

National Collegiate Committee to

BOYCOTT

One of the greatest social problems of our day is the plight of the migratory and seasonal farmworker. Everyone has heard the story before -- that farmworkers have extremely low incomes, lack the protection of most state and Federal labor legislation, are at the mercy of large corporate agribusiness enterprises, have an average life expectancy of 21 years less than you or I -- and many responded to the efforts of the United Farmworkers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, by boycotting grapes picked by non-union workers. Cesar Chavez' Union is now trying to organize the lettuce workers of the Salinas Valley in California. Once again a national boycott has been called asking that individuals and groups support the lettuce workers.

Cornell University's Senate has passed a bill supporting the boycott on an institutional basis. It is a matter of "internal" University policy. Now a National Collegiate Committee to Boycott Lettuce has been formed. The purpose of the Committee is to co-ordinate similar efforts by other universities and colleges. We ask your support.

Enclosed with this letter is a packet of materials used at Cornell. We are asking that they be distributed, utilized to write legislation, and put on the agenda of your University or College governing body, student government, school government, or policy-making body. Efforts supporting the lettuce boycott will be co-ordinated at Cornell through the Committee. However, time is precious. Every attempt to act upon the boycott must be done quickly, forcefully and publicly.

We would also hope that you would express your concern for the farmworker's plight to your Congressmen and Senators, both Federal and state. Petitions, resolutions, and letters are particularly important.

The National Committee also needs contributions, as you might guess. Private donations are, therefore, welcome. For response and co-ordination contact:

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UFWOC needs your support. Let us help.

Sincerely,



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The events are complex but the issue in the Salinas strike is simple: Will the farm workers have the right to build a union of their own or will their employers choose a union for them?

July 23, 1970 Cesar Chavez sends telegram to Salinas growers asking for union representation elections.

July 23, 1970 Salinas growers meet and decide to "feel out the Teamsters" about a contract for field workers.

July 28, 1970 Salinas growers announce that Teamsters represent their workers. Santa Maria, Imperial Valley growers follow suit. Workers learn about it from newspapers.

July 30 to August 23 Workers march on Salinas, hold rallies, organize UFWOC committees at each farm, strike at selected ranches, and in other ways express desire to have their own farm workers union.

August 11, 1970 Teamsters sign a jurisdictional agreement honoring UFWOC's right to organize farm workers union. Most growers refuse to release Teamsters from contracts.

August 24, 1970 Massive strike begins in Salinas Valley (also Santa Maria). 5,000 to 7,000 farm workers are involved. Growers admit a 2/3 reduction in production. Denied elections, the workers demonstrate that they want to be represented by Cesar Chavez' United Farm Workers.

August 30, 1970 United Fruit representation election supervised by Catholic Bishops Committee proves again that workers want UFWOC. United Fruit (Inter Harvest) signs contract with UFWOC (\$2.10 per hour, hiring hall, grievance procedures, job security, pesticide clause, etc.)

August 31, 1970 Judge Marion Smith in Santa Maria refuses to grant injunction against UFWOC strike, ruling that strike is not jurisdictional since Teamsters are unable to present evidence that they represent workers.

September 4, 1970 Purex (Freshpict) recognizes UFWOC and agrees to negotiate in good faith. All Salinas area strawberry growers, except the largest - Pic 'n Pac (S.S. Pierce Co.) - agree to negotiate with UFWOC.

September 9-16, 1970 United Fruit begins to ship union label lettuce. D'Arrigo Bros. & L.H. Oelfina Farms recognize UFWOC. Robert Meyers Ranch and Brown & Hill Ranch recognize UFWOC.

September 17, 1970 Judge Anthony Brazil issues permanent injunction against all UFWOC strike activity in Salinas area. Chavez announces a nationwide boycott of non-union lettuce grown in California-Arizona (85% of nation's production).

Farmworkers in Salinas - like poor oppressed people around the world - are engaged in a basic self determination struggle. They want organized strength in a union that is close to them and is responsive to their needs and their hopes. UFWOC is that union

SUPPORT THE BOYCOTT