

harassment. Because stationary picket lines are not effective in the fields, ours is a roving picket line, we have about 400 square miles to patrol, we move almost constantly all day long from one end of the field to another. As we were moving around the sheriff's officers were stopping our pickets, photographing them, and asking them to identify themselves and making us lose sometimes more time in talking to them than we would spend in our own job of picketing. Outright harassment.

Mr. THOMPSON. Did you go to the district attorney about this?

Mr. CHAVEZ. Yes. We went to the district attorney about this. We went to the district attorney on several other cases where we had witnesses. There was no question that our pickets had been harassed. For instance, in one case one of our pickets was run down by a car driven by a grower and they refused to take action.

Mr. THOMPSON. Were there any disorderly conduct or other charges made against your pickets?

Mr. CHAVEZ. Yes. We have had many, many arrests. We have had almost a hundred or even over a hundred arrests.

Mr. THOMPSON. What were most of the complaints? On what basis were they arrested, as disorderly persons?

Mr. CHAVEZ. On one occasion, 44 strikers were arrested for refusing to remain silent on the picket line. In other words, the strikers were arguing that they had the right to shout into the fields the word "huelga" which means strike in Spanish. Most of the strikebreakers are from Mexico so we yelled "huelga, huelga," so they would know there was a strike going on.

The sheriff's officer from Kern County came to the picket lines and said they could not use the word "huelga"; they refused to give up using the word, so all 44 were jailed.

Mr. THOMPSON. Have those cases been tried?

Mr. CHAVEZ. No; they were never tried. See, after the election, after the district attorney was reelected, then the charges were dropped.

Mr. THOMPSON. Did those arrested have to post bond?

Mr. CHAVEZ. They did, and we spent almost \$10,000 in these cases.

Mr. THOMPSON. Has the bond been returned?

Mr. CHAVEZ. No. We have to buy the bail from a bail bondsman so we don't get the money back. And we don't get the money back that we have to pay the attorneys to defend the strikers.

Mr. THOMPSON. Well, attorneys never return money.

Mr. CHAVEZ. They went so far as to arrest a minister because he was reading to the strikebreakers the famous Jack London's definition of a strikebreaker and the same sergeant for the same sheriff's department found this to be offensive and he was arrested. He was tried and, of course, the case was thrown out of court.

Mr. THOMPSON. You referred earlier to the fact that with your workers there was no violence and no bloodshed because your workers didn't respond to the physical challenges.

What type of physical challenges did they encounter?

Mr. CHAVEZ. Well, for instance, a very common thing was for the growers—and I am not speaking about the people who were on the growers' staff; I am talking about the growers directly, personally coming to the picket line—would elbow us, kick us, push us around, and in several cases they sat on our cars and refused to get off the cars