

Mr. THOMPSON. You will be interested to know that our colleague, Mr. Udall, from Arizona, is seeking an investigation. Mr. Udall has had a very deep interest in this.

Mr. CHAVEZ. Next, I would like to just briefly point out in our great conflict, because of the lack of protection for the workers and the lack of the National Labor Relations Act, what a difference it would have made if we had had the act.

When we struck the DiGiorgio Corp., the first reaction from the corporation was that there was no strike and that those people on strike were not really farmworkers. So, we continued with the struggle against them for 6 or 7 months until finally we instituted a national consumers' boycott against them.

When they began to feel the pressure and also when we had broken the solid opposition by having the Schenley Corp. recognize our union, we immediately then concentrated all of our efforts on the DiGiorgio Corp.

After a few weeks of intense activity on the boycott and also on the strike, DiGiorgio began then to try to find a way in which they could get rid of our union and they tried to organize a company union inside the farm. They closed the entrances to the camps because at that time about 90 percent of the workers do live inside the camps.

When this failed because the workers rejected the attempt to form a company union and force them into this company union, the next development was the appearance of the Teamsters Union in the fields working alongside the employer with the foreman and with the superintendent trying to sign up people. While this was going on, we were being excluded from the property. Six or seven arrests were made when our organizers attempted to go into the camps on the property and talk to the workers after working hours. These arrests were made even though the workers had invited the organizers into their homes. And when the pressure continued to mount, then the company called an election on the 24th of June of last year. This was what we called a phony election.

The election was called; our union was not permitted to have an observer at the polls; our union was not permitted to campaign. Furthermore, when we rejected the idea of a campaign under these conditions then they went ahead and included our name on the ballot.

At the same time the Teamsters Union was on the ballot and the Teamsters officials and organizers were inside the ranch with the company working on the workers. Mr. Serda will be telling you a little bit about this in his testimony.

That election was set aside through the good offices of Governor Brown who, after we appealed to him, saw the injustice of that election and the results of it and called on the American Arbitration Association to send in an arbitrator. The association sent in an arbitrator from Wayne State University in Michigan, Ronald Haughton, who came in and after about a month and a half of intense activity was able to get the three sides together; the Teamsters, DiGiorgio, and ourselves. Then he also set up rules and procedures for the election, knowing that would not give us the protection that we could get if this had been a National Labor Relations Board election but more than we ever had before. An awful lot of time was spent on determining voter eligibility, which was very difficult.