

DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 15 OF 16

FOLDER 13

**FARM WORKERS FLYERS AND
CLIPPINGS**

The Washington Post

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1977



By Bob Burchette—The Washington Post

Father Sean O'Malley leads a short religious service before farmworkers began hunger strike at White House.

Workers Begin Hunger Strike

By Ron Davis

Washington Post Staff Writer

Fifteen members of a group of farmworkers that staged a 1,482-mile, 80-day march from Texas to Washington to speak to President Carter began a planned 40-day hunger strike in front of the White House yesterday after failing to meet the President.

The strikers, members of the Texas Farm Workers Union, say they will live off water for as long as they can until President Carter agrees to meet them to discuss getting collective bargaining rights for want repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act banning union shop agreements between employers and unions, thereby guaranteeing "right-to-work" laws.

The farmworkers or "campesinos" have been in Washington since Labor Day and have been staying in various

churches in the city while waiting to meet Carter.

During the past week, organizers say, members of their group have met with several senators, congressmen and Midge Constanza, the President's assistant for public liaison, in unsuccessful attempts to arrange a meeting with Carter, who, they are told, "will be too busy for the next three or four weeks."

Antonio Orendain, head of the union, said he is attempting to fulfill a pledge to supporters the group encountered during its journey.

"We told our supporters we would meet President Carter, and we have a moral obligation to do whatever we can to meet him," Orendain said.

The campesinos began the strike with a prayer service conducted in Spanish by Father Sean O'Malley, director of the Spanish Catholic Center

on Mount Pleasant Street, after which they began petitioning spectators and passersby for signatures requesting an audience with Carter.

Orendain said that even if the strike does not produce a meeting with the President it would still get the group's message to the public.

"The people are supporting us," Orendain said, adding, "and that's why we're here."

Support the March for Human Rights

The Valley of Tears

The Texas Farm Workers' Union was born in 1975 in the Valley of Tears, the Rio Grande Valley of southern Texas. In this poorest part of our country thousands of men, women and children have suffered and died making millions of dollars for the fruit and vegetable growers. For the growers the Valley of Tears is the Valley of Profits.

The Texas Farm Workers' Union

The Texas Farm Workers' Union (TFW) fights for decent wages and working conditions for all farm workers of the area, Mexican as well as United States citizens. But it has no legal status as a union. California farm labor, led by Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers, has won the right to collective bargaining through unionization. But the farm workers of Texas and the other states do not have the "human right" to have a say in what their wages and working conditions will be.

To change this situation the TFW is taking their case to Washington, D.C. Twenty-five farm workers and their families from the Valley of Tears, and some supporters, are marching on foot 1500 miles from Austin, Texas through the South to Washington—20 miles a day for 80 days, arriving on Labor Day. They want two things:

1) A national agricultural labor relations act to give farm labor the same rights as most other workers: collective bargaining through secret ballot elections, unemployment insurance and the federal minimum wage.

2) Repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act, which gives states the power to pass "Right to Work" laws, anti-labor laws designed to break strikes and unionization attempts, to increase employers' profits at the expense of wages.

The TFW is Marching for You

How? By fighting to organize the South. Thousands of businesses are leaving the Northern cities and going to the "Right to Work" states of the "Sun Belt," where wages are lower and profits are higher than elsewhere. This will continue—and we will continue to lose jobs and suffer a decline in our standard of living—as long as the South and Southwest are unorganized because the farm workers have no rights and because "Right to Work" laws make organization impossible. The TFW is fighting to organize the South. Their victory will help you in the most basic way.

The Equal Rights Congress

The national Equal Rights Congress is giving the TFW and its historic March for Human Rights our full support. We ask you to do two things:

1) Sign the TFW petition we are circulating, which will go to President Carter.

2) Give money. The TFW March and organizing efforts cost money, money which the Union doesn't have. The farm workers and their families are putting their lives on the line not just for themselves but for you and for us. We should unite behind them. Please give generously.*

*Food, summer clothing and medical supplies are welcome if you are unable to give money.

Support the March



Join the ERC

Make out checks to:
Texas Farm Workers' Union
and send to: TFW, PO Box 18664
Houston TX 77823

Equal Rights Congress

Box 2488
Loop Station
Chicago IL 60690



Route of the March
July 14—New Orleans
July 19—Hattiesburg, Miss.
July 31—Birmingham, Ala.
Aug. 6—Atlanta, Ga.
Aug. 16—Greenville, S.C.
Aug. 19—Charlotte, N.C.
Aug. 29—Richmond, Va.
Sept. 4—Washington, D.C.

Labor Donated

Apoye la Marcha por Derechos Humanos

El Valle de Lágrimas

La Unión de Los Campesinos de Texas nació en 1975 en el Valle de Lágrimas, el Valle del Rio Grande de Texas. En esta, la área más pobre de nuestro país, miles de hombres, mujeres y niños han sufrido y muerto en los campos de legumbres y frutas, ganando millones de pesos para los rancheros. Para los rancheros el Valle de Lágrimas es el Valle de Ganancias.

La Unión de Los Campesinos de Texas

La Unión de Los Campesinos de Texas (TFW) lucha por salarios y condiciones de trabajo decentes para todos los campesinos de la área, sean ciudadanos de Mexico o los Estados Unidos. Pero no tiene un estado legal como sindicato. En California, los trabajadores agrícolas, guiados por César Chavez y los Campesinos Unidos (UFW), han ganado el derecho de tener sindicatos. Pero los campesinos de Texas y los otros estados no tienen el "derecho humano" de negociar colectivamente con sus patrones, de decir su parecer determinando sus sueldos y condiciones de trabajo.

Para cambiar esta situación la TFW está llevando su problema a Washington, D.C. Veinte y cinco trabajadores agrícolas y sus familias del Valle de Lágrimas, así como unos partidarios, están marchando a pie 1500 millas de Austin, Texas a través del Sur a Washington—20 millas al día por 80 días, llegando el Día de Trabajo. Quieren dos cosas:

1) Un acta nacional de relaciones agrícola-laborales para darles a los trabajadores agrícolas los mismos derechos que tienen otros obreros: de tener negociaciones colectivas, el seguro de desempleo y un salario mínimo federal.

2) Abolir la Sección 14(b) del acta Taft-Hartley, que les da a los estados el poder de aprobar las leyes "Derecho de Trabajar," leyes anti-laborales cuyos único propósito es romper huelgas y sindicatos y bajar salarios en los intereses de los patrones.

La TFW está Marchando para Usted

¿Y cómo? Porque miles de negocios están saliendo de los ciudades del norte; "corriendo" a los estados (principalmente en el Sur y Sudoeste) con leyes "Derecho de Trabajar," donde los salarios están más bajos y las ganancias están más altas. Esto va a seguir—y nosotros seguiremos perdiendo trabajos y sufriendo un bajón en nuestro nivel de vida—mientras que estén desorganizados el Sur y Sudoeste debido a las leyes "Derecho de Trabajar," y mientras que los campesinos no tengan ningunos derechos. La TFW está luchando para organizar esta área. Su victoria lo ayudará a Usted directamente.

El Congreso de Derechos Equitativos

El Congreso de Derechos Equitativos nacional está dándole a la TFW y su Marcha por Derechos Humanos histórica nuestro apoyo lleno. Los pedimos a ud. dos cosas:

1) Afirmar la petición de la TFW que estamos circulando, que se le mande al Presidente Carter.

2) Dar dinero. La Marcha de la TFW y sus esfuerzos de organizar cuestan dinero que no tiene la Unión. Los trabajadores agrícolas y sus familias se están arriesgando no solo para sí mismos, sino para ud. y nosotros también. Deberíamos unirnos con ellos. Favor de donar generosamente.*

*Comidas, provisiones médicas y ropas de verano serán bienvenidos también de organizaciones e individuos que no puedan dar dinero.

Apoye la Marcha !



Juntese con el CDE !

Escriba su cheque a
Texas Farm Workers' Union
y mande a:
TFW, Box 18664,
Houston TX 77823

Congreso de Derechos Equitativos

Box 2488
Loop Station
Chicago IL 60690

Ruta de la Marcha
14 julio—New Orleans
19 julio—Hattiesburg, Miss.
31 julio—Birmingham, Ala.
6 agosto—Atlanta, Ga.
16 agosto—Greenville, S.C.
19 agosto—Charlotte, N.C.
29 agosto—Richmond, Va.
4 septiembre—Washington, D.C.

