



united farm workers of america, afl-cio

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL OFFICE

173 HARVARD STREET ● DORCHESTER, MA. 02124

(617) 536-9465 or 288-4347



Brothers and Sisters,

It would be good if we began sharing ideas and organizing tips between boycott cities. Since we are getting pressured and in some cases attacked by some of our union brothers I think that the labor support committee is needed more than ever to insure peace and help among other unions in our areas. The trade union committee wasn't too difficult to organize but took a couple of months to pull off.

Here are the steps we followed:

- 1) small meetings and lots of advice from our most friendly labor contacts
- 2) picked a good meeting place (union hall) and hand typed about 200 letters inviting the labor person to the "founding" meeting over the signature of Cesar Chavez. (see invitation)
- 3) followed up Cesar's mailing with nose to nose contact and telephone calls
- 4) planned a good agenda along with the strike slides - had the appropriate officials give short talks about the labor movement's support and responsibility
- 5) officially baptized the support committee and discussed the program that the committee would try to put together. They are a) official letterhead mailing to every union in Mass requesting financial help from their local. b) education of every union member in their union thru plant leafletings and newsletters - mailings. c) requesting every union body to pick one day per month to help us picket. d) union people to do high level delegations to stores, hotels institutions selling or using lettuce or grapes
- 6) got agreement from the 50 present on the above program
- 7) followed up the founding meeting with minutes and phone calls to people who showed interest in the support committee but couldn't be present
- 8) got everyone's name and title to the printer along with the financial appeal letter. the afl-cio provided addressed envelopes to all affiliated unions
- 9) each area organizer is now doing the most important step in the whole process
-setting up meetings with every union in his or her area
-with or without addressing the union pushing the union officials to vote money for the monthly pledge, picking the picketing day per month, arranging the leafleting in the plants about the farmworker's struggle followed up where possible with gate collections.

We feel the letterhead and other official stuff is important to give the committee identity so we get away from just calling on our labor friends in a disorganized fashion. Please send us a break down on how your city is organizing the boycott or the most imp. ways that you work. Our best.

solidarity,

Nick Jones