



## Fiesta Marks Building Dedication

DELANO, October 1 -- Dedication ceremonies were held September 14 in Delano for the new Roy Reuther Memorial Union Hall at the 40-Acre national headquarters of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO.

As several thousand farm workers and supporters stood in the hot sun, Father Mark Day and Father David Duran conducted a dedication service and Mass. "We bless this building in the spirit of brotherhood and dedicate it to the memory of Roy Reuther, who fought for human rights and social justice all his life," said Father Day.

A message from AFL-CIO President George Meany said that the dedication of the new permanent office building is "a demonstration that unionism on the farms is here to stay. Certainly you and your fellow agricultural workers are traveling a difficult road, but I am confident this struggle to build a better life for farm workers and their families through trade unions will be successful."

Walter Reuther, President of the United Auto Workers and brother of Roy Reuther, spoke of his Union's commitment to the cause of the farm workers. (The U.A.W. contri-

buted \$50,000 to help construct the headquarters building.

Others who spoke at the dedication ceremonies included Ann Draper of the Clothing Workers and Harry Van Arsdale, President of the New York Central Labor Council. A mariachi band provided music for



the Mass and the festivities afterwards. There was a raffle of a valuable old strike flag and other mementos of the strike, plus other prizes, and plenty of beer and a delicious free barbeque.

"It was a beautiful day, and a fitting celebration for the dedication of our permanent headquarters," remarked Chavez after the conclusion of the festivities.

A week after the dedication ceremonies, a group of electricians, members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO, came to Delano and in a ten-hour work day contributed over \$15,000 in labor and materials to finish the electrical work in the hall. Fred Adam of the Carpet and Linoleum Workers, AFL-CIO, brought up a truck load of linoleum tiles to finish off the floors. Members of the Carpet and Linoleum Workers have volunteered to come up and lay the tile.

"We're hoping to move most of the offices this winter, by the first of November if possible," said Richard Chavez, in charge of the building program at the 40 Acres. "Of course, there are still a million last-minute things to do, and moving four separate offices from town out to the new building is no easy matter. But the completion is at last in sight."

Photos by Jack Eisenberg