

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 20, May 23, 1975

Present: Barnes, Breitman, Camejo, Clark, Hansen,
Jenness, Lovell, Seigle, Shaw, Sheppard,
Waters

Chair: Hansen

AGENDA: 1. New York City Jobs Actions
2. Boston March Evaluation
3. UFW Evolution

1. NEW YORK CITY JOBS ACTIONS

(Boehm, Rose invited for this point.)

Jenness reported.

Discussion

Agreement on nature of press coverage.

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

2. BOSTON MARCH EVALUATION

(Dixon, Hildebrand, and Miah invited for this point.)

Sheppard reported.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

3. UFW EVOLUTION

(Peréz, Rodriguez invited for this point.)

Peréz reported on revitalization of UFW boycott and our participation (see attached letter).

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
May 23, 1975

TO ALL ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,

There have been a number of indications in recent months that the United Farm Workers is stepping up its boycott campaign against Gallo wines and scab grapes.

These indications include a clarification of what is being boycotted. When the Gallo wines boycott was first launched, it was under the auspices of an ad hoc student committee set up in cooperation with the UFW, not directly by the UFW itself. This was done because the top AFL-CIO leaders would not sanction a Gallo boycott. Now the UFW is publicly urging a boycott of all Gallo-produced wines. In addition, the UFW is also urging a boycott of all non-UFW grapes, tying the two boycotts together. There has been no publicity around the boycott of non-UFW lettuce, although that boycott officially continues at this time.

The UFW has stepped up use of various forms of large protests that can be effective in building a massive boycott movement. A predominantly Chicano mass demonstration of more than 15,000 people in Modesto, California (Gallo headquarters) was held last March.

Also, UFW President César Chávez has been on a national fund raising and publicity tour since mid-April, and in a number of cities rallies on campuses of up to 2,000 people have been held.

During the beginning of May, the UFW organized a "National Farm Workers Week." UFW organizers in New York report that activities took place in seventy cities. A march and rally in New York was attended by 1,000 people, and 500 participated in Detroit.

There have been large advertisements placed by the UFW promoting the grape and wine boycott in major dailies and in campus papers.

UFW organizers in New York report that extensive preparations are being made for a large boycott drive this summer, including recruitment of 150 students to serve as full-time boycott organizers in the area. Recruitment of full-time staff was also given emphasis in literature distributed at a student conference for the farm workers held in Washington D.C. in April.

The UFW leadership appears to have dropped public activity around the demand that the government deport undocu-

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mented workers, which was a major focus of the UFW leadership in 1974, although there has been no public retraction of their pro-deportation stance.

The size and composition of the recent UFW actions indicate that there continues to be substantial sympathy for the Farm Workers which could be organized into a massive boycott campaign. Moreover, the clarification of what is being boycotted, and the utilization of large protest actions by the UFW leadership indicates that there may be more opportunities for the party and YSA to actively participate in helping to build such a drive than had existed up to a few months ago. Branches in some cities have already found it possible to actively participate in organizing actions.

It is suggested that branches investigate what opportunities exist in their cities and what projections are being made by the UFW boycott organizers. Reports should be sent in to the National Office. Coverage of boycott activities for the Militant is another area that branches should be alert to.

Comradely,

José Pérez, for the
SWP National Office