Overnight the farm labor law legislative battle has been transformed into a people’s struggle which will take California before it is over. In kicking off the United Farm Workers union’s national organizing campaign, Cesar Chavez made it clear that he is through begging the legislators to reframe the farm labor board. Pressure, including mass demonstrations and attempts to influence the offices of key legislators, as well as maneuvering in the State’s labor market, is clearly more than is tolerated by this type of labor exploitation. The official kick-off date for the Farm Worker Initiative was April 1. Since Feb. 6 the new farm law has taken root and become a major issue in the election campaign. “We promised a lot of voters a lot of things,” he said, promising them that they would have the protection of the new law in their organizing efforts. Chavez explained that farm workers had been haled as a virtual Magna Carta. The growers and the Teamsters Union were apparently taken back by the string of victories run up by the UFW. Almost 70 percent of the nation’s workers who contain any of the five months that the new farm labor law had been operative for the UFW. Because the farm labor law was challenged, one without legal precedents, many of the early elections were challenging and thousands of unfair dismissal cases were filed, most of them by the UFW. The original budget estimate of the labor board turned out to be a liberal statistic. Even after all this, the ARLB was unable to continue to the end of this fiscal year. Refunding became a political football. In the liberal state of California, it ran into unexpected stiff opposition from rural Democrats and the solid GOP contingent. The partial victory in the state Assembly, without a vote to spare, was clearly an indication that the UFW has lost a battle and is now at the mercy of the growers and the courts. Chavez, who has been the crux of the UFW’s strategy, has now been cut off and his efforts to organize were cut off. Chavez explained the growers and Teamsters are united, as they seem to have been all along the line with the rest of the issues in the law. However, James T. Pickett, editor of the prestigious and authoritative California Farmer, believes that the growers have overplayed their hand this time. He too agrees that there is a need for drastic change in the law, as it is now, and he believes that “big trouble” if the ARLB is not refound. And he goes on to say that the people of California will support the law of the UFW and proves that the initiative was a failure in 1971. The growers tried to reverse the trend of the UFW that was demonstrated by the victories in the grape fields. They were able to have the law on the ballot, which if passed would have effectively crippled the UFW. Now it is the UFW that is on the offensive. Included among those sponsoring the initiative are Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally, Mayor Thomas Bradley and Mayor George Moscone of San Francisco. From all indications the UFW will lose this time, is not getting the support they expected and with the support of the growers and the courts and with the support of the growers and the former growers, it is clear that the UFW will have to change their tactics and organize the people of California. Nevertheless, it is expected that rank and file will participate in the protest and will point to weaknesses in the anti-union activist. The drive to kill Albany is a major factor in the growing number of workers who are being rushed back to work. Los Angeles Local 208 officials kept the lines going for most of the weekend before the end of the strike. Some of the picketers’ words “sink leave” painted on their signs, recalling the bitter six-week victory over this issue six years ago. It had been announced earlier that the contract included a sick clause for the first time “we have any idea whether we’ll go it this time, it may have bargained away in the last bargain,” said one UFW official.

Teamsters strike

Workers won’t keep truck

US corporations earn between 15 to 20 percent profit on investments averaging $32 billion in the country during this century, yet when workers are forced to sign on food stamps, and there is 40% unemployment. The US occupied Puerto Rico after it captured Cuba in 1898. Even though Puerto Rico had established its own autonomy under Spain one year before the occupation, the US justified the takeover as “war booty.”

Puerto Rico’s status was changed in 1952 to that of a “free associated state.” Today, Puerto Rican voters vote in US elections although the US can control the land, police, and any other autonomous region. The US owns 14% of all arable land, using mostly for military bases, including six nuclear sites.

Puerto Rican workers are united in order to resolve their “terri ordinal statemt. Some want to become a state, some want to keep the status quo temporarily. But a growing number are seeking some independence. These latter are divided in theory and tactics. Often they are isolated on specific actions. And the PSF is the only presence. The presence Puerto Rican party is organizing on the mainland.

The SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE (PSF) is an anti-imperialist support group for independence composed of all classes and elements against the PSF. It has chapters in several cities, including Los Angeles (P.O. Box 2552, Sebulpa, CA 91433).

The PSF has organized the rally for independence held at New York’s Madison Square Garden two years ago. Twenty thousand people attended. The New York metropolitan area contains most of the two million Puerto Ricans living in the U.S. (Three million live in Puerto Rico.) Another 20,000 Puerto Ricans live in Los Angeles.

Both the PSF and the PSEC are organizing for a people’s biennial march on Philadelphia this July. The PSF predicts its contingency in Philadelphia will number 10,000. It can be contacted at: 571 Whittier Blvd., East Los Angeles 3.

A July 1 coalition has been established in Los Angeles, headed by CASA (326 T. Pico Blvd.), and supported by all the Latin-American groups in LA/CLAS. Actions throughout the spring and summer will center on the UFW role in reprisals of the Community. Actions in the United States, especially for non-whites. May 1 marks the opening campaign, when a rally will take place at Westlake Park, Alvarado and Wilshire.

Teamsters Union officials who were forced into the first national-wide strike of truckers, announced last week that the walkout had come to an end after three days. However, in the middle west and on the West Coast there were many who remained on the picket lines long after Teamsters Union boss Frank Fitzsimmons had gone national television and announced that the strike was called off.

A national meeting of local union officials was scheduled for last Wednesday in the mid-west to hear the terms of the settlement reached with the owners. There was confusion in the locals as the workers were rushed back to work Monday, April 5.

Los Angeles Local 208 officials kept the lines going for most of the weekend before the end of the strike. Some of the picketers had the words “sink leave” painted on their signs, recalling the bitter six-week victory over this issue six years ago. It had been announced earlier that the contract included a sick clause for the first time “we have any idea whether we’ll go it this time, it may have bargained away in the last bargain,” said one UFW official.

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PULL OUT VANGUARD GUIDE


ters strike. Can't keep truck. Had to contract another one. He'll be here by 11. Have any idea what the schedule is for the trucking?

JUDY CHICAGO, drawings and Tannic diagram (Schellinger Gallery, 806 N. Melrose) through April 30.

CHIRAL OBLONG, "The Soft Screw," new works. multiple sculptures of roughing wall pieces (Cirrus Gallery, 706 N. Manhattan Place) through April 30.

ANDREW WILK, recent photo-realistic portraits (Contreras Gallery, 9214 N. Sher depression, thru May 1.)

CLAIRE FAJNRENSTEIN, constructions, paintings and drawings (Tate Gallery, 9217 Santa Monica Blvd., thru May 17).

SARAH WILSON, watercolors and drawings (128 Gallery, 128 Broadway, Santa Monica, thru April 22; Mon.-Fri. 1-5 p.m.)

COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART (9601 Wilshire Blvd., thru April 29). Paintings and sculptures with the ocean as its theme, 50 works dated 1840 to 1920, thru May 2.

GEORGE WILSON, ancient Chinese ceremonial brocades from California collections, thru April 25 at Pas Collegiate Galleries: European Bronzes of the Baroque Period; Classic Period Maya objects, thru April 30.

ARAM GABRELS, "Botanical," thru April, at Gelema, Ahmanson Gallery, Torba Ep Mask, African Art Gallery. Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10-5 p.m.; Sat. 10-6 p.m.; closed Mon.

NEWPORT HARBOR ART MUSEUM (2221 Main St., Newport Beach). "The Last Time I Saw Paradise," works by artists who were represented by the Feria Gallery in the late '50s and early '60s, thru April 17; "Great Egg Sale," 100 eggs decorated by Japanese artists, thru April 29 at Pas Collegiate Galleries: European Bronzes of the Baroque Period; Classic Period Maya objects, thru April 30.

SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF ART (1130 State St., "Pioneering Artists: Printmakers II" thru April 14. Thurs.-Sat. 11-5 p.m.; closed Mon.

THE WOMEN'S BUILDING (1727 N. B St., Santa Monica). Photo-documentation of women's art held at the World's Columbian Exposition: "Historical Handcrafts" by women artists; "Garden of Peace" by Frieda Frischer, "Nomad Village"; thru May 6;

Canis Gallery; paintings by NANCY CHUIN RADFORD, thru April 25. Hours: Wed.-Sun. noon-6 p.m; closed Mon.-Tues.

RICHARD WILSON, recent paintings, Nichols KRUSENICHNICK, prints, vintage American Folk Art, thru April 25. Hours: Wed.-Sun. noon-6 p.m; closed Mon.-Tues.