

Mr. CHAVEZ. That is correct.

Mr. ALBERT. Thank you very much.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. O'Hara has a question.

Mr. O'HARA. Mr. Chavez, I wanted to return to one question and that has to do with the actions of the police and the district attorney's office and the growers in respect to your continued organizational efforts.

You spoke of past arrests, past harassment, and refusal by the district attorney to take action on complaints that you might have with respect to grower activities.

Could you bring us up to date on that? What is the present situation?

Mr. CHAVEZ. We have one case pending that the district attorney in Kern County will not take. This is where one of our young organizers in the DiGiorgio campaign was beaten up by some Teamster organizers and we tried to bring the complaint against them. We have identified them and the district attorney has refused to take action.

What happens is that every time we go in to a grower and we get him to agree to have a contract or to give us an election and we go to the next grower, the pressure begins to mount and it is at that point the pressure begins to get pretty strong against the grower.

We get this action not only from the police but, in a good many cases, from the city council. We have been subjected to hundreds of investigations—the fire department, the health department, and name it, you know, they are after us day in and day out; some of the community groups. In fact, early in the spring both the high school board and the elementary school board passed resolutions condemning the strike; the strike was only about a week old. It went so far that some of the churchmen in town condemned us and condemned the strike.

See, when you strike out in a community in a rural area like Delano, the only strength that the workers have are themselves, because the whole power structure is in immediate reaction to the whole idea of forming a union.

So, we are not only fighting the growers but we have to put up with all of the other pressure that comes to bear upon us in our efforts. I am sure that if there were coverage under the National Labor Relations Act that the reaction would not be so severe because then it would just be a simple matter of the workers deciding on the ballot whether they want a union or not instead of the present circumstance, where we have to strike and put up the pressure to get the growers to the point where they will give us an election.

In so doing, of course the community reacts very bitterly—not the workers' community, but the other side.

Mr. O'HARA. I think that too was an excellent point, that the community is divided and torn now because unless a grower voluntarily goes through procedures similar to those prescribed in the National Labor Relations Act, the only recourse you have is to bring economic pressure, and when you bring economic pressure the rest of the community reacts.

I don't imagine that Delano is as good a place to live in some ways as it once was although it is certainly better for those who have better wages and better working conditions than they used to have.