

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you very much. I appreciate your being here. Good luck to you.

Mr. CHAVEZ. Thank you.

**STATEMENT OF MRS. DOLORES HUERTA, DIRECTOR OF
NEGOTIATIONS, UFWOC, AFL-CIO, DELANO, CALIF.**

Mrs. HUERTA. Mr. Chairman and Congressmen, I will give testimony regarding the contracts and you might say successful part of our strike story that we have had and to indicate to the committee that collective bargaining is possible and is a workable solution in agriculture and for these difficulties that we have had over the last few months, we will certainly point this out.

We have had a series of elections that have been conducted in the Delano area and outside the Delano area. One of these elections, the first one, of course, was the one Mr. Chavez referred to at the Sierra Vista Ranch, arranged by Governor Brown and that was, of course, the big election.

Many people said, well, farmworkers won't vote because they don't know how to vote. As a matter of fact, there were over 1,500 people that voted in that election at the Sierra Vista Ranch. One of the reasons there were so many voters, was that, we had held out that strikers also had a right to vote and they were given that right.

Following this election, there was an election conducted at DiGiorgio's King Ranch at Arvin, which was conducted by the State conciliation service. We then had an election with the Mosesian-Hourigan-Goldberg Co. which was also the result of a strike and a boycott.

Leading up to that election one of our pickets was very badly injured by a truck that ran him down on the picket line. By the way, that man was cited by the police department for throwing himself in front of the truck and he is now facing trial on those charges.

We then had another election, a card check with the Christian Brothers employers, covering their workers up in the northern part of the State in the Napa area. All of these elections, when we look back at them, indicate a great deal of suffering on the part of the people who had to try to get those elections and a great deal of suffering that had to go into getting the employer just to agree to an election, just to agree to a procedure.

There is one election that people don't hear about very often and this is the one that we had with the DiGiorgio packing shed, Earl Fruit Co. The reason that no one hears about this election is that it was conducted by the Board. Since it was a packing shed, it was covered by the NLRB and it was a very inconsequential campaign: people went in and voted; there was no campaign. There was not all of this dissension that accompanied the other elections that we had. This is very interesting because the Earl Fruit election shows what could be done if we were covered by the Board and what a savings it would be in terms of not only money but also in terms of the human suffering which we would be able to save.

Mr. THOMPSON. I wonder if you would give us a comparison in an instance or two between the type of contract which you have negotiated and a similar one negotiated by the Teamsters in the same area and for