

WORKERS IN WISCONSIN

1966 will be remembered as the year when the farm workers all over the United States began to stand up for their rights, began to march in protest, to strike, to demand a decent life for themselves and their children, not only in California and Texas, but also in Oregon, Washington, Florida, Arizona, and now in Wisconsin.

The leader of the NFWA in Wisconsin is Jesus Salas, only 22, but educated by many seasons in the fields and several years in college. The big growers in Wisconsin (Libby's, Chicago Pickle Co., Marks Brothers, Dean Foods, and others) pay wages often under \$1. There are of course no insurance or medical benefits. There are over 20,000 farm workers for the harvest, and most are migrants, Mexican-Americans.

In mid-August, a group of 30 farm workers decided to have a march in Wisconsin, to wake up the growers and officials, and to protest the low wages. They set out from Waushara County (one of the worst in the state) to the State Capitol, a distance of 90 miles. Along the way they explained the cause to thousands of other farm workers, and many hundreds joined in the march. Over 500 attended the rally on the Capitol steps in Madison, and state officials promised to help them.



Salas (with Huelga button) and friends

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: We hope Wisconsin officials do pass a \$1.25 wage and do other things to help us. But they are probably like the politicians in Texas and California, who speak sweet words but do nothing. Salas and the other brave ones in Wisconsin will have to continue building a strong union. That is the only way to make the growers and politicians listen.



Jesus Salas, wearing U. S. Army fatigue jacket, led the marchers as they left St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Wausoma.



"¡Gracias!"

The farm workers have won another great and historic victory by beating DiGiorgio. And once again, we extend our thanks to the hundreds of groups and the thousands of individuals all over the country who helped us in this victory. The elections would never have been held except for the pressure of the nation-wide boycott of DiGiorgio products. And in the boycott, special credit goes to the many student volunteers and student groups, civil rights groups, unions, and churches throughout the country who aided us, who organized and manned the picket lines in the cities, and spread the word of our cause.

Again, we probably would never have had a fair election unless political pressure had forced state officials to investigate the phoney June election that DuGiorgio held. Special credit for getting these officials in the act goes to the Mexican-American groups, MAPA, CSO, and the G.I. Forum, to a number of brave political figures, and to leaders of other unions. And special thanks also goes to the churches and synagogues, the Migrant Ministry, and the wonderful Catholic Bishops and Priests of Texas, Chicago, Stockton and San Francisco, who have helped to awaken the conscience of the nation.

And of course we could never have continued the strike for 12 months without the tremendous outpouring of support from brother

unionists. We must single out for special praise the members of the ILWU, who have helped us since the first days of the strike; the Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers, who aided us in the Southwest; the Butchers Union (especially in Ohio); the Retail Clerks (in San Jose) and the Hotel and Restaurant Workers and Bartenders (especially in Los Angeles), who put steam in the boycott. In the election campaign, the Auto Workers and Packinghouse Workers (who have helped us all along) made special efforts to help us round up voters and explain to them our cause. The AFL-CIO also helped.

And in spite of the Tragic fight with the Teamsters Union, we will not forget the many thousands of Teamsters members who helped us, (including one of the Teamsters organizers at DiGiorgio) and who tried to prevent this senseless inter-union fight. Perhaps reason will prevail and the Teamsters will soon again be working with us and the Packinghouse workers, concentrating on other areas where so much remains to be done. We regret that this fight has developed. We regret some of the things we said about the Teamsters in the heat of the struggle, and are sure that most Teamster members would be disgusted by the lies that were said about us. The cause of the farm workers has been betrayed before (ie. in the Imperial Valley) because unions were fighting each other. We must not let this happen again.



— Notices —

There will be a dinner-dance held by MAPA on September 9, to raise money for the N. F. W. A. It is to be at 8:30 at the Sportsman's Lodge, 12833 Ventura Blvd., in North Hollywood.

There will be a grand FIESTA sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union on September 17. It will be from 7:30 until midnight at 1500 Old Oak Road in Pacific Palisades. Contributions will be donated to the N. F. W. A. The Teatro Campesino will perform and some of the strikers and leaders of the Association will be there to meet the guests. There will be mountains of food and drinks and good times for all.