

# 40 besiege ALRB after losing vote

By JOHN NUNES  
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Forty United Farm Workers took over the besieged Agricultural Labor Relations board office in El Centro for the second straight night Thursday, minutes after losing a secret ballot election for employees of Royal Packing Co.

The grower firm's employes group, Agrupacion Independiente de Trabajadores en Royal Packing Co., won the election by capturing 108 votes. UFW only received 62 votes. The Independent Union of Agricultural Workers, a Teamsters offshoot, got two votes and 14 laborers cast ballots for "no union."

Jeering, shouting UFW supporters caravanned to the state office from the Imperial Irrigation District auditorium in El Centro, where the ballots were counted by ALRB agents.

Two California State Police, in plainclothes, stationed themselves inside the auditorium during the two-hour election tally. Other State Police patrolled Broadway outside the building.

Tension mounted during the ballot count, witnessed by 135 persons, as it became apparent UFW was going to lose the election. The voices of ALRB officials conducting the proceeding were drowned out by angry UFW sympathizers.

Cesar Chavez' union has conducted a large-scale protest of the ALRB office and its employes here since Monday because the state agency allowed the Royal employes group to petition for and take part in the election. The UFW claims it is company-sponsored.

State Police arrested 28 UFW demonstrators Tuesday for refusing to leave the ALRB office. This touched off demonstrations by the union at ALRB offices throughout the state.

The mass arrest was reportedly the first police action taken by the Brown Administration.

On Wednesday, Chavez and company "invited arrest," commandeering several state farm labor offices in the state.

In fact, the ALRB obtained a court order late Tuesday night from Superior Court Judge George R. Kirk to limit the UFW to 10 persons at a time inside the El Centro office.

But Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr., or someone high in his administration, issued a "hands off" order to State Police.

State and local law officers were instructed to let the UFW demonstrators inside the office Wednesday no matter if more than 10 at a time came in.

The same thing happened Thursday night. State Police were attempting to keep demonstrators in the entrance area when orders were given to allow the UFW personnel access to any part of the office.

The special police then were ordered to leave. This happened within minutes after the UFW caravan arrived about 9 p.m.

The demonstrators proceeded to make themselves at home. Some began mak-

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*Imperial Irrigation District*  
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## SECOND STRAIGHT NIGHT

# *UFW besieges ALRB again after losing Royal election*

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ing telephone calls. Marshall Ganz, UFW Valley director, said he called long distance to a union office in Northern California.

He said he received long distance calls from Chavez and Gilbert Padilla, UFW treasurer, during the office takeovers Wednesday night.

Other demonstrators chose to lie on the floor, sit on desks and mill about. About 20 marched in a circle outside the front of the office, located at 582 State St.

By 2 a.m., the UFW abandoned its sit-in. This morning, a UFW spokesperson said union leaders were unsure if demonstrations would continue today.

But this morning, Fred Lopez, in charge of the state office here, said the court order will be enforced today if necessary.

The "hands off" order from Sacramento has confused and angered law enforcement officials involved in the weeklong incident.

Lopez maintained, however, "We have been enforcing the court order."

He said the attitude prior to today was not to play into the demonstrator's hands by arresting them.

Another source inside the office said ALRB and State Police are "fed up" with the demonstrators and the court order would be enforced today.

State officials, particularly Lopez, were obviously

fatigued this morning. The office has been under union siege daily since Monday. State Police, scheduled to leave Thursday night, were still standing guard this morning.

"We will leave when the problem is resolved," stated State Police Inspector Robert McHale.

His state troopers worked nine hours overtime Thursday, got four hours sleep and were back on the job at 6 a.m. today.

Lopez said ballots that were being run off Thursday night for another election set for today in Winterhaven — Senini,

### **Porno children films illegal under new bill**

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Using children in pornographic films would be a felony under a new bill in the California Legislature.

It was introduced by Sen. Newton Russell, R-Glendale.

Said Russell in a statement: "I am outraged that anyone would even consider stretching the First Amendment constitutional right to free speech to include the kind of abuses to children that have been reported recently."

Roger Duerksen, an aide to Russell, said the bill was prompted by revelations that many pornographic films using children are being made in California.

It is SB 428.

an Arizona-based farm company — had to be rerun because Ganz and other demonstrators saw the color of the ballots.

Lopez explained seeing ballots before the election violates a secrecy rule set by the ALRB.

The Royal Packing ballots, after the tally, were not locked in the office safe. Instead, the documents had to be taken to another office because of the UFW occupation, according to Lopez.

When asked if the UFW will be billed for making long distance phone calls, Lopez replied, "That's up to Sacramento."

Meanwhile, Don Hart, vice president of Royal Packing, was interviewed at the IID auditorium just before the election tally.

The grower executive denied UFW charges that the employes group that formed its own union was in reality a company-backed organization.

"We know nothing about these people" who formed their own union, Hart claimed. "We don't even know how it got started."

The demonstration has not slowed work in Royal's fields, according to Hart. The company is harvesting lettuce in Yuma and the Imperial Valley.

"We'll support whoever wins the election," Hart remarked.

The farm company, head-

quartered in Salinas, is currently under a Teamsters Union contract, which is good for another another 18 months or until the ALRB election is certified. Then the employes group becomes the bargaining agent for Royal employes.

But election certification is expected to be a long, drawn out process. UFW plans to file objections to the election.

In Sacramento, "a small group" of Chavez supporters slept overnight Thursday at the ALRB offices, and board attorney Harry Delizonna said they would be allowed to stay as long as no disruptions take place.

"The law is clear" on the issue of the Royal Packing Co. election, Delizonna said in an interview. "You don't have to be a labor union to petition for an election or represent workers."