

The Rev. Jim Drake (administrative assistant to Cesar Chavez) and his wife, Susan, recently travelled to India to observe the centenary of Mahatma Gandhi's birth. Susan describes the trip to EL MALCRIADO readers:

NON-VIOLENCE CONFERENCE IN INDIA



In late January, Jim and I set out for a three week trip around the world, particularly so that Jim could represent Cesar Chavez and UFWOC at a conference held in New Delhi entitled: "The Relevance of Gandhi to our Times".

BOYCOTT MEETING

The first stop was for 24 hours in Honolulu with the enthusiastic Hawaii Grape Boycott Committee. Friends of the strike met us there and stayed with us through numerous press conferences, strategy meetings and Jim's "Thank you" address to the State Senate for supporting the boycott. We had a few minutes to drive along the coast and be tempted by the turquoise waters and coral reefs. All the good rumors one hears about the Islands are true!

TWO INDIAS

Our next evening stop was Calcutta--an eerie experience in the dark as we careened through the streets in an old bus--narrow streets choked with people, cows, rickshaws, and carts. It is an experience any American needs, and we'll never forget it no matter how hard our sheltered minds try.

New Delhi is another Indian world--cosmopolitan, modern in comparison with Calcutta--and we could avail ourselves of India's beauty as well as explore its more horrid facts. The conference included people from all countries except Latin America,

Africa, and Israel--sad lack! Communists seemed very rote in their discussions and we pitied them because they were unable to be original. The Russians said, for example, that "Czechoslovakia is proof of our nonviolence; we moved in there to prevent further violence".

RELEVANT TALKS

There was far too much speech-making and little action--a thing that Gandhi would have deplored. But after a few days, word of our discontent became known. We held some very stimulating evening meetings on the war in Vietnam, the grape strike, the divisions within India, and we heard fascinating anecdotes about Gandhi from those who had lived with him.

We had a very impressive demonstration against the war in Vietnam complete with a South Vietnamese Buddhist priest and T.Y. Rogers, Jr. of Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

OBSERVATIONS

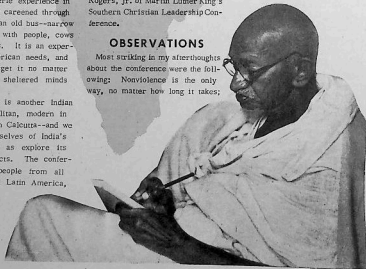
Most striking in my afterthoughts about the conference were the following: Nonviolence is the only way, no matter how long it takes;

secondly, land reform must be a sharing of the land, and not merely an exchange of the persons who own the land.

The trip was rounded out with five days of meetings with the World Council of Churches and International Labor Union people...most of whom were well informed of the grape strike and eager to help.

When you see boycott grape stickers 5,000 miles away, you know that you have a lot of support. It led me to think that we are not as aloof as we think, but we tend to become smug and selfish without seeing the sufferings of our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world. The people who paid our way will never know how much our eyes were opened.

I hope we can begin opening our hearts in our activities to begin showing how impressed we were. Viva la causal



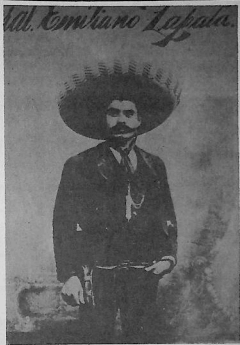
MEMORY

For nine years, led by Emiliano Zapata and other rebel chiefs, los campesinos carried on a lucha constante. Inspired by their success, other insurgents followed Zapata's example and rallied los pueblos throughout Mexico to la causa de la revolucion. Even after Zapata's assassination el movimiento unexpectedly held together. In the end, the Morelos revolucionarios had forced on the government a new policy of concern for the nation's rural poor.

La tierra es de todos como el aire, el agua, la luz y el calor del sol y tienen derecho a ella los que la trabajan con sus propias manos.

The land belongs to everyone like the air, the water, the light and the heat of the sun, and all who work the land with their own hands have a right to it.

...Emiliano Zapata
Born August 8, 1879
Died April 30, 1919



YOUTH'S' RIGHTS VIOLATED

Arson charges against four Richgrove youths were thrown out of court in Visalia by Superior Judge Jay Ballantine, on the grounds that the boys' Constitutional Rights were violated and thereby denied due process of law. The ruling on Tuesday, March 31, 1970, was based on People v. Randall and Miranda v. Arizona.

The decision has had great significance in that the scale of Justice has tilted in favor of low income people. This is not always the case among the poor people of this country, and because this is true, the Sheriff, Calif. Division of Forestry and other agencies all too often take advantage of the situation.

It is significant to note also the lack of publicity announcing the

dismissal of the case. Where are the two inch, front page headlines, the television announcement of Sheriff Bob Wylie and the statements of Chief Ranger Raymond Banks of the CDF. It was only five months ago that their propagandas convicted and sentenced the boys. Where are the irresponsible school superintendents, board members and others who had condemned the boys earlier? Why don't they condemn those who abused the town and broke the law in the process?

Perhaps the most important significance of the whole case is education. It was shortage of education that caused the boys to be involved, it was poor education that allowed the Forestry and Sheriff to prey on the boys weaknesses as well as the community. The arson case

was the result of lack of education. The outcome of the case was the result of education.

The community is deeply indebted to the Chicano Legal Defense Fund, that paid the bail, and of course the attorneys Gilberto Lopez and Al Villa of Fresno, for their diligent work and dedication for law and justice. Thanks is also due the two USC/Teacher Corps interns who were terminated from the program because of their involvement.

EL MALCRIADO would like to make clear that its interest lies in that the law must serve everyone regardless of race, color, and social status and that justice belongs to everybody, whether you wear a badge or not. The boys of Richgrove now have another chance, we hope they use it wisely.