

Dr. Hardeman told us that his speech at the rally was directed toward telling the farm workers that there is strength in unity and that they should seek legislation to better themselves; that he told the workers that America expects certain things of them and they should expect certain things in America and that they would have to be the ones to seek such goals as better pay and better housing; but he said that he did not mention any union, although there were union representatives at the rally who did.

Mr. Channel, AFSC, told us that he had sent Hank Mayer to the December 11, 1966, rally to observe the activities but not to participate. Mr. Mayer confirmed to us that he had attended the December 11 rally as an observer and that he did not participate in it.

*Union meetings before and after the rally*

Mr. Howard Gorham told us that he was present at a meeting of crew leaders which was held in the union hall in Belle Glade before the rally on December 11, 1966. Mr. Gorham said that those in attendance at this meeting included about 25 crew leaders; James Pierce, IUD, AFL-CIO; and Roscoe Webb and William Johnson, CAF, and that at this meeting the crew leaders voted unanimously to affiliate with the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee—a unit formed by AFL-CIO by combining two California unions.

Mr. Gorham said that this meeting was presided over by Roscoe Webb up to the point of taking the vote, but that Webb had not conducted the vote; also, that after the vote both Webb and Johnson spoke to the crew leaders in support of the union. Mr. Gorham referred us to the following statements from his article in the Tampa Tribune of December 12, 1966:

"One crew leader spoke of threats against him for attending the union meeting and Webb told him, 'I work for Uncle Sam. We're here to see your interests are taken care of.'"

"Johnson said, 'The growers are organized and they are organized to the teeth. You men in circus know this.'"

"Johnson also told the group, 'It has to start with you. If one of you gets pressured by a farmer, then don't go to his place. Let him suffer. Don't go in and help the man. If you don't go, he will come back to you on his hands and knees.'"

We interviewed W.H. Anderson, Jr., Assistant General Manager, Labor Division, Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, concerning the activities in Belle Glade on December 11, 1966. He said that he was not present at these activities but that he had a representative who was.

Mr. Anderson gave us a copy of a letter which he wrote to the President of the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, which he said summarized the activities surrounding the rally. This letter contained the following statement concerning the union meeting before the rally:

"The actual rally by CCFW was preceded by a meeting of crew leaders, union officials, poverty program people—including Roscoe Webb, Director of the Community Action Fund in Dade County and his assistant, Bill Johnson, and the Reverend Winton Ward. The union meeting was chaired by Roscoe Webb and the vote was conducted by Reverend Ward, assisted by James Pearce [sic], organizer for the AFL-CIO."

Mr. Anderson declined to identify his representative.

The basic allegation by Congressman Rogers included a statement that the rally on December 11, 1966, was followed by a union meeting to which those attending the rally were invited.

Dr. Hardeman stated that a note was passed to the platform during the rally by Ed King, President of UAWA, requesting that an announcement be made that there would be a meeting of crew leaders after the rally and that Father Walsh made the announcement as requested. Dr. Hardeman said that no one on the platform knew of this meeting until the announcement was made. Dr. Hardeman objected to reference to this meeting as a "union meeting"; he said that it was a crew leaders' meeting held to consider seeking affiliation with Chavez's union—the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee (UFWOC).

Messrs. Roscoe Webb and William Johnson, CAF, and Hank Mayer, AFSC, said that they attended the crew leaders' meeting after the rally. According to Mr. Johnson the purpose of this meeting was to vote on whether to seek affiliation with Chavez's group and that the crew leaders voted to seek such affiliation. Webb and Johnson denied that they supported the union in either of the meetings which preceded and followed the rally or that Webb had presided