

# March to Sacramento

**Creator:** Gladwell Hill

**Date:** April 17, 1966

**Published in:** The New York Times

**Source type:** Newspaper Article (Edited)

**Introduction:** This *New York Times* article describes César Chávez and the UFW's march from the fields in Delano to California's capital in Sacramento. The march drew the attention of reporters and media outlets from across the country.



Nothing is so **irresistible**, it has been said, as an idea whose time has come. It appears that the time is now at hand for an **epochal** development in the history of American labor: the **unionization** of farmworkers.

Down the sun-baked **San Joaquin Valley**, **veterans** of a 25-day, 300-mile protest march on the capital at Sacramento returned last week to the vineyards.

**Nominally**, the 200 marchers had been striking grape pickers, **campaigning** for a \$1.40-an-hour **minimum wage** and other **benefits**.

Realistically, however, their achievement was as **dramatists**.

**Constituting** only a tiny splinter of the 300,000 workers needed to **cultivate and harvest** California's \$3.7-billion **annual** farm production, they had managed to draw nationwide attention and support for a **cause** that had **made little headway** for a century: improvement of the **lot** of **seasonal** farmworkers.

At Sacramento, thousands of **sympathizers** from civil rights, religious and other groups had joined the **orderly rally** on the Capitol lawn that came as the **climax** of an eight-month **work stoppage** at **Delano**. Even before the marchers had reached **Sacramento**, a **succession** of big **agricultural** employers, who have traditionally looked down on discussions with workers, began **indicating** willingness to **negotiate** with the two union groups involved.

This signaled a **turning of the economic tide** and the beginning of a new era.

# California Grape Boycott

**Creator:** United Farm Workers Organizing Committee

**Date:** 1986

**Source type:** Flyer (Edited)

**Introduction:** United Farm Workers supporters handed out flyers to shoppers at California grocery stores during the grape **boycott**. The UFW began a national **boycott** of table grapes in 1968.

## YOUR GROCER PROMOTES POVERTY BY SELLING CALIFORNIA GRAPES



In an effort to secure rights that most Americans have long enjoyed, Farm Workers in California have been on strike for three years, seeking simple justice and dignity which they cannot obtain through other means.

The Farm Workers are asking for recognition of their Union, for decent wages, and for an end to degrading working conditions. They seek such basic decencies as toilets in the fields, hand-washing facilities, cool drinking water in hot weather and elimination of racial discrimination in hiring.

Grape growers have responded to these simple demands by refusing to negotiate with the Union. They have answered peaceful picketing with violence and terror tactics, and by running down workers with their trucks.

Illegal recruitment of alien strike-breakers from Mexico has made it impossible to win justice in the fields. Farm Workers are forced to bring their cause to YOU, the Consumers of this City.

- YOU CAN HELP:**
- (1) Refuse to shop in stores that sell California grapes.
  - (2) Urge others to support this boycott.
  - (3) Let your grocer know that you will not shop in stores that handle products of farm sweatshops.



### BOYCOTT STORES THAT SELL CALIFORNIA GRAPES!

UNITED FARM WORKERS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, AFL-CIO

182 - 21st Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. — Telephone 499-6612

Phone Contacts: Manhattan - 736-9373; Bronx - 669-0650; Nassau-Suffolk - (516) 333-8395

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# Chávez and the Church

**Creator:** César Chávez

**Date:** 1970

**Source type:** Essay (Edited)

**Introduction:** Chávez frequently gave speeches and wrote about his experiences in the farmworkers' movement in order to increase awareness about it. In this essay, published in a book about Mexican-American politics and culture, he describes the importance of forming an **alliance** with certain members of the Catholic Church.



In Delano the church has been involved with the poor in a unique way which should stand as a symbol to other communities. Of course, when we refer to the Church we should define the word a little. We mean the whole Church,

the Church as an **ecumenical body** spread around the world, and not just its particular form in a local **parish**. It is a powerful **moral and spiritual force** which cannot be ignored by any movement.

Furthermore, it is an organization with tremendous wealth. Since the Church is to be the servant to the poor, it is *our* fault if that wealth is not **channeled** to help the poor in our world.

In a small way we have been able, in the **Delano** strike, to work together with the Church and use its moral and economic power to pressure those who want to **maintain** the **status quo** and keep the farmworkers in **virtual enslavement**.

Some years ago, we began to realize the powerful effect which the Church can have on the **conscience of the opposition**. In scattered instances, in San Jose, Sacramento, Oakland, Los Angeles and other places, priests would speak out loudly and clearly against specific instances of **opposition**, and in some cases, stand with the people who were being hurt.