



CLEVELAND--This picture of Joe, Johnnie, Carmen, Frankie and Brother Julio Hernandez appeared in Cleveland's "Catholic Universe Bulletin" last month. Brother Julio, his wife Fina, and the kids are coordinating the boycott in Ohio. Hernandez and his family arrived in Cleveland in September, and have been working full time on the Grape Boycott ever since.

Three Rochester Men Fast In Protest of Scab Grapes

ROCHESTER, November 21--Two young men from Rochester, N.Y., today were beginning the 13th day of a fast designed to bear "personal witness during the Thanksgiving season to the hunger and suffering faced by the nation's farmworkers," while a third man, Dr. John Radebaugh, Director of Migrant Health Programs at the University of Rochester, was about to begin a fast "to further demonstrate the concern of community leaders over the continued sale of grapes in several Rochester chain stores."

The two young men, whose fast has been commended by Mayor Frank T. Lamb of Rochester, and by many religious and civic groups, have gone without food since November 7, while Dr. Radebaugh said he planned to fast "until every Rochester super-

market has removed California grapes from its shelves."

In order that stores be brought into negotiations with the UFWOC interfaith religious services have been conducted in front of a leading Rochester chain stores, and individual customers have initiated lawsuits charging one chain with fraud, because the suit alleges, consumers were told grapes on sale were not from California when in fact they were.

As a result of the fast and the pressure brought on the stores which sell scab grapes by the Rochester community, one major chain has cancelled its order for grapes, and several others have agreed to discuss the boycott issue with community groups.

Birchers Fail to Cool Oregon UFWOC Support

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON--Throw in a union audience viewing the film "Huelga," six cups of John Birchers, add a dash of George Wallace supporters, stir well, bake for about two hours in a heated, but non-violent oven, and lo and behold, you have a food caravan making its way to Delano.

This previously unknown recipe was discovered by Ed Chiera, UFWOC representative in Oregon, when he recently showed "Huelga" to an audience of members of the International Woodworkers Association (IWA).

"Birchers, armed to the teeth with copies of "The Grapes, Communist Wrath in Delano," (a right-wing, American Opinion red-smear pamphlet) came in and set up information tables with House Un-American Activities Committee literature," reports Irv Fletcher, vocal supporter of the UFWOC and president of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) in Klamath Falls.

According to Fletcher, the majority of people at the film-showing were Birchers. They made a feeble attempt to persuade those present who were not members of their organization that the UFWOC was a "communist front" union. (UFWOC Assistant Director, Larry Iltong, is suing the John Birch Society for \$1 million for libel because they stated in "The Grapes," that he was a card-carrying member of the Communist Party.)

In addition to the Birchers, the two co-chairmen of the Klamath Falls support group for George Wallace were also in evidence at the meeting.

The result of the meeting was a hearty endorsement of the farm workers Union by those AFT and IWA members present. They also decided to join the food caravan leaving Portland November 29.

UFWOC SHOWDOWN WITH BANK OF AMERICA

SAN FRANCISCO, November 21--The United Farm Workers Organizing Committee today called on the mammoth Bank of America, one of the largest banks in the world, to recognize the UFWOC as bargaining agent for those workers who harvest grapes on more than 5,000 acres of land owned by the bank near Ducor, in Tulare County, California.

Bank of America officials have refused to negotiate with the Union, and have refused to study proof submitted by the Union that it did, indeed, represent the workers.

The bank also refused to discuss a secret ballot election to determine if the workers wanted the Union to represent them.

UFWOC has announced the Union and thousands of individual farm workers will withdraw their funds from the bank if its officials continue to refuse to negotiate.

The dispute can be traced to September 21, 1965, when whole crews at the ranch, then owned by P. J. Divizich, joined the strike, which was certified by the California Department of Labor.

During the next two years, the Union called on Divizich to negotiate several times.

Divizich, reportedly the owner of the largest contiguous vineyard in the nation, refused to discuss elections or any kind of negotiations with the Union.

On January 10 of this year, in a forced sale at the Tulare County Courthouse in Visalia, the Bank of America bought the Divizich holdings. It was reported that the sale was made to cover debts which Divizich had to the Bank of America.

In February, Agribusiness Investment Co. suddenly appeared, with, as its president, an attorney for Bank of America. It is the "employer" and runs the property, but the bank retained direct ownership of the land, according to



UFWOC attorney Jerome Cohen. It appears that bank officials continue to make major managerial decisions about the operation of the property.



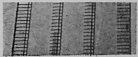
According to UFWOC organizers Manuel Uranday and William Chandler, who signed up the workers during a three-month organizing drive beginning in September, the Bank of America and AIC hired many of the workers directly. In other cases,



labor contractors were employed and they recruited and hired the workers.

In still other cases, grapes were sold "on the vine" to other local growers, who brought their own workers in or used the AIC's employees to harvest the crop.

On October 24, a telegram was sent to the B of A by Cesar Chavez, who notified them that UFWOC represents a majority of the workers and asked for negotiations with the



bank and its agricultural subsidiary.

Bank officials at first claimed that they did not control AIC, and that the Union would have to deal with that company.

It turned out later, however, that attorneys for B of A were also the attorneys for, or officials of, AIC.

Vice President Iverson of the Bank of America admitted that the bank owned and controlled the land, but that they planned to sell it. Iverson agreed to meet with Union representatives, but later they telephoned to say they would not negotiate, recognize the Union, or allow elections for the workers.

They claimed they were not legally obligated to do so, since farm workers were excluded from the National Labor Relations Act. Second, claimed one high B of A official, "We don't want to lead the parade...this is a social revolution."

Bank officials also reportedly said, "We have more important business to attend to."

At press time, the Union was waiting for a final answer from the bank before proceeding with further action.

Viva la Causa
Y
El Progreso

Courtesy of
a
Mexican-
American
Attorney

Fresno California