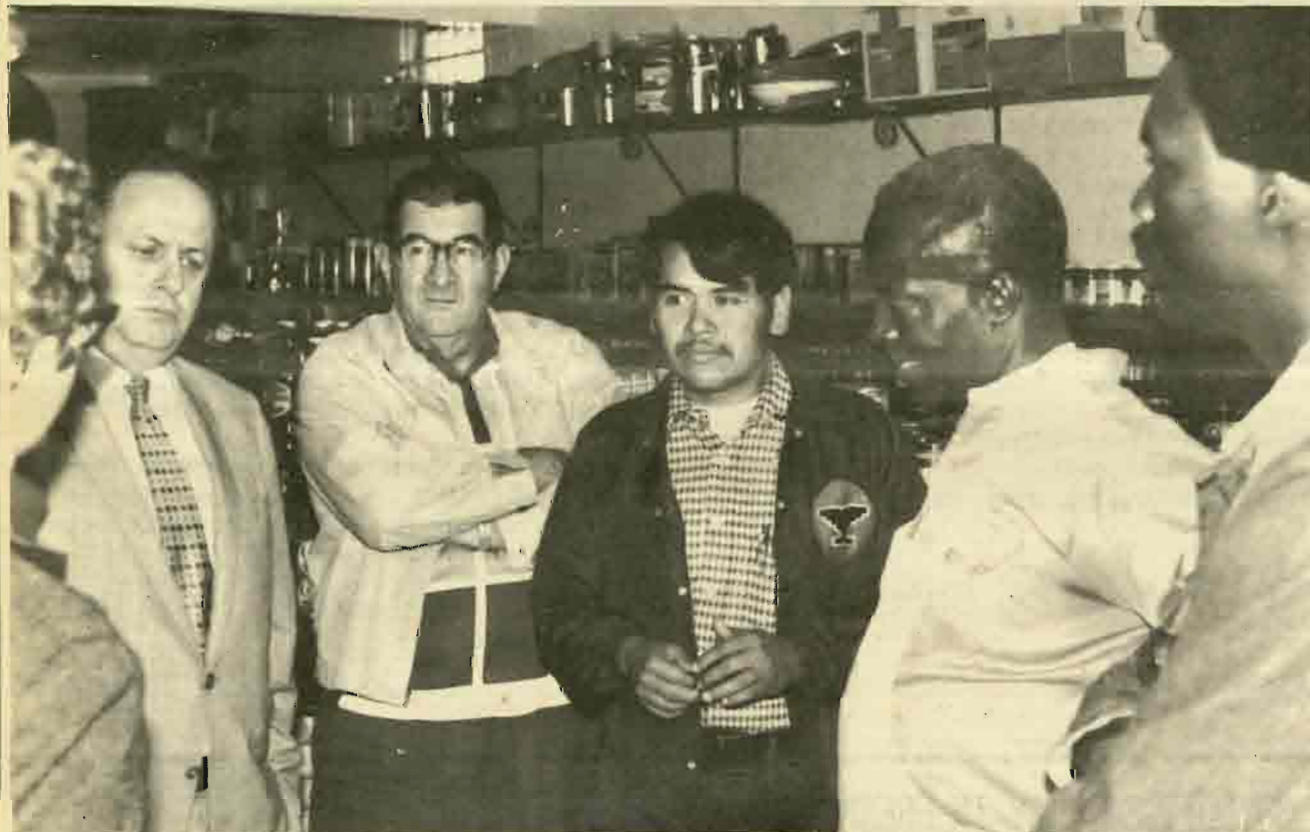
She also said the doctors hoped to begin sending people home on March 14, with ten people scheduled for release that day.

Dorothy also reported that on March 12 over 300 residents of the labor camp attended a meeting at which they decided to sue the city of Homestead and the Homestead Housing Authority for negligence leading to the outbreak of the disease.

The United Farm Workers has offered legal assistance in the suit, she said.

*Please turn to back page*

## Florida Workers Fight HB74



Eliseo Medina, Florida Director for the UFW, meets with Florida Representative Jack Miller (second from left) and others interested in the defeat of Fla. HB 74. From left to right they are: UFW organizer Hugh Tague, Rep.

Miller, and aide to Rep. Miller, Medina, Mr. Elisha Bains, President, Rural Health Committee, and Mr. James Lott, Pahokee, Fla. farm worker.

by Dorothy Johnson

BELLE GLADE, Florida—Florida farm workers are busy working on the campaign to defeat the anti migrant bill that has been introduced in the Florida legislature.

Both UFW union workers, and non union workers are visiting legislators, talking with people in the cities, and writing to the Governor of the state and other influential people about House Bill 74.

The Union members are working hard because they want to protect their Union contract. If HB 74 passes, the Coca Cola contract with UFW will be invalidated and Coke workers will lose all the benefits they have won to date.

Farm workers from all over Florida who do not yet have the benefits of a Union contract are working hard, too, because they know that if HB 74 passes, they will never have a Union of their own. The hope for a better future is in defeating HB 74 so that all Florida farm workers can be free men and women.

Recently one of Florida's legislators, Rep. Jack Miller, came to Belle Glade to talk with workers and to see some of the conditions under which farm workers are forced to work and live.

Rep. Miller went to the loading ramp, where workers who do not have a union hiring hall must go every day and bargain with crew leaders for a job. Rep. Miller also saw some of the poor housing in the area. He agrees that HB 74 is a discriminatory bill, and will vote against it.

We started our letter writing campaign in mid January, and to date nearly 10,000 letters have been sent by farm workers. In addition there are many more letters being sent individually by other people who support our position.

We will not rest until the 1973 session of the Florida legislature has ended (probably at the end of May) because at any point the Republicans and the growers could try to introduce another bill that would be just as repressive as HB 74. So we will continue the struggle in the months to come.

# Safeway, Others Sued for \$100 Million for Selling Poisoned Lettuce

LOS ANGELES, California--A suit seeking to prevent the sale in California of lettuce contaminated with the nerve gas pesticide Monitor 4 was filed March 10 San Francisco Superior Court against major supermarket chains, wholesale distributors, and the pesticide's manufacturers.

Los Angeles area and national firms named in the class action suit, which seeks \$100 million damages in addition to an injunction prohibiting sale of the contaminated lettuce, are Safeway, Alpha Beta, and Market Basket and the manufacturers Chevron Chemical Co, and Chemagro, a subsidiary of Bayer Aspirin.

According to David Grabill, attorney for the plaintiff Interfaith Committee to Aid Farm Workers, "Food and Drug Administration testing for pesticide contamination has been proven woefully inadequate, and poisoned lettuce has been sold throughout California continuously since December.

"Tests reported by an independent laboratory, Agri-Science Laboratories of Hawthorne, California, as recently as February 23 show more than twice the established tolerance for this lethal pesticide on lettuce purchased from Los Angeles Area stores," he continued.

"It is outrageous that those agencies set up to protect the public act instead to protect corporate interests. It is doubly outrageous that the giant retailers like Safeway and Market Basket place their customers' health in danger by their own refusal to adequately test the lettuce," Grabill concluded.

Monitor 4 is a newly developed pesticide first marketed in April, 1972. Three one-thousandths of an ounce on his skin is enough to kill a 150 pound man. In less than lethal

doses it induces headaches, dizziness, nausea and convulsions. Chemically it is closely related to the nerve gases developed by the Nazis in World War II.

Grabill concluded, "We are in court because the government has not taken the most elementary steps to protect the public. Just as in the recent report by Legislative Analyst A. Alan Post, 'licensees have at the present time little reason to believe' they will be punished for violation of pesticide regulations, declaring that the Department of Agriculture is caught between promoting the agriculture industry and watching over its use of chemicals. We are determined that this kind of chemical experimentation on food will no longer be at the expense of farm workers and consumers."

## CONSUMERS WRITE TO SAFEWAY

Dear Sir,

I used to shop at Safeway, but I support the farm workers so now I shop at Fed-Mart.

Yours Sincerely,  
Joan Williamson

Dear Sofia Ybarra,

Thank you very much for the information on the Lettuce Boycott. I've enclosed an other redeipt from Bradshaws - boycotting Safeway Stores.

Sincerely,  
Juleanne Parrish  
La Jolla, Calif.

Enclosed are some grocery stubs which I have accumulated since I stopped shopping at Safeway Stores.

I used to do all my shopping at the La Jolla Safeway market which I enjoyed very much. However, since becoming aware of their role in keeping farm workers downtrodden, I have terminated my family's patronage.

sincerely,  
Freyda Cohen

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

I read of your consumers efforts in the newspaper 'Ocean Beach Rag'

For about three years I have traded at the Safeway Store near 30th in San Diego, where the prices are relatively low and the fruits and vegetables are superior.

After reading of your struggle, I have ceased trading there, and enclose sales slips from several other stores with this letter.

I am a member of Operating Engineers Local 12 and if you have a small poster or leaflet or other item I will endeavor to post it in our hiring hall.

Concurring with me in this change of trading places are 5 other people, some members of my local, who will be happy to lend their names if desired.

Thank you -Fraternally,  
Alexander Campbell  
Reg. #846931 Operating Engineers Local 12

I too am trading now at stores other than Safeway.

Thank you,  
Rosalind Tyson

Mr. R.L. Jaynes

Division Manager, Southern California  
Safeway Stores  
Los Angeles, California 90051

Dear Mr. Jaynes,

I find that I will no longer be able to shop at Safeway. The letter signed by you is a semantic lesson in how language can be used to sway public opinion.

The one basic question is, "Have you not already taken sides?"

Enclosed are cash register tapes which cover some of my purchases over the past three weeks. While they are quite ordinary, they can and will be multiplied many times over.

It would be a fantastic step forward if you bought only U-I-W produce. A step for you, for your organization and for a group of people who desperately need your help.

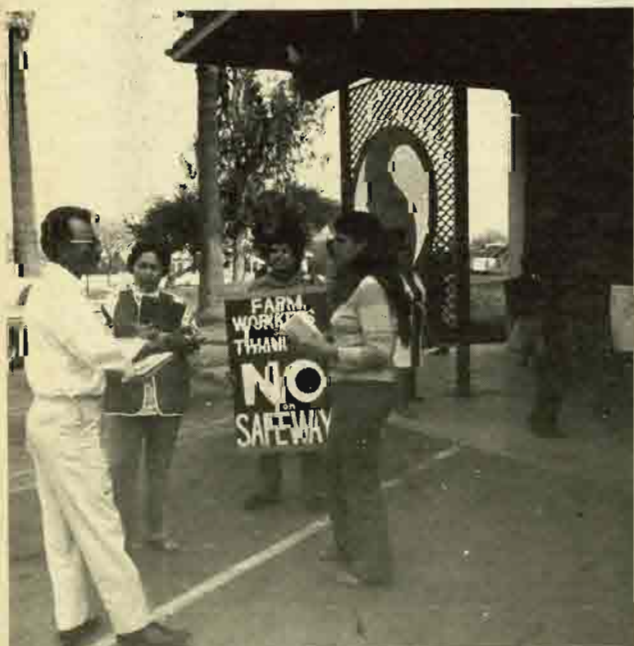
Cordially,  
G.R. Alexander

## VIE DEL WORKERS BOYCOTT SAFEWAY IN FRESNO

by Federico M. Flotte,  
Parlier, California

As the Safeway Boycott gains momentum more and more Union members are parti-

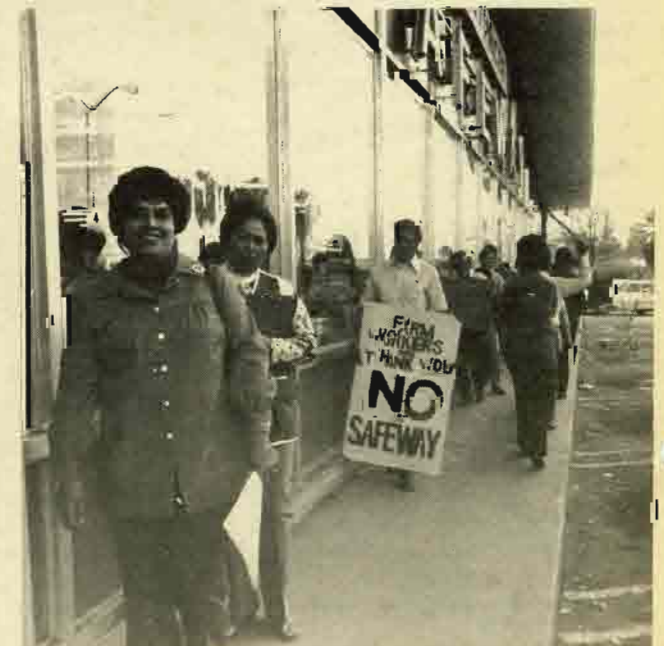
cipating on the picketlines. Most of the workers you see in the following photos are sisters and brothers who work for the Vie Del Company of Fresno and are for the most part new members.



Alberto Estrada, Vice President of the Ranch Committee at the Vie Del Company in Fresno County gives final instructions to D. Ma. Mercedes Flotte, Kathy S. Frente and Julia Garcia (left to right).



Our sisters and brothers from the Vie Del Company come out to picket every Sunday and say they will do so until Safeway decides not to sell scab lettuce. No cars enter the Safeway parking lot as the boycotters convince shoppers to support the boycott.



Vie Del Union members urge all farm workers to help picket Safeway so that the lettuce growers will sign with the Union soon.

# REPORT ON A&P



by Barbara Luetke

MADISON, Wisconsin--Friends of the Farm Workers, representing the United Farm Workers Union, and the Union Council of the University of Wisconsin have reached an agreement concerning the serving of head lettuce on campus. The Council voted 7 to 4 to cease selling any head lettuce in four of the University's major eating centers.

Leafletting is now being done in Residence Hall eating areas, asking students to boycott salads and asking that lettuce be removed from fruit dishes. Negotiations with campus stores and restaurants, with picketing and leafletting where necessary, will begin this week, in an attempt to remove all scab head lettuce from the student area.

The Friends of the Farm Workers hope to be able to join the national boycott of A & P stores by early spring.

MADISON, Wisconsin--While Friends of the Farm Workers in Madison is busy publicizing the boycott of Guild liquor products and leafletting University of Wisconsin Residence Hall eating facilities asking students to boycott scab head lettuce, the rest of the country has been

picketing A & P stores (Safeway in the West).

An A & P fact sheet from the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company in New York reports that A & P is the largest purchaser of scab lettuce in the United States--four billion heads a week.

However, the New York Stock Exchange reflects the troubled times of the company: ten years ago A & P stock sold at 65--in January it was listed at 15 1/2.

A & P has a documentable history of price raising in inner city stores (as much as 28% in East Harlem), of mislabeling cuts of meats, and of failure to stock, or overpricing, advertised items. In 1972 the New York City Consumers Affairs Dept. found 1,765 items of 5,099 on sale were either unavailable or overpriced. A & P history records court cases for racial discrimination in 1965 and 1971 and for sexual discrimination in 1972.

A & P scores especially low with the Black community. Rev. Jesse Jackson, arrested for picketing A & P because of discriminatory hiring practices, refusal to deal with Black owned community businesses, and employee charges of racism in 1970, said, "We want A & P to cultivate our skills the way they cultivate our appetites."

## UNION SUES SAFEWAY FOR DECEIVING PUBLIC

The public is being deceived and the struggle of farm workers is being misrepresented by Safeway Stores, according to an \$11.5 million suit filed today in Los Angeles Superior Court.

The suit was brought by the United Farm Workers because Safeway's advertising campaign claims that all its lettuce is "union harvested" and that the "lettuce controversy" is really a jurisdictional labor dispute.

Sanford N. Nathan, a Union attorney, said, "The suit asks for an immediate injunction to prohibit Safeway from displaying any signs advertising in the media, or alleging in any way that Safeway lettuce is union-harvested."

"Safeway is willfully disregarding a recent California Supreme Court decision by claiming that growers who signed "sweetheart contracts" with the Teamsters are selling and distributing union-harvested lettuce." On December 29, 1972, the Court ruled that the Teamsters did not represent a majority, or even a substantial number, of farm workers under the contracts, inasmuch as growers or the Teamsters never consulted the farm workers themselves.

Another cause of action in the Union suit charges that Safeway has violated the California Civil Code section which prohibits unfair business practices. Mr. Nathan stated, "The United Farm Workers have become highly visible, well-known and widely supported. We find it particularly reprehensible that Safeway should try to trade on the goodwill of the public toward farm workers by claiming to stock Union lettuce when very little, if any

iceberg lettuce sold by Safeway is Union-harvested.

"Safeway is deliberately distorting the facts in an effort to subvert the Union's lawful and peaceful boycott of Safeway, Mr. Nathan concluded. The giant supermarket chain has been under boycott by Union supporters for the last two months. Safeway officials have admitted that business has declined as a result of customer turnaways by \$5,000 per store per week.

## SHELL

### IS UNFAIR TO LABOR

American oil companies have signed new labor contracts providing health and safety clauses, pension improvements and a plan for top-level review of pension plans.

The Dutch/British Shell Company has refused even to negotiate with its American employees on these subjects.

**PLEASE**

**DO NOT BUY Shell Products**

If you have a Shell credit card, please return it to Shell Oil Company, P. O. Box 80, Tulsa, Okla.

**OIL, CHEMICAL and ATOMIC WORKERS  
International Union, AFL-CIO**

This consumer boycott is directed only against products of Shell Oil and Shell Chemical companies, and not against independent merchants selling these products.

## QUAD CITIES BOYCOTT REPORT

by Janet Mumm, Rock Island, Illinois

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am a member of a volunteer committee here in Rock Island/Davenport, deep in the heart of the mid-west. Our committee is made up of about 25 people, two full-time volunteers, and many supporters.

Last Saturday, March 3, marked a red letter day for the Quad Cities Boycott Committee.

We had been having much trouble from the local police because of our picketing of an A&P store in a shopping plaza. But last Saturday, with 55 people picketing the store, the police told us that we have "every right to be there." They hassled us about our leaflets, but next week we will be right back there, leafletting as well as picketing. We consider that a major victory for the Farmworkers as well as for us and wanted to share our joy.

In addition, that evening we held a Farm Workers benefit dance in Davenport and were able to raise of \$800.00, which we gave to the midwest regional office in Chicago. It was one of the best things our committee here has been able to do. Much work was put into the dance and we were overwhelmed by the response the supporters in the Quad Cities gave us. Si se puede

## No Patrocinamos...

La Unión urge a todo campesino y simpaticante que no compre vinos o licores que lleven las etiquetas de las vinerías y destiladores Guild hasta que White River Farms firme un convenio nuevo con sus trabajadores:

### VINOS DE MESA

Winemasters Guild  
Tavola  
Roma  
Famiglia Cribari  
J. Pierrot  
La Boheme  
Cresta Blanca  
Mendocino  
Garrett  
Alta  
Virginia  
Virginia Dare  
Lodi  
La Mesa (Safeway only)

### VINOS ESPECIALES

Ocean Spray Cranberry Rose  
Vin Glogg(Parrott & Co.)

### VINOS ESPUMANTES

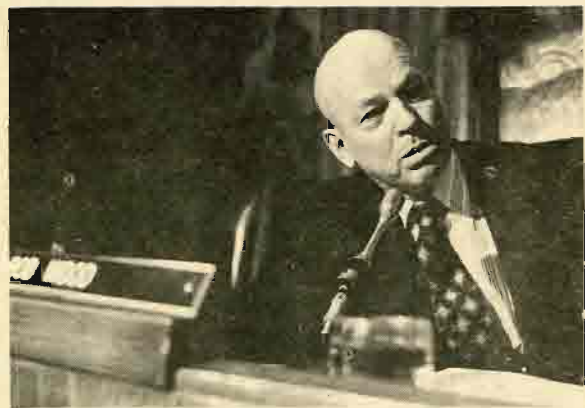
Winemasters' Guild  
Cook's  
Cook's Imperial  
Roma Reserve  
Cribari Reserve  
Jeanne D'Arc  
La Boheme  
Ceremony  
Versailles  
Cresta Blanca  
Saratoga  
J. Pierrot

### LICORES

Ceremony  
Guild Blue Ribbon  
Roma  
St. Mark  
Citation  
Old San Francisco  
Parrott V. S.

# Union Charges at Wild Pesticide Hearings

# "Poisoned Lettuce Still on the Shelves"



UFW's COHEN: "an instance of the ultimate corruption in government..."



IDA HONOROF: "...We demand to be heard..."

LOS ANGELES, California--Hearings into the shipment and sale of lettuce contaminated with the pesticide Monitor-4 exploded here March 9, with Union representatives, pesticide manufacturers, Assemblymen, public health officials and consumer experts all trading verbal punches. The State Assembly Select Committee on Agriculture, Food and Nutrition had called the hearings to investigate the pesticide contamination of portions of the Imperial Valley lettuce crop this winter and had just heard Assembly Speaker Bob Moretti as its first witness when Ida Honorof, consumer advocate on Los Angeles radio station KPFK charged to the witness table to protest the agenda.

"These hearings would have never been held if I had not broken this story on KPFK," she shouted at Chairwoman March Fong, "and here you have scheduled me to speak tomorrow and put United Farm Workers representative Jerry Cohen way down the list today.

"We demand to be heard first. We have charges to make, charges which the other speakers must respond to. Here you're putting them first, so they can make a complete whitewash of the situation. We won't stand for it, we demand to be heard first."

Chaos reigned. Chairwoman Fong banged her gavel, demanding that Ms. Honorof take her seat. She refused. The five members of the committee quickly huddled, with Ms. Honorof still shouting charges at them, occasionally supported from people from the audience. Pleas by the Sergeant at Arms and a Highway Patrolman had no effect--Ms. Honorof made it clear that if she was to be removed at all, it would have to be forcibly. No one tried.

Ms. Fong was finally forced to call a recess, and the Committee along with Cohen and Art Torres from the Union, retired to a back room to see what could be worked out.

They reached a compromise whereby the government witnesses were scheduled before Cohen would testify quickly and limit their remarks

to the regulations in question, so that the Union's charges would be made while the press was still present. They returned, Ms. Honorof agreed to the changes and the hearings resumed.

The first witness was Claude Finnell, Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner, who defended himself by saying that "if this type of incident had occurred anywhere but in California, it would have gone undetected and unreported." Union Attorney Cohen was later to charge that Finnell deliberately withheld information on the scandal in an apparent attempt to cover it up.

"Contrary to the official position," Cohen told the Committee, "we charge that responsible agencies knew lettuce was contaminated with Monitor-4, knew farm workers were harvesting it, knew it was being shipped to retail markets, and knew that the consuming public was eating it. This is an instance of the ultimate corruption in government--agencies serving the economic interests they are supposed to regulate."

David Bingham, Assistant Director, Inspection Services of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, followed Finnell and told of how contaminated lettuce had been "reconditioned" for sale--a process whereby the outer leaves were stripped from the head until the lettuce met pesticide standards. Bingham also told the Committee that "the California Department of Public Health has found that no farm worker were adversely affected" in handling the contaminated produce.

Cohen later challenged Bingham on both points. "I want to speak to this issue of 'reconditioning'." Cohen told the Committee. "Apparently the State of California thought it was its job to have someone strip off leaves off of poisoned lettuce and sell it to the public. If a retail clerk did that, how many leaves would he strip off to know that it wasn't poisoned? People were eating this stuff. The State, instead of telling consumers what was happening, decided they were going to try to sell as much of this lettuce as possible.

"Consumers all over the country have been sold this poisoned stuff," Cohen continued. "The legal tolerance for Monitor-4 is one part per million. On February 23 the Food and Drug Administration sent a letter to Ms. Honorof concerning some contaminated lettuce sold to the U.S. Navy. In their letter they admit that 2.5 parts per million were found in that lettuce, but that the action taken was simply 'U.S. Navy notified.' What does that mean? Does that mean the sailors ate that lettuce?"

"On January 16 in Rochester, New York, it says 6.5 parts per million--that's six and a half times the tolerance. The comment the FDA has on that letter is, 'none available for seizure'. That means the public in Rochester, New York ate it.

"On January 17, Chelsea, Massachusetts, 3.6 parts per million of Monitor. 'None available for seizure.' I imagine the public in Chelsea Massachusetts ate that lettuce as well.

"January 18, Buffalo, New York, 4.7 parts per million; 'None available for seizure'. The list goes on and on."

Prompted by Cohen's charges the Committee later got admissions from government officials that "none available for seizure" in fact meant that the lettuce had been sold to the consuming public.

Cohen was equally adamant on the question of farm worker safety. "There were farm workers in January who suffered symptoms--nausea, headaches, dizziness--which are also symptoms of the flu. They were not told of the Monitor problem at that point. Doctors didn't know what was wrong with them. By now the evidence of pesticide poisoning has disappeared from their bodies. How do they prove they were poisoned with Monitor-4?"

"One of the insidious results of withholding information is to prevent farm workers from getting appropriate legal redress. Well, were going to see that they get that redress," Cohen concluded.

Cohen's testimony put the government officials on the defensive. He

pointed out that the "reconditioning" process cuts both ways. If it is possible to bring lettuce within the legal tolerance by stripping away outer leaves, that means that those leaves have a much higher concentration than the rest of the head--"perhaps as much as fifty or 100 parts per million, in contrast to the legal limit of one part per million for the entire head," Cohen said. "People take those outer leaves and make a salad out of it," Cohen pointed out, "and at those kind of contamination levels, it could be very dangerous."

The Federal Environmental Protection Agency, which is in charge of testing and registering pesticides for use, also came under fire. "I think I know how they test this stuff," Cohen said. "I think what they do is they let the chemical companies test it, then they take the chemical companies word for it, that it's safe. The same companies that have an economic interest in selling the stuff. I don't think the EPA itself tests the pesticide at all."

Under further questioning from the Committee, representatives of the EPA admitted that Cohen's charges were true. Douglas Cempt, spokesman for the EPA, admitted that the testing responsibilities fall entirely upon the manufacturer, with the EPA responsible only for evaluating the companies' data and issuing registrations for use.

The mornings testimony ended with Domingo Tamez, a representative of the Teamsters, claiming that "We have never come in contact with any of our members that have a problem with this case of infesticides, Monitor-4."

Under questioning from Assemblyman Richard Alatorre (Democrat of Los Angeles), Tamez admitted that Teamster contracts covered the ranches where excessive levels of Monitor were found, but still maintained that Teamster workers had no problem with it. Alatorre looked puzzled.



CHAIRWOMAN MARCH FONG & COMMITTEE: "Get out of here--we're in executive session!..."



ASSEMBLY SPEAKER BOB MORETTI (right): "...we cannot tolerate the use of farm workers as laboratory mice for discovering the human health effects of new pesticides..."



FINNELL & BINGHAM: everything is OK...



EPA's CEMPT: EPA doesn't test pesticides...



ASSEMBLYMAN ALATORRE: ...dubious



TEAMSTER TAMEZ: No worker complaints about Monitor-4



# Calexico Clinic: Serving the People

Stories- Photos by  
Cristi Willison



Mrs. Frimbres is visited by Calexico Clinic Field Worker Yolanda Leal

## "...THEY HAVE TREATED ME MAGNIFICENTLY!"--BEATRIZ FRIMBRES

CALEXICO, California--"I believe there are a lot of people asleep and they should awaken, because our Clinic offers everything. I have never in all my life received these examinations, from the time I was a little boy. It looks like Chavez is going great."

Those are the sentiments of Isidro Frimbres. His wife Beatriz is a Calexico clinic patient with several chronic diseases now being controlled under the supervision of Dr. Ken Tittle.

Beatriz first visited the clinic in August and has been seen there and in her home every week since. This is especially important for her because she is nearly totally blind, as well as having arthritis, high blood pressure and shortness of breath.

The family health workers of the Clinic, Yolanda Leal and Cristi Willison, visit her once a week to make sure she has no bad reactions to the medicines and to refill her

prescriptions, to take her blood pressure, and reassure her if she has problems of doubts. Over the course of the seven months under Dr. Tittle's care, her condition has stabilized well, and her health improved.

"I feel much better," she says. "They have treated me magnificently and I have noted more improvement now with Dr. Ken Tittle than before when I was being seen in Mexicali.

"It seems to me that the pills are a substitute for injections, right? I say this because I have had injections and now that I am taking only pills I feel much, much better."

## ROBERTO FIGUEROA: "I THINK I WAS SEEN BY OVER TWENTY SPECIALISTS..."

CALEXICO, California--Roberto Figueroa first visited the Calexico clinic in December because of pain in his legs. Dr. Graeme Fincke treated his minor complaint, but also asked Mr. Figueroa to return for a complete physical.

While examining him, Dr. Fincke noticed an abnormality in his eye and asked him about it. The patient told that he had had three months of blurring vision and that the last week the eye had been red and painful. The other eye had been hurt in an accident three years before. The doctor referred him to an eye doctor in Mexicali who diagnosed a rare eye disease known as Fale's.

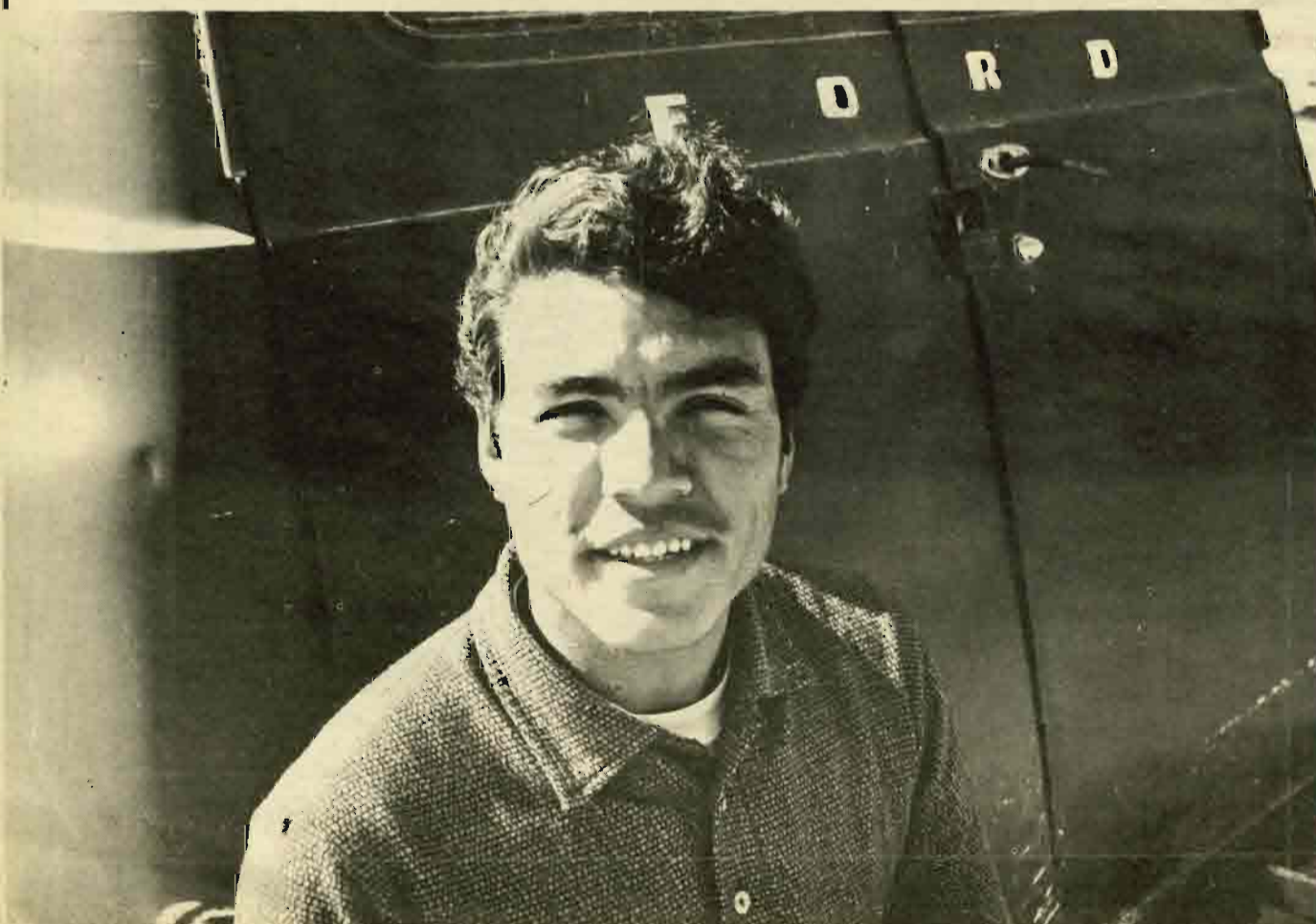
Arrangements were made with the University

Eye Institute for Mr. Figueroa to be seen at a conference of specialists. The Union arranged for over \$1,200 worth of special services, analyses and treatment. Mr. Figueroa commented, "I was in the hospital eight days and I think I was seen by over twenty specialists."

The resident in the Department of Ophthalmology, Robert Yee, wrote, "Thank you for referring Mr. Figueroa, a very pleasant gentleman, with a very unusual eye problem to us. We hope we can be helpful in any way possible and look forward to further consultations with you in trying to unravel the patient's problem and bring about the best results possible."

The patient is still under close follow-

up care both at the University and the Calexico clinic. Mr. Figueroa relates, "When I went to the University I could barely see, but now it seems I am getting better. Little by little I am getting better. I give my thanks to the Union and I recommend to everyone that the Union is good, especially the Medical Plan, and I am very, very grateful for all."



## CERAMICS by DORA



LARGE DISH- \$3.50    SMALL DISH - \$2.50  
PENDANT - \$2.50

CUP- \$4.50    LARGE BOWL - \$10.00

DORA KEYSER    Allow 4 weeks  
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# HOW DO THE MALCRIADO COMMITTEES WORK?

28,000 MALCRIADOS IN 28 DAYS — THE PACE GROWS . . .

LA PAZ, California— In a report to EL MALCRIADO March 8, Union Business Manager Jack Quigley announced that sales grew from \$1771.00 in January to \$2811 in February, an increase of \$1040. Union Director Cesar Chavez declared that "this achievement is the result of the determined efforts made by the EL MALCRIADO Committees who are distributing the newspaper door-to-door in an increasing number of farm worker communities and the participation in this work by boycotters and Union supporters across the country."

The total of \$2811 represents the sale of more than 28,000 copies of EL MALCRIADO in 28 days and a step forward toward its financial independence.

Official Representatives of EL MALCRIADO in California and Arizona report that every day farm workers are responding more and more enthusiastically to the distribution drive and predict that EL MALCRIADO's circulation will reach 50,000 by the end of the year.

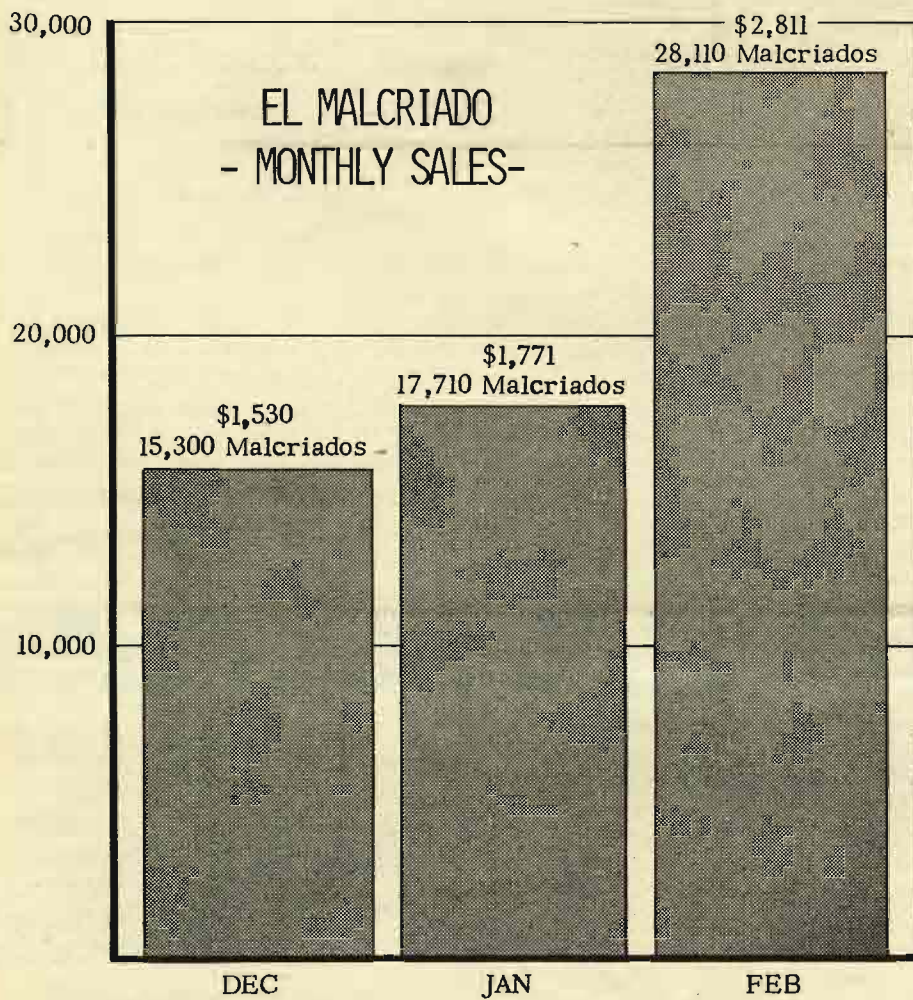
In order to reach this goal, more volunteers are needed to form EL MALCRIADO Committees wherever there are farm workers. If YOU have the dedication and the spirit of struggle necessary to do this work call your Official EL MALCRIADO Representative or write or call:

EL MALCRIADO Committees  
P.O. Box 62  
Keene, California 93531  
(805) 822-5531



photo: J.G. Varela

*Malcriado Committee in Greenfield, California meets to discuss door-to-door campaign.*



When the sisters and brothers of the EL MALCRIADO Committee in your community come to your door, welcome them and subscribe to the newspaper so it will be brought to your door every other week. By cooperating with the EL MALCRIADO Committees you help to: (1) develop a network of communication and solidarity that will strengthen our movement in its struggle against the growers and their allies; and (2) to establish the presence of La Causa in the streets of every farm worker community. Join the EL MALCRIADO Committees!

## OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF EL MALCRIADO

- San Diego County:  
Sofia Ybarra--(714) 479-5727
- Delano to Lamont:  
Jean Flores--(805) 725-9434
- King City area:  
Teresa Amezcua--(408) 674-2230
- Tulare County:  
Jesus Martinez--(209) 784-7344
- Fresno County:  
Hijinio Rangel (209) 591-5240
- Salinas area:  
Jose Guadalupe Varela--(408) 449-7578
- San Luis, Arizona area:  
Jose G. Espinosa--(602) 627-2668  
(c/o Union Office)

**EL MALCRIADO**



**Official Voice of the United Farm Workers**

(Use this order form only if there is no EL MALCRIADO Committee in your community.)

EL MALCRIADO is published every two weeks. Send this form with your order as soon as possible so that you'll receive your newspapers on time.

I want to help distribute EL MALCRIADO. Send me:

\_\_\_\_\_ bundle(s) of 50 issues in English.

\_\_\_\_\_ bundle(s) of 50 issues in Spanish.

\_\_\_\_\_ bundle(s) of 50 issues with \_\_\_\_\_ issues in English and \_\_\_\_\_ issues in Spanish.

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order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# Labor and Movement News



## UNITED STATES:

### STRIKE & BOYCOTT SHELL OIL

BAL HARBOUR, Florida--The AFL-CIO Executive Council has given its full support to the strike and boycott of Shell Oil Co. called by the Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers Union because of Shell's refusal to negotiate health and safety clauses and pension plan improvements.

Shell and Standard Oil Co. of California (Chevron) are the only two major oil companies which have refused to negotiate those matters.

"It is obviously only right and just that the workers themselves have some control over their work environment," the Council noted. "Shell alone among the major producers refuses this proposal."

### FOOD PRICES CONTINUE RECORD RISES

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Retail food prices jumped a staggering 2.1 percent in January, the largest one-month rise since January, 1951 when they rose 2.5 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics here.

The continuing monthly jump in food prices has been the principal factor in the steady rise in the cost of living. Nonetheless, Nixon's Wage Board continues to hold down the salaries of American working people.

### UNION MEMBERSHIP GAINS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The membership of 185 national unions headquartered in the United States increased by half a million between 1968 and 1970 to a record high of 20.7 million, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported here.

AFL-CIO affiliates reported a total membership of 15,916,000 in 1970, an increase of about 370,000 over 1968.

"Dire predictions regarding union stagnation appear unfounded," BLS said in a summary. "In the last six years, unions recruited an average of more than 460,000 members annually."

### SOLIDARITY WITH FARAH WORKERS

The strike against the Farah Manufacturing Company has entered its ninth month. Across the country, support for the strikers increases, while public opinion turns against the company which forces its workers to labor under conditions that bring to mind the early days of industrialization during the Nineteenth Century.

Recently, Roman Catholic bishop of El Paso Rev. S.M. Metzger, sent out a letter asking his fellow bishops to support the strikers saying that Farah treats its workers like "machines of production and not as human beings."

Even though his sales have gone down by \$8 million Willie Farah, who owns seven manufacturing plants (four in Texas, two in New Mexico, and one in Hong Kong) with sales of \$160 million a year, continues to refuse union recognition to his workers, who are mostly chicanos.

But the strikers continue firm in their struggle in their struggle. Boycott Farah pants, solidarity with the strikers.

### VICTORY AT WOUNDED KNEE

WOUNDED KNEE, South Dakota - For native Americans, Wounded Knee has an almost sacred meaning. This is where federal troops massacred more than 300 Sioux men, women and children in 1890, climaxing the campaign of genocide launched against the native population during the 19th Century in the United States.

For this reason the members of the American Indian Movement chose Wounded Knee as the place in which to dramatize before the entire world the desperate living conditions to which the indigenous peoples of this country are subjected.

By occupying Wounded Knee they sought to symbolically unearth the "heart of the Indian people" and sought to bring about a rebirth of the native American spirit. Among their demands were that: the sovereignty of the Indian people be recognized; the enforcement of 371 disregarded treaties and belated Senate ratification of more than 200 treaties negotiated in 1948; restoration of a permanent land base of 110 million acres by 1976; the abolition of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and that violence committed against the native American people be considered federal crimes.

For several days, they were surrounded by federal troops that were awaiting orders to end the occupation by force. The government at first refused to accept the demands of the native Americans. But the native Americans inspired by the spirit of independence and heroism of their forefathers, decided they would not back down and were willing to die for their demands.

Public opinion, especially church groups and oppressed minority groups, pressured the federal government not to launch an armed attack against the native Americans. The conscience of the nation was on trial: would the massacre of Wounded Knee be repeated?

Finally, a temporary victory for the native Americans. Federal troops withdrew. The new heroes of Wounded Knee are still alive. Negotiations continue, but the Bureau of Indian Affairs remains the main obstacle to a settlement.

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE WORLD:



### WHO CONTROLS MEXICAN INDUSTRY?

Even though Mexican federal laws stipulate that all companies in which foreigners are involved must be at least 51 percent Mexican-owned, a recent study by the government shows that of the 1,195 foreign companies operating in Mexico, only 845 are partially owned by Mexican interests.

Of the 1100 companies that operate in the industrial sector of the Mexican economy, 90 percent have their headquarters in the United States. In the production of foodstuffs the participation of Mexican firms is almost nil.

Along with this invasion of foreign interests that is taking place in Mexico, only 2 out of every 10 persons is permanently employed and there are between six and seven million unemployed in a population of 50 million persons. This does not include the underemployed nor those working at starvation wages. (TNS)

### ARGENTINE WORKERS ADVANCE

Democratic and progressive groups, led by the C.G.T. (National Confederation of Argentine Workers), are forcing right-wing elements, who have been in power via a military regime since 1955, to allow the Justicialist Party (Peronist) to participate in the upcoming elections.

The C.G.T. was founded during the Peron government (1945-55) and was at that time the first mass labor union in the history of Argentina. Despite the repression launched by the oligarchy against the C.G.T. after the military takeover in 1955, the labor union continues to hold the loyalty of the working class.

Realizing that the C.G.T. cannot be destroyed, General Lanusse's government finds itself with two alternatives: permit popular candidates to participate in the elections or risk the outbreak of civil war.

At this time it looks as if Hector Campora the presidential candidate of the Justicialist Party, is gaining overwhelming public support. The question is: what will the ruling oligarchy do in the face of an eminent victory by the workers?

NOTE: Hector Campora won by a big majority in March 11 election.

### SPANISH UNIONISTS SENTENCED

Last summer, nine Spanish workers were arrested for wanting for their country what other European countries have: the right to unionize. Now, they are being sentenced with up to 15 years imprisonment.

The nine workers are members of a clandestine worker's committee that is fighting in behalf of the workers within the unions

set up and controlled by the fascist Spanish regime.

The committee has the support of the workers, and the government, unable to quell the waves of strikes that have been sweeping across the country, has decided to make an example of the committee's leaders. One of the nine is Marcelino Camacho, who after serving 5 years in prison was again jailed last June.

Another prisoner, worker-priest Francisco Garcia, in a letter to the bishop, wrote: "...while men are being denied a most sacred right, my place is here. It would be a disgrace for an apostle of gospel liberation to walk around free under a dictatorship."

### CHILE: ALLENDE WINS

International press agencies at the service of the giant economic and political interests have presented the results of the latest elections in Chile as a victory for the right without analyzing the true nature and significance of the elections.

In Chile, the decision made by the people was to keep in power the government of the Unidad Popular, a coalition of progressive political parties. The opposition, a coalition of right-wing parties, asked the Chilean people to give them the two-thirds majority they needed to gain one vote in the Senate, which would have made it possible for them to oust Allende's government.

Instead the voters gave the Unidad Popular more representatives in the national congress. Reactionary forces won only 54% of the vote, rather than the 66% they wanted.

This seems to demonstrate once again how progressive movements can make headway even under the most adverse conditions.



HARRY TRUCKER  
WRITES  
BIG BROTHER FITZ

Frank Fitzsimmons  
President, Teamsters Union

TEAMSTER CONTRACTS  
NOT VALID

"...Those contracts signed by (the Teamsters) ...were never considered valid. It was never approved by the rank and file. When I say 'rank and file' I mean all the farm workers who actually do the dirty job. I don't mean the truck drivers nor the packing shed workers. They have different kinds of contracts.

"There never was a farm worker member of the Teamsters in 1970 except Bud Antle which holds a contract with them prior to that year. I became a member of the Teamsters along with the rest as employees of Merrill Farms. We didn't sign voluntarily, in fact we stalled for awhile. But then we were told that unless we signed, we would be deprived of our employment. There was no alternative but comply.

"It was clear all this time that the Teamsters were never interested in the welfare of the farm worker. Aside from paying our dues, we never saw a union representative nor were asked to attend meetings which I am sure can give us the opportunity to discuss our grievances...."

--R. R. Nachor  
149 W. Market St., Salinas  
the Salinas Californian

"Dear Big Bro. Fitz:

"I, Harry Trucker, take pen in hand to denounce your decision to renegotiate Teamster contracts with the Lettuce Growers.

"Not since Big Dave Beck broke the Boeing Strike in 1948 has any Teamster Boss been so insensitive of workers rights.

"The vast majority of Farm Workers, who are Chicanos, have expressed their preference for Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers Union--not Frank Fitzsimmons and the Teamsters Union.

"It's bad enough us Truckers have to put up with contracts that have conditions of forced overtime, no sick leave, lousy equipment, forbids beards and no vested pensions. Ain't the Lettuce and Vegetable workers got enough problems with the Agri-Business Bums without one of your "sweetheart" contracts?

"You have been asked by Cesar Chavez and five million Chicanos to keep your cotton-picking hands off the Lettuce Pickers; so why don't you?

"Anyway, Fitz, I don't expect you'll pay any attention to me or the rest of us Truckers here in Seattle, but I'll tell ya, we're gonna support them Farm Workers until all the Scab Lettuce Rots."

"Fraternally,  
"Harry Trucker,  
"Local 174, Teamsters Union."

CREW BOSS

by Katie Gordon

ULSTER COUNTY FRIENDS OF THE FARM WORKERS  
Kerhonkson, N.Y.

*Punk  
with a gun, a swagger  
Three old ladies and a mother  
That he beats.  
Dixie Peach  
shot a man last summer, and another in the winter,  
and broke bones on an ex-junkie  
Who got to figgerin he was better off in Harlem...  
Proibly was.*

*Crew boss, you're a product.  
Like the apples, cotton, oranges. Profiteer,  
says the grower,  
Overseer, foreman, Here!  
Try and keep these animals in line, will you?  
I'll be up at the house.*

*An the guns  
An the two-by-fours  
(An the fists'll do against the drunks an the junkies  
an small guys an women)  
An the knives,  
You can tell a man's age, he said, by the number of scars...  
An all the scare-talk about the Boss-Man, the Wench-Man an his  
Hench-Man, an the Man who's cut off men's ears an left sick  
people on the road--*

*It does seem to get'em out onto the fields Monday mornings.  
The grower is pleased.  
The crew boss gets a bonus, and is asked to be sure and  
come back next year.*

**COWPIES**  
from the  
**GROWERS**

compiled by Jim Horgan, Research Department

The following is a collection of comments and statements from growers and their propaganda journals over the past few months

...  
A Chevron Chemical Company ad in California Farmer (October 21, 1972) boasted of the benefits of Monitor 4:

"Ortho Monitor is an extremely hard-hitting no-nonsense insecticide that not only kills on contact, but is absorbed by plant tissues for prolonged protection...Monitor's positive, dependable control helps you harvest a crop free of insect damage or contamination."

...  
A.G. Salter, president of the Industry Committee on Citrus Additives and Pesticides, Inc., condemning the "emotionalism" in the public demand for pesticide regulation (California Farmer, October 7, 1972):

"No matter what we do there will always be a hazard. We cannot ride in a car, fly in a plane, walk across the street or take a bath without the risk of accident and injury or death. There is likewise risk involved with the use of pesticides, particularly at the time of application, but the risk from eating food with the amazingly limited quantities of residues legally permitted on foodstuffs is only a very minute fraction compared with the risk of everyday living."

...  
California Director of Agriculture C.B. Christiansen OKed the eating of lettuce in a statement in California Farmer (September 2 1972):

"The great majority of American people are not likely to be misled by this grossly misleading boycott of California lettuce, which is a refreshing part of just about any meal."

...  
Southern Washington apple grower George Ing issued a set of "guidelines" on farm workers in the Goodfruit Grower (April 15, 1972):

"Students have become a vital part of our labor force....Our approach is to try to get the more productive people working in our operation while they are young. If we can get a 14-year-old started thinning, we think we will have him for several years."

...  
More on child labor from George Ing in the same article:

"We also try to attract the power structure of the local school so that we will have the popular-productive kids who will in turn attract others to our place. We also try to use a number of girls. This attracts boys and vice-versa. Girls are very, very good for thinning because they are meticulous and conscientious. Special problems exist. Outhouses must be frequent, clean and sturdy, particularly when girls are used."

*"...THEY SIGNED A SWEETHEART CONTRACT THAT THE COURT KICKED OUT SO THEY WENT IN AND SIGNED A SUPER SWEETHEART CONTRACT. AND THE PURPOSE OF THAT CONTRACT IS TO DESTROY THE FARM WORKERS UNION. AND I JUST DON'T THINK THEY ARE GOING TO BE SUCCESSFUL. I DON'T THINK YOU WIPE OUT AN INSTITUTION THAT HAS ITS BASE IN THE DESIRE OF PEOPLE TO LIVE IN SOME OTHER CONDITION OTHER THAN ABJECT POVERTY. I DON'T THINK THESE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO BE PUSHED BACK INTO ABJECT POVERTY, WHICH WOULD BE THE RESULT OF DESTROYING THEIR UNION, AND I DON'T THINK THE TEAMSTERS ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO DESTROY THEM."*

--George Meany

# Teamsters Try To Strong-Arm Truth

State Assembly hearings on the poisoned lettuce scandal took place on March 9th in Los Angeles. The Western Conference of Teamsters tried to strong-arm the trugh by applying extreme pressure on the Assembly to try to prevent these hearings. The Assembly, though, held the hearings despite this pressure.

The hearings established that responsible agencies knew lettuce was contaminated with Monitor 4, knew farm workers were harvesting it, knew it was being shipped to retail markets, and knew that the consuming public was eating it. This is an instance of ultimate corruption in government--agencies serving the economic interests they are supposed to regulate.

The following specifics were also established at the hearings:

(1) The State Department of Agriculture has committed a possible crime under the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act by allowing adulterated lettuce to be entered into the stream of commerce after this lettuce was "reconditioned".

(2) Lettuce growers in the Imperial Valley of California and the Yuma Valley of Arizona introduced poisoned lettuce into interstate commerce in violation of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

(3) The Food and Drug Administration was grossly negligent in allowing poisoned lettuce to be shipped across state lines and consumed by the public.

(4) The Environmental Protection Agency and the chemical companies involved did not adequately test Monitor 4 in that no consideration was given to the adverse weather conditions which existed in the Imperial Valley and which

periodically exist in the Salinas Valley.

(5) Despite official denials, poisoned lettuce is still on the retail shelves.

(6) Information relating to the large-scale contamination of lettuce was deliberately and maliciously withheld from farm workers who unknowingly were forced to handle the "hot" lettuce in the Imperial and Yuma Valleys. Many of these workers suffered the symptoms of organo-phosphate poisoning which also happen to be the symptoms of flu. Lack of information prevented farm workers from obtaining timely and appropriate medical relife and subsequent legal redress against lettuce growers.

(7) Various doctors have treated consumers for the effects of organo-phosphate poisoning.

If the Teamsters had had their way, these facts would have been kept from the public. Now more detailed hearings at a federal level are essential to probe more carefully the role of the Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency. It is time the chemical companies be regulated by the federal agencies.

Senator Nelson, new Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Migratroy Labor, is uniquely qualified to handle this problem. His staff is well-acquainted with the adverse environmental impact of economic poisons, and they are well-acquainted with the inadequate methods of the FDA. Finally, and most importantly, the hearings clearly established the wide spread poisoning of farm workers which is occuring in the lettuce fields in California. The only appropriate Senate forum in which these workers can be heard is the Subcommittee on Migratory Labor

## History of Conflict With Teamsters

(We are printing in two sections, the following letter by William Kircher, Director of Organization of the national AFL-CIO, in which he gives a clear and well-written account of the growers' attempt to use the Teamsters to stop our organizing efforts.--EL MALCRIADO).

Mrs. Esther Peterson  
Consumer Advisor  
Giant Food Inc.  
Washington, D. C. 20013

Dear Esther:

This is in response to your inquiry of November 14, 1972 concerning the pamphlet which you sent entitled, "The Lettuce Controversy" which is put out by the "Free Marketing Council" of Salinas, California, an employer organization which by its own public admission, is dedicated to the destruction of the Chavez - led Farm Workers Union.

If TRUTH is a synonym for MORALITY then the Farm Workers Union is lost, for the things that I know about which are presented in that pamphlet are essentially true. (I don't know the wage statistics as a matter of fact, so I would exclude them, although I am sure that if they were read aloud before an audience of lettuce field workers there would be such laughter as you never heard before).

But I know that it is true that Ronald Reagan said what the pamphlet says he said...and that goes for Mr. Butz and for the Teamster official Mr. Mohn, under whose leadership the only union raids and organizational competition against the Farm Workers Union have occurred over the last seven years.

The problem is that I know a lot of other things they have said...like Mr. Butz suggesting that high "union" wages should be cut back on foodstuffs so that the farmer could get a bigger share of the consumer dollar at the supper market...lik Governor Reagan calling the famous farm worker pilgrimage from Delano to Sacramento in 1966 a "300-mile Easter Egg Roll". Incidentally the same Mr. Mohn said that these contracts should be turned back over to the farmworkers and he was a party to

negotiations which ended in an agreement to turn them back to the farm workes.

Esther, look at the HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT. Note carefully those dates. In 1946 the Teamsters unionized produce truck drivers. It then took 15 years before they signed the "first lettuce field labor contract", and after that it took an additional nine years to sign "additional lettuce contracts".

Now you understand union procedures and organizing well enough to know that a union as big and as wealthy and as "powerful" as the Teamsters could have organized the "field workers" simply as an extension of having the truck drivers organized. Yet they didn't do it until 1961 fifteen years later.

Now why was there nothing from 1946 to 1961 with respoect to unionizing field workers? If you will check the files of the United States Department of Labor you will find that there was a strike by the AFL-CIO Agricultural Workers Orgnizing Committee in the Imperial Valley of California late in 1960 and early in 1961.

One of the growers in that strike was the Bud Antle Company with vast lettuce fields in the Salinas Valley where the harvest would not commence for several more weeks. One of the problems that the strike was creating under the government procedures resulted from the fact that since the Department of Labor had certified the strike, the struck growers were not able to get "Braceros" under that infamous program which was phased out during the Kennedy adminsitration.

So Antle, anticipating an extension of that sort of interference as his harvesting moved to the Salinas locations, sought out the Teams- ters Union and entered into a contract covering those field workers and therefore insulating himself from any further strike since the NLRA did not ocver the situation to permit a competin union to challenge the procedure and California law recognizes such a contract as a bar to jurisdictional striking. That is why the 1961 date is in that pamphlet.

Now let us look at the next nine years. Again calling on your knowledge of union procedure, Esther, you know that if the 1961

signing were bona fide it would have been considered a "breakthrough" and the union's organizational attention would have been diected toward those kinds of workers under other competing employers. But no...it didn't happen again until 1970, as truthfully stated on the pamphlet you sent me.

Now why did it occur in 1970? I think you know the answer to that one. It occurred because in June of 1970 the Farm Workers Union triumphed in the four-year struggle in the grape vineyards and were moving on into the next target area...THE LETTUCE FIELDS OF CALIFORNIA. (To be Continued)

HELP WANTED: Person with some knowledge and skills in communications to help organize a communications system. Two-way mobile communication is extremely important for the Union since, unlike factories, there are no telephones in the fields. Emergencies, such poisoning by pesticides required immediate communication. If you are interested in helping the Union resolve its communications problems, write: Al Rojas, P.O.Box 62, Keene, Ca. 93531

### EL MALCRIADO

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# TULARE COUNTY MALCRIADO COMMITTEE SHOWS 'Si, Se Puede'

POPLAR, California -- 300 persons were present at the Memorial Building March 8 to see the Union's new film, SI, SE PUEDE, which was shown by the EL MALCRIADO Committee of Tulare County.

Before the movie, Jesus H. Martinez, Official Representative for Tulare County, introduced representatives of EL MALCRIADO Committees from several towns; Antonio Villaseñor-Farmersville, Asención Garza-Exeter; Leobardo Rentería-Woodlake and Abel Salazar-Woodville.

They told the audience they were proud to be in charge of promoting EL MALCRIADO and talked about the importance of taking the Union newspaper door-to-door to all the communities of Tulare County.

Dancing and singing followed performed by a group of farm worker children from Farmersville, a folkloric group, and singer-composer Ruben Flores. Ruth Clark, from the Kennedy Plan staff at La Paz, explained some of the Plan's rules and regulations, and Frank, A. Martinez reported on his trip across the nation with Cesar Chavez and the D'Arrigo Strikers. Also introduced to the audience were Musleh



a representative of the Arab farm workers in the area, representatives of MECHA, staff members from EL MALCRIADO and other Union supporters.

All in all it was a beautiful evening and we

thank the sisters and brothers who paid the cost of renting the Memorial Building for the event; Juanita Madrid; Antonio Villaseñor; María Martínez; Sebastian Zamora and Magdaleno Correa.

## BOSTON BOYCOTTS A&P

Boston, the final stopping place on the recent 4,000-mile D'Arrigo strikers journey, saw a big march and rally as a celebration of the end of the trip.



photo: R. Ybarra

## MIGRANT MINISTRY OPPOSES HB 74

El Malcriado:

As you know, the Florida agri-legislature has been trying to tie up the Union with its House Bill 74, forcing the Union to fight for its life in an effort to hold on to the little it already has. The bill would effectively subvert the hiring halls UFW has with MinuteMaid (Coca Cola) and make it virtually impossible to win new contracts with any teeth in them.

Also, the Florida Citrus Commission is pushing a bill that would provide for a tax of a penny a box on citrus, raising about \$2.2 million next year--to be used for the development of mechanical citrus harvesters. With the passage of this bill, the day when farm workers won't be able to find jobs picking citrus will be a lot closer.

The Florida agri-legislature is hard to stop. The Union has to get HB 74 off its back so

it can get back to winning contracts with decent wages and conditions provided for farm workers. Everybody readig this can help by writing to:

Rep. Donald Tucker  
Chairman, House Commerce Committee  
Room 224, Holland Building  
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

and by writing to Governor Rubin Askew at the state capitol (also Tallahassee). Encourage Tucker and his fellow legislators to start respecting the rights of farm workers rather than the power and greed of corporate growers. Urge Askew to veto the bill if it is passed. We need EVERYbody's help. SI, SE PUEDE.

Jim Cahalan  
Florida Migrant Ministry

## LEGISLATORS VISIT CAMP

On March 8 U.S. Representatives Paul Rogers, Democrat from Palm Beach and Chairman of the House Public Health Committee, and Dante Fascell and William Lehman, both Democrats from Dade County, visited the South Dade County Labor Camp, where the typhoid outbreak occurred. Residents showed them the poor housing and inadequate plumbing, after which Rep. Fascell said, "I heard this was a model camp. If it is, I would hate to see what the others look like."

"This thing just happened to break out in typhoid," said Rep. Lehman. "It could have been cholera. The living conditions in this place are so bad something like this had to happen."

"I want to see changes and revisions in the Migrant Health Act," said Rep. Rodgers, "which is badly in need of improvement. Yesterday we also started hearings on a safe drinking water act, which hopefully would have prevented something like this," he concluded.

## FLORIDA WORKER TURNS ORGANIZER

by Diana Lyons

HAINES CITY, Florida--Brother Walter Williams, a United Farm Workers Union member since the first contract was signed in Florida, has left the orange groves and all of the benefits he was receiving to help administer the Coca Cola contract, and to organize other workers.

Walter has served the Union in the past as the steward of his crew and the chairman of his area committee, and has been instrumental in bringing a rare and beautiful unity and solidarity to Coca Cola crew #41--made up of about one-third anglo, one-third black and one-third chicano workers. There may be a slight language barrier, "but there are certainly no barriers to real communication on crew 41," says brother Williams.

Walter, his wife Mattie, and their six children are giving up the security of good wages and

other benefits under Union contract, so that they can see those benefits won by still more farm workers. After having lost at least part of every day's work in the past four weeks, attending meetings to try to convince Florida legislators to vote against Farm Bureau sponsored HB 74 (designed to outlaw the UFW hiring hall under the guise of "Right to Work"), Walter says he thinks he is prepared for the abrupt drop in income--i.e., down to UFW organizer's scale of \$5.00 per week plus room and board.

Coca Cola workers are expecting a ruling soon from an arbitration hearing to determine whether the large tubs into which the oranges are picked actually hold only 10 boxes, as the Company maintains, or more than 10 boxes, as the workers maintain. The Union is seeking a ruling that would require the Company to pay workers for an extra box for each tub

they have picked for the company, and the Union asks for this ruling to be effective for all fruit already picked.



Walter Williams & Family