



Cesar Chavez

united
farm workers
calendar
1970



My goal is friendship with the whole world and I can combine the greatest love with the greatest opposition to wrong.

Gandhi

january

<i>sun.</i>	<i>mon.</i>	<i>tues.</i>	<i>wed.</i>	<i>thurs.</i>	<i>fri.</i>	<i>sat.</i>
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



*And if you would know God be not therefore a solver of riddles.
Rather look about you and you shall see him playing with
your children.*

Kahlil Gibran

february

<i>sun.</i>	<i>mon.</i>	<i>tues.</i>	<i>wed.</i>	<i>thurs.</i>	<i>fri.</i>	<i>sat.</i>
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No army can withstand the force of an idea whose time has come.

Victor Hugo

march

<i>sun.</i>	<i>mon.</i>	<i>tues.</i>	<i>wed.</i>	<i>thurs.</i>	<i>fri.</i>	<i>sat.</i>
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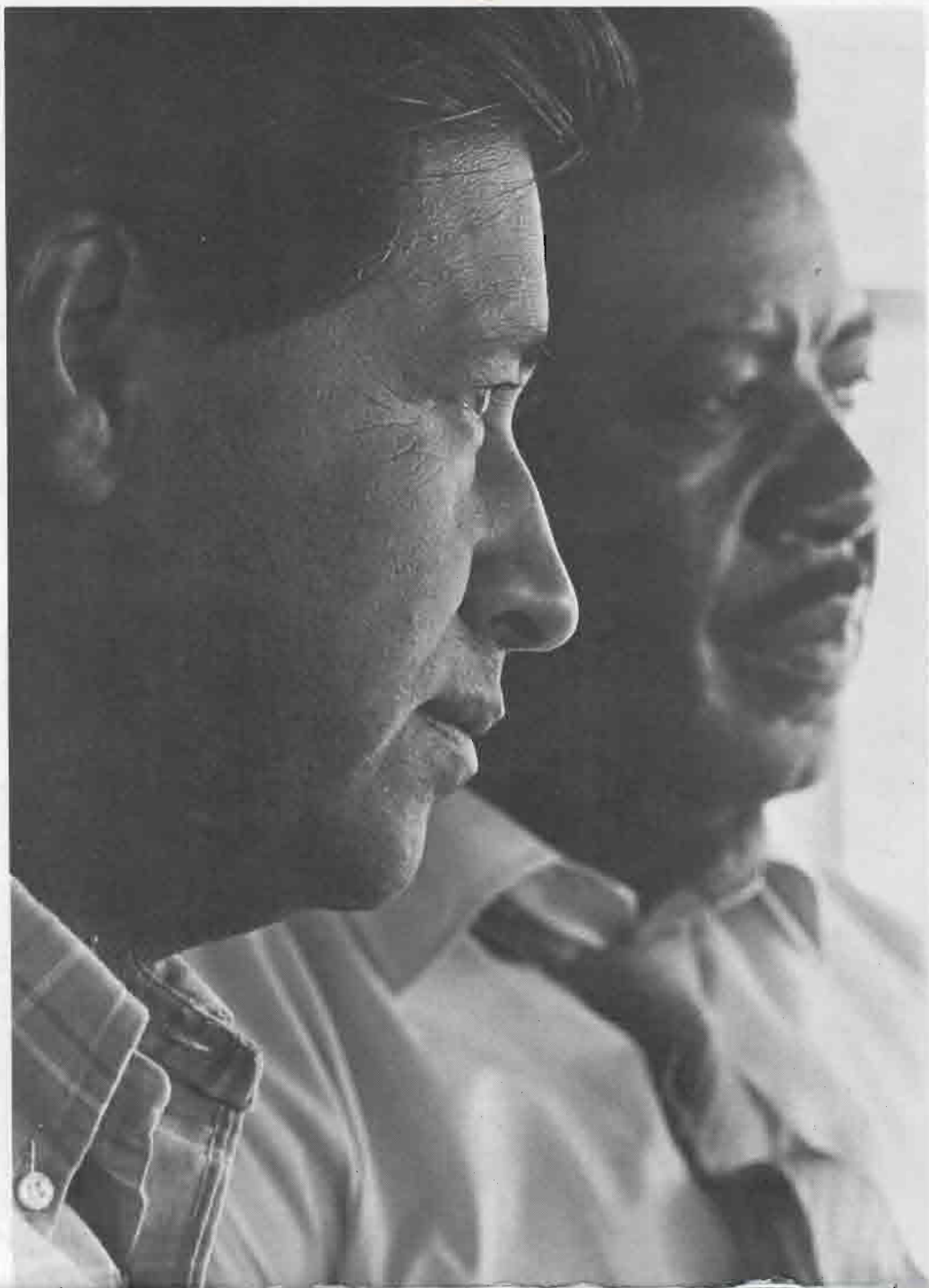


Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strike out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance. . .

Robert Francis Kennedy

april

<i>sun.</i>	<i>mon.</i>	<i>tues.</i>	<i>wed.</i>	<i>thurs.</i>	<i>fri.</i>	<i>sat.</i>
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We two form a multitude.

Ovid

may

<i>sun.</i>	<i>mon.</i>	<i>tues.</i>	<i>wed.</i>	<i>thurs.</i>	<i>fri.</i>	<i>sat.</i>
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Telling lies to the young is wrong. Proving to them that lies are true is wrong. Telling them that God's in his heaven and all's well with the world is wrong.

Yevtushenko

june

sun.

mon.

tues.

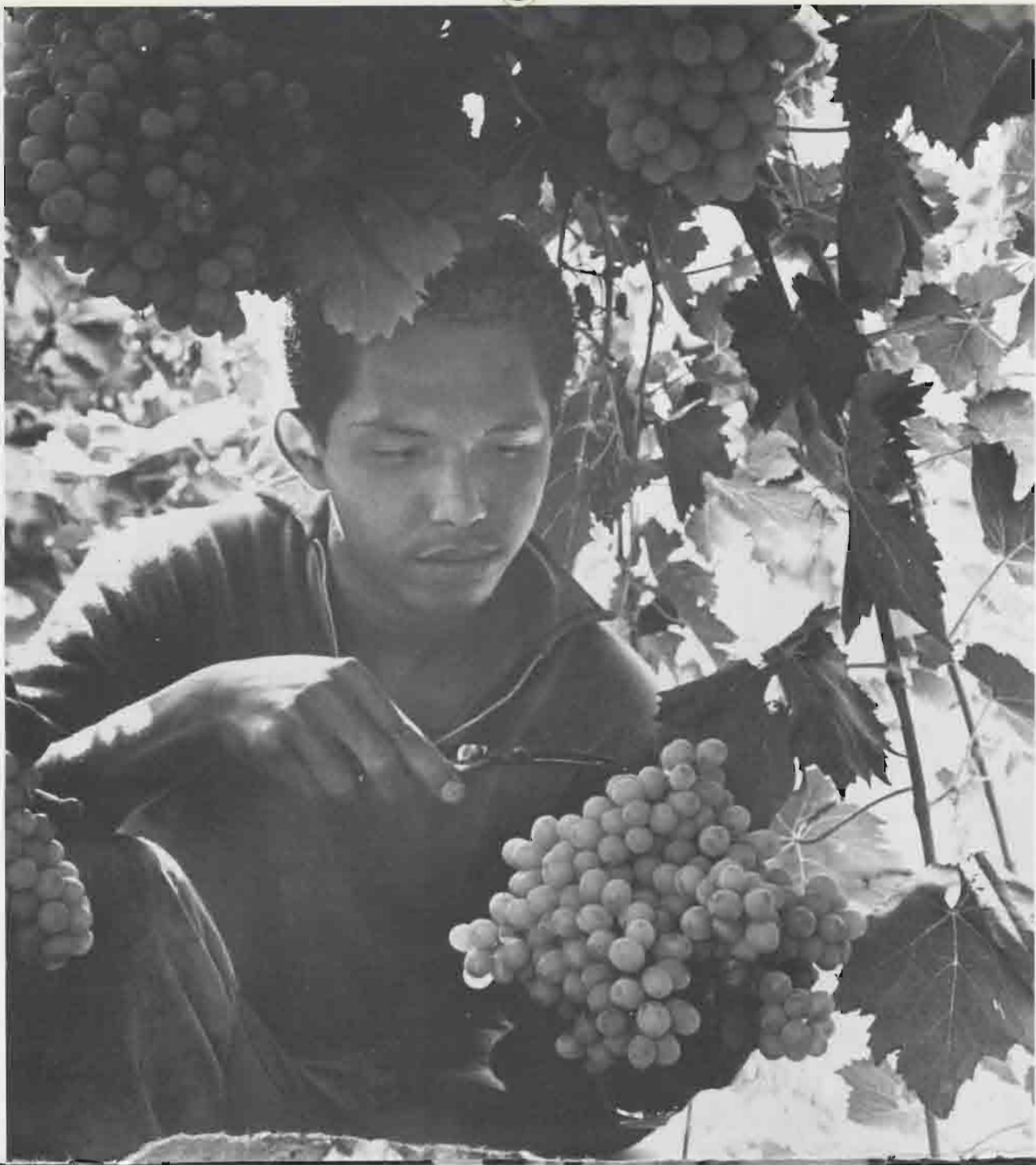
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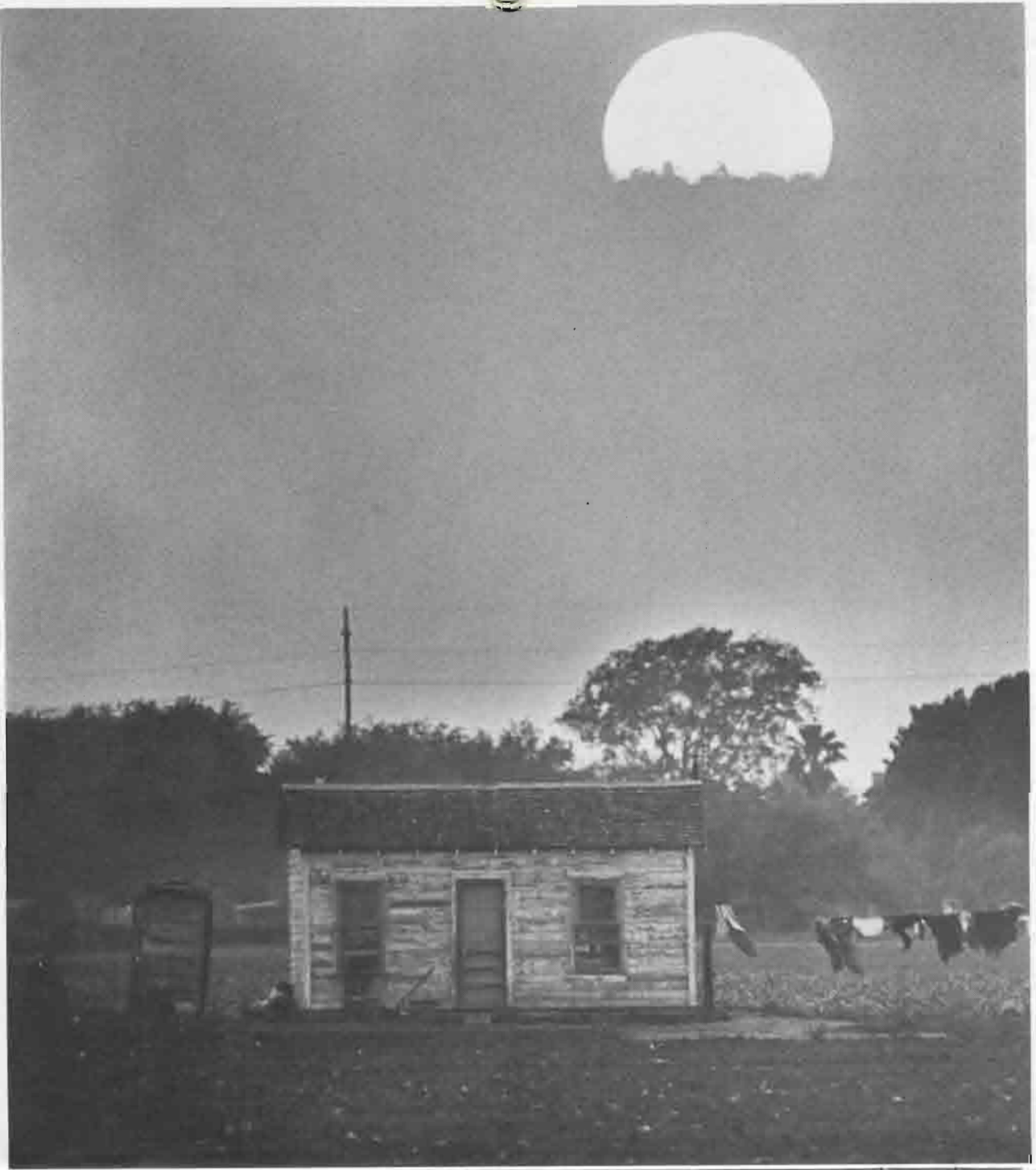


The conviction has been growing upon me, that things of fundamental importance to the people are not secured by reason alone, but have to be purchased with their suffering.

Gandhi

october

<i>sun.</i>	<i>mon.</i>	<i>tues.</i>	<i>wed.</i>	<i>thurs.</i>	<i>fri.</i>	<i>sat.</i>
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... the day when those who keep the house tremble and strong men are bowed; when the women grind no longer at the mill, because day is darkening at the windows.

Ecclesiastes

november

<i>sun.</i>	<i>mon.</i>	<i>tues.</i>	<i>wed.</i>	<i>thurs.</i>	<i>fri.</i>	<i>sat.</i>
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I believe that hope is awakened and revived, nourished by millions of solitary individuals whose deeds and works every day negate frontiers and the crudest implications of history. Each and every man, on the foundations of his own sufferings and joys, builds for all.

Camus

december

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27	28	29	30	31		

Cesar Chavez

Cesar Chavez is the charismatic leader of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee. For nearly twenty years he has been organizing his fellow Mexican-Americans in California. He has an unshakable conviction that non-violent action will liberate his people from a century of poverty.

Cesar was born in Yuma, Arizona in 1927, the son of a small farmer. After losing their land in the great depression, the family of seven migrated to California and started moving with the crops. Cesar first worked in Delano when he was ten years old.

His family shared the farm workers' vicious cycle of poverty. As migrants they lived in tents, hovels and trailers. They often ran out of money, food and clothing. They were exploited by labor contractors. Cesar attended more than thirty schools before dropping out of the eighth grade to help support his family. He continued his education on his own through reading.

At times his family worked in Delano. Cesar married Helen a Mexican-American girl whose family were resident vineyard workers in that city.

Like other Mexican-Americans Cesar experienced discrimination. He was arrested once while sitting with his wife in a Delano movie theater for refusing to comply with the theater's policy of segregated seating.

During World War II Cesar served in the Navy. In 1952, through the insistence of a priest friend, Cesar met Fred Ross, an organizer for Saul Alinsky's Community Service Organization which was working among the Spanish-speaking in California. He took a job as an organizer for CSO and in 1959 became its director.

When CSO was unable to help him create a farm workers union, Cesar resigned. He returned to Delano, withdrew his life savings of \$1,200 and started the National Farm Workers Association. Often depending on what his wife could earn in the fields, Cesar traveled throughout 87 communities and labor camps gathering a core of vineyard workers and their families. He learned to keep books by reading a government manual. He started a credit union. By 1965, the year of the strike, the NFWA had enrolled 1,700 families.

Today Cesar Chavez lives in a small, four-room house in Delano. He, his wife and eight children, like all of the Delano strikers, receive \$5 per week spending money, food from the strike kitchen or store and the payment of rent, utilities and basic bills.

In 1968, to keep his movement on a non-violent course, Cesar went on a 25 day fast. The late Senator Robert Kennedy, visiting him then, called him, "one of the heroic figures of our time." On Sunday, March 10, Cesar said to nearly 8,000 workers gathered to bread bread with their leader:

"When we are really honest with ourselves we must admit that our lives are all that really belong to us. So, it is how we use our lives that determines what kind of men we are. It is my deepest belief that only by giving our lives do we find life. I am convinced that the truest act of courage, the strongest act of manliness is to sacrifice ourselves for others in a totally non-violent struggle for justice. To be a man is to suffer for others. God help us to be men."

Strike & Boycott

In September, 1965, Cesar Chavez's National Farm Workers Association joined the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO in a strike against the Delano area grape growers. The growers refused to discuss union recognition procedures. A joint committee of the two unions took charge of the strike. "Huelga" (strike) became the workers' rallying cry.

In March, 1966, a small group of farm workers began a march from Delano through the San Joaquin Valley to the state capitol at Sacramento to bring their cause before the governor and the state legislators. While the pilgrims were enroute, Schenley Industries, (Delano's second largest grape grower) agreed to negotiate with the union. Over 10,000 people joined the marchers in a victory celebration as they arrived in Sacramento on Easter.

In June, 1966, the negotiations between the NFWA and Schenley Industries resulted in the first contract between field workers and their employers in the history of farm labor in the continental U.S.

The NFWA merged with the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, mostly Filipinos workers, to form the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO.

On August 3, 1966, the union won an overwhelming victory in the first union representation election held in American agriculture at DiGorgio Fruit Corporation ranches. Contracts with DiGorgio followed in April, 1967.

In every subsequent election, the farm workers have chosen UFWOC as their bargaining agent. As of September, 1969, the union holds thirteen contracts with primarily wine grape growers.

Now in its fourth year of the strike, UFWOC is directing its organizing drive at the growers of table grapes in the San Joaquin and Coachella Valleys. The table grape growers have arrogantly refused to even talk about negotiations. Registered union letters are returned by the growers unopened. Telegrams ignored. Mediation offers from the state conciliation service, the Bishop of Fresno, the city council of Fresno and the mayor of San Francisco were rejected by the growers. Illegal Mexican nationals and strike breakers are recruited to harvest the grapes. Union pickets are harassed. Local courts level crippling injunctions against union activities.



A limited boycott against Giumarra Corporation was circumvented when other growers allowed him to use their labels over his own. By the end of 1967 Giumarra was using 105 different labels in violation of FDA regulations.

Confronted with such tactics, Cesar Chavez was forced to call for an international boycott of California domestic grapes in 1968 to put pressure on the growers to negotiate with the union. The last resort, boycott strategy was called for again in 1969. It included Arizona table grapes. Due to its effectiveness, in June, 1969, ten Coachella Valley table grape growers began negotiations. However negotiations broke down over the issues of pesticides, a threat to farm workers health and a factor in their life expectancy reaching only 49 years as opposed to 70 for other citizens. Disagreement on the incentive wage also helped stop discussions.

The grape boycott is clearly an extension of the strike. Just as the strike receives the support of religious and civic leaders and organizations the boycott is being carried out by a coalition of people and groups committed to social justice. The grape boycott will continue until growers agree to recognize the basic rights of their workers to bargain collectively for humane working conditions and just wages.



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