

# GROWERS POISON SOIL -- DEMAND NEW SUBSIDY



## GRAPES OF WAR

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 15 -- Department of Defense officials have released figures showing that they purchased over \$880,000 worth of grapes in the first half of fiscal year 1970 (July through December, 1969). Purchases topped 5.3 million pounds, a slight decline from the first half of the 1969 fiscal year. The Pentagon was still paying higher prices for their grape purchases than growers were getting on the open U. S. market, further substantiating charges by the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee that growers were using Defense Department purchases to unload unsaleable grapes while shoring up the sagging market price.

"The Pentagon claims that the only reason for the fantastic rise in grape purchases in 1968 and 1969 was increasing 'troop acceptability,'" said Estela Salasado of the UPWOC grape boycott department. "Grape shipments to Viet Nam, for example, jumped from 468,000 pounds in 1967 to 2,167,000 in 1969. It looks like this year they will still be shipping 200 per cent more grapes to Viet Nam than

they did in the year before the boycott. And this is in spite of 'troop withdrawals' and public outrage over the government's strike-breaking purchases."

"We appeal to people with friends or family in the service to write to them and ask them to protest this cynical political use of tax payers money to break our strike. We also ask our members and supporters to continue to protest to their Congressmen and Senators to force a complete halt in these immoral salt purchases," stated Miss Salasado.

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: Huge government purchases of grapes at higher than the market price are another form of subsidy for the growers, only slightly more subtle than price supports, import quotas, water subsidies, and direct cash subsidies. The tax payer always foots the bill. Of course it is these same growers that complain the most about "big government" and "Government interference" and proudly pledge to save America's free enterprise system from power (7) hungry farmworkers.

BAKERSFIELD, January 12 --

Congressman John V. Tunney of California warned today that intensive irrigation of farm land in California's San Joaquin Valley without adequate drainage was threatening to pollute and destroy the land through a build up of salt and nitrates in the soil. "Unless all the people of California become aware of this danger now and begin to protect our environment, within a matter of a few years, 70,000 to 90,000 acres of now productive farm land will go out of production," said Tunney.

Tunney, speaking before a press conference here, said the Federal Government must "take the lead in providing efficient drainage for Valley irrigation waters, with the cooperation of the State, just as it has taken the lead in providing irrigation water since the mid-1930's."

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: We have here another example of the growers receiving a huge government subsidy in the form of almost free irrigation water, recklessly abusing it because of their greed for profits, and as a result, polluting and destroying the environment around them. Now they appeal to the taxpayers to bail them out, to foot the bill, to pay the cost for their crimes against nature.

Farm workers are, of course, very concerned about the implications of this salt and nitrate build-up on irrigated lands and are in favor of governmental steps to meet the crisis. But it is high time that the growers begin paying the cost, through a special tax, by the acre, on irrigated farm lands, an increase in the rates of the almost free irrigation water provided in unlimited quantities to growers, and in strict observance of laws dealing with pollution of the soil, water and air. It is they who are destroying the land, and they have reaped fantastic profits in the process. It is they who will reap further benefits and profits when their land is saved and reclaimed from the own wasteful practices. Why should they not share most or all of the cost among themselves?

# COTTON SUBSIDY: SLUSH FUND FOR STRIKEBREAKING

EL MALCRIADO/7

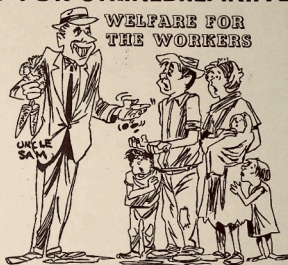
WASHINGTON, D. C., February 15 -- In 1969, for the first time in nearly 40 years since the farm subsidy program was begun, the U. S. House of Representatives voted to cut back the subsidy program and voted to put a limit of \$30,000 in cash payment per year to any individual grower. But the U. S. Senate came to the rescue of the richest of the rich in agribusiness, and voted to delete the subsidy limitation from the final version of the farm bill. Even a number of "liberal" senators, including Sen. Alan Cranston of California, voted against any limitation on subsidies, arguing that the subsidy program helps preserve the family farm.

In fact, the subsidy program is further enriching corporate farming and helping corporate farms to force small family farmers off the land. "At a time when the administration is shedding so many crocodile tears over the plight of the hungry in America it is a force to see them at the same time paying millions to corporate type farm operations not to produce crops," said Republican Senator John Williams of Delaware, in calling for support of a limitation on subsidies. Williams has for several years called for a \$10,000 limit on subsidies. "It should be emphasized that these payments are not for food produced or for services rendered, but rather they are payments not to cultivate the land," he told Congress.

Williams noted that in 1967, five operations collected over \$1 million for not growing crops, 15 were paid between \$500,000 and \$1 million, 388 received between \$100,000 and \$500,000, and 1290 received between \$50,000 and \$100,000. A total of 6579 agribusinesses collecting over \$25,000 each, collected a grand total of \$333,127,693 in taxpayers money as their welfare checks for the year.

The biggest subsidy of all goes to J. G. Boswell Co., a check for \$4,091,818 in 1967 and averaging

## WELFARE FOR THE WORKERS



between \$2 and \$5 million per year over the last few years. Boswell also happens to be the largest grape grower in Arizona and one of the leaders of the grape growers refusing to sit down and negotiate contracts with the Union. He is also on the Board of Directors of Safeway Stores.

Other Arizona grape growers getting hefty subsidies include McCarthy and Hildebrand (who collected \$28,215 in 1967) and Matori Bros., (who got \$128,479 in 1967).

Topping the list of California grape growers was Kern County Land Co., with a subsidy of \$538,130; and S. A. Camp Farms, with \$517,285. Guimarra Vineyards collected \$278,721; W. B. Camp and Sons got \$238,816; Nazlie Farms got \$186,259; M & I Farms got \$134,195; Bldart Bros. got \$131,147; and Kern Valley Farms got \$123,809. Hadad and Barling Farms, featured in a recent article in the New Yorker and PETER HADLICH'S new book, SAL, ST. PUEDESAS as "a grower with a small holding," received \$42,471. Jack Pandol, Delano's most outspoken anti-union grape grower, got \$38,097 (in 1968); while John Kovacevich, one of the more

moderate growers, collected a moderate \$40,395. Sandrin Brothers, with \$40,725 in subsidies, also had a little cushion to help ease the pressure of the grape boycott. Sabovich Brothers, prominent in the illegal "Agricultural Workers Freedom to Work Association", a company union, got \$19,822 in 1968. Since then Sabovich has acquired over \$1 million worth of the former Di Giorgio property, and may be getting some of the \$63,000 that formerly went to Di Giorgio.

The list of subsidies goes on and on. When one thinks of the anti-union war chest that Whitaker and Baxter and the Farm Bureau have amassed from the growers, and realizes that many of these same growers are collecting thousands of dollars of tax payers' money for not growing crops, it becomes very difficult to understand how any Congressman or Senator can continue to support this give-away program. But on the other hand, those big bags of federal subsidy money must look good to politicians hungry for campaign contributions. So the pay-offs go on and on...