

Scabs beat Hirsch

At noon of February 3, Fred Hirsch, a volunteer for the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, entered a field to serve legal papers on two Giumarra foremen. These subpoenas directed the foremen to appear in court and answer questions about illegal recruitment of strikebreakers by Giumarra and his agents. A man may legally enter the Giumarra property if acting on official business, so Hirsch had a legal right to enter the property and give the foremen the subpoenas. After locating Armando Robles, the main Giumarra foreman at this ranch, he attempted to seek out Betty Medina, another "foreman" and labor recruiter.

If Betty Medina was with her crew, she was apparently afraid to accept the court document which would force her to testify, under oath, about illegal recruitment practices. Hirsch came upon the crew as they gathered for lunch, and all of the scabs denied that Medina was there. But Hirsch knew she was there, so he stayed. Someone called the police, but since Hirsch was on legal business, he had nothing to fear from the police. Then someone went to get the pruning crew of Amando Robles. Robles and his men arrived, many of them carrying pruning shears, and approached Hirsch in a threatening manner. Hirsch then served the papers on the woman he thought was Mrs. Medina. When she re-



Fred Hirsch, a volunteer for the United Farm Workers, is wheeled in to an ambulance after being attacked and beaten by Armando Robles and over 20 other scab employees of Giumarra Fruit Corporation. *Malcriado photo.*

fused to take them, he delicately laid them at her feet. Then he turned to go, and began walking away. At this point Robles and his men attacked Hirsch.

The Sheriff's Department of Kern County acted shamelessly in this case. They did call an ambulance for Hirsch and get him to a hospital. But though they asked him a few questions, the cops failed to arrest any of the assailants. Several days later, after his release from the hospital, Hirsch appealed to the District Attorney's office for a complaint against Robles and the other Giumarra scabs who had attacked him. But the D. A. told him to wait. He was not allowed to see the

police report.

Three days later, when Hirsch and United Farm Workers attorney Jerry Cohen met with the D. A., Nelson still refused to allow him to sign a complaint, and then announced that a warrant might be issued for the arrest of Hirsch. The D. A. suggested that Hirsch could be charged with attacking a woman, and suggested that the scab crews of over a dozen people were acting in "self-defense" when they beat up Hirsch. And although the D. A. claims to be making a "full and complete investigation," the one witness named by Hirsch, Cesar Chavez, has never been questioned or even approached for questioning.

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U.S. Postage Paid.
Permit # 124
Delano, Ca. 93215

"EL MALCRIADO" is published by the Farm Worker Press, Inc., an organ of United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO.

