

For example, a lot of people were fired because they would be out 1 day. The company never did tell us that we were being fired because we went to a union meeting. It was always either "Your work is not satisfactory any more" or "We just don't need you here."

So, what we had to do from there on was to have meetings very, very secretly. For example, one tactic that we used, at the end of the day I would tell a worker that they would enjoy a very good movie up-town and I invited whoever wanted to go. The workers knew what I was talking about so they would say, "Well, wait for me and I will take a shower and we will go to this movie you are talking about." But, I tell you, we were not going to a movie; we were going to a union meeting.

In my point of view, the company made a very bad mistake when they started firing these men because every man that was fired immediately went to the union office and would sign a paper saying how long he had been working there, why he was fired, and so on. So, this proved very costly for the company, especially in the case of Ophelia Diaz.

Ophelia Diaz had been a forelady there for 12 years and for 12 years before that she had been just a worker. She had been asked the same as I had, the same as everybody else had many times, to sign with the Teamsters. She had also been asked to sign petitions which we will talk about a little later on.

Ophelia Diaz always refused to sign Teamster cards and at the same time she would always refuse to sign petitions.

I don't remember exactly the date but there was a fight at Sierra Vista where a picket was hit over the head but I do remember very clearly that the company wanted Ophelia Diaz to testify against the pickets.

Ophelia refused, saying that she would testify but she would say only what she saw and nothing else. This, of course, made the company very, very mad and she was discharged. She was told that her work was deteriorating—I understand that means that it is not good any more.

Just a few days later, I don't remember how many days later, her husband who was working in a nearby farm was also fired from his job. Her husband later on moved to another farm and he was also discharged from this farm. If my memory serves me right, I understand that the union or somebody went to this grower asking him if there was any connection in the two firings, of the man and his wife. In other words, they wanted to know if they were blacklisting. I understand that that grower refused to even talk to whoever went over there.

Now, again, I say I don't remember the exact dates but one day a foreman went across to my crew and he had a petition with him. The petition read like this. On top of the petition were the words typed, "I don't want a union. What I want is more protection," and it was addressed to Governor Brown.

Everybody in my crew, including myself, refused to sign this petition, the same as we refused to sign the other petition which came about 2 months later asking the Teamsters to come back to Sierra Vista.

I don't know if you gentlemen are familiar with this but the Teamsters left Sierra Vista and then they came back under the pretense that they were called back.