

Mr. CHAVEZ. The other problem that we are faced with is that the workers have joined together and have started a cooperative program. We have a common disadvantage. The reaction from the community is so severe, not only against the union but against anything that we do; for instance, our cooperative is buying gas from the Texaco Co. There was a period of about, oh, almost 12 days where we could not buy gas for the station in Delano because there was so much pressure against the Texaco Co. not to sell gas to a co-op because it was a co-op and because it belonged to the workers.

Not only that, just 2 weeks ago our gas station was bombed. The windows were destroyed and a lot of merchandise was destroyed. Luckily this was during the night period when there was no activity there but this is how the community shows its resentment.

We have had a series of attempts to set fire to our offices. We have a number of small houses where we have our offices and in one night we had four attempts to set fire to our offices.

Mr. O'HARA. You have a very active, alert police department out there; I assume they have apprehended the people that did all this.

Mr. CHAVEZ. Yes; the police department is costing us just on minor traffic tickets in Delano over \$800 in the first quarter of 1967.

Mr. O'HARA. What about the bombings and the burnings? Have they come up with the people who did this?

Mr. CHAVEZ. Not a thing. Someone broke into the office and they stole our membership records but they also stole a commercial money order, and we found the money order and we gave it to them. There was the name that appeared there and we told them who the man was and they didn't even investigate. We have no protection from them.

Mr. O'HARA. I think they are too busy out on the picket line probably.

Mr. CHAVEZ. See, the city policeman's job has been, since the strike started, to attack rather than defend us because of our efforts to organize, and somehow they are truly convinced that to try to organize farmworkers is un-American.

Mr. THOMPSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. O'HARA. Yes.

Mr. THOMPSON. Does the town have have an organized or a volunteer fire department?

Mr. CHAVEZ. It is an organized fire department and they supplement it with volunteers.

Mr. THOMPSON. Do they finish their game of dominoes before they come to your fire or do they get there quickly?

Mr. CHAVEZ. In the case where we had the four attempts to burn our office, the department had a full-time staff there but also volunteers. One of those volunteers happens to be my brother and he was the first one out there.

Mr. THOMPSON. Did he run out there with a fire extinguisher?

Mr. CHAVEZ. He has a radio and he knows the address, so when he heard the address he came out fast.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Burton.

Mr. BURTON. Just two points.

The first is that my office has some firsthand knowledge of this Texaco incident and their national executives have a better understanding of their corporate responsibilities than did the local dis-