

SLUMPING GRAPE SALES THROUGHOUT THE EAST

STATISTICS TELL THE TALE!

DELANO, September 22 -- "Since the San Joaquin Valley grape harvest began on July 18, total shipments of California table grapes are 29% below their predicted level, and growers have placed over 30% of their harvest in cold storage," according to Juanita Brown.

Mrs. Brown, coordinator of the international boycott of table grapes,

is leaving on a 7-week tour of Eastern cities to plan new strategy for the boycott and discuss local strategy and tactics with boycotters in the different cities.

The boycott has been showing erratic results and the total effect is hard to judge, but there is no doubt in Union leaders' minds that if it had not been for the massive

purchases of scab grapes by the Pentagon, the grape boycott would have already forced the growers to the negotiating table.

Growers and UFWOC leaders both agree that the strike and boycott were devastatingly effective in May, June and July. Prices received by Coachella Valley grape growers, who have the early harvest, were 40% to 50% below prices received in 1968. Over 750,000 boxes of grapes were left unpicked, to rot on the vines, according to the Riverside County Agriculture Commissioner. Growers described the season as a "disaster."

When the harvest shifted to Arvin in the Southern San Joaquin Valley, growers shifted to a new strategy of deliberately withholding much of their harvest from the market, in an attempt to keep the price up. This resulted in the price for grapes rising to nearly normal levels in August, only 50¢ to \$1.00 off the normal price. The result has been fewer sales. In the first three weeks

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Chavez speaks in the East

CHAVEZ TOURS EAST

BALTIMORE, September 25--- Cesar Chavez, Director of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, began a 6-week tour of the United States here today to promote the Union's international boycott of table grapes. Chavez is accompanied by national grape boycott coordinator, Juanita Brown, and striker and former DiGiorgio Ranch Committee Chairman, Mack Lyons, and strikers Ray Olivas, Manuel Urandy, and Freddy Callo.

Chavez, who has not left California since June of 1968, and has been bed-ridden much of the time during the last year and a half due to a painful back injury, says he is feeling fine and is glad to be back on his feet.

Part of the tour will be taken up with testimony before Congress in Washington (Sept. 29-Oct. 1) and attendance at the National AFL-CIO Convention in Atlantic City (Oct. 2-5). There will be strategy meetings with the boycott staff in the various cities he visits, to plan strategy for the fall and winter. There will be press conferences in most of the cities he visits, meetings with local labor leaders and strike supporters, rallies at local universities. Chavez is scheduled to appear on the Today show in New York at 7 AM, October 8, to speak directly to the American people on the meaning of the strike and boycott.

The schedule, though not final, includes the following cities: BAL-

TIMORE (September 25 - 28, including a rally at Johns Hopkins University, private meeting with Cardinal Sheehan); WASHINGTON (September 28-October 1, including a rally at the Washington Cathedral, testimony before U.S. Senate and House of Representatives); ATLANTIC CITY (October 2-5, including addressing the national AFL-CIO Convention); PHILADELPHIA (October 5-7); NEW YORK (October 8-10, including a major demonstration against Pentagon purchases of scab grapes); BOSTON (October 12-14); MONTREAL (October 17-18); TORONTO (October 22-23); BUFFALO (October 26); PITTSBURGH (October 28); CLEVELAND (November 2); DETROIT (November 6); and CHICAGO (November 10).

Schedules are not definite toward the end of the trip. Contact your local boycott office for times and places of local rallies.

Meanwhile in Delano, staffs for the strike offices have gone on a 60-hour week to try to keep on top of the work load. Diana Chapman is in charge of the boycott while Mrs. Brown is in the East. Ed Arnold is now in charge of the grape boycott in the West. UFWOC Vice President Julio Hernandez has returned to Delano and he and Vice Presidents Gilbert Padilla, and Philip Vera Cruz will be leading the Union in Delano while Chavez, Assistant Director Larry Itliong, and Vice Presidents Dolores Huerta and Andy Imutan serve on the boycott.