

Letters



ACTRESS TELLS OF YOUTH IN FIELDS

Dear Friends and Fellow Workers:

I greet you and wish you well. I am now 55 years old, but remember well working in the apricot orchards in California at the age of four. My sister picked them—my mother cut them, and I pitted them in the drying sheds.

At 18, I participated in the Salinas lettuce strikers. Before then I was active in the San Francisco general strike.

When I went to Los Angeles in the early 30s—and I was in my early 20s—I naturally became involved with the struggle of the agricultural workers from the depressed areas of the country brought into California by the Ass. Farmers and the Bank of America, to form a large labor pool that was easy to manage.

I saw heaps of oranges covered with gasoline and set on fire and men who cried to take ONE orange shot to death.

The first objective was of course to take and alleviate the hunger, try in medical supplies, etc. The second and most important, and of course most dangerous, was to try and organize the field and cannery workers in one union.

I do not wish to sound as if I am bragging—certainly I am not telling you anything you do not already know.

I only mean to let you know that I am with you all the way. Though I can do little in a practical sense for you, because as the result of a severe beating I am a semi-invalid.

Your boycott here has been going rather well, but you have a bitter and eloquent enemy in Father Francis Fenton who is an executive member of the best organized and most powerful branch of the birch-



*To Be Done with love
with love
great labor
theater
theater
theater
theater
theater*
Dorothy Comingore

Dorothy Comingore, who acted as Susan Alexander in the movie "Citizen Kane".

ites. And of course you know what he calls you.

But that does not matter. As a result of my work with the "Sleepy Lagoon" case and other activities I am a graduate of HUAC in '52. With love and gratitude for your splendid work,

Dorothy Comingore
Lord's Point, Connecticut
December 13, 1968

Editor's note: Miss Comingore was famous as Susan Alexander in the film "Citizen Kane."

OUR ONLY CONTACT

Dear Malcriados,

Faithfully we read your writings and look at your pictures. It is our only contact with the outside world. Keep the good work up, we miss all of you.

Viva el boycott... Viva Cesar...
Seasons' Greetings,
Elena & Al Rojas
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
December 15, 1968

EL MALCRIADO
P.O. Box 130
Delano, Ca. 93215

RATS EVICTED FOR SCAB GRAPES

Editor:

Enclosed is a clipping from the Dispatcher--the ILWU union newspaper. It concerns the dispute over the so-called "Rat Ship" in the port of Long Beach.

On the day that I received the Dispatcher in the mail, she came into pier 41 in San Francisco to load.

About 95 percent of the cargo she was taking on was destined for Saigon.

The second day that we were loading, there were 25-30 trucks of scab grapes waiting to be unloaded so they could be put aboard this "Rat Ship" and sent to Saigon.

I was surprised to see so many grapes for one ship, so I went and inquired in the office as to how many grapes there actually were.

There were 314 TONS, one of the largest shipments to be made on one ship. All of these were going to Saigon, more than 18,000 cases of Scab grapes.

The name of the ship is President Taylor, American Presidents Lines. The date was December 11. Location, pier 41, San Francisco.

Thank you,
A Longshoreman
San Francisco, California

Editor's note--The President Taylor was the scene of controversy in Long Beach harbor in November when longshoremen refused to enter Hatch No. 5 because the hold was infested with rats.

The rats were cleaned out of the ship, but the scab grapes went in to take their place. Not much improvement.

"TRUE FARM WORKER?"

Editor:

The purpose of this letter is to contest a "Reader's Viewpoint" published in the Bakersfield California on December 18, 1968.

Though appreciative of the holiday cheer offered by Jose Mendoza, I can find no merit in the substance of his comments. I furthermore have been unable to verify the existence of the alleged Farm Workers Freedom to Work Association. That is, aside from the General Secretary and one or two associates, I have seen nothing to suggest that the views expressed by that writer are in any way indicative of the views of the "true farm worker" he claims to represent.

Quite the contrary, I have both felt and observed significant discontent among those who harvest the crops in the "pastures of plenty" that cover this fertile valley. This discontent as to wages, working conditions and the absence of a voice in their determination is empirically verifiable by merely engaging in conversation with the workers in the fields. A sad, but interesting fact is made apparent by such a direct encounter (though not as prevalent as in years past). Though dissatisfied with his lot, the farm worker has traditionally lacked faith and/or experience in the democratic processes, and consequently lacked the personal efficacy that is a man's faith in his own ability to change his own situation.

This fact has always left the farmworker singing of the "power in the blood of the lamb," and waiting for a better life in the "long hereafter."

How much better that he sing of the power in the unity of man, with a better "here and now" the dream he's after.

Very truly yours,
Diana J. Chapman
Bakersfield, California
December 19, 1968



Alice Tápia (left) and Lysming Imutan, two of UFWOC's best looking organizers. The Imutans now lead the boycott in Baltimore, Maryland.

THE IMUTANS WRITE

Editor:

Thank you very much for your very nice letter. It has certainly boosted our morale. Please continue to write.

We miss you all a lot. We are trying our very best to push hard on the boycott so we can go home soonest.

Your EL MALCRIADO is our most complete information of what is cooking over there--and we anticipate its arrival every time.

A Merry Christmas to you--and lots of happiness in the New Year.

Regards to all,
Andy & Lysming Imutan
Baltimore, Maryland
December 17, 1968

HIGH QUALITY

Gentlemen:

I certainly think that, in this age of diminishing quality of services and product, you are to be congratulated on the high quality of your merchandise, and more notably, the vast improvement in your deliveries. Truly amazing.

Enclosed please find check for payment of your recent invoice.

Viva,
The Hirsch Co.
San Jose, California

Editor's note--Mrs. Hirsch ordered six of our Mexican Graphic Arts calendars by telephone, and they were delivered to her door, 250 miles from our office, the same day.

We aim to please, but don't guarantee that kind of service all the time.

"WE'LL STICK WITH YOU."

Editor:

I would like to announce the support of the Democratic Student Coalition of Nassau County for your activities.

We have been aiding your cause and will continue to do so. Yours is the cause for justice. I just wrote this letter to tell you front-line troops how much we admire your effort and your compassion for "La Causa."

God bless you or let you at least win the victory which will be yours. Good luck and don't worry--we'll stick with you.

Respectfully,
Joel Kalkin
North Woodmere, New York

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