



Este es el equipo del Northwest Little League All-Stars que gano el Campeonato de Distrito II de 1975. La Voz les desea buena suerte este ano de 1976.

L League Principia Temporada Baseball

Este Sabado dia 8 de Mayo se llevara acabo la ceremonis de primer dia para el Northwest Little League. En esta liga de baseball de ninos participan aproximadamente 300 ninos y ninas. El ano pasado el Northwest Little League logro ganar campeonato de distrito II y llevo a jugar en Abeline donde despues de pasar las 7 entradas normal perdieron el juego por solamente un punto.

La ceremonia de primer dia incluyera una invocacion por el padre Curtis Halfmann, pastor de la iglesia Nuestra Senora de la Gracia. Tambien habra una presentacion de la bandera hecha por el reserva del naval de los Estados Unidos. En seguida se presentaran todos los equipos y los patricinadores de equipos. La mesa directiva del Northwest Little League sera tambien presentada y ellos presentaran algunos trofeos para los All Stars de 1975. La iniciacion de el primer juego empiesara con tirar la primer bola por el presidente de la liga el Sr. Luis Trejo.

Los equipos del Northwest son: Pee-Wee League; United Super Markets, mgr. Mike Gladden, Coca Cola Btng. Co.-Mgr. Alfredo Jaime, Frank Brown Pontiac.-Mgr. Rudy Rivera, Felix West Paints-Mgr. Freddy Rodriguez, Furr's Supermarkets-Mgr. Henry Montelongo, Aparicio Remodeling-Mgr. Mario Gomez. Minors, Managers, and coaches: Stinnett Food Market-Mgr. Robert Cabanas, FireFighters Local 792-Mgr. Joe Lujan, Gilbert's Auto Supply--Mgr. Julian Perez, Gifford-Hill, Inc.-Mgr. Martin Martinez, Lubbock Law Enforcement Lions Club-Mgr. Pete Gomez. Majors, Managers: J. O. Boswell Construction Dustiers-Mgr. Joe Davila, U.S. Naval Reserve Swabbies-Mgr. Tom Botello, Blue Blazers-Mgr. Joe Olivarez, Broadway Battery and Electric Whiz Kids-Mgr. Joe Trevino, LULAC Councils 263, 666, 281 LULACS-Mgr. Tino Ursua, Reese Mexican American Club Lions-Mgr. Max Lopez, American G.I. Forum-Forumeers-Mgr. Paul Garza, University Optimistic Club-Cowboys-Mgr. Luis Rios.

El domingo habra una misa especial para el Northwest Little League a las 9:30 A. M. Las actividades de Opening Ceremonies seran en el Helen Hodges Park.

"El Desierto" Historia del 5 ¿Que Pasa?

En un 5 de Mayo de 1862, las Armas Nacionales se llenaron de gloria con la victoria del General Ignacio Zaragoza, la gloria tambien pertenece a su ejercito improvisado que han sabido defender su independencia ese mismo pueblo que a sido noble y orgulloso de sus tradiciones. Es el pueblo que inicio la independencia, el pueblo fue el que defendio nuestra segunda independencia en la gloriosa batalla de Puebla en la cual el inmortal General Zaragoza cino los laureles de la inmortalidad.

En el glorioso dia 5 de Mayo, el ejercito Mexicano derroto al ejercito victorioso de Sevastopol, Imkerman y que tenia aterrORIZADA a toda la Europa, del siglo pasado, ese ejercito, fue rechazado por el menos numeroso ejercito Mexicano.

Cuanto cosas sucedieron entonces, cuantos heroes cineron la corona de laurel.

Puebla de Zaragoza, General Ignacio Zaragoza, reportastes al Sr. Don Benito Juarez tu triunfo. Pero dias mas aciagos venia atras para el pueblo Mexicano y para nuestro Presidente, aquel Indio puro de Oaxaca con el semblante y las facciones imperturbables del Indio Oaxaqueño no mostraron felicidad ni enojo. Sabia Juarez que realmente sucedia cuando mastarde en su peregrinar por el desierto le habia de recordar grande entre los grandes, tu memoria no se nos olvida aun.

El Cinco de Mayo, Zaragoza defendistes a Puebla del invasor sostvistes la plaza no fue tomada por asalto. Ho Zaragoza tus palabras son impercederas cuando dijis lo siguiente.

El ejercito Frances, seha batido con mucha bazarria; su general en jefe se ha portado con torpeza en el asunto.

Las armas Nacionales se han cubierto de gloria. El 2 de Abril habia de suceder de diferente manera la ciudad de Puebla fue tomada por asalto por las fuerzas republicanas de Porfirio Diaz a los usurpadores de Mexico.

Juarez que al peregrinar en los confines de su territorio impacible y envuelto en las tempestades de la derrota. Pero con la fe ciega en el porvenir y en el triunfo de las armas de la Republica, atravesaba Juarez las llanuras del desierto. Como Moisés, llevando consigo las esperanzas y la libertad de un Pueblo.

Aquella pequena caravana cubierto con el polvo de los huracanes, azotada por las

rafagas del norte, acosada por el sol del desierto, no levantaba en la catastrofe politica el becerro de oro de la intervencion para adarlo.

Aquel grupo de hombres llevaba el sentimiento del patriotismo, llevaba la fe de la revolucion, llevaba la Republica.

Las simpatias de la nacion se fijaban en ese punto del horizonte que caminaba como una sombra entre las tormentas Australes, hasta de tenerse en los confines del horizonte de la Patria.

La humanidad y la historia seguian esas huellas, como la estela de la Libertad en los mares inquietos de la Revolucion.

Juarez rodeado de los hijos de la Republica, que le habian seguido a las apartadas regiones del norte, como los guardianes de la arca de oro en que estaban depositadas las tablas de la independencia, es mas grande que Napoleon I atravesando el desierto de las piramides para subyugar a un pueblo.

Que doloroso contraste al detenerse aquella caravana nomadeen el limite de la republica, desde donde comienza la patria de Jackson y de Lincoln.

De un lado de aquella linea imperceptible una nacion grande, poderosa que lanza mil barcos en todos los mares, que ostenta su armadura de hierro ante el mundo civilizado, que posee una bandera intacta con las regiones polares y se duerme al rumor de las cataratas del niagara...

Del otro lado opuesto, el territorio Mexicano.

INSTALACION DE ORGANIZACION DE MUJERES

La instalacion de oficiales y el significativo banquete de la organizacion de mujeres profesionales Association of Mexican American Women, que se llevo a cabo el Lunes pasado en el Restaurante El Sombro No. 2, fue un gran evento. Pues no solamente fue la junta mensual; si no que tambien señalo el fundamieto de una orgnizacion llena de promesas hecha totalmented de mujeres Mexico-Americanas.

La simple, sin embargo suculente cena, preparada por los finos servicios del Sr. Rudy Rangel fue atendida por una multitud de personas la cual la mayoría constituia de las miembros de dicha organizacion. El solemne punto de este evento,

(Continuado Adentro)

LOS EDITORES, COLOBERADORES Y JERENCIA DE EL PERIODICO LA VOZ DESEAN TOMAR ESTA OPORTUNIDAD PARA DESEAR LES A TODAS LAS MADRESITAS UN FELICE DIA DE LAS MADRES.

TAMBIEN LE DESEAMOS UN FELICE 5 DE MAYO.

Miembros de COMA viajaran a Austin para una junta de la Mesa Directiva de la Asociacion de Camaras de Comercio de Texas.

No olvide mandar su subcripcion para que usted no tenga que andar busquete y busquete LA VOZ.

Muy pronto se empiesaran hacer planes para el 16 de Sept.

Vaya y compre su carne en el Longhorn hay muchos especiales y no olvide mencionar LA VOZ.

Buena suerte a los jugadores del Northwest Little League en su nueva temporada de Baseball, no olvide ir a verlos.

Mande sus comentarios a LA VOZ al P. O. Box 5913, Lubbock, Texas 79417

Ramon Chacon Still Held Prisoner

Chicano activist Ramon Chacon has lost an important first round in his battle to win release from a Mexican prison. But public support for Chacon is building, raising his and his family's hopes that the Mexican government may eventually be persuaded to free him in the interest of justice.

Chacon, a U.S. citizen and resident of Mercedes, Texas, has been in jail in Monterrey, Mexico since last October 2. He was arrested then in the company of a Mexican citizen whose pickup truck allegedly had guns hidden in a secret compartment. A recent attempt to get the number of charges against Chacon reduced was unsuccessful. He now therefore stands accused of sedition and inciting others to rebel against the Mexican government as well as illegal transportation of arms. The hearing which will determine Chacon's guilt of these offenses may be six or more months away.

Since his first day in court, when he repudiated a purported confession signed under severe torture, Chacon has maintained his innocence of all charges. He had merely accepted a ride with an acquaintance so that he could visit friends in Mexico. If guns were indeed hidden in the vehicle, Chacon did not know about them. Because he had already been jailed when they were allegedly discovered by Mexican authorities, Chacon never saw any arms in the truck. He now doubts that they existed. Although at a press conference after the arrests officials displayed some guns they claim to have seized from the truck, they

recently revealed that they cannot locate and produce the guns for the court.

The owner of the car in which Chacon was riding escaped after the arrests, and a Colombian woman also apprehended was immediately deported. Chacon's only remaining co-defendant, Salvador Abundis, was arrested separately in a Mexican hospital. He has chosen not to contest the charges against him; but in court he exonerated Chacon of any connection with illegal gun transportation activities.

Chacon, a progressive activist and Marxist scholar who has worked primarily with farmworker organizing efforts in Texas, believes that his arrest was the result of a fram-up by persons or agencies interested in discouraging relations between U.S. Chicanos and oppressed Mexicans. He sees as evidence of the plot against him the fact that more than two dozen Mexican police were waiting to stop the truck and make the arrests, the fact that the officers immediately called him by name and showed him a picture of himself taken in the U.S., the fact that Mexican police already had a thick file on his U.S. activities when he was arrested, and the fact that an unidentified American was present at his torture and interrogation.

Because the evidence against him consists of atmost of his presence in a vehicle carrying arms, Chacon and his supporters believe that the two political charges against him must be dropped. They point out that under Mexican law rebellion and sedition charges require a showing that the defendant publicly advocated armed insurrection and furnished his followers with arms -- acts that Chacon is not accused of. Nevertheless, in March a

Judge denied Chacon's lawyers' request for a reduction of the Charges against him.

Chacon does not know why the amparo (writ) requesting that charges be dropped was denied or what, if any, recourse he has now. The amparo was prepared by a Mexico City lawyer whom Chacon was forced to fire before the judge made his decision. Chacon was not informed that his plea had been rejected until March 29, although the denial was backdated March 2. He was thus apparently deprived of a chance to appeal the judge's action within the five-day period set by Mexican law.

Chacon is now trying to find another lawyer to handle his case. He and his supporters have experienced great difficulty in obtaining reliable Mexican Counsel for him. Because the lawyers Chacon had dealt with have not explained to him what they are doing, and because Mexican criminal procedures are conducted primarily in writing without the defendant present, Chacon and the defence committee have also had repeated trouble getting information on developments in his case.

It is their understanding that during the current phase of the case materials deemed relevant to Chacon's guilt are being assembled for submission in writing to the judge. There will be no jury and nor oral testimony. Under the Napoleonic Code which Mexico uses, Chacon is essentially presumed guilty unless he can be proven innocent. If a prosecutor chooses to press vigorously the charges against him a finding of guilt is virtually assured.

Once the charges are finally determined, then, sentencing becomes the critical point in the procedures. If Chacon were senten-

ced to five years or less, for example, he would be entitled to release on bond. If here were sentenced to two years or less, he could get probation and, because he is an alien be deported to the U.S.

Chacon is being held in the state prison of Nuevo Leon. There he must buy his own mattress, food, and other necessities. He is one of hundreds of men with bunks in a long, narrow, dingy barrack. At no time is he permitted privacy. Although he has suffered no physical mistreatment since the initial three day torture session, Chacon is denied many of the privileges afforded other prisoners. Apparently because he is accused of political crimes, his visitors must identify themselves fully and submit to other questions not asked of the friends and relatives of other inmates.

Many persons have responded to calls for support of Ramon Chacon with letters and telegrams urging U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Mexican President Luis Echeverria Alvarez to help secure Chacon's release. Since these officials are now alerted to the fact that many people see the human rights and political issues in Chacon's case, it is especially important that expressions of support keep growing in number. Write to the following persons immediately, demanding that the charges be dropped:

President Luis Echeverria
Presidential Palace
Mexico, D.F. Mexico
with copies to:
Jose Juan Olloqui
Mexican Ambassador
2829 16th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Henry Kissinger
Secretary of State
or
William D. Rogers
Assistant Sec. of State
2201 C St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

'EL DESIERTO' (CONTINUADO)

icano... Ay! Nuestro pecho se oprime dolorosamente y nuestras lagrimas contenidas por tantos años de infortunios, se agolpan a nuestras pupilas!... Mexico esa patria tan querida, donde aun palpita la caliente sangre de nuestros padres y de nuestros hermanos, sobre las tumbas abiertas de la revolucion!... Esa vasta extension, cenida por las aguas del atlantico y el pacifico encierra el mundo de recuerdos que forman la historia de nuestras desventuras y nuestras glorias. Cada montana es un monumento donde se escribe el nombre de una batalla. Cada campo el sitio de una hecatombe. Cada Bosque la historia de un combate o de una derrota!... Donde veais un pueblo incendiado, una ciudad abandonada, un campo cubierto de cruces, unos niños llenos de harapos, que huyen al percibir la nube de polvo que levanta vuestro caballo, deteneos un instante y descubrid con respecto vuestra frente; Estais en presencia del heroismo y delante de los martires de la independencia!...

Aquellas ruinas hacinadas, aquellas cenizas que arebata el soplo de los huracanes, guardan una pagina sombria para la humanidad y un timbre de gloria para la patria!... En medio de esta desolacion, oíd entre el grupo de las montanas y en todas direcciones el eco de los rifles y los canones, y el grito de la pelea... Mas Alla!... Todavia mas Alla!... Donde el desierto parte sus soledades con el suelo de Washington, a un hombre fatigado por los tormentos de la peregrinacion, con el alma henchida de amargura, la frente sombriamente serena, apoyando sus brazos en los hombros de los mas fieles de sus compañeros, esos espíritus tranquilos que han alumbrado con su inteligencia la marcha de la revolucion, como los genios de la esperanza y del porvenir"... Todos evocando con el aliento y el corazon a la republica y a la libertad!... A Juarez; la desgracia no habia podido alteraraquel semblante siempre quieto en las viscidudes de la politica. Nadie al verlo en aquella reserva digna e imponente, hubiera creído que aquel miserable suelo era el giron postrero de sus dominios. Desde el ultimo palmo de territorio nacional, Sentenciaba al imperio a muerte y esperaba la hora, que sonaria al fin en el reloj del destino, en que el pueblo renaciera de aquel sopor de muerte que le alargaba. Cuando todo esto sucedia, en el ultimo palmo de tierra que quedaba para la Republica, en la An-

gelopolis se gestaba otra victoria. So! Puebla de Zaragoza, en ella se estaba fraguando otra victoria y el 2 de Abril de 1867 quedo grabada en la historia con letras de oro otro triunfo de la Republica. Mas grande quedo tu nombre, Inmortal General Zaragoza. CINCO DE MAYO

Puebla de Zaragoza es una ciudad que guarda la mayor parte de esas paginas sombrías de nuestras revoluciones. Puebla es el album donde hay cantos heroicos y hojas sombrías, ensangrentadas. Esa ciudad, unas veces ha sido el baluarte de la libertad y de la independencia, y otras el castillo feudal donde se han concentrado las ideas viejas y los monumentos de la barbarie. La ciudad de Zaragoza es una plaza fuerte, toda vez que se fortifica. Puebla es una ciudad cerrada. Dos pequeñas eminencias le sirven de atalaya. El mundo entero sabe como se llaman esas piramides de roca, asietos de las glorias patrias, cifras de granito arrojadas en ese valle encantado que sobreviviran a los siglos y a las generaciones. Gloria ha vosotros, sabrados monumentos, regados con la sangre de nuestros hermanos! Gloria a vosotros que conservais las gigantes huellas del martir del patriotismo y de la independencia! Sobre vuestras rocas sacudio el viento de la victoria los estandartes de la Patria! Vuestra arena se torno abrasante al recibir los rayos incandescentes del sol de Mayo, y a vuestras plantas rodaron mutilados los cadáveres de los invasores!... Salud!... Salud tres veces, campos del heroismo!! Que el espíritu vivificante de la libertad se mezca sobre vosotros, y atraviése los celajes arbolados de vuestro cielo; que el valor nunca dementido de vuestros hijos lleve su espada vencedora y sus frescos laureles a los altares de la patria! Por eso Patria querida, donde se encuentren tus hijos en otras tierras extrañas, tambien te recordaran en estos de el aniversario de tus proesas y la de tus hijos, QUE VIVA MEXICO. QUE VIVAN NUESTRO HEROES, QUE VIVA EL CHICANISMO; QUE VIVA LA LIBERTAD.

ESCRITO POR MATEOS

RICARDO FLORES MAGON

HISTORIA

Periodista, editor, revolucionario, organizador de los obreros. Ricardo Flores Magon, precursor intelectual de la revolucion mexicana, nacio en Oaxaca, Mexico en 1874. Junto a su hermano, Enrique, fundio un periodico bastante radical que hacfa una fuerte critica del gobierno de Porfirio Diaz. Los dos hermanos fueron encarcelados por esas actividades. En el año 1904, Ricardo se fue a los Estados Unidos donde empezo a publicar un periodico "Regeneracion." Se puso contrabandista de libertad, enviando copias a Mexico. Dentro de poco se envolvió en los problemas de obreros mexicanos en los Estados Unidos. A traves de sus esfuerzos formo el Partido Liberal Mexicano. Su periodico reflejaba su interes en las condiciones de trabajo de los mexicanos. En el año 1910 habia muchos articulos contando las malas condiciones de trabajo, la discriminacion, la brutalidad policia, y los ahorcamientos---hablaba de un sistema que hacia victimas de los mexicanos. Magon siguio trabajando en organizador al trabajador hasta encarcelado en Leavenworth, Kansas donde murio a manos de los guardias gringos.



TAURO
(Nacidos entre el 20 de abril y el 20 de mayo)

Se avecinan momentos inolvidables, Tauro. Sucederán cosas en las cuales usted, a lo mejor, a veces soñaba, pero que creia completamente imposibles de convertir en realidad. Sentimentalmente hablando, éste es un periodo de profundas emociones y grandes alegrías. Lo que parecia dudoso se convierte en sólido y duradero. Su trabajo, oficio o profesion toma un nuevo rumbo, tan inesperado como satisfactorio. Relaciones que parecían haberse enfriado tienden a ser más cálidas (no necesariamente las relaciones amorosas, sino también las de amistad o familiares). Una persona joven, posiblemente de la familia, le dará una gran preocupacion y, más adelante, una gran alegría. Algo que se habia perdido se recuperará, y algo que se habia momentáneamente olvidado, se recordará con intensidad. Muéstrele consejo. Decídase a ser feliz y vivir como desea.

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INSTALACION DE ORGANIZACION DE MUJERES CONTINUADO

o sea el juramento de cada una de las nuevas oficiales, fue dirigido por la presidenta, la Sra. Eva Ramirez. Cada una en su turno, con la excepcion de la Sta. Maria Reyes, quien se encontraba en la Cd de San Antonio, atendiendo una conferencia estatal de profesores bi-lingues (Texas Association of Bilingual Teachers), ya que ella suele ser Presidente de la organizacion local, pro metio tratar de hacer todo lo posible requerido, para destacar sus deberes como oficial de dicha organizacion.

La oradora de honor durante este evento fue la Sra. Amalia Mendoza, Directora del programa titulado "Job

Bank", patrocinado por la bien conocida organizacion de SER. Ella dio un corto, sin embargo, inspirador e alentador discurso. Concluyo por invitarles, a las personas presentes, a atender una conferencia de mujeres Mexico-Americanas, que se llevara a cabo en su Cd. de Austin, Texas, en el futuro.

Tambien estubo en atendencia el Sr. Hector de Leon, Director de COMA (Comerciantes Organizados Mexico-Americanos), quien le felicito por haber dado tan significativo paso, y les deseo toda clase de exitos asi como el respaldo de la organizacion de COMA.

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FARMWORKER'S STATEMENT
CONTINUED

1976, by which time we were to be out El Cuhamil. Those demands were imposed, not negotiated and there was never any agreement, either written or oral, by the T.F.W. to concede to those demands. This is an important point to bring out in view of later attacks from the Harrington faction, claiming that the T.F.W. broke the agreement.

Members of the Texas Farmworkers Union unanimously decided to remain El Cuhamil until a mutually acceptable agreement could be reached with more reasonable representatives of the U.F.W. than the Harringtons. Under continuing threats of court action from the Harrington faction, the T.F.W. held a press conference on March 29, in which it was pointed out that the Harrington faction had produced no legitimate credentials to substantiate their claim to be acting as official representatives of the U.F.W. Furthermore, it was stated that the official position of the T.F.W. is that it will not leave El Cuhamil until it is presented with a court order, proving that the Harringtons have received written authorization from Cesar Chavez to carry out their eviction efforts.

The Texas Farmworkers Union does not and will never take a stand against the United Farmworkers Union. The T.F.W. has, in fact, asked for independent affiliation to the U.F.W. (no reply was ever received to this request). The struggle of workers is one and the same, wherever they may be; and we are all brothers in that struggle. However, the Texas Farmworker Union does denounce the cheap political moves of an isolated group of ambitious individuals in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, who would seek to use the same union-busting tactics against the T.F.W. which have traditionally been utilized by the grower-court alliance.

PARTICIPAN EN CONFERENCIA
DE MUJERES EN LA UNIVERSIDAD

La Escuela de Asuntos Publicos, (Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs), de la Universidad de Texas, ubicada en Austin, Texas patrocinó una conferencia de mujeres (estudiantiles y profesionales), recientemente en la Universidad de Texas Tech, aquí en esta ciudad de Lubbock, Texas.

El proposito de esta fue para discutir y tratar de encontrar una respuesta, concreta y aceptable a las numerosas preguntas y comentarios de la mujer de hoy en día, en referencia a su posición en la sociedad presente. Algunos de los temas discutidos en una serie de "work shops", que son de suma importancia, tanto para la mujer, como el mundo en general son los siguientes: "El proceso Politico", "La Mujer y la Salud", "La Familia y la Mujer", "Asuntos Financieros" y ultimamente, "Empleo y la Mujer".

La Sra. Sandra Chadis, y la Sta. Maria Ochoa, ambas miembros de la nueva organizacion de Mujeres Profesionales Mexico-Americanas (Association of Mexican-American Women), fueron las delegadas oficiales a dicho evento. Ambas hembras, estuvieron a cargo de, y encabezaron la sesión titulada "Empleo y la Mujer".

Dear Editor,

In a National meeting of the Board of Directors of the Brown Berets it came to a decision that as a national organization, we will not support political candidates running for public office. This decision was brought against the local organizer of the Brown Berets of Lubbock, Texas, because of an issue printed in LA VOZ on the date of Friday 30 of April 1976, Number 32.

Written by
Board of Directors
National Brown Berets



El Poeta Noriegence, Cipriano Gonzalez

QUIERO SER LIBRE.

¡Quiero ser libre, como el ave,
que siempre es libre y altiva!
¡Quiero ser libre mientras viva,
hasta el instante en que mi vida acabe!

¡Si vago lejos de la Patria mía,
proscrito por fatal tirano,
siempre altiva, se alzaré mi mano
contra el César, que caerá algún día.

¡Nunca cobarde doblegué,
ante el oro ó el poder yo mi rodilla,
pues es vil y cobarde, el que se humilla
sin tener delito ni porqué!

¡Oh, corazón, sé siempre bravo!
¡Maldecid, como yo, la tiranía
¡Lo sabe el sol, que nos alumbró el día,
que prefiero morir, que ser esclavo!

Dr. Arroyo, N. L. Junio de 1936.
Por Cipriano Gonzalez P.*

* El Sr. Gonzalez es Poeta y Escritor
nacido en Noriega, N. L., Mexico.



Muchas Gracias!

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DIA PRIMERO DE MAYO EN EL
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T.F.W. STATEMENT



We the Texas Farmworkers want to clarify certain basic points as to why we are not able to leave the 10 acres and follow the demands of the people who have not proven to us to be legitimate representatives of the United Farm Workers Union of the National Farm Workers' Service Center. Any legitimate representative of the National Farm Workers' Service Center would have to have written credentials from the Service Center Director in California to do business in Texas, such as the credentials held by the previous Director of the Valley Service Center.

If they are legitimate representatives of the U.F.W., we think that they must have written authorization from Cesar Chavez and the UFW Board of Directors. Furthermore, we have obtained several hundred signatures on a petition, most of which represent members of the United Farm Workers Union, claiming the rights to the ten acres as Harrington's clique. We hope that through the intervention of the courts we can learn these things: If El Cuhamil was donated to a small, select group (the Californians anointed by Chavez), or if it was donated for the benefit of farm workers in general; or if it is purely a move by the Harrington faction.

We know that this is a painful step, but a necessary one to avoid future mistakes committed in the name of the farm workers' cause. We also know that the best judge is time—the future will tell whether we were right or wrong in fighting for what we think is just. We

hope that in the future justice and peace will be with all of us.

BACKGROUND ON PROBLEM

On December 10, 1975, a small group of people claiming to be representatives of the United Farmworkers Union launched a campaign intended to force the Texas Farmworkers Union to vacate their offices in the building nicknamed "El Cuhamil" (located in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas). This eviction effort has been orchestrated—at times openly, and at times from behind-the-scenes—by the American Civil Liberties Union Attorney James Harrington and his wife Rebecca, a professional social worker. Despite repeated public attacks by these so-called U.F.W. representatives, the Texas Farmworkers Union has preferred to say as little as possible up to this time. Our virtual silence has been due to a concern for the harm which could befall the farmworker movement in general as a result of the adverse and devious nature of the publicity which the Harrington faction has been propagating...publicity which can only help the enemies of the farmworker. That is to say, we did not want to "feed the fire." However, now that the Harrington faction has threatened to take the matter into court, we feel that we must speak out.

The building in question—El Cuhamil was constructed on ten acres donated by the Catholic Church for the benefit of local farmworkers. Antonio Orendain, at that time Secretary-Treasurer of the United Farmworkers Union, initiated the efforts which resulted in both the donation of the land and the necessary building materials. El Cuhamil was built, over a two-year period, through the voluntary effort and sacrifice of local farmworkers—the great majority of whom (including the director of construction Hipolito Rosel) are now members of the Texas Farmworkers Union. Thus, the essential irony of the whole affair is that the Harringtons, who arrived after El Cuhamil was already built, are now attempting to kick the farmworkers out of the building which they constructed with their own hands.

The background to this confrontation begins in the summer of 1975. In May of '75, Antonio Orendain and a small group of organizers, under the auspices of the United Farmworkers Union, declared a general strike against the melon harvest. By early June, more than 3000 workers had joined the strike—the work stoppage was virtually complete. This, was when a local grower opened fire, without warning, on a group of strikers, wounding eleven. Shortly afterward, the Secretary-Treasurer of the U.F.W., Gil Padilla, flew into the Rio Grande Valley to survey the situation. When interviewed by a local television reporter, he expressed the U.F.W.'s backing of the Texas melon strike. However, he privately told Orendain that the U.F.W. would not financially support the strike, and urged him to call it off. Instead, Orendain and his strikers decided to continue the strike (still within the framework of the U.F.W.), sustaining it with whatever funds they were able to raise for themselves in Texas. In this manner, the



T.F.W. Leader—ANTONIO ORENDAIN

strike was maintained throughout the summer, and enlarged to a statewide basis hitting melon fields in West and North Texas.

By August, a serious problem had developed regarding the financial status of the Texas strike. Official U.F.W. policy is that all monies collected a cross the country must be channeled directly to the California headquarters. That office then decides how the money shall be apportioned among the various U.F.W. offices and organizing committees (such as the Texas group under Orendain) However, the money being raised for the Texas strikers was channeled through the Rio Grande Valley office because of: (1) the immediate need of the money in order to sustain the strike (2) the warning by Padilla that the U.F.W. would not finance the melon strike (it was feared that if the Texas money was sent to the California office, it would not be sent back; and the melon strike would be forced to a grinding halt). In August, we began receiving informal notifications that if we persisted in administering the funds which we raised, there could be legal complications for us. Our lawyers than advised us that the best thing for us to do would be to incorporate under the Texas laws as a separate entity.

There was another reason for the separation, which involves the former Texas Director of the U.F.W. boycott—Bill Chandler. In late July, Chandler began circulating a slanderous letter (copy enclosed) in an obvious effort to discredit the Texas strike and cut off support for the melon strikers. One of

***** NINITA *****

Ninita,
mira los astros,
Parpadean como ojos,
Que se abren....
y se cierran,
Sabes por que Ninita?
Sabes por que Ninita?

Todos dicen
Adore a tu Madrecita.

PELIZ DIA DE MADRES.
Xochitl

Chandler's close friend is Harry Hubbard the President of the Texas AFL-CIO. In the August issue of the official Texas AFL-CIO newsletter (copy enclosed), Hubbard denounced the Texas strikers and discouraged Texas AFL-CIO members from supporting the strike. It may well be that Cesar Chavez neither knew nor approved of these attacks. Chandler has since been dismissed from the U.F.W. However, at the time, the Texas strikers felt that the U.F.W. was, so the speak, "showing them to the exit;" thus, the separation.

Despite the unhappy nature of the split, Texas Farmworkers maintained their traditional support of California farmworkers and their union—the U.F.W. The same farmworkers who had built El Cuhamil, and who had cleaned the Valley of scab products by picketing every Saturday and Sunday, although now members of the Texas Farmworkers Union, continued their picket lines against products boycotted by the U.F.W. throughout the fall of 1975. It thus came as a shock to us when, in the first week of December, the previously mentioned Harrington and his wife began circulating a petition which demanded that the T.F.W. immediately evacuate their offices in El Cuhamil. They later handed the T.F.W. a series of demands—including a deadline of Feb. 15,

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