

DEADLY POISONS ON GRAPES

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 2--The United Farm Workers Organizing Committee charged today that in 1969 over 1,000 acres of Kern County table grapes were sprayed with the deadly chemical weed killer Amino Triazole, the chemical which contaminated the cranberry crop in the late 1950's, and caused the confiscation of these crops by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. This is a proven cause of cancer and malignant tumors.

In Congressional hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on Migratory Labor, UFWOC General Counsel Jerome Cohen charged that in addition to Amino Triazole, grape growers were using such other chemicals as Thiodan, Trithion, and Diazinon, and had sprayed extensively with DDT. "Currently the table grape industry is order to maximize its profits, is using the wrong kinds of chemicals at the wrong times in the wrong amounts, in reckless disregard not only of the

workers but of the health of the consumers as well," stated Cohen.

Union investigators have found residues of DDT on grapes grown by Karahadian, Bagdasarian, Hegblade-Marguleas, Richard Glass, Mel Pack, and dozens of other ranches, grapes which are presently being sold to the public in markets which are breaking the boycott of table grapes.

Tests in Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, Seattle, Chicago, Buffalo, and many other cities have turned up poisonous residues on the grapes. UFWOC has commissioned the testing of grapes by independent laboratories to determine exact amounts of residues on grapes grown by a representative cross section of growers. Since grapes cannot be peeled like bananas or avocados, it is the Union's contention that grapes should not contain any residue of DDT or other long-lasting chemicals that may be dangerous to health.

MOTHERS ALARMED AT DDT DANGER

SAN FRANCISCO, July 26--The threat of DDT contamination of human milk stirred fifteen nursing and expectant mothers to demonstrate their concern in San Francisco last week. Clutching their babies to their bosoms, the women voiced alarm over the use of DDT on grapes and its ultimate appearance in their own milk.

Unlike La Leche League - a national group of women devoted to promoting the practice of breastfeeding - these independent mothers refuse to ignore the dangers of DDT to humans and particularly to breast-fed infants who receive large doses of DDT with each feeding.

Cognizant of DDT's effect on the reproduction of large carnivorous birds and in curtailing the abundance of shellfish, these women worry about the high intake of DDT in the adult diet which in turn poses a serious danger to the nursing of their babies. A study by one UC biologist in Berkeley on seven samples of mothers' milk showed that the amount of DDT averages 4 1/2 times higher than in cow's milk.

Used extensively by agriculture since World War II to increase crop yield, DDT kills off such pests as bollworm and fruit flies. Human beings consume the chemical through meat, fruits, vegetables, milk, and butter.

The adult human tends to accumulate DDT in its fatty tissue - about 12 parts per million. Thereafter, an equilibrium occurs and the excess is excreted through the urine through nursing mothers' milk, and through other metabolic processes.

What are the consequences, then, of the presence of DDT both in the adult mother who retains some of the excreted poison and for her baby who drinks her milk? Robert Risebrough, a biologist with UC Marine Resources Institute stressed the dangers of DDT residue on the

Continued on page 11



NURSING MOTHERS Kathy Radke, Jo Ann Fuller and Carol Zola protest the use of DDT on grapes and other produce.