

Grape Strikers Become a Campaign Issue

By HENRY C. MACARTHUR
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — Apparently, the mater of the boycott of California grapes in New York is slated to become an issue in the forthcoming election campaigns.

Vice President Hubert Humphrey, Senator Eugene McCarthy, and would-be Senator Alan Cranston, the leading Democratic candidate for high office, have come out in favor of the boycott, which is sponsored by an agricultural workers

organization headed by one Cesar Chavez, who seeks desperately to maintain what he calls the United Farm Workers of California.

The Chavez movement has the same elements in its activities as did the Communist-inspired farm "strikes" of the early 1930s, when paid organizers sought to disrupt California agriculture by persuading workers to leave their jobs, picketing farms, and demonstrating at scenes of farm harvest at the crucial time of harvest when it was neces-

sary to move the crops fast, or lose them altogether.

More than 30 years later, Chavez and his cohorts are attempting the same tactics, with the added power of boycott obtained through support of some New York unions, and the blessing of Democratic politicians running for the offices of the United States, and U. S. Senator from California.

The fact that the public, grape growers, and grape harvest workers are becoming fairly tired of the attempt to force a union on a segment of the public that

sees no need for and doesn't want a union in this particular field, is fairly well documented at the present time.

This is particularly true in the grape growing areas in the San Joaquin Valley, where the workers themselves have started a counter movement to the Chavez attempt to force their entry into the union field.

In the Delano area, where these attempts to interfere with the rights of workers to make a living have been going on for more than a year, several thousand

workers recently staged rallies of protest against the United Farm Workers organizing committee.

This group has gone even further in other parts of Kern County, advocating that people of that area turn around and boycott products manufactured and produced in the state of New York, listing more than 75 products in a fly-sheet distributed at key centers of buying.

This is being done as the legitimate grape pickers see the boycott sponsored by Chavez as a direct threat

to their jobs. Says the fly-sheet:

"We are content with the progress we have made in the past without outside agitators."

Research indicates the grape pickers are among the highest paid farm workers in the United States, and in California, are covered by more protective laws than in any state in the union.

However, the Democratic candidates were quick to seize on an issue which they apparently thought might do

them some good in getting labor votes. This is a common practice in politics, which is unfortunate, as the candidates usually don't know what they're talking about, and have the interests of agitators, rather than the public at heart when commenting on issues beyond their capacity to understand.

The myth of the down-trodden farm worker was exploded years ago, but today, it still makes an issue for the "give-away" candidates.

Your Right to Know Is the Key to All Your Liberties

-Comment and Opinion-

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1968

Polltakers and Politics

Months ago, it was obvious that presidential election year 1968 would be unlike any previous election year—from the standpoint of the behavior of candidates, issues and even campaign techniques. The volatility of the times made the prospect of a traditional campaign year exceedingly dim. Violence in the cities, inflation, a governmental financial crisis, and the war in Vietnam have made the political game a deadly serious business with the ultimate responsibility for a wise decision resting on the shoulders of the voters. If ever the fate of a nation may be said to turn on an election, this is the year that it could do so.

The very grimness of campaign year 1968 was brought home to everyone by the monumental tragedy of the Kennedy assassination. Of itself, coming as it did in the early weeks of the campaign, the assassination brought everyone face-to-face with the fragile nature of human aspirations—individually and collectively. One aspect of the election that appears to be receiving more than the usual attention this year are the polls. There is a high degree of interest not only in the odds they give to different candidates but in how they operate and in how much they may influence voting trends.

Already the polls this year have helped shape candidate behavior. According to reports, George Romney withdrew from the race on the strength of the polls, and the polls have been credited with the decision of President Johnson not to run again.

Newsweek magazine recently fea-

tured a lengthy analysis of the new science of polltaking. Like everything else in this sophisticated day, the methods of the pollsters have become intricate almost beyond description, with the computer playing an important part in their findings. No matter what people may think of polls, they have become an established part of the democratic process in the U.S.

Many of the polltakers now include consultants and advisory assistants to candidates as part of their services. And, it appears most candidates shape their campaigns, at least in some degree, in response to polls. Some criticize the polls, as Newsweek puts it, "... for corroding the hard edge of political leadership. Politicians, it is claimed, turn into parrots under the pollsters prodding..." Others point out that the polls do no more than make a candidate acquainted with the views of his constituents.

Knowledge of what the public thinks, they say, is essential in a democratic system. And, curiously enough, as Newsweek points out, party leadership in both parties at the present time leans toward support of candidates running slightly behind in the polls. The leaders contend the polls will change once the candidates are chosen.

In spite of the growing dependence on polls and the interest in the science of polltaking, the general instability in human affairs, as we all know, makes projecting the outcome of the election an extremely risky business. There is no way the polltaker can measure the pulse of the hand of fate.

WILLIAM HOGAN

'Turn the Rascals Out' And Other Apt Comments

Quotes from "How They Became President: Thirty-six ways to the White House" by Rexford G. Tugwell (1964), which Simon & Schuster just reintroduced in a paperback edition.

"The new generation, among whom potential Presidents were concealed and in whom the fires of aspiration were burning, could see, if they looked for them, the new means they must use. But they could also see that qualifications were changing. The world had become a more demanding one. The Nation expected the impossible from its Presidents. To become one was more of a test than ever. For a successful leader, tal-

ents and abilities were needed that were very scarce indeed. There was still the old distinction between getting there and rising to the requirements afterward. There was glory to be had there, but there was tragedy waiting for the man of doubtful capacity whose offer to lead was accepted and who fell short in wisdom or

Browsing Through the World of Books

resolution. Such aspirants must look inward as never before—for the country's sake and for their own."

☆☆☆
"Nixon: A Political Portrait" by Earl Mazo and Stephen Hess (Harper) is this campaign year's updating of Mazo's earlier book "Richard Nixon: A Political and Personal Portrait." Mazo is the former New York Herald Tribune political correspondent who has been close to Nixon over the years; Hess is co-author of "The Republican Establishment." From a statement made by the former Vice resident in private conversations with the authors last May:

"Nixon: On the race issue I'm a liberal. On economics I'm a conservative. Domes-

tically, you could say I'm a centrist. But really I don't go in for labels. You can't classify me. I'm a pragmatist with some deep principles that never change. I'm just not doctrinaire. If there is one thing that classifies me it is that I'm a non-extremist."

"We are Republicans, and we don't propose to leave our party and identify ourselves with the party whose antecedents have been Romanism and rebellion."—Rev. Samuel Dickinson Burchard (1812-1891), Speech, 1884.

"Turn the rascals out"—Charles A. Dana (1819-1907) in The New York Sun.

"Back to normalcy."—Warren G. Harding (1885-1923), slogan in 1920.

"I do not choose to run."—Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933), statement to the press, 1927.

"The Vice Presidency, a spare tire on the automobile of government."—John Nancy Garner (1868-1967), statement to the press, 1934.

Damn your principles. Stick to your party.—Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881), speech.

"I tell you folks all Politics is Apple Sauce."—Will Rogers (1879-1935). "The Illiterate Digest."

FROM THE MAILBOX

Enriched Programs Stay In Kindergarten Classes

To the Editor:

As a member of the Board of Trustees of the Torrance Unified School District, I feel that I must take exception to the article that appeared in the Aug. 8 edition regarding a decision made at our Aug. 5 meeting.

One glaring inaccuracy must be corrected. The story indicates that the Board deleted a \$200,000 kindergarten program that was "delayed in the State Legislature." This is not true.

A year ago the legislature decided to reward its districts if they would sustain a single session kindergarten program. The TUSD elected to make all kindergartens single sessions. The total cost of this program is approximately \$350,000. The state was to provide approximately \$200,000 of these funds.

In the waning days of the legislature, many good bills and programs were caught in the political crossfire that ultimately resulted in the adjournment by Senator Hugh M. Burns. The funds for our enriched kindergarten program, as well as all other districts electing this program, were lost in the shuffle.

The receipt of these funds was included in the State Principal Apportionment line of our budget.

Therefore the net result is that the TUSD will underwrite a \$350,000 program. The additional unfunded cost is equal to about 5.5 cents of tax rate. The kindergarten program will not be adversely affected for fiscal 1968-69.

The net reduction in state funds and the reduction in tax rate voted by the Board

results in a projected re-serve of just over \$3,000,000. This amount should prove more than adequate for projected needs.

The Board as provided enriched program for the seventh and eighth grades also. These two factors have added considerable cost and are

Collector Seeks Old Valentines

To the Editor:

I am a handicapped veteran, living on a small pension. My vision and hearing are slowly leaving me. The doctors say they can do nothing, so I have made projects to keep busy with, in an effort to forget my defects.

One of my projects is the history of calendars. I am collecting real old calendars to use as illustrations and have four that are 1882, 1883, 1887, 1896 and looking for others.

While I am collecting old post cards, bookmarks, and reward of merit cards, most of my projects concern histories of holidays like Easter, Halloween and St. Valentine's Day. To make it interesting, I am collecting real old valentines to use as illustrations and plan to give them to a museum when I finish.

I have two valentines that are over 125 years old and four that are over 95 years old and a few dating back to 1880, but on my limited funds, I am having a hard time getting a better represented collection of real old valentines.

I was in hopes that perhaps a few of your readers may have a few real old valentines they do not want, because I would be happy to

have any they may care to send me, and be glad to get them.

Eventually, I hope to try writing a book about projects, in an effort to earn enough from it to get off this small VA pension and have some medical care, which the VA is unable to afford me, so my projects have a dual purpose.

Thank you for your time and kind consideration in reading my letter. I hope I may be hearing from a few of your readers.

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That's Only For Honest People—



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HERB CAEN SAYS:

Guests Treated To a Real Trip

Something joyous was going on in Berkeley—a rolling house party. Richard Ehrenberg, the young architect and city planner, owns a lovely 65-year-old 11-room house, with fireplaces, at Haste near Telegraph, in the heart of Berkeley's "Hashbury." University of California recently bought the land there, and was preparing to tear down the house when Ehrenberg decided to move it to a lot he bought at 3110 Claremont. So the house was placed on rollers and made the slow six-hour journey with 60 revelers aboard, all of 'em singing, dancing, drinking and hanging out the windows. A trip, a happening, a ball.

☆☆☆
On the other hand, we have a sad Hungarian—Dimitrie Berca, the high-priced artist who recently married Virginia Stewart Saxe and settled down in S.F. He filled his station wagon with 22 of his best paintings (value: \$200,000) and drove to N.Y. to have them photographed for a book. While he was parked on Madison Ave. in Fun City, enjoying a pastrami on rye, all 22 were stolen. Car unlocked, paintings uninsured, but Dimitrie has always been a little careless. He also owns a white Mercedes-Benz which has been parked at Orly Airport in Paris since 1965. Now and then he gets a plaintive letter from the Orly people, to whom he replies: "Give it another polish job—I'll be back soon."

☆☆☆
Three-dot journalism lives: Red Skelton, waiting at the bar for a table in the Empress of China (he drinks only ice water), was served a platter of tiny skewered quail, "Oh, the poor little things!" wailed Red, promptly wolfing down six. . . . The ravishing Audrey Robinson, playing Cleopatra in the Marin Shakespeare Festival, appears onstage with an ocelot—which she first tranquilizes with a hefty shot of Scotch, brand unspecified (Kitty Sark)? . . . Jenkel-Davidson has installed closed-circuit TV so you can see how you'll look to your friend in your new eyeglasses. Much more frightening than mirrors. . . . A note from Dr. Paul Raskin, the Berkeley dentist: "I feel compelled to report that grass stains, which used to be found on the knees of corduroy knickers, can now be found on the backs of teeth. Wild!"

☆☆☆
More on "SMYNORCA"—that being acronyms spelled backward, to cover a set of catchy initials for which words must then be found. Stockbroker Ed Wong of McDonnell & Co. formed an investment group called "SPEC," and then had a helluva time but finally came up with "Society for the Prevention of Economic Chaos," and over in Sonoma, Mrs. Leroy White organized a mothers-of-twins club and decided on MOMS—Mothers of Multiple Siblings. Meanwhile, Jack Rafferty, who loves word games (an odd pastime for a man married to Barbara McNair), has achieved Alphabets Can Really Obsess Neurotic Young Men, which he submits as the one true Acronym. Perhaps.

☆☆☆
Why is Alvin Duskin, a prominent Mission St. dress mfr., in Cuba? Because he's producing a 90-minute documentary on Fidel Castro, at a cost of \$88,000 raised mainly in S.F. "Strictly a business proposition," he says. "The film has to make money, especially in Europe, where Castro is a bigger star than Marlon Brando—and you couldn't get Brando for \$88,000." Castro is cooperating to the tune of three solid weeks in front of what they call an "open" camera, recording his every move (almost). . . . In similar genre, Photographer Eve Crane of Sausalito, Calif., is off to Bolivia at the end of August for an interview with Regis Debray, the young Frenchman serving 30 years in connection with the Che Guevara maladventure.

☆☆☆
The Orient Line: Back in '41 or so, when Trader Vic had only one restaurant and that in Oakland, I wandered into the kitchen one night to find this chalked in big letters on the blackboard: "Push the Chinese Food!" That's when it first dawned on me that there must be big money in Chinese chow—a thought that occurred again at the opening of Cecilia Chiang's Mandarin in Ghirardelli Square. She used to operate her Mandarin missagash on Polk St., where I so seldom saw more than a quorum that I used to worry about her financial well-being. Better I should have worried about Bank of America. Her new place is four times as large, with thick carpets, gorgeous trappings, a view, and enough incidental elegance to choke a decorator. It must have cost \$250,000 if it cost a yen.

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Glenn W. Pfeil
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Reid L. Bundy
Editor and Co-Publisher

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