

# EL MALCRIADO



## Negotiations End... Huelga!

See "Coachella Farm Workers Support Union", Page 15

# WE DEMAND

### BETTER WAGES...

#### Job Classifications

General Labor, including row, field and vine crops, tree fruit, and other work.	2.70
Grape Picking & Packing 30¢/lug +	2.70
Vine Tying	2.75
Irrigators	2.90
Pipe Line Repair	2.90
Vine Pruning	3.00
Special Vine Pruning	3.05
Girdling- young vines .06 per vine	
medium vines .07 per vine	
old vines .09 per vine	
Budding and Grafting	5.50
Budding and Grafting (without experience)	3.50
Bud Cutter	3.00
Swamper 3¢/lug +	2.70
Vine Trimming Machine Operator	3.30
Tractor Operator	3.30
Caterpillar Operator	3.50
Lift Operator	3.30
Busters and Sprayers	3.30
Applicator of Dangerous Chemical	5.50
Truck Driver	3.30
Shop Mechanic	3.30
Mechanic Trainee	3.15
Field Equipment Service	3.30
Frost Protection	3.75
Camp Maintenance	3.15
Cook: Harvest & Pre-harvest (day)	38.50
During pruning (day)	30.50
Asst.Cook: Harvest & Pre-harvest (day)	33.50
During pruning (day)	25.50
Working Foreman- guaranteed/week	155.00
Asst. Working Foreman & Checker	3.30

#### Cold Storage

Fork Lift	3.50
Mechanic	4.00
Stripper	2.80
Janitor	2.80

#### Shook Shed:

Grape Boxes:	
Framer	60¢/100
Cleater	40¢/100
Fork Lift	3.50
Driller	35¢/100
Shooker	25¢ y 20¢/100
Box Packers	2.80
Label Machine Operator	30¢ & 16¢/100
Saw	25¢/100

#### Plum Boxes:

Framer	95¢/100
Cleater	50¢/100
Shooker	50¢/100

#### Shed

Lift operator	3.50
Trainee (lift operator) two weeks	270.00
Loader	3.00
Trainee (loader) two weeks	270.00
Shed Maintenance	4.00
Mechanic	4.00
Gasser	3.50
General Labor	2.70
Spider	2.80
Grape packer 5 ¢ box and	2.85
Plum packer 5 ¢ box and	2.80
Checker	2.90
Grader	2.80
Electric machine operators	2.95

Time and one-half is requested for time worked over 8 hours per day and 40 hours per week.

During the last two months we went to every valley where there are Union contracts in the table grape industry and met with your Ranch Committees, which you elected yourselves, in order to decide what demands we would make for the new contracts.

We put the information together and I hereby certify that the demands listed here are correct and are the ones we are now negotiating.

VIVA LA CAUSA,

Cesar E. Chavez, General Director  
United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO

#### IN ADDITION...

- \* UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
- \* PAID HOLIDAYS
- \* PENSION PLAN
- \* 1,000 HOURS TO QUALIFY FOR PAID VACATIONS
- \* MINIMUM WAGE OF \$2.70 AN HOUR

# Farm Worker Women For Equality... What About Us

We the women of the United Farm Workers Union, petition Dolores Huerta, longtime battler for farm working women. We petition Director Cesar Chavez to maintain the Hiring Hall. We demand continuing protection of our civil rights on the job.

Before the Hiring Hall we were blatantly discriminated against in the fields. For more than 50 years we had no job security. We were at the mercy of paranoid labor contractors, neurotic foremen and lecherous supervisors. We worked when they felt like it. They decided what work we could handle. We worked for less. Suffered humiliations by company goons.

The Hiring Hall has changed all that and more. We are now included in seniority rights, equality on the job and equal benefits as other male members. We work with the pride and dignity that goes with equality. Dignity that comes with equality. We are not different. We are equal. We have equal work and equal pay. Union breeds equality, enforced by the Hiring Hall.

We demand that the Union  
We demand that Union Director Cesar Chavez and our negotiating team defend the Hiring Hall at all costs in the contract. VIVA LA CAUSA FOR JUSTICE AND EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN ON THE AGRICULTURAL JOB. WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED

Photo: Rick Tejada-Flores



Photo: Gayanne Fietinghoti

## Clergy Condemns Teamster Attacks on Union

Mr. Einar Mohn  
Western Conference of Teamsters  
870 Ogden St., eet  
Burlingame, Ca. 94040

Dear Mr. Mohn:

Someday perhaps we will meet and you can try to explain to me, face-to-face, what motivates the Western Conference of Teamsters as you move in and out of the farm labor arena. I assure you in advance that I will not be impressed with any pious talk about the longstanding concern of the Teamsters Union for farm workers. I was in California in 1961 fighting the bracero program when you made your first sweetheart deal with Bud Antle.

Your attacks on the United Farm Workers and your willingness to serve as a tool for agricultural employers is a disgrace to the entire labor movement. I don't know what you hope to accomplish by this most recent invasion into the lettuce fields but I can promise you that you will gain the condemnation of growing numbers of church leaders in our country.

The nature of the Teamster-grower alliance is becoming even more apparent as the Monitor 4 pesticide issue develops into a raging controversy in California and across the nation. While the United Farm Workers and consumer groups press for facts on the lettuce poisoning and urge protections for farm workers your Union is trying to stop public hearings you and your representatives keep alluding to existing federal and state laws on pesticides at a time when it is apparent to everyone

that governmental agencies are not enforcing those laws.

Your representatives who testify in public speak as if pesticide poisoning is not a problem for workers; they act as if your Union doesn't want to protect workers but is instead determined to do the bidding of employers and pesticide companies who have never shown serious concern for the workers who handle these poisons in the field.

Isn't it time that the Western Conference of Teamsters cuts its ties with agribusiness employers and begins to demand safe conditions for workers? It does not seem like such a strange request to make of a labor union.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,  
Wayne C. Hartmire, Jr.



# Union Office Vandalized, Set Afire!

CALEXICO, California--The United Farm Workers field office here was broken into, burglarized and set afire in the early morning hours of March 29. Damage from the fire was serious.

According to field office director Angel Quintero, members of the office staff discovered the fire about 2:30 a.m. The Fire Department was notified immediately, and they broke into the building and extinguished the fire.

Calexico Fire Chief Frolian Pedruza suspected arson almost immediately. "When we were mopping up after putting out the fire," he said, "I noticed that a rear window and been broken. The glass from the window was on the inside of the office, indicating that it had been broken from the outside. If the heat from the fire had broken the window,



Workers are dispatched and grievances discussed--out in the alley and parking lot behind the Calexico field office after it was gutted by a fire set March 29.

the glass would have been on the ground outside as a result of an explosion.

"Soon afterward I noticed that the drawers from Mr. Quintero's desk had been removed, and that there were papers scattered about the room. So I called the police for an investigation."

Lieutenant Hignight of the Calexico Police also reported that he suspects arson, and learned from Angel Quintero that in addition to missing records a typewriter had been taken.

Pedruza and Hignight took samples from the floor where Pedruza thought the fire might have been set. "There's a certain type of burn that results from a fire set with gasoline or other inflammable liquid," he said, "and I noticed that kind of burn in the back office."

They sent samples of the material to the State Criminal Investigation office in Sacramento for analysis, expecting an answer back within three days, but by April 5 they had still not received the report.

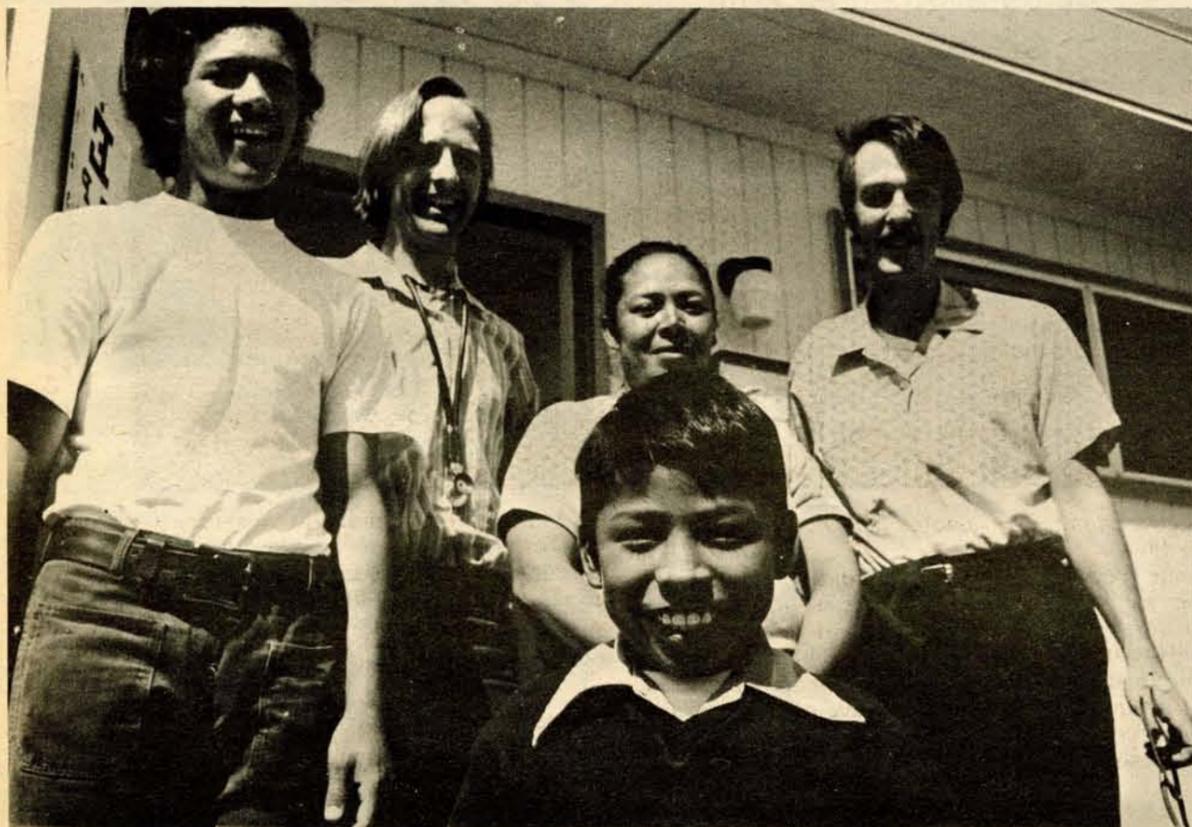
Meanwhile, the work of the Calexico field office continues--some of it out in the alley and parking lot behind the burned-out office, and some of it out of the new addition to the Calexico Clinic. "We are not frightened by this kind of thing," Manuel Chavez, who has been working along the border with Quintero, told a rally the day of the burning. "They did the same thing up in Hollister, in Poplar and in Terra Bella, and they got nowhere. They can't stop us this way, we are not afraid."

So, while the police investigation into the latest attack on the Union continues, the work of the Calexico field office likewise goes on.



## Calexico Clinic Doctors Save Critically Ill Boy

A very happy Ramon Lezima is surrounded by his family and the Clinic doctors after his release from the hospital. In the background from left to right: Dr. Ken Tittle, Ramon's mother Guadalupe Lezima, Dr. Graeme Fincke, and Ramon's brother Mario Lezima.



CALEXICO, California--When they got little Ramon Lezima to the United Farm Workers Calexico Clinic the night of March 28, he was barely alive. Barely able to breathe, the child was "just a little ball of suffering," as one of the Clinic staff described him.

Immediately there were problems with the Calexico City Hospital next door. Ramon's family was not covered by the Kennedy Plan, and the Hospital was reluctant to admit him without such coverage. But the Clinic doctors, Ken Tittle and Graeme Fincke, stressed that the child might die without hospitalization and perhaps surgery--and got Ramon in.

Tittle and Fincke didn't want to do surgery. "The child was already having very serious problems breathing," they explained, "and the anaesthesia necessary for such an operation would have depressed his breathing even further. So we were very reluctant to operate--and decided to do so only if absolutely necessary."

It almost was. In fact, the doctors called the surgeon, and she was in the operating room fully dressed and ready to go. They were even starting to wheel Ramon in. But just then his condition took a turn for the better, and surgery proved to be unnecessary.

Doctors Tittle and Fincke stayed with Ramon all night, checking continually on his condition and giving him medication when necessary. By the next day he was much improved and, after two days in the hospital, was ready to go home to a happy reunion with his mother, Guadalupe and brother, Mario.

# Cannery Workers Want Out From Under Teamsters

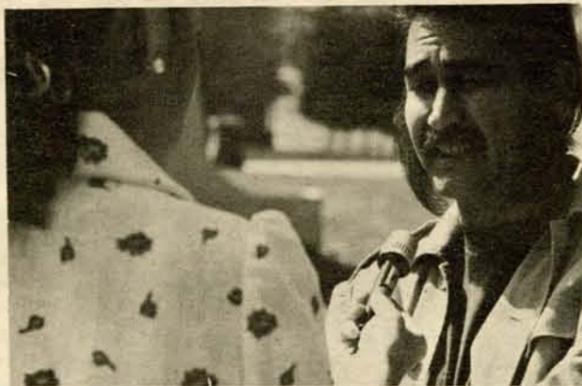
LOS ANGELES, California--Chicano cannery workers charged here April 6 that the Teamsters Union, instead of representing them, had conspired with the canning industry to discriminate against them racially and sexually. The charges were supported by spokesmen from the San Diego State MECHA.

Ruben Reyes, 42, a cannery worker at Libby's for 25 years said that the Teamsters had never offered support in any grievance workers have with their employers, and had conspired with the industry to keep Chicano workers in the most menial and lowest paying jobs.

"We Chicanos represent 50% of the industry's work force, yet we occupy only 2% of the better paying jobs," Reyes said. "Moreover, we are represented in only 5% of the Teamsters Union structure. I know of a number of cases where Union officials have illegally blocked the attempts of Chicanos to be elected to Union office."

Reyes is chairman of the Cannery Workers Committee, a Chicano group based in Sacramento but with members throughout the state, formed in the absence of Teamster interest in defending Chicano workers rights. The Teamsters have, in fact, attempted to eliminate the Committee.

"We took our case to the Teamsters at first," Reyes said, "but got no response except hostility. So we must do something else. We are looking to affiliation with another



Ruben Reyes speaks to press.

union, perhaps within the AFL-CIO, or forming our own independent union. That will take a decertification election--where we need 30% of the workers with us.

"I know the workers are with us," Reyes said, "but we must be careful. A lot of funny things happen in Teamster elections."

Asked about the current Teamster efforts to eliminate the United Farm Workers, Reyes replied, "They're trying to use cannery workers money to fight the farm workers--our own

people. They claim to have the interests of farm workers in mind, but they haven't even been able to service cannery workers for 25 years.

"I think there's a national conspiracy here between the government and the Teamsters," he said. "Nixon, Hoffa and Fitzsimmons have made a deal, at the expense of both farm workers and cannery workers."

Ramona Chacona, a Chicana cannery worker, echoed Reyes' charges. At peak season, she said, over half of the cannery workers are women, most of them Chicanas. They have suffered double discrimination at the hands of the Teamsters and the industry--as Chicanas and as women.

Miguel Vazquez, representing San Diego State MECHA, supported the workers' charges. "A union is supposed to represent its workers, but in this case the Teamsters are just as racist and indifferent as the canneries."

Vazquez made public a letter sent to the canning industry by MECHA and La Raza Unida Party, demanding a meeting within ten days to settle the grievances of Chicano workers. Vazquez said that in the absence of a reply and a meeting appropriate action would be taken.

## ON THE PICKET LINE

ONLY A STRONG UNION CAN ASSURE FARM WORKERS DECENCY AND DIGNITY declared Florida Union Organizing Director Eliseo Medina when he testified during hearings by the Sub-Committee on Agriculture: Labor April 6-7 in Miami, Florida.

The story told by the more than 20 witnesses is well-known to every farm worker, a story of neglect, bad housing, unsanitary water supplies, low wages, inadequate health care, and above all, gross exploitation by labor contractors and crew leaders.

(Report by Fr. James Vizzard Union Legislative Representative in Washington, D.C.)

The Sub-Committee is chaired by Representative William Ford of Michigan and includes Rep. Bill Lehman of Florida and Rep. Langrede of Indiana.

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IN A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO ARIZONA'S REPRESSIVE ANTI-UNION LAW, strikers brought "la Huelga" to D'Arrigo's 340 acres of lettuce near Eloy, Arizona.

A 50-man crew was cutting lettuce as the picketline, comprised of strikers and Arizonan Union supporters, encouraged to join the strike. At first one, then a few more and then all of the workers joined the line. They had not been told about the strike and said "Even though we are not Union members, we don't want to be in the way."

D'Arrigo has gone to court asking for an injunction against the strike claiming the Union is using violence and intimidation. But many witnesses, including sheriff's deputies, say the Union is clear.

However, many witnesses saw an armed D'Arrigo foreman shouting, "I'd rather shoot them, than talk to them" (meaning the strikers) and other incidents of deliberate company violence. For example, on one occasion company supervisors drove a tractor into a crowd of strikers and supporters, and on another, Union Organizer Tina Solinas was hurt when the company suddenly placed a tractor in front of an approaching car caravan carrying pickets to the fields, which had to come to a screeching halt.

\* \* \*

THE ALBANY BOYCOTT COMMITTEE will get a boost from D'Arrigo strikers who are helping to organize the lettuce boycott in New York. The Committee is planning to take the boycott into the suburbs and want advice on how to do it effectively.

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S.B. 199, AN ANTI-UNION BILL WAS DEFEATED IN THE MARYLAND SENATE by a 27-14 vote following testimony against it by Union Boycott Organizer Steve Jimenez, Maryland AFL-CIO State President Charles Della,

the Social Action Committee of the Senate of Priests and the Catholic Social Services Agency of the Archdiocese of Baltimore and other Union supporters.

The bill was sponsored by the Farm Bureau the Maryland Agricultural Board and was supported by right-wing senators.

In the heat of debate on the bill anti-farm worker Senator Bozick (D-Prince Georges), upset by church support for La Causa, referred to the Pope as "that little spaghetti bender in Rome," and grower-Senator Joseph J. Staszak (D-Baltimore) said he no longer contributed to Catholic Charities and that farm workers "are the kind of people that won't take care of anything."

Senator Robert L. Dalton (D-Baltimore) defended the church saying "there's a pie on earth and there's a pie in the sky and I'm happy to hear that the church is teaching you don't have to wait till you get to heaven to get a piece of it."

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ABOUT 150 UNION SUPPORTERS FROM THE BAY AREA came to the Salinas Valley March 19 bringing food donated by various churches, Unions and individuals.

After meeting in San Jose, the group caravanned to Salinas where they met with D'Arrigo and La Victoria strikers and Salinas office Director Jerry Kay.

The group then divided into four teams: one, which went to help picket D'Arrigo, another to do the same at La Victoria, a third went to non-union ranches to talk to the workers, and the fourth went to talk to the Teamsters (at their "Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee") and to lettuce grower Bud Antle.

Police followed each group constantly. At non-union Garin Farms, where supporters were attempting to talk to workers, a sheriff ordered them over his loudspeaker to "Get out of the fields". The group that went to see the Teamsters was met by 5 goons who refused to let them in the office. Then they went to talk to Scab lettuce grower Bud Antle, who tried to palm himself off as a small family farmer who was trying to eke out a living.

That afternoon, as the scabs left the fields there was a big picketline at La Victoria, which was aided by about 40 of the Bay Area supporters. It was learned that notorious super-scab Melchor O'Campo has appeared again, this time at La Victoria, where he is in the personell department. His job is to sit in his car all day and take notes on the strikers and the scabs.

Then everyone went back to the Hiring Hall for a big meal, singing, and reports from each of the teams. After that everybody went over to picket the nearby Safeway. There were

over 250 people on the picketline and the store was practically empty when a man came flying out of the store and hit a 15 year old farm worker youth in the face. Dan Sudran, of the Contra Costa County Boycott got in the middle and he too was hit. The police were there the whole time but refused to make an arrest.

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TWO NUNS, A PRIEST, AND A TWO-YEAR WERE AMONG THE PICKETERS at the grand opening of the new Safeway in Escondido California

We picketed for about seven hours, singing songs and chanting. We know of at least 200 turn-aways in those hours. We lost count of the people who intended to come into the Safeway, but changed their minds when they saw us. At one point in the afternoon, the only people going into the store were those armed with coupons to get a free potted plant or a free roll of salami.

Our picketers included students at San Diego State University, the University of California at San Diego, Mesa College, and Southwestern College, as well as many professional people the Albany Friends of the Farm Workers and members of the clergy. Everyone carried flages, picket signs or sandwich signs. It will be a long time before Escondido forgets the United Farm Workers.

In Memorium....

Anne Draper was one of our dearest friends. Farm workers everywhere, and especially in Delano will always remember how she gave us her untiring support throughout the long and bitter years of the Grape Strike.



Anne organized the famous monthly food caravan to Delano that kept us from starving.

Every month she came, bringing not only food and medical supplies, but new supporters as well. During those five years she never missed once. She taught us that we are not alone in our struggle for a better life.

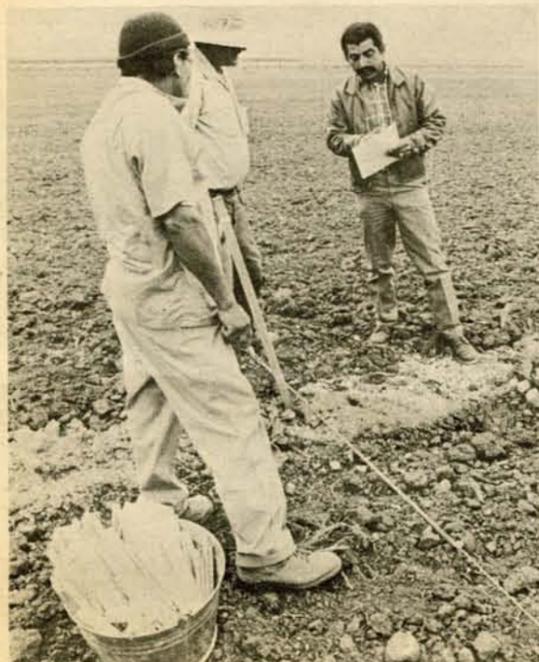
Anne Draper will live in our hearts as an example of what a true unionist should be. She will always inspire us to carry on the fight to bring justice and freedom to working men and women everywhere.

Viva Anne Draper!

# FARM WORKER RESIST TEAMSTERS: "STAY OUT OF THE FIELDS"

Evidence continues to mount pointing to a Teamster-grower-labor contractor conspiracy to destroy the Union. This ugly spectacle--even disgusting to any respectable Teamster member-- of Teamster leaders prostituting themselves with employers to keep farm workers poor and enslaved is not new.

The Teamsters tried to horn in when the Union was battling the huge Di Giorgio Corporation in 1966. They joined with Di Giorgio in staging a phoney election that was boycotted



by the workers. They were on the ballot in August 1966 when a legitimate election was held and were decisively defeated by our Union, despite gloomy predictions to the contrary by the top labor journalists in the country.

During the Perilli-Minetti Strike in 1967, the Teamsters jumped right in bed with the growers signing a sweetheart contract. But the strikers could not be stopped and a boycott of Perrilli-Minetti's wines finally forced the Teamsters out of the picture and the company signed a true Union contract.

Right after the Union's Grape Strike and Boycott victory in 1970, the Teamsters again took on the sweetheart role and signed contracts with lettuce growers in a move referred to by the California Supreme Court as "collusion" with the aim of destroying the Union.

But the move failed to stop lettuce workers from launching what the Los Angeles Times called "the largest agricultural workers' strike in U.S. history."

Recently, the Teamsters signed a pact with the National Labor Contractors Association that will require anyone working with labor contractors to join the Teamsters Union. The joined with the labor contractors despite the fact that labor contractors are the most corrupt

and unscrupulous segment of agriculture, historically speaking.

And now, just as the Union started to negotiate new Union contracts with grape growers, Teamster organizers have been entering fields trying to intimidate workers into signing their authorization cards. Most of the workers who are frightened into signing them, go immediately afterwards to Union organizers to sign declarations affirming they were intimidated or tricked into signing and naming the United Farm Workers as their bargaining agent.

In many cases, Teamsters ask workers their names and when they reply say, "Well, you are now a member of the Teamsters Union."

Teamster goons have pushed workers around crossed Safeway Boycott picketlines, surrounded farm worker women in the fields to terrorize them and fraternized with the growers. The workers are striking back with sitdowns, walk-outs and demonstrations. One fact is clear: the United Farm Workers is the choice of the people, while the Teamsters are the choice of the growers.

## GIUMARRA WORKERS SIGN ANTI-TEAMSTER DECLARATIONS

The Teamsters claim all of Giumarra's workers have signed their authorization cards, but the truth disproves the claim.

EL MALCRIADO spent a day in the fields with Lamont Union Office Director Pablo Espinosa April 10. Pablo asked workers to sign declarations invalidating any signatures the Teamsters had forced from them and naming our Union as their bargaining agent.

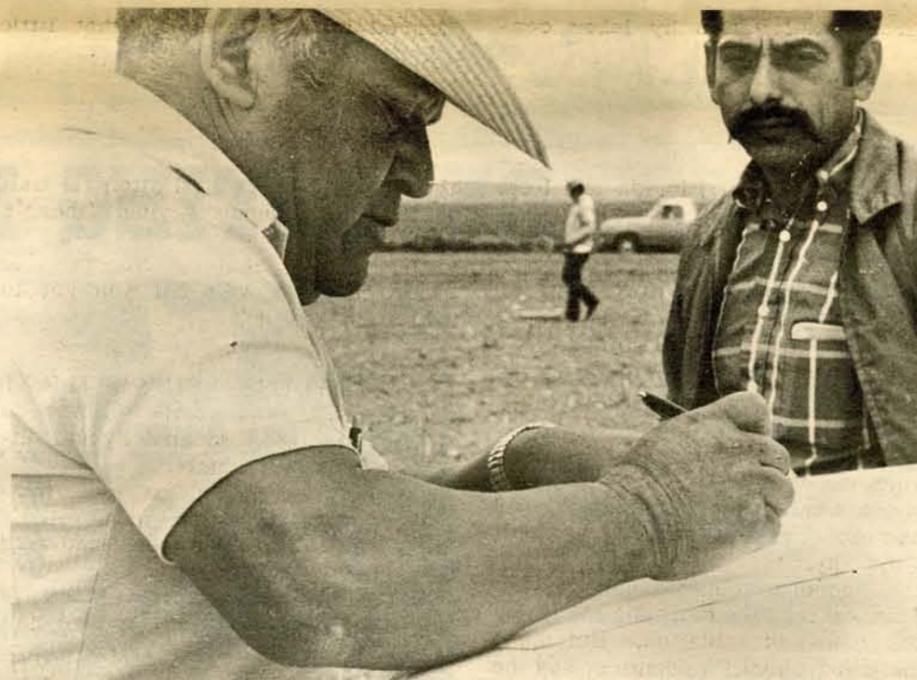
In the crew we visited with Pablo, all 20 workers signed the anti-Teamster cards.



All condemned the Teamster presence in the fields and affirmed their commitment to La Causa.

All expressed disgust with Teamster organizers who drive around in fancy cars wearing \$200 suits. Some are chicanos who for a few bucks are letting themselves be used by a union led by racists and sellouts. Some of the Teamster organizers have been heard boasting about the \$1,000 a month they get for doing a job on La Causa.

As we left the field, one of the workers shouted "LONG LIVE CHAVEZ" and "DOWN WITH THE TEAMSTERS." The rest of the workers joined in response.



Photos: Rick Tejada-Flores

## ¡ ABAJO TEEMOS!

350 ROBERTS FARMS WORKERS STAGED A BOYCOTT OF THE COMPANY'S OFFICES April 7 to protest the presence of Teamster organizers in the company's fields near Wasco, McFarland and Delano. The walkout did not end until the company ordered its supervisors to KICK THE TEAMSTERS OUT.

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A TRACTOR DRIVER AT GIUMARRA, who is a member of the Union, refused to sign up with the Teamsters when two organizers of that scab union made him many promises. The Teamsters were Procopio Marquez of Salinas and Allen Wheeler of Fresno.

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100 WORKERS AT THE H&M COMPANY IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY walked out of the fields when the Teamsters arrived. The

members of the Ranch Committee, Enrique Aleman, Alfonso Bravo, Jose Bravo and José María García told the grower they wanted no trouble and that if the Teamsters did not leave the people would not work. The grower had no choice but to call the police TO KICK THE TEAMSTERS OUT.

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DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GRAPE GROWERS, Union Director Cesar Chavez accused growers Valdora and Henry Moreno with conspiring with the Teamsters by recruiting workers at the U.S.-Mexican borders on the condition that they sign with the Teamsters. At the same time Valdora has been refusing to hire workers dispatched to him from the Hiring Hall. Their answer to the charges: SILENCE.

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"WE ARE FACING A GREAT STORM, BUT STORMS BRING BETTER TIMES. THE CALM THAT FOLLOWS IS EVEN SWEETER WHEN THE STORM HAS BEEN THE HARDEST TO ENDURE. PEACE WILL COME AND WE WILL BE HERE TOGETHER TO ENJOY THE FRUITS OF THE EFFORTS WE MADE TO DEFEND OURSELVES," declared Cesar Chavez the the 1,500 farm workers packed into the Arvin High School April 10.

Cesar was continually interrupted by bursts of applause and Huelga flags waved everywhere. Shouts of HUELGA and SI SE PUEDE echoed throughout the building. Afterwards, hundreds of farm workers lined up to greet Cesar personally. Also, the movie SI SE PUEDE was featured during the evening.



# Typhoid Victims Sue Housing Authority

by Dorothy Johnson

HOMESTEAD, Florida--Residents of Homestead, Florida's South Dade Labor Camp are uniting in a suit against the City of Homestead and the Homestead Housing Authority for the callous neglect that led to more than 165 men, women and children being stricken with typhoid.

UFW organizers called a special meeting on

March 12. Several hundred camp residents attended. Most of them had either been hospitalized themselves, or had family members in the hospital being treated for typhoid.

UFW Florida Director Eliseo Medina explained how important it is for the people to be united during this crisis. By sticking together, their suit against city officials will be much more powerful. After discussing the possible action that could be taken, more than 80 families requested that the UFW Union lawyers handle their cases against Homestead and the Housing Authority.

The Homestead Housing Authority had been well aware that water at the camp was contaminated. In August, 1972, samples taken from

the camp office showed a barely tolerable reading of E-Coli colonies. In November and December, 1972, amidst an epidemic of diarrhea and vomiting among South Dade residents, complaints were made to the Housing Authority and the Health Department about the bad taste of the water. On December 29, 1972 the Public Health Department advised the Housing Authority that the water was "unfit for human consumption."

Yet with months of information behind them about the contaminated water, the Housing Authority ignored official recommendations, the complaints of the residents, and even the confirmed cases of typhoid that were reported during January and February.

It is this failure to act that has angered South Dade residents and that has prompted them to seek legal action against the Housing Authority and the City of Homestead.

This month, when Health Department officials mentioned that the Miami Beach water probably was not fit for drinking, it took less than three days for chlorinators to be flown in from out of state, hooked up, and working to clean the water for Beach tourists and residents.

Compare that with the eight months that elapsed between the time that it was known that water was dangerously contaminated and the time that camp residents were even advised not to drink the water.

Four women sitting on the steps of the make-shift clinic at the camp, waiting for the bus that would take them to three different hospitals to see their sick children, were talking about the Miami Beach water scare. One woman said, "We work hard and we pick their food, but they just think we are not as good as they are. Why else would they wait so long to help us?"

The people of South Dade camp are ready to fight back, legally and non-violently, to teach city and state officials that farm workers are not second class citizens. Besides organizing to sue the city and the Housing Authority, the camp residents are forming committees to protest high electricity rates, poor plumbing, broken windows, and the general poor condition of this so-called "model camp." UFW organizers Roberto Acuna and Becky Hurst are working with the Homestead farm workers in this struggle.



## DEFEATING HB74

by Mark Pitt

(Editor's note: House Bill 74, introduced into the Florida legislature by powerful agribusiness interests, was a repressive bill which, among other things, would have made the Union hiring hall illegal and preserved the crew leader system. One such crew leader, Joe Brown, was recently arrested and charged with holding his workers in virtual slavery.)

BELLE GLADE, Florida--Farm workers arrived in Tallahassee on Sunday, March 18. Monday the 19th was devoted to last minute lobbying on HB 74. About 100 Representatives were visited on Monday.

Monday night was devoted to a last minute strategy meeting for the upcoming sub-committee and committee hearings. On Tuesday a crowd of several hundred spectators--mostly farm workers who opposed the bill--jammed a capitol hearing room to give the Sub-committee three hours of opposing testimony.

Among those farm workers testifying was Theodore Johnson--a farm worker who was held captive by crew leader Joe Brown. Brother Johnson told of his experience in this camp and of the exploitative practices of the crew leader system.

Also testifying was Brother Walter Williams from Lakeland, Fla. He said that the United



After the Sub-committee 4-2 vote against HB74, Eliseo Medina (center), UFW director of organizing for Florida, talks with workers and supporters about strategy to ensure the defeat of the bill by the full Committee. Later, the Committee voted against the legislation 15-5.

The Sub-committee voted 4-2 against the bill and, after about one and a half hours of hearings in the afternoon, the full Committee voted 15-5 against the bill.

The proponents of the bill in a last minute effort to salvage at least part of it offered to withdraw the repressive sections aimed only at farm workers, but the farm workers showed their solidarity with the rest of labor and demanded the defeat of the entire bill. The

final vote was 15-5 against the bill.

A Senate version of the bill has been filed and farm workers' attention now must be turned to SB 222. Farm workers will again make the long journey to Tallahassee to ensure the defeat of Senate Bill 222.

The legislators in the State of Florida are now becoming aware of a new and powerful force that must be dealt with--the farm worker. NO ON SB 222.

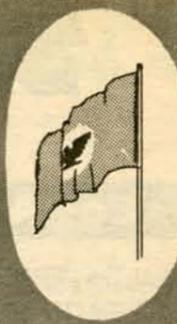
poem by Walter Williams on p. 14

Farm Workers was the only protection laborers had from crew leaders who keep them in line with threats, withheld pay, and sometimes imprisonment.

"Now that I have the Union," Williams said, his voice breaking with emotion, "there's nobody that is going to take my job away from me or discriminate against me."

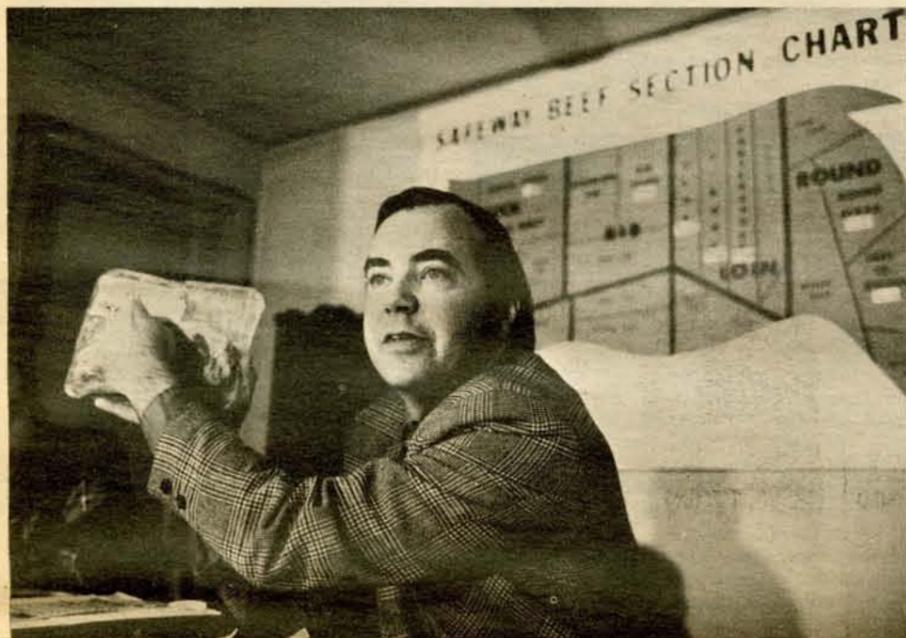


# THE CONSUMER & FARM WORKER REPORTER



## SAFeway MEAT FRAUD EXPOSED

Meat Cut Switch Costs Consumers \$85 Million Yearly



Rev. Chris Hartmire of the Interfaith Committee to Aid Farm Workers shows a mislabeled cut of Safeway meat to the press.

LOS ANGELES, California-- Safeway Stores, Inc. was hit with a \$36 million class action lawsuit here March 29 charging them with "knowingly and willfully mislabeling meat cuts" and thereby defrauding consumers of tens of millions of dollars annually. The suit was filed by the Interfaith Committee to Aid Farm Workers, a Los Angeles-based organization with over 200 ministers, priests, rabbis and lay persons as members, and was supported publicly by two United States Congressmen and a California State Senator. "Safeway is the largest beef retailer in the country. They claim to sell only the best meats, when in fact they have been systematically deceiving their customers and reaping high profits through meat fraud," charged the Rev. Wayne C. Hartmire, Jr., Chairman of the Committee, in announcing the suit.

"At a time when meat prices are at an all time high, Safeway customers get a double dose of misery," he continued. "They pay premium prices for their meat and all too often end up with cuts that are tougher and fatter than Safeway labels led them to believe they were purchasing."

Rev. Hartmire and Kenneth Doyle, an investigator for the Consumer Fraud Task Force of the Interfaith Committee, selected several samples from the hundreds of mislabeled meat cuts they had brought with them to the press conference. Among them were rib steaks labeled as club steaks, "thereby defrauding their customers by

30 to 50 cents a pound," Hartmire said. Hartmire additionally charged Safeway with selling club steaks as T-bones at a 10 cent per pound premium; mislabeling swiss steaks as round steaks for an extra profit of 10 cents per pound; and selling beef liver as calf liver, thereby overcharging customers by a whopping 60 to 70 cents per pound. In each case he showed the press examples of Safeway meats so mislabeled.

Doyle, who directed the investigation for the Committee explained that the inquiry was the result of consumer complaints about meat prices and quality, and that Safeway had been singled out only when its labeling practices proved consistently fraudulent.

"A team of investigators consisting of several meat cutters, a meat wrapper, an engineer and several housewives, conducted an initial survey of the three leading supermarket chains in the Los Angeles area; Lucky, Alpha Beta and Safeway," he said. "The results of the survey showed that both Lucky and Alpha Beta were labelling their meats according to industry standards.

"However," he continued, "the results also showed what appeared to be a consistent policy of mislabeling meat cuts at Safeway stores. Therefore it was decided to launch an in-depth survey of Safeway in an effort to document this practice." The investigators did not confine them-

selves to the Los Angeles area or even to California, Doyle explained, but made their investigation nation-wide, including such cities as Seattle, Portland, Denver and Washington, D.C. He said that over 120 stores were visited and that less than 10 percent of them were found to be free of mislabeling.

"Safeway's mislabeling practice is consistent across the country," Doyle said, "and can only be regarded as a conscious policy on the part of the top management of the chain to defraud consumers for their own profit." He estimated the total value of such fraud to Safeway to be over \$85



Rep. Jerome Waldie sharply criticized Safeway for defrauding consumers.

million a year.

Representative Jerome Waldie of California and Benjamin S. Rosenthal of New York joined the Interfaith Committee in their charges at a joint news conference in Washington, D.C. March 21.

"Safeway stores across the country are substituting cheaper cuts of meat for more expensive cuts at premium prices," Waldie said, "and in some cases the American consumer is being cheated by as much as 39 cents a pound for beef." Rosenthal echoed Waldie's sentiments, citing specific examples of fraudulent labeling from Safeway stores in the Washington, D.C. area.

California State Senator David A. Roberti (D.- Los Angeles) also cited "substantial proof that Safeway has consistently mislabeled meats at a higher quality than was actually the case. It is obvious," he said, "that the purpose was to maximize profits."

The Rev. Fred Eyster, Director of the Consumer Fraud Task Force of the Interfaith Committee, cited the recent meat boycott "as clear evidence that consumers in this country are fed up with high meat prices.

"But," he continued, "Safeway's fraudulent labelling practices make a bad situation much worse. A ceiling on meat prices is meaningless if you allow supermarkets like Safeway to mislabel meat cuts and thereby reap exorbitant and illegal profits. Safeway has engaged in one of the most glaring, nation-wide consumer frauds ever perpetrated. They must be stopped."

## Denver D.A. Charges Safeway Hamburger Fraud

DENVER, Colorado--Denver District Attorney Dale Tooley has charged Safeway Stores, Inc. in this area with fraudulently misrepresenting the fat content of their hamburger. In tests conducted by the Denver Department of Health and Hospitals at his request, ground beef marked 'extra lean' had a higher fat content than that marked 'lean', with the "extra lean" meat priced 23 cents higher than the "lean".

Tooley also uncovered instances in which hamburger marked 'lean' was less than 1 percent leaner than regular ground, even though it was selling at 20 cents more per pound. Tooley reported that the fat content in lean meat purchased at six Safeway stores ranged from 15.5 to 25.5 percent, adding that such percentages would have been sold as regular hamburger at other chains.

The District Attorney's investigation was triggered by a \$31 million dollar suit filed against Safeway by the Task Force for Consumer Protection of Denver, charging the giant chain with "fraudulent and illegal meat labeling practices" which, the organization said, "are deceiving metro Denver area consumers and endangering the health patients and diabetics."

Commenting on the last part of their complaint against Safeway, Ms. Peg Fleming, an officer of the Task Force which conducted the investigation, said that "For years heart patients, diabetics, weight-watchers and high blood pressure victims have paid 30 to 50 cents per pound more for 'lean' and 'extra lean' ground beef thinking they were protecting their health.

"Now we find they have been deceived," she continued. "Their health has in fact endangered for the sake of more corporate profits for Safeway."

Ms. Fleming explained that the suit was based on laboratory tests of Safeway's ground beef conducted by an independent

firm, Agri-Science Laboratories, Inc. of Hawthorne, California, which is certified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as meat chemists.

The results of the inquiry showed, she said, that "There is no significant fat content difference between grades of ground beef at Safeway."

A later investigation by the same Task Force for Consumer Protection revealed that Safeway's labeling of whole meat cuts was similarly misleading and fraudulent, prompting the Task Force to file another \$33 million suit on these charges April 6.

The investigation into the meat cuts fraud was conducted with the aid of Raymond Salas, a Denver-area professional meat cutter and beef boner. "I have been job trained to identify the traits and characteristics of all standard cuts of Beef, Pork, Lamb, Veal and Poultry," Salas said in an affidavit accompanying the suit.

Salas then listed more than a dozen examples of mislabeled meat that he had personally investigated, and said that first-hand investigation into the meat department at a local Safeway store had revealed between 33 percent and 100 percent of meat cuts similarly mislabeled.

Among Salas' examples were cuts which Safeway had labeled as T-bone steak but which were actually the tail end of the short loin; first cut pork chops, near the shoulder end, which were labeled and sold as the more expensive center cut chops; and blade chuck steak labeled and sold at an increased price as U.S. choice beef seven bone steak.

"In every instance of mislabeling which I observed," he said, "the price charged for the mislabeled cut of meat was higher per pound than the price which the store was charging for the cut which the package actually contained."



Consumers and the press inspect a display of mislabeled Safeway meat cuts at the Interfaith Committee press conference.

# SAFEWAY: A National Disgrace

## Los Angeles

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONFIRMS INSECTS IN SAFEWAY COOKIES

In a report to Al Lavers, Chief of the Division of Consumer Protection for Los Angeles County, William G. Waldron, Senior Biologist-Entomologist for the County Health Department, confirmed that Safeway Stores in the area had marketed cookies infested with various kinds of insects and their larvae.

"Insect evidence such as webbing, fraces, immature moth larvae, and mature Indian Meal Moth adults, were observed in many of the cookie packages investigated," Waldron said in his official report.

"At my suggestion, Mr. Jerry Van Dorne Distribution Manager for Safeway Stores Inc., was issued a written notice to fumigate all the cookie cases in the storage van," Waldron continued. "The van when emptied, while the food products were being fumigated with methyl-bromide, was then to be sprayed on the inside with a nontoxic insecticide."

The Health Department investigation was the direct result of a \$250,000 lawsuit filed against Safeway by the Los Angeles Interfaith Committee to Aid Farm Workers, charging that "Committee investigators discovered insect eggs, larvae, worms and live flying insects inside cellophane-wrapped packages of El Molino brand cookies and other baked goods sold at Safeway Markets."

Filed with the suit was an affidavit from Dr. Robert Buker, a Los Angeles County Public Health Physician, who stated "It is my professional opinion that the presence of said insects in the packages of cookies and bakery products which I examined constitutes a potentially extreme hazard to the health of any person consuming same."

### SANITATION SURVEY HITS SAFEWAY

A survey of 34 Safeway stores in the Los Angeles area revealed sanitation conditions considerably less than satisfactory.

Among the most common violations listed were:

- "Filthy employee toilet facilities;
- "Damaged and/or defective equipment in the refrigerator section; improper refrigera-

tion temperatures which allow rapid growth of bacteria in meat and dairy products; --"Rat poison located in the flour section of the store. Mice and/or rat droppings in the meat case, and on grocery shelves. Baited rat trap in aisle;

--"Floors, shelves, baskets filthy. Spilled flour and sugar left on shelves and floors."

## San Francisco

### PUTRID PORK CHOPS

A \$25 million class-action suit against Safeway Stores, Inc. charges the giant chain with the sale of pork chops "composed in part of diseased, contaminated, filthy, putrid or decomposed materials," claiming that such products "had been produced under unsanitary conditions which rendered them unwholesome, diseased and injurious to health."

Lab reports accompanying the suit, done by Bakte Schiece Labs of Berkeley, cite one sample "infected by a pus-like substance" which the scientists say is produced by an "organism associated with fecal contamination resulting from mishandling of the meat."

The suit was filed in Alameda Co. Superior Court with two consumers, James H. Gekas and Cathryn D. Porcelli as plaintiffs. Chuck Farnsworth, an attorney for the two plaintiffs, says that news reports about the suit prompted several unsolicited phone calls from other consumers who had similar experiences with Safeway's pork chops.

### MISUSING USDA LABELS

Safeway has been charged with--and has admitted--misusing "USDA choice" and "USDA prime" labels on some of its meat products.

Such labels are by law supposed to be attached to pure beef and lamb products only. However, investigators found that Safeway had used them extensively on liverwurst, bratwurst, and similar products in its Bay-area stores.

The practice was revealed by an \$80 million class-action suit filed by Father Eugene J. Boyle against the food chain. At a preliminary hearing Safeway admitted that the charges were true but claimed it had discontinued the practice. Father Boyle has said he will press his suit, seeking damages for all consumers deceived by Safeway's misuse of the labels.



California State Senator David A. Roberti (D.-Los Angeles) has found "substantial proof that Safeway has consistently mislabeled meats at a higher quality than was actually the case. It is obvious," he said, "that the purpose was to maximize profits."

## Texas

### RATS IN THE WAREHOUSE: INDICTED, CONVICTED AND FINED

For the second time in two years, and at two separate locations in this state, Safeway Stores, Inc. has been sued by the federal government for maintaining unsanitary conditions at the company's food storage warehouses. Indictments in 1971 resulted in convictions and fines of Safeway officials, as has a recent case in El Paso; a recent indictment in the Dallas area is still pending.

Government evidence in the 1971 case in the Dallas area included black and white and color photographs showing the warehouse interior littered with debris from sacks and cartons attacked by rats. Government exhibits also showed rats amid torn flour sacks and a nest of newborn rats snuggled between sacks of peanuts.

The government alleges in the recent Dallas case that food at the warehouse is contaminated by the rats' urine and fecal droppings. The federal criminal indictment names Safeway and one of its vice-presidents, Horace A. Justice, Safeway's division manager for the Dallas area, as defendants.

In the El Paso case, a U.S. District Court fined Safeway and three of its officials a total of \$7,500 for storing bags of flour in a warehouse where they were exposed to contamination by rodents and birds.

## Washington

### BEEF LIVER FOR CALF LIVER- AT DOUBLE THE PRICE

An investigation into Safeway Stores in Seattle and Tacoma revealed a systematic pattern of substituting beef liver for calf liver, yielding Safeway a substantial 70 cents per pound premium on sales. Beef liver normally sells for 79 cents a pound, while calf liver commands \$1.49 per pound.

The inquiry was conducted by Hub Segur, on the staff of the Interfaith Committee to Aid Farm Workers, with the assistance of Gretchen Davis, a professional meat wrapper.

Their study also revealed that Safeway commonly sold club steaks as t-bone steaks, a practice reported at Safeway stores in other parts of the country.

## Oregon

### FEDERAL INVESTIGATION FINDS MEAT PLANT "UNACCEPTABLE"

PORTLAND, Oregon--

Federal meat inspectors found the Safeway meat processing plant near here "unacceptable" in three of the six categories under inspection, including sanitation.

The inspectors found the water supply of the plant unacceptable, and raised a total of nine objections to the processing procedure at the plant, including "changing of gloves not required at four hour intervals by inspector," and "plant employee was not properly trained in identifying and reporting defects."

But the most serious charges--a total of sixteen--dealt with sanitation at the plant, which also was found unacceptable. Those charges included:

- "loose paint on walls in sausage department;
- "loose paint on overhead structure in boning room, storage cooler, poultry cooler and sausage department;
- "framework of some equipment in sausage department corroded;
- "foot stands in sausage and boning departments need cleaning;
- "galvanized boning tables dirty;
- "floors in sausage and boning departments not cleaned at lunch and break periods; and
- "broken and/or splintered pallets being used in most areas of plant."

## Washington D.C.

### TOO MUCH FAT IN HAMBERGER

Safeway has been warned by city food inspectors here that it is selling ground beef with a fat content higher than that to fines of up to \$3000

to fines of up to \$300 and ten days in jail per sample, Bailus Walker, director of the Districts' environmental health administration, told reporters.

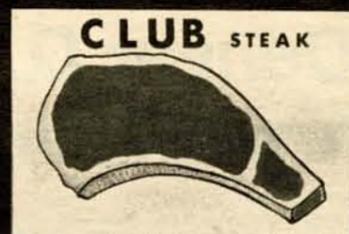
Washington's law calls for no more than 30 percent fat content in "regular" ground beef, 21 to 23 percent in the "lean", and 16 to 18 percent in hamburger labeled as "extra lean." Safeway was found to have violated those legal guidelines, and was threatened with action against it by city officials.



Rep. Benjamin Rosenthal said that "Safeway's misleading meat labeling is inexcusable under any circumstances" at a press conference in Washington, D.C. on March 21.



RIB STEAK



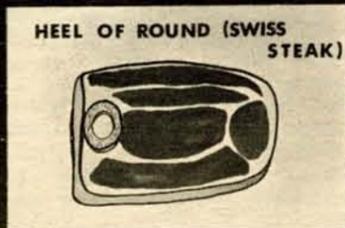
CLUB STEAK



T-BONE STEAK



PORTERHOUSE STEAK



HEEL OF ROUND (SWISS STEAK)



ROUND STEAK

Pictured above are meat cuts labeled according to industry standards. Yet in a national survey of Safeway stores cheaper cuts were systematically substituted for more expensive ones: Rib steaks were labeled as Club steaks, thereby deceiving consumers into paying 50 cents per pound more; Club steaks were sold as T-bones making Safeway another 10 cents per pound; T-bone steaks were labeled Porterhouse at 10 cents per pound more. Safeway takes every opportunity to profiteer, even mislabeling its cheapest cuts--Swiss steaks are sold as Round steaks at a 20 cent per pound increase.

# BOYCOTT SAFEWAY

# PESTICIDES: Danger to Consumers and Farm Workers

LOS ANGELES, California-- An investigation by the California Assembly Committee on Agriculture, Food and Nutrition has revealed that growers have harvested pesticide-contaminated lettuce and that major retailers like Safeway have marketed it, endangering the health of consumers and farm workers alike. In some cases such action was taken knowingly and against the warnings of State Agriculture Commissioners, and criminal indictments against such parties may be forthcoming.

The investigation grew out of reports early this year that lettuce in California's



Assemblyman Alatorre: first hand evidence of pesticide damage to farm workers.

Imperial Valley was showing signs of contamination from the use of the nerve-gas pesticide Monitor 4. An investigation by Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner Claude Finnell uncovered numerous cases of residues in excess of the legal tolerance.

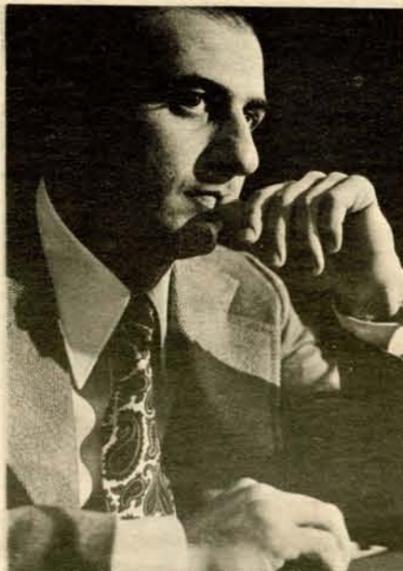
However, hearings before the Committee revealed that much of the lettuce was harvested, shipped and consumed anyway, and that farm workers and consumers alike had experienced symptoms--sometimes severe-- due to exposure to the pesticide.

California Assemblyman Richard Alatorre (D.-Los Angeles) visited the Imperial Valley and talked to farm workers who had harvested the crops.

"I saw a man whose hands were being eaten up," Alatorre told newsmen. "You could see the irritation, the scratchiness. I saw men whose hands looked rotten or who had sores along their arms that had not healed." Alatorre noted that farm workers have no protection against such poisoning, since there are no legal tolerances established for workers handling contaminated crops.

Assembly Speaker Bob Moretti, speaking before the Committee and also noting the lack of protection for farm workers, said, "Just as we cannot tolerate using the consumers food plate as a testing ground for pesticide research, we cannot tolerate the use of farm workers as laboratory mice for discovering the human health effects of new pesticides."

The Committee hearings revealed that the dangers to consumers are similarly severe. Despite pesticide contaminations as much as 6.5 times the legal maximum, much of the Imperial Valley lettuce crop was marketed by stores such as Safeway and consumed by the public, with only a fraction destroyed by federal officials. A sampling of areas around the country



Assembly Speaker Moretti: Neither farm workers nor consumers should be used as pesticide guinea pigs.

revealed:

--A large shipment of lettuce with a Monitor 4 reading of 2.5 parts per million (the legal maximum is 1 ppm) was sold to the U.S. Navy and consumed.

--263 cases of lettuce contaminated with 4.0 ppm of Monitor 4 were seized and destroyed in St. Louis.

--Lettuce bearing a residue of 6.5 ppm was consumed by the public in Rochester, N.Y.

--Lettuce from Yuma, Ariz. showing 1.5 ppm of Monitor-4 was sent to Canada for consumption.

--In Chelsea, Mass., lettuce bearing 3.6 ppm of the pesticide was sold and consumed.

--Consumers in Buffalo, N.Y. ate lettuce with 4.7 ppm of Monitor-4.

Symptoms of pesticide poisoning include nausea, vomiting, dizziness, headaches, and poor vision and breathing. However, because these are also the symptoms of common flu, pesticide poisoning has been difficult to diagnose.

Lately, doctors for both farm workers and consumers have begun to suspect that it is not the flu at all that their patients are suffering from. "The flu is not what these people have," says Dr. Kenneth Tittle of the United Farm Workers Clinic in Calexico, Cal. "In the first place, flu is not chronic, and these diseases usually are. It can go on for weeks or months and is not associated with fever. The flu almost always brings a fever.

In addition, Tittle said, the farm workers have responded to a drug called atrophine, specifically designed for pesticide poisoning.

Dr. H. Rudolph Alsleben, in written testimony before the Assembly Committee, said that he has noticed an outbreak of similar symptoms among his suburban Anaheim patients. "The most effective treatment has proved to be atrophine," he said. "Curiously, atrophine is an antidote for organo-phosphate (pesticide) poisoning."

As things stand now, neither farm workers nor consumers have much protection against the dangers of pesticide poisoning. There are no laws whatsoever protecting workers, and those protecting consumers are often ignored or weakly enforced, as the Monitor-4 case has amply illustrated.

## CONSUMERS & FARM WORKERS RECOUNT HORRORS OF LETTUCE POISONING

On February 19, 1973 I ate at a small cafe on Sacramento Avenue in Berkeley. I ordered a green salad. The waitress started to pick leaves off a head of lettuce, but commented that all the leaves had small black holes burnt in them. She kept peeling away the leaves, and throwing them out. Finally, she had made me a salad of the leaves near the center of the head of lettuce, but even these had burn marks on them. I hardly ate anything else for lunch. About three hours later, I began to feel severe stomach pains and went home. All night I felt the stomach pains--they were sharp, like ulcer pain--and I woke up the next day feeling nauseous. I couldn't sleep well that night, and probably woke up 100 times. All the time I felt like vomiting but didn't.

--Kern Greaves  
Berkeley

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On March 4, 1973, my wife made a large salad with lettuce she had bought from the Safeway Store at High Street and MacArthur Blvd. in Oakland. I ate some of that lettuce, and the next day, Monday, March 5, I was sick--I couldn't sleep, I felt like vomiting but couldn't, and felt nauseous. I couldn't perform my duties as postman I felt so sick, and stayed

home March 5th and 6th. I didn't eat anymore lettuce, and on March 7th I felt well enough to return to work.

--Carl E. Hanna  
Oakland

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On about February 26, 1973, I purchased some iceberg lettuce at the Mayfair Market at the corner of Ocean and San Jose Avenue in San Francisco. I have been trying generally to eat a lot of lettuce recently because I'm dieting. After eating some of the lettuce on about February 27, I began to feel nauseous. That night, I couldn't sleep. I felt weak, had a headache and vomited. The next day I ate some more of the lettuce and the symptoms continued. I continued to eat the lettuce and the symptoms continued--vomiting, sleeplessness, nausea, weakness, headaches. (I generally never have headaches.) I went to Letterman Hospital in San Francisco. Finally, believing the problem might be caused by the lettuce I was eating, I stopped eating it completely about March 5. Since then I have felt better and the symptoms have subsided.

--Dolores Circle  
San Francisco

In each of the areas I worked in the lighter pre harvest operations, I have been afflicted with the following symptoms of pesticide poisoning--frequent shortness of breath, general weakness of body, pain in the legs and arms, and skin problems such as rashes. When I was first afflicted with these problems, I went to see a doctor in Calexico. He told me that my condition was a result of the pesticides used by the growers from whom I worked. He gave me some medication.

--M.R., Calexico

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I was a lettuce cutter at Martori Brothers Ranch during the months of January and February 1973 and at Danenburg Farms for the last four days of February. About late February, after the fields were sprayed with pesticides, I began to experience a sore throat, much sweating, and general feelings similar to having a cold. I con-

tinued working for the four days, even though I felt this way. I still have a stuffy nose, and feel as though I have a cold. I do not know when or how the pesticides were applied.

--S.N., Calexico

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Miguel S., 26 years old, has picked lettuce for seven years and has never been seriously ill before this season. Now his skin is peeling from his hands in large dry patches. His feet are also peeling.

"A rash began on my body six weeks ago and then my hands and feet began to peel. I went to a doctor in Nogales. He told me there was nothing to do if I did not quit the fields.

When I walk my feet burn from the peeling, and some days its very hard to work with them. At the beginning of the season, I had headaches and blurred vision. That has gone away

### NATIONAL T.V. POLL

#### SAFEMAY PRESIDENT

#### DEFENDS HIGH BEEF PRICES

SAN ANTONIA, Texas--With consumers across the country outraged at the price of beef and, in some cases, actively organizing to lower prices, William S. Mitchell, President of Safeway Stores, Inc., has claimed that meat prices are "not too high."

Mitchell had a receptive audience for his comments--the American National Cattlemen's Association, meeting in convention here. "The first thing I think we, the producers and the retailers, must do," he said, "is shoot down the idea that beef prices are too high."

#### SAFEMAY CUSTOMERS

#### BACK LETTUCE BOYCOTT

BOSTON, Massachusetts--Safeway Stores, Inc., the second largest food chain in the country, in effect sponsored a referendum on the United Farm Workers lettuce boycott and lost badly.

When "The Advocates", a nationally televised program of the National Educational Television network, scheduled a debate broadcast on the question, "Should I Support the National Lettuce Boycott?", Safeway spent an estimated \$25,000 in advertising urging its customers to view the program and decide for themselves. In the second largest vote in the history of the Advocates program, 87% of its viewers backed the lettuce boycott with only 13% voting against it.

The program consisted of two advocates supporting either side of the question at issue, each of whom called upon witnesses to support his side. Witnesses supporting the lettuce boycott included Dolores Huerta, Vice President of the United Farm Workers. Speaking against the boycott was a coalition of Teamsters Union and grower representatives.

incorrectly labeled  
safeway T-bone steak



correctly labeled  
Lucky T-bone steak



GRAPHIC EVIDENCE of Safeway's meat fraud is provided by examining the above meat cuts. The top one was purchased at a Safeway store in Los Angeles on February 20, 1973. It is clearly labeled "T-bone steak," yet the package actually contains a Club steak. The bottom sample is a correctly labeled T-bone steak, purchased at Lucky store on March 24, 1973.

# BOYCOTT SAFEWAY

## RELIGIOUS LEADERS CONDEMN TEAMSTERS

Seldom in recent years have we felt constrained to issue a public condemnation. We have a proper reluctance in issuing such serious statements. But we are appalled by the Teamsters' current cynical and unprecedented alliance with the Farm Bureau and lettuce growers - traditionally two of the strongest anti-union forces in the country - to crush the United Farm Workers. Our sense of outrage, provoked by your patently unjust and unwarranted assault, compels us to condemn you and your operation in the severest and most unequivocal terms.

When UFW began organizing in Salinas in 1970, your sudden appearance on the scene (again at the behest of the growers) with the claim to exclusive bargaining rights again displayed your utter contempt for the desire of the workers. Recognition was granted you on the same day it was asked and you signed, without any consultation of the workers, contracts granting you exclusive bargaining rights for the workers. The Supreme Court in its decision on Chavez vs. Englund issued December 29, 1972 called this "the ultimate form of favoritism", and those of us with some knowledge of labor history have not been able to discover another instance where one union so blatantly aided an employer keep out another union.

Your continued callous indifference to the rights of farm workers - this time for their health and safety - was highlighted last week in testimony given by Teamster representatives at the State Assembly Sub-Committee Hearings in Los Angeles, in which they stated there was really no problem any longer with the pesticides, and that the federal agents had everything under control. This testimony was sharply contradicted by the testimony of farm workers and others, (including Assemblyman Richard Alatorre, who made a personal visitation to the ranches in the Imperial Valley) that farm workers have been seriously injured by picking lettuce contaminated by Monitor-4.

It is clear to us that whatever your motivation is in forming an alliance with the Farm Bureau and the growers to run United Farm Workers out of the fields, it is certainly not the individual good of farm workers. We urge you to cease and desist this gross and unjust operation.

The statement was signed by several dozen national religious leaders.

## MEANY BLASTS TEAMSTERS



"...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 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

published by the  
Committee  
for the Protection of  
Consumers and Farm Workers  
Los Angeles, Ca.

## SAFEWAY SUED FOR SALE OF POISONED LETTUCE

LOS ANGELES, California--Safeway was among several supermarket chains, wholesale distributors and pesticide manufacturers sued by the Interfaith Committee to Aid Farm Workers and dozens of consumers because of their sale of head lettuce contaminated with illegal residues of the pesticide, Monitor-4. The suit seeks \$100 million in damages in addition to an injunction prohibiting sale of contaminated lettuce.

"It is outrageous that giant retailers like Safeway place their customers' health in danger by their own refusal to adequately test the lettuce they sell," said David Grabill, attorney for the plaintiff Committee.

"We are in court," Grabill continued, "because the government and food chains like Safeway have not taken the most elementary steps to protect the public."

Legislative analyst A. Alan Post added, "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 in a conflict of interest between promoting the agriculture industry and watching over the use of chemicals.

The suit was supported by dozens of affidavits from consumers who suffered ill effects after eating contaminated lettuce. Typical symptoms included dizziness, vomiting or a desire to vomit, violent stomach cramps, and severe headaches. Symptoms often lasted for days after consuming the lettuce and continued while lettuce was repeatedly eaten, subsiding and disappearing only upon ending lettuce consumption.

Additional evidence from independent agricultural laboratories, showing that samples of lettuce from Safeway stores exceeded the legal limit for pesticide residues, were also submitted as evidence in support of the suit.

## SAFEWAY LETTUCE BURIED

SAN FRANCISCO, California--Some of Safeway's lettuce was so badly contaminated with pesticide Monitor-4 that it had to be buried near here.

A burial certificate issued by Perry Coy, a local agricultural official, states, "January 5, 1973, 2 lots of JEFF brand head lettuce totaling 2,896 cartons were loaded into six truck trailers at Safeway Stores Distribution Center, Richmond, Calif."

"January 6, 1973 this inspector witnessed the breaking of all six seals and the dumping of 2,896 cartons of JEFF brand head lettuce and the subsequent crushing and burial by D-8 tractor of both lots at the Richmond land fill dump."

## EPA BANS MONITOR 4

LOS ANGELES, California-- Douglas Cempt, an official representative of the federal Environmental Protection Agency, admitted in hearings before the California Assembly Committee on Agriculture, Food and Nutrition that the EPA had banned the use of Monitor-4 on lettuce in the wake of the scandal surrounding the harvesting and marketing of lettuce contaminated with that pesticide.

However, Cempt said that growers are free to use the chemical on a multitude of other crops, and that lettuce was the only marketable produce for which the pesticide was banned.

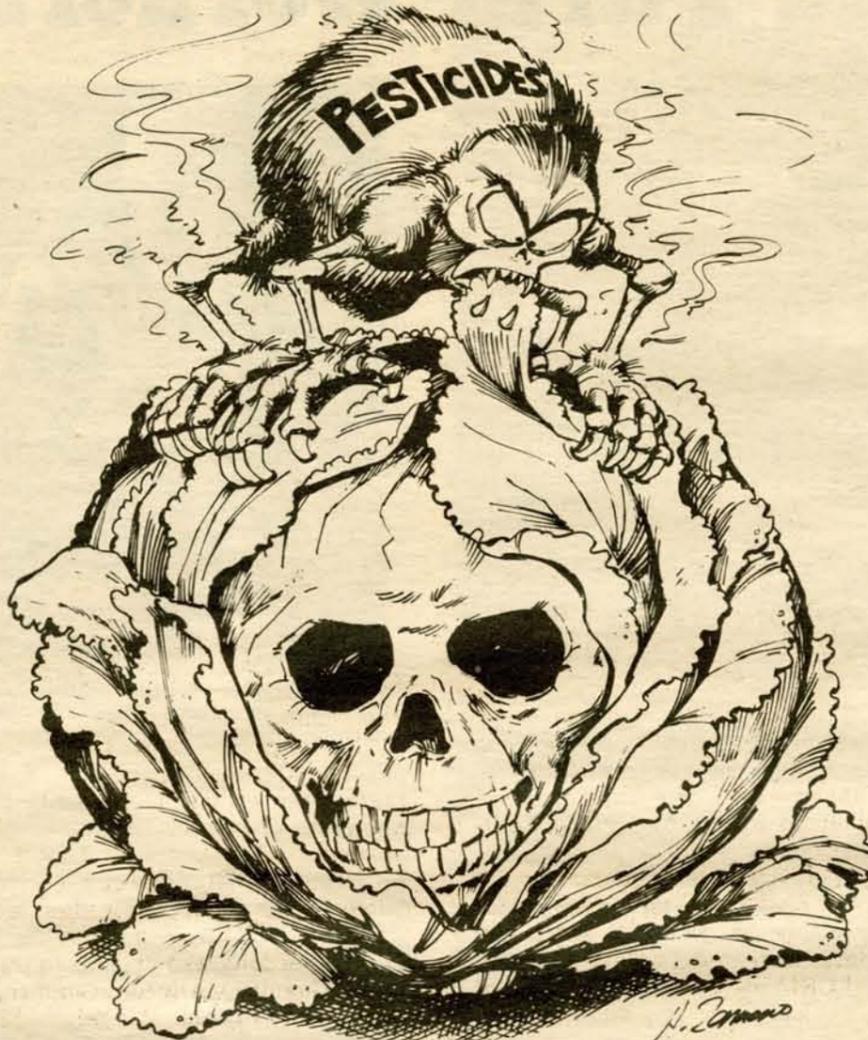
## DEADLY PHOSDRIN PERILS FARM WORKERS

EL CENTRO, California--In response to charges by Jerry Cohen, General Counsel for the United Farm Workers, State and County Officials here are investigating nearby Danny Danenburg Farms for possible violations in the use of the highly toxic pesticide, Phosdrin.

Growers have turned to Phosdrin since the banning of Monitor-4 for use on lettuce. The new substitute is even more toxic than the chemical it replaces, having only half the tolerance.

Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner was caught by surprise by Cohen's charges, and could only tell the Committee that he would investigate immediately.

Apparently his investigation turned up incriminating information, because the results of the inquiry have been turned over to Imperial County District Attorney Jim Hamilton for possible prosecution. Neither office would make any further comment beyond stating that the incident is still under investigation.



Los Angeles Times FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1973

## The Dangerous Use of Pesticides

There is strong evidence that a number of farm workers in the Imperial Valley have been poisoned by new kinds of pesticides that were used on vegetable crops. How many laborers may have been made ill is not known, nor does anyone know what the ultimate effects on humans of the pesticides may be. The California Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency say they plan studies on the effects of the pesticides on farm workers. That is fine, but an obvious question is why those studies were not conducted before the toxic materials were certified for use, and before men apparently were made sick by them.

The pesticides are from a family called organo phosphates. They are a replacement for now-banned DDT, and they are attractive because they dissipate quickly and lose their toxicity within a few weeks. The trouble is that the pesticides can cause illness or death if misused. The organo phosphates, in fact, were originally developed during World War II as a nerve gas. The reported cases of farm labor poisoning seem to have stemmed from excessive application of the pesticides, premature exposure of workers to a treated field or prolonged contact with pesticide residues on crops.

One of the organo phosphates, Monitor 4, has been banned by the EPA for use on head lettuce. That happened after residues up to six times the federally established tolerance were found on more than 10,000 cases of lettuce distributed throughout the United States.

Another organo phosphate, Phosdrin, was then used as a substitute for Monitor 4. But earlier this

month it was discovered that additional thousands of cases of lettuce contaminated with large quantities of Phosdrin had been distributed in what appears to be a particularly flagrant breach of the law. The United Farm Workers Union has charged that one grower ordered lettuce harvesters into the field one day after the crop had been treated with Phosdrin; federal and state regulations require a four-day waiting period from the time Phosdrin is applied until the crop is picked. The state is "considering" criminal prosecution in this case. If the UFWU allegation is true, the most vigorous prosecution should follow.

Pesticides plainly are necessary to protect crops all over the country; without these chemical agents, agricultural losses in the field would be large, and food prices would soar even higher. But just as necessary is protection of persons who come in contact with crops—consumers certainly, but farm laborers first of all.

Dr. Ephraim Kahn of the California Department of Agriculture notes the need for new, less toxic, pesticides, but is not hopeful that they can be developed soon. That means that potentially dangerous chemicals will still have to be used. Maybe tougher regulations on these compounds are needed. In any case, the level of danger is at least controllable to some, possibly a large, extent. It is up to the growers. Their responsible use of the organo phosphates is not just a matter of obeying state and federal regulations. Far more important is the matter of protecting the health of their employees. When that responsibility is ignored, the punishment should be severe.

## OFFICIAL FDA REPORT

## NATION'S LETTUCE POISONED

The following is a listing of various chemicals found on lettuce samples by the Federal Drug Administration during the fiscal year 1972:

Aldrin  
BHC; Benzene Hexachloride  
DDT  
Diazinon  
Dieldrin  
Endrin  
Endosulfan; thiodan  
Kelthane  
Lindane  
Malathion  
Methyl Parathion; Metacide  
Ovex; Ovotran  
Parathion  
Parthane

Phosdrin; meuinphos  
TDE ; DDD; Rhothane  
Toxaphene  
Zineb  
Carbyl  
Carbaryl; sevin  
Fluorine Compounds  
Dacthal; Dimethyl  
DDE  
PCNB  
Sulfotepp  
Hexachlorobenzene  
Penta Chloro Aniline

# Malcriado Committee Fresno SI SE PUEDE



REEDLEY, California -- About 450 farm workers and their families filled the American Legion Hall in Reedley to see the film "SI SE PUEDE", along with a program of songs and dances organized by the Malcriado Committee of Fresno County.

Higinio Rangel, director of organization for EL MALCRIADO, spoke of the importance of experiencing a "mental Huelga" which can transform us into dedicated Unionists willing to take EL MALCRIADO with its message of La Causa door-to-door to every farm work-

community.

The Malcriado Committees thanks Justo Fernandez, Master of Ceremonies, Los Suplementarios, the group SI SE PUEDE, the Hermanas Marroquin, Martin Gonzales, the Cuyapiques, Señorita Lili Andrade, Las Flamas and all of the other sisters and brothers to contributed their efforts to this exciting event.

EL MALCRIADO applauds the excellent work of the persons who organized this event: Lupe Guzman, Alfredo Guzman, Dolores Gomez, and Higinio Rangel. SI SE PUEDE.

## Higinio Rangel Organizes Distribution



Higinio Rangel, who has been assigned the task of organizing the distribution of EL MALCRIADO for California and Arizona, has been with the Union for more than eight years. He was in La Causa when the Union started to organize the table grape industry. He worked as a boycotter in Detroit during the Grape Boycott and then on the Lettuce Boycott in San Jose. He was also Director of the Union Office in Dinuba for a time.

Higinio considers the task of distributing EL MALCRIADO of utmost importance in moving the Union forward. He asked the help of the Ranch Committees, Union organizers and Union

members in general to help in this work.

EL MALCRIADO is presently carrying out a door-to-door campaign to introduce the newspaper to farm worker communities.

Higinio believes EL MALCRIADO should be an instrument of struggle and a means by which farm workers can express themselves. He hopes that all who read EL MALCRIADO will send in their criticisms or commentaries so that the newspaper will improve and better serve all farm workers. "The paper," he said, "must grow to become of which our Union can be proud." worker

**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:

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

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

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(\$5.00 a bundle PRE-PAID)

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# Labor and Movement News



## UNITED STATES:

### ONEITA WORKERS DETERMINED STRIKERS

ANDREWS, S.C. -- "What can you do for your family on a \$1.60 an hour. When these get sick I can't afford a doctor. When they get a toothache, I can't afford a dentist. We live on rice and biscuits and I'd like to give them a piece of meat now and then. This strike is for my babies and I'm not going back until we win a decent contract."

Mary Lee Middleton, one of the 700 workers who have been on strike for five weeks at the Lane and Andrews, S.C., plants of Oneita Knitting Mills, explained why she is on strike. "They don't treat you like a person at the mill. They talk to you like you're nobody. There's

no such things as seniority. They can just transfer you to another department whenever they like."

On January 15, workers at both Oneita plants struck the company in protest of the company's refusal to bargain in good faith. In November 1971, the workers voted for TWUA representation in a National Labor Relations Board election.

Since then, the workers have been struggling to get a decent contract in the face of company harassment and unilateral changes in working conditions. The company has already been accused of unfair labor practices by the NLRB for failing to bargain in good faith with the TWUA.

Boycott ONEITA UNDERWEAR bearing the labels of Sears, Montgomery Ward, J.C. Penney, and K-Mart.



Strikers at Lane, S.C. demonstrate solid ranks during march in front of company plant. Oneita workers in Lane and Andrews plants have been on strike for over six weeks in fight to win decent contract from the company.

## SHELL OIL STRIKE: SOLIDARITY ALL THE WAY

Jackie Costa, wife of a Shell Oil striker, wrote recently about the continuing strike and boycott against the Shell Oil Company. She



emphasized that the main issue at stake is health and safety on the job. She says that her husband

if her husband were to have a serious accident on the job, the family would suffer a lot. "We would lose our house, our furniture and all of our possessions," she explains. "We've got to win this strike."

Jackie says she helped to organize the wives of the strikers in order to demonstrate to the company that they support their husbands. They take food to the picketline and picket themselves. The women have picketed the sheriff's offices in Martinez, California to protest the way in which sheriff's deputies treat the strikers and favor the scabs who cross the picketline to enter the refinery. They are planning a series of fund-raising activities to support the strike.

She reports that Shell strikers are grateful for the support La Causa has given them in their struggle so far. "We also support the Safeway boycott and the lettuce boycott," she affirms, "We are all in the same struggle. We shall overcome." BOYCOTT SHELL.

## LATIN AMERICA



## AND THE WORLD:

### BRAZIL'S "NATIONAL SECURITY"

POLICY  
THREATENS  
INDIANS



Late in 1967, the Brazilian Government issued a report which caused international concern and shock; it disclosed that its own Indian Protection Service (SPI) had been directly and indirectly involved in the widespread destruction of the native Brazilian Indians with whose welfare it had been entrusted.

A scandal of this proportion reflected badly on the newly established Brazilian military regime. So it disbanded the SPI, set up a new agency and set out to formulate an Indian policy. It was a critical moment for the remaining tribal peoples because the vast development schemes for Amazonia and the Wes-

tern frontier regions were just being launched. At first it seemed that the government would move in the direction of protecting the natives by setting up adequate reservations to protect tribal lands from encroachment by the deluge of immigrants and developers.

But by 1970, the government settled upon a "hard line" on the Indian question. The principle of setting up national parks in which the indigenous population could hold on to their own cultures and way of life was criticized as "a threat to national security."

So programs of "relocation" were launched resulting in starvation, epidemic disease, inter-tribal conflict. One Brazilian general refers to the Indians as "ethnic cysts" that are not to be tolerated within Brazil's borders.

The military regime's slogan of "national security," provides the pretext for eliminating anyone who, for one reason or another, becomes a threat to the surest and quickest path to economic development, that is, quick profits for the giant corporations that have set up their operations there. And it is clear that those who will suffer most are the Indians, whose lands are coveted for their rich mineral and metal resources.

### U.S. TRAINS BRITISH COMMANDOS

NEW YORK (LNS)-- U.S. military spokesmen have termed it a "coincidence" that 800 British commandos are currently being trained in counter-insurgency tactics at Camp Le Jeune in North Carolina.

The 800 troops are part of the same detachment currently being used as the British occupation force in Northern Ireland.

The U.S. has helped British efforts in Northern Ireland by replacing British NATO troops stationed in Western Europe with American troops to make it possible for Britain to increase its troop strength in Northern Ireland. In early March, the U.S. even airlifted 7,000

British troops to the North.

WHY? American investment in Ireland has been increasing steadily. Currently over \$200 million has been invested in the North and over \$120 million in the South. During the heavy bombings of North Vietnam last December British Prime Minister Heath was the only Western European leader to give continued open and loud support to Nixon's policies, despite cries of protest from the British people.

### ITT ADMITS DESIGNS AGAINST CHILE

WASHINGTON, D.C. (LNS) -- Recent investigations by a special Senate subcommittee have revealed elaborate plans by the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation and the Central Intelligence Agency to bring about the downfall of Chile's Marxist government.

Top officials of ITT, which has \$6.6 billion in world-wide assets admitted they had worked with the CIA in planning a strategy for Chile and offered \$1 million to the U.S. government when it became apparent that Allende would be elected president.

The 1970 pre-election plans included steps to foment violence in Chile that would bring about a military takeover, and the use of U.S. governmental agencies to supply anti-Allende propaganda to other Latin American countries.

ITT was unable to carry out the plan and settled on trying to bring about an "economic collapse" in Chile. As part of this plan, CIA officials made repeated calls to firms such as General Motors, Ford Motor Co. and banks in California and New York, asking them to stop or reduce their activities in Chile in order to hurt its economy.

In a speech before the United Nations in December Allende stated: "Before the conscience of the world I accuse ITT of attempting to bring about civil war in my country. That is what we call imperialist action."

# Victory Through Despair



By Walter Williams,  
migrant worker  
and Union organizer,  
Haines City, Florida

In my search for life I have found abundance of joy, but joy only comes through suffering. The might know naught of joy, for where is joy found among those who know naught of suffering? It is suffering to be born and joy to know a mother's love. It is sadness to be left alone and joy to re-unite. Torture to be frightened in the night, heaven to bask in the sunshine of day.

But why must man suffer to know the reality of joy? For when suffering is present joy is forgotten. The might know joy only through the suffering of others. The poor know joy through achievements of their own hands.

Slavery in the Florida Glades? Typhoid in the labor camps? Poison in the lettuce fields? Horse meat for human consumption? Restriction of migrant workers through rationing and high prices of gas? The sickness and hopelessness of workers long forgotten by society? Is this the joy of those who oppress?

Where is the love of Mother Earth that once knew us, where is the haven of blissful sunshine where the blackness of despair penetrates our very souls?

But this I see in '73" one bright spot in all of this.

Alone we have been with sadness great, and through our sadness we have learned, that the saddest of our times will find joy in our suffering no more.

United we stand and will ever stand, we now see a light in the sky of our souls, because we have suffered so much in the past, makes us stronger and wiser to fight for the right. To give of our selves for the hope of others and to stand steadfast for the love of our brothers, red, white and yellow, black, brown and amber, men of all nations united in Peace.

La Causa is winning, H.B. 74 is no more, the growers are worried and freedom is near. Take courage my brothers and stand with a cheer. SI SE PUEDE is here!

# COWPIES from the GROWERS

Edited By  
Jim Horgan, Union Research Department

More comments from growers and their friends on issues of interest to farm workers and other consumers:

The Director of the Farm Labor Division of the Florida Farm Bureau, Scottie J. Butler, issued a set of instructions on what to do when the workers start talking up the Union ("FloridAgriculture", April 1972):

"If you are asked about unions by your employees, keep in mind the following:

\* You can tell them you are opposed to the union.

\* Employees do not necessarily need a union.

\* Employees' best interests are generally served without having a union.

\* Employees enjoy wages and other benefits that they have received without a union and without paying union dues.

\* Superior employees may be handicapped by seniority clauses found in many union contracts.

\* There is no automatic increase in wages just because a union becomes a bargaining agent.

\* Unions may insist on being present when an employee presents his grievance to the company.

\* Unions are outsiders.

\* Unions cause strikes."

\* \* \*

Richard Nixon let us all remember how he gobbled grapes in 1968 when last week he attacked consumer groups organizing supermarket boycotts, this time over high meat prices ("Los Angeles Times," March 16, 1973):

"I am not going to suggest to any group of Americans to join in boycotts and so forth. I do not feel that this is an effective use of what we call 'people power'."

\* \* \*

George Ing, Manager of Mt. Adams Orchards in White Salmon, Washington, and widely known for his insightful guidelines on how to handle farm workers, also has views on camp housing ("Goodfruit Grower", January 1, 1972):

"Our feeling is that they should be good enough that any of us would agree to live in any of our housing units for a short period of time, like a week or even a month. At the same time, we don't want to have worker housing units that are such that we would want to live in them permanently. They would be just too costly and impractical for the present migrant use."

\* \* \*

Nisei Farmers League president Harry Kubo, whose organization spent most of its time last fall trying to break the strike at White River Farms, (Buttes Gas and Oil), was the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Lodi Grape Growers Association ("California Grape Grower," February, 1973):

"Kubo underscored his main concern as a conspiracy among a small faction of Mexican-Americans driven by the belief that California once belonged to Mexican-Americans and will one day revert back to them....Kubo tempered his remarks by saying that 95 percent of the Mexican American people are outright good citizens. He stated that the troublesome faction is, however, growing a little each year."

\* \* \*

## EL MALCRIADO

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Official voice of the:

UNITED FARM WORKERS  
AFL-CIO

La Paz P.O. Box 62  
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# Farm Workers Answer Anti-Union Letter

The two following letters were published in the Salinas California in a column entitled "Public Forum."

Feb. 26, 1973

To the Editor:

I would like to ask the United Farm Workers Union why they don't organize a union in Mexico. I am sure they need one there much more than they do here. I am quite sure the majority of their members are aliens and came here by their own choice.

I know that some of the field workers make as much as \$425 a week. I knew families that made over \$800 a week. A big percentage of them send most of their pay back to Mexico and most of them pay very little tax. If there is a better valley in the world that offers more to a field worker than the Salinas Valley, I would like to know where it is.

I think the field worker should be thankful to be able to enjoy what California offers. This rock - throwing and the threats should be brought to an end. People that want to work should be able to without this violence. I would think that anyone who doesn't like this valley should look for a greener one.

Ed Smett  
Salinas, California

To the Editor:

March 22

You say that if Mexicali, Mexico, had a good union, Mattel Toy Co. wouldn't have put a factory there. It seems to me that it's the same thing here with the union. If the Teamsters Union had been a good union, the United Farm Workers wouldn't be here. Where was the Teamsters Union before UFW came? Not in the fields, that's for sure. I guess it's just like some field workers used to say, the only way we knew we were in the Teamsters Union was the deductions on our paychecks. I think Teamsters contracts were not made by consent of the field workers.

You bet this is a free country; that's why we do what we think is best for us. Let me tell you, we don't mind Americans living in Mexico. We love them just like we love everybody else in the world, regardless of color. But I say it's a shame this country, being Mexico's first, has a lot of prejudice. What's the use of having good Teamster contracts and benefits that don't cover the people when they're not working? The most important thing is left out, which is the field workers treatment. It seems to me that people want the UFW.

You say people want higher wages and a good union that will be able to hear the field workers rights and protect them from pesticides used in crops. If you take some of your free time and read "El Malcriado Papel" published in Spanish and English, you will find out that the UFW is better than the Teamsters. I guess it really hurts to know the truth.

I say: Love America and more power to the UFW.

E.R. Garcia  
108 Sixth St.  
Greenfield, Calif.

March 3, 1973

To the Editor:

Answering Mr. Smett's letter written Feb. 26, 1973. First, I would like to know, how does he know that a union is needed more in Mexico than here? Mr. Smett, if you feel so bad about aliens being here in the USA, why don't you stop and think about Americans living in Mexico. Some have property in Mexico, and there are large industries in Mexico, such as Mattel Toys and others. Workers are underpaid by industries in Mexico.

So you see, Mr. Smett, it works both ways. Sure, aliens came here on their own choice, but not just because they are aliens are they going to let themselves be slaves.

What you're probably thinking is to have aliens like Bracero time. NO! There's been a lot of slavery already. So you say that the maf the majority of the UFW members are aliens I think that only a few are not breaking the UFW strike.

And about the so-called percentage of money sent to Mexico, you say most of them pay little tax. Well, some millionaire ranchers big businessmen, etc. don't pay much tax or any at all. What do you have to say to that?

If some field workers make \$425 or over, its because they work for it, it's not because they want to, it's because ranchers need their work.

I also think you are the one that should be looking for a greener valley.

Beatriz Valenzuela  
132 Seventh St.  
Greenfield, Calif.

# Coachella Farm Workers Support Union!

COACHELLA, California -- Almost 800 Coachella Valley farm workers backed the United Farm Workers in an informal survey conducted April 10 by a group of 25 religious, union and political leaders, including Congressman Roybal (D-Los Angeles).

The group visited more than 31 fields and talked with 1,000 workers offering them an opportunity to take part in the survey. Those that did received a ballot on which they could vote for the "United Farm Workers (Chavez)", the "Teamsters Union", or "No Union." The vote was completely voluntary and no signatures were required.

At the press conference held afterwards, Msgr. George C. Higgins of the U.S. Catholic Conference, who was part of the group, stated that "we came to the Coachella Valley because we believe in justice for farm workers and in the right of farm workers to have the union of their choice."

He gave the results of the survey: United Farm Workers, 795 votes; Teamsters, 80 votes; no union, 78 votes; abstaining, 66.

"It is obvious to the representatives of the U.S. Catholic Conference," said Msgr. Higgins, "that farm workers want to be represented by the United Farm Workers and resent the intrusion of the Teamsters into the fields."

"It would be a great injustice if the growers were to sign contracts with the Teamsters in the light of this fact," he declared. "We will return to groups, organizations and communities to report what we have found out. We will continue to fight for the right of farm workers to have their own union."

Bill Kircher, national director of organization for the AFL-CIO, affirmed that the United Farm Workers is a first-class member of the family of Unions making up the 13-million member AFL-CIO: "The status of the farm workers' union has been established for three years with the table grape contracts."

He said the Teamsters were trying to undermine the Union's incumbent status and that the AFL-CIO would back the Union with its total financial, legal and organizational support across the nation.

Bill reminded reporters that farm workers



Photos: Rick Tejada-Flores

have been struggling to establish a union for 85 years and every effort has been crushed, except for the United Farm Workers. The Teamsters have existed during those 85 years, but never moved to help farm workers, he noted.

When the Teamsters finally did move, he recalled, it was to the detriment of the workers, referring to the Imperial Valley Strike of 1960 during which the Teamsters signed a sweetheart contract with Bud Antle, Inc., so that it could bring in braceros to break the strike.

Then, Bill explained, the Teamsters didn't move again until 9 years later when in 1970 they sold themselves to the lettuce growers. "They would have built more organizing efforts on top of that first agreement if they were really interested in helping farm workers," he concluded.

During the day, several attempts were made by growers to stop the survey. Among them: Chris Sanchez, photographer for the Union, had his camera shoved in his face by a Teamster goon, and grower Valdera tried to intimidate Union organizers filming and photographing the days activities.

\* \* \*

The informal vote came right after NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GRAPE GROWERS BROKE OFF and amid rumors that the growers were negotiating with the Teamsters. This means that in all probably there will be a strike in the Coachella Valley. It is expected that a strike vote will take place at a mass rally in Coachella April 12.

"The growers never intended to negotiate in good faith," declares Cesar Chavez, union director, "Now we must fight--and we will win."



Congressman Roybal(D-Los Angeles) with workers in Coachella.



## WHAT WE NEED IN A UNION CONTRACT

In addition to the demands listed on the front cover, the Union is also fighting for stronger clauses in the new contracts that provide benefits that are of great importance to our well-being and that of our families. Here we give a brief explanation of some of the more important clauses:

**UNION SECURITY:** prohibits the company from trying to subvert the Union.

**HIRING HALL:** replaces the corrupt and abusive hiring system of the labor contractors with impartial and just employment procedures under the supervision of the Union. Prohibits discrimination on account of sex, race, age, creed, color, religion, political belief, national origin, or language spoken.

**SENIORITY:** insures job security and establishes a program of promotions and on-the-job training.

**DISCHARGE:** provides that a Union representative be present when the company makes charges against a worker and the company cannot fire a worker without just cause.

**ECOLOGY:** Dangerous pesticides such as DDT, DDD, ALDRIN, DIELDRIN, ENDRIN, PARATHION, MONITOR 4 and TEPP are prohibited. Any other pesticide dangerous to both farm workers and consumers cannot be used. The company has to consult with the Ranch Committee in the putting together of policies relating to the health and safety of workers.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY:** provides toilet facilities, fresh drinking water, rest periods, protective equipment, first aid supplies, immediate medical attention in case of accidents or illness. Prohibits the company from requiring a worker to go or be in any employment or place of employment which is not safe.

**GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES:** sets up a procedure for settling immediate arbitration in cases where grievances cannot be resolved.

**JOB CLASSIFICATION:** prohibits the company from changing job classifications aimed at eliminating workers. Even though a worker's wage in a particular classification may be above the average, his wages will be adjusted upward to reflect the negotiated wage increase.

**MECHANIZATION:** demands that the company pay 20 cents per hour per worker into the Kennedy Plan in order to increase medical benefits.

**ROBERT F. KENNEDY MEDICAL PLAN:** the Union demands that the company up its contributions to the Kennedy Plan to 20 cents and hour per workers in order to increase medical benefits to Union members.

**VACATIONS AND HOLIDAYS:** cut from 2,000 to 1,000 the hours needed to qualify for vacation with pay. Holidays with 9 hours pay.

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE:** requires that the company bring all workers under the State Unemployment Insurance Act and pay the level of employer payroll taxes required for coverage so that the workers can support their families when there is no work.

**TAX WITHHOLDING:** in accordance with federal laws when requested by workers

When the Grape Strike started in 1965, farm workers earned one dollar an hour in the Delano area; for those who lived in camps, the pay was 95 cents. This has changed only because farm worker men and women were willing to sacrifice so that all of us may find a better life...

...Brothers, we are demanding that the minimum wage be \$2.70 an hour because otherwise we won't be able to afford meat after the meat boycott is over...

...For the first time in the history of the grape contracts we are making job classifications appropriate for each job. Study these classifications, learn them, and don't lose them. These are the "bible" for your job, so that we can all understand what we are fighting for. And we ask you that if we have left any job out of these classifications please go as soon as possible to the Union office in your area so that we can make the necessary changes so that your job will be classified correctly.

...The only thing that makes the grower sign a Union contract is, no matter what we may say of do, the power of your solidarity. The growers know about this meeting because there are a few here that will tell the growers that if they don't sign, they are going to have the same problem they had in 1965....

...We ask you for your prayers and that you create pressure in the camps and in the fields starting tomorrow. Tell the growers and the supervisors that you want a hiring hall, better wages and that you want a Union contract. You need to do this to show the growers that you are determined to better your lives.

...And now that we are negotiating with the growers there is a third force that is trying to fool you saying it can offer better working conditions and better wages, but we know you realize that no one can guard and defend your rights better than yourselves.

That other union was organized a long time ago. Where were they when we were getting paid 40 cents an hour? Where were they when we were insulted and we tried to defend ourselves? Where were they? It is strange that three years after we win Union contracts in the grapes they are trying to tell us that they are interested in our welfare. The Teamsters want to do the same with you that they did in 1970 in Salinas, when we were fighting the lettuce growers and they sold out to the growers so that the workers would get nothing...



***“They were contracts that were won after five years of intense effort and sacrifice”***

