



323. Calavera of the Female Dandy

October was the month of ghosts and skeletons and witchcraft. And if you're one of those skeptics who says that all of that is kids' stuff, read this shocking expose of how witchcraft was used to control these poor workers...

WITCHES!

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO--Add "witchcraft" to the reasons an employer can think up for objecting to an election won by a union.

The regional director for the National Labor Relations Board found the charge so unusual that he made public a "white paper" on "witchcraft" filed here by General Cigars de Utardo along with objections to a representation election won by the Machinists in the mountain village of Hato Rey.

The cigar firm wants the election set aside. It asked the NLRB to hold hearings into such mysterious goings-on.

For example, the company charged that a female employe who was an IAM leader came to work one morning with a bottle containing a "magic potion which would cast a spell on the employes." The potion, she reportedly said, had been prepared by a remarkable "espiritista" or sorcerer with magical powers. Smelling it or rubbing a bit on the forehead and neck would have the effect of "nullifying the will of the employes" to vote in any

other way than for the IAM, the employer charged.

The company cited other unusual happenings: "exactly the minute that the election began, a heavy rain started to fall and the skies turned black;" "some employes felt terribly ill while in the process of voting, but the illness disappeared after they voted;" others reported that "a short time after they left the voting area they just didn't know which way they had voted."

Summing up, the company said the "laboratory conditions" required by the NLRB for a valid election were "completely destroyed" by the occult shenanigans. Attached to its list of objections was a 13-page report on the history and practice of witchcraft in Latin lands.

The Machinists' members greeted a reading of the charges "with great hilarity and derision." They told the NLRB they won fair and square.

Not once, said IAM Rep. Juan Maldonado, did he ride a broom from San Juan to Hato Rey. He always drove a Ford, he claimed.

CHAVEZ IS IMPROVING

DELANO, October 26--Cesar Chavez, Director of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee is slowly recovering from the painful back injuries that have kept him in bed for the last two months.

Chavez attended the regular Friday union meeting and gave a forceful talk to the members, and stayed for the showing of the movie "What Harvest for the Reaper?" Though walking without a cane or assistance, Chavez moved slowly and with obvious effort.

The UFWOC Director has been staying at home since he left the hospital in late September. Peggy McGivern, the Union's registered nurse, has been helping the Chavez family in caring for him.

Grapemobile on the Prowl

Special report from the San Francisco Bay Area:

The Grapemobile continues to prowl the streets of the East Bay in search of scabby grapes from the notorious San Joaquin Valley. Equipped with two huge loudspeakers, a loan from the Contra Costa Labor Council, and a carful of eagle-eyed huelguistas with picket signs at the ready, the Grape Patrol zeroes in on stores that still carry scab grapes and quickly educates the unwary public in song and words about the three-year-old grape strike.

Roy Valdez and Irene Terrazas were instrumental in cleaning up East Oakland and Fruitvale, while Pat Bryan, Gayle Garbers, and Candido Feliciano did the job in Berkeley.

ON TO RICHMOND!

