

## Non-violence study...continued

violence and nonviolence with impatient young blacks in Memphis just before he was killed. He told them: "We have neither the techniques nor the numbers nor the weapons to win a violent campaign." In its place he pleaded for more militant and massive types of nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience.

## CESAR CHAVEZ

The United Farm Workers Organizing Committee adopted non-violence as a means of bringing about justice from the very beginning of the grape strike in 1965. Despite the many beatings and harassments Union pickets and organizers have received, they have remained faithful to nonviolence.

Cesar Chavez himself led strikers and supporters on a 350 mile Lenten pilgrimage from Delano to Sacramento and underwent a 25 day fast to witness to the ethical and nonviolent nature of his movement.



A Coachella Valley grower thrusts a hatchet into his air-conditioned Cadillac seconds before Sheriff's deputies arrive on the scene. The grower had been threatening pickets with the hatchet; his foremen attacked Tony Lopez, a UFWOC picket. No arrests were made.

At the end of the fast Chavez stated: "Our struggle is not easy--those who oppose us are rich and powerful and they have many allies in high places. We are poor. Our allies are few. But we have something the rich do not own. We

have our bodies and spirits and the justice of our cause as our weapons." I am convinced that the truest act of courage, the strongest act of manliness, is to sacrifice ourselves for others in a totally nonviolent struggle for justice. To be a man is to suffer for others. God helps to be men."

In November of 1969 Chavez told TV interviewer David Frost in New York that nonviolence consists in involving masses of people in order to bring about meaningful social change. He said that his heroes were Mahatma Gandhi and Francis of Assisi.

Chavez also wrote a lengthy letter to E.L. Barr, Jr., President of the California Grape and Tree Fruit League when the latter accused UFWOC of violence. Chavez exposed Barr's cheap smear tactics and appealed to him as a fellow human being to begin negotiations with the farm workers union. He concluded his letter with these words "we do not hate you or rejoice to

see your industry destroyed; we hate the miserable system that seeks to keep us enslaved and we shall overcome and change it, not by retaliation or bloodshed but by a determined nonviolent struggle carried on by those mass of farm workers who intend to be free and human"

Chavez cites the grape boycott as the best example of nonviolence in the workers' movement. "When people say nonviolence won't work, they are really saying that they cannot organize," he says. "When we speak of nonviolence we must seek ways and means of showing people how to become better and more effective organizers."

Cesar Chavez calls nonviolence mob action in reverse. It is mass action against violence. It must begin from small groups of people who are fully committed to it and spread out to the rest of society. Chavez claims that nonviolence must be creative. "You have

to produce a lot of alternatives in order to win," he adds. Chavez believes that once people understand the strength of nonviolence and the force that it generates, the love that it creates, the response that it brings forth from the total community, they will not be willing to give it up very easily.



UFWOC picket Cayetano Esquivel is rushed to an Indian hospital after being beaten by a Bagdasarian company foreman. Bagdasarian Manager Mike Bosniak is seen just above the picket sign. Bosniak once told pickets: "I will lie bleeding and half dead before I sign a contract with Chavez."

## LOOK OUT, SEÑOR REAGAN!

A not-so-proud chapter of 19th century California history was put to rights by the State Supreme Court. In the process it may have given the vote to an additional 300,000 citizens.

In a significant decision filed last week, the six justices unanimously found unconstitutional the application of an 1894 English literacy requirement which was adopted, to use the language of one of its advocates, "to wipe out the ignorant foreign vote."

In practice, it is expected to enfranchise thousands of Californians who speak Spanish, Filipino and other languages besides English. Until now they have been prevented from registering to vote because they could not read the State Constitution in English.

Stated Don B. Kates Jr., the California Rural Legal Assistance attorney who won the appeal, "We hope that this can be the basis

for a campaign which will enable Mexican-Americans to vote because we feel it is a basic constitutional right as well as a duty of each citizen."

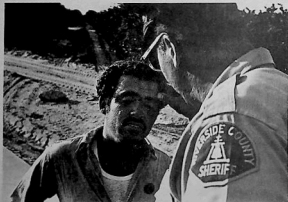
The 39 page opinion written by Justice Raymond L. Sullivan, goes in depth into the 19th Century alien exclusionist alarms which were behind the provision. "It is obvious that fear and hatred played a significant role in the passage of the literacy requirement," wrote Sullivan.

In an unusual observation concluding the opinion, Sullivan writes that if it had been necessary to uphold the English literacy requirement, "...it would indeed be ironic that petitioners, who are the heirs of a great and gracious culture, identified with the birth of California and contributing in no small measure to its growth, should be disenfranchised in their ancestral land, despite their capacity to cast an informed vote."

The suit was brought in 1967 by Genoveva Castro and Jesus E. Parra, native-born Chicanos.

The impact of this decision has been felt throughout the whole state as typified by a local community paper, "La Herencia" which feels that the State Court ruling has a very great meaning for the people of Richgrove, Ca. No longer will unscrupulous local politicians be able to use the antiquated, discriminating statute to cheat, exploit or otherwise abuse the people. We would like to encourage the community to use their rights and Vote on the 28th of April, and also in June.

El Malcriado would like to encourage the people in using this new decision as a source of Luchano Power, Pissay Power, and Power to all People.



A UFWOC picket in Coachella just after he was attacked by a crew boss who carved his forehead with grape picking snippers.