

CONVENTION CALL
To The
FIRST POLITICAL ENDORSEMENT CONVENTION
To Be Held In The
SELLAND ARENA
Of The
FRESNO CONVENTION CENTER
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

UNITED FARM WORKERS OF AMERICA
AFL-CIO

***To All Members,
Greetings:***

The National Executive Board authorizes the first Political Endorsement Convention of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, to convene in the Selland Arena of the Fresno Convention Center, Fresno, California, at 8:00 A.M., on Sunday, September 5, 1976, and remain in Session until 6:00 P.M., on the same day.

The convention comes as we reach a critical point in the life of our Union. In 1975, after ten years of struggle which began with the Delano grape strike, we succeeded in passing the Agricultural Labor Relations Act. The law was created to guarantee farm workers the right to vote in secret ballot elections and choose the Union that they want to represent them. After winning a majority of the elections held under the new law, we saw the wealthy and powerful agri-business giants try once more to regain control over our lives.

The growers and their friends in the Legislature stopped the elections in the fields by withholding funds from the Agricultural Labor Relations Board. Those few powerful growers and legislators stood in the way of the will of the majority of the California Legislature; and in the way of the farm workers who have struggled for so long to win the sacred right to choose their own Union in secret ballot elections.

Unwilling to let the power of the growers in the political arena defeat our right to be heard through free elections

as equal members of the democratic process, the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO — your Union — took the issue to the people of California. We asked the people of this State to use their sacred vote in our behalf. We asked them to sign a petition putting an initiative on the November ballot. This initiative — now called Proposition 14 — guarantees us the right to be heard through free elections and insures that the ALRB will be funded so we can exercise this right to be heard through our vote. The people of California responded. They signed the petition, up and down the length and breadth of the state.

In November, while electing their legislators, the people of California will vote on our Initiative, Proposition 14. A "YES" vote on Proposition 14 is a "YES" vote on farm workers' right to be heard. If Proposition 14 passes in November, no-one could take away our rights without taking the issue back to the people again for a vote — back to the same people who are supporting us now.

We desperately need to have a voice in the fields, as we vote for the Union of our choice, but we also need to have a voice in the democratic processes in our state and nation — to make sure that the wealthy and powerful growers cannot steal away the rights we have struggled so hard to win. We can build the kind of political power that is necessary to protect those rights, through our

Union and its involvement in the political process. There could be no better example of the need for our involvement than a look at the past eight years under Nixon and Ford. During the Nixon and Ford years in the White House, American workers and their families have lost ground in their struggle for a better life. The gap between rich and poor has widened and the goal of equal rights and equal opportunities has been delayed. We need to get involved — to make up for lost time.

Candidates for political offices need our support in the November elections — and we need to know that the candidates understand our problems and will support us in our struggle to solve them. At this political endorsement convention, we will hear from the candidates and make our decisions as to whom we can and cannot support.

Your participation in this convention is very important. It is the first step in your participation in the democratic process. It is the first step in making sure that your voice is heard and in making sure that you — and not the growers — have the power to control your own lives.

Representation

Each Ranch Community, Organizing Committee and Special Committee shall be entitled to the number of delegates indicated in the following scale:

1 - 50 members	=	2 delegates
51 - 100 members	=	4 delegates
101 - 300 members	=	6 delegates
301 - 500 members	=	8 delegates
501 - 700 members	=	10 delegates
701 - 1,000 members	=	12 delegates
1,001 - 1,500 members	=	14 delegates
1,501 - 2,100 members	=	16 delegates
2,101 - 2,800 members	=	18 delegates
over 2,800 members	=	20 delegates

Each Administrative Unit and Special Committee (Boycott Support groups) within each entity, shall be entitled to the following number of delegates:

1 - 25 members	=	2 delegates
26 - 50 members	=	4 delegates
51 - 100 members	=	6 delegates
over 100 members	=	8 delegates

Only members in good standing with the Union may participate in delegate elections. In the case of members working under contract, they shall be deemed members in good standing if they are no more than 60 days behind in payment of their dues. No person shall be recognized as a delegate who is not a member in good standing of the membership, Committee or Unit he or she is selected to represent.

The membership of each Ranch Community shall be calculated on the basis of peak employment during the 12 month period ending August 15, 1976, for purposes of electing delegates.

The number of members of each Organizing Committee shall be determined by the number of workers actively involved in organizing themselves, or the number of workers at the ranch during the election, whichever is appropriate.

The number of members of each Administrative Unit or Special Committee (Boycott Support group) shall be determined by the number of Union members serving as full time volunteers for the Union at least 6 months prior to the opening of the convention.

The members of the National Executive Board and the Board of Auditors, Ranch Committees and other elected officials, shall serve as accredited delegates by virtue of their office, with all privileges of elected delegates.

Delegates to the convention shall be selected by secret ballot by members of the Ranch Community, Organizing Committee, Administrative Unit or Special Committee (Boycott Support groups) as of the 25th of August, 1976.

The names of the delegates shall be forwarded to Mack Lyons, Director of the Citizenship Participation Department, immediately after their election, to be received no later than August 27, 1976.

All business of the convention will be resolved by delegate vote.

Credentials

Credential blanks, in duplicate are forwarded to all Ranch Communities, Organizing Committees, Special Committees (Boycott Support groups) and Administrative Units. Credentials must be attested as required on the blanks. The original credentials shall be forwarded to the Office of the Director, Department of Citizenship Participation, La Paz, Keene, California 93531 as soon as delegates are elected. The duplicate credential shall be retained by the delegate-elect for presentation to the Credentials Committee Selland Arena, Fresno, California.

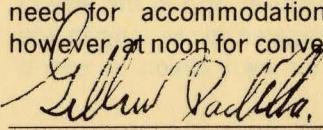
The Credentials Committee shall meet at the convention center prior to the opening of the convention. The convention shall not be constituted for business until after the Credentials Committee shall have examined and reported on the credentials of all delegates present at the scheduled time on the opening date of the convention.

Resolutions

Resolutions relating to political activities, signed by at least 25 members in good standing, may be submitted prior to the Convention, by sending them to the Secretary-Treasurer, La Paz, Keene, California, 93531, by August 30. During the Convention, resolutions signed by at least 10% of the accredited delegates may be submitted to the Resolutions Committee.

Accommodations

The convention will last only one day, so there will be no need for accommodations. Lunch will be provided, however, at noon for convention delegates.



Gilbert Padilla
Secretary-Treasurer