

# Pilgrimage

One of the biggest crowds ever to jam into the park in front of the state capitol at Sacramento was present on Easter Sunday for the great finale of the Pilgrimage by the strikers along 320 miles of highway between Delano and the capital.

The long line of marchers increased in length every day until the original group of sixty marchers leaving Delano made a procession so long that it took over an hour to cross the Tower Bridge into Sacramento. Police estimated the crowd at "8,000 to 10,000". Outstanding speeches were given by Epifanio Camacho, farm worker from McFarland, and Chris Hartnire, director of the California Migrant Ministry. The final days of the march received publicity throughout the United States. "Newsweek", with a circulation in the millions, said, "Last week, the parade to the Capitol turned into a triumphal march--the first real breakthrough by farm workers in the long history of U.S. organized labor... The steps of Chavez' strikers will set up echoes for the future."

The picture show the first of the marchers crossing the Tower Bridge into the city, and the Virgin of Guadalupe finally arrived at the Capitol after a month's journey. The future, for the Virgin and her half million California farm workers, looked very good.



# How the Boycott Was Won

This is the story of how Schenley Corporation, with thousands of acres of grapes around Delano, was brought to its knees by the Farm Workers Association who entered the strike with only \$85 in the bank and only two paid employees (Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta).

Many people have given their own ideas about how this was done. Some said that it was the BOSTON GRAPE PARTY which broke Schenley. This occurred when Sal Gonzales of Delano went 3,000 miles to Boston to dump scab grapes into Boston Harbor in imitation of American revolutionaries of 200 years ago, who dumped tea into the harbor to protest against "the ranchers of 1773"--British tyrants. Police grabbed Gonzales on the same charges that they had against the early Americans: "dumping that is injurious to public health." But Schenley heard that people 3,000 miles from California cared about the workers here and would not buy Schenley products.

Other people said that it was the thousands and thousands of pledge cards sent to Schenley which finally made this giant give in to the tiny Farm Workers Association. So many people made these pledges that Schenley had to put extra people to work in their San Francisco offices to handle the stacks of cards that were coming in. This was admitted in a letter from Vice-President Woolsey to a Schenley stockholder who was our secret agent.

Another secret agent for the farm workers who was an office employee in Schenley's New York headquarters (we cannot reveal their name) let the union know exactly how much money was being spent for advertising to fight the boycott. Finally they decided that it just wasn't worth it, the agent said.

The real heroes, however, are in Delano on the picket line. They collected hundreds of sign-up cards from workers who walked out on Schenley. They braved the artificial dust storms, the insults of contractors, foremen and police, and the long hours spent calling to the scabs to come out. So many scabs came out that Schenley could not face another season against the pickets.

Or perhaps it was the valiant San Francisco lawyer who quietly visited a different bar every night, convincing each bartender not to serve Schenley products.

Perhaps the boycott was won by the eight or ten huelguistas who left Delano in January in their old cars for the eastern United States, without money in their pockets, heading into the freezing weather of the East to stop Schenley.

To sum up, the strike against Schenley was won by each person who helped make it possible. Every worker who walked out of Schenley's fields, every picket, every organizer deserves credit for this great victory, as much as the brave pilgrims who walked to Sacramento and the thousands of farm workers and city people who have fed and clothed the strikers during these seven long months.

