

**Finding Aid to the  
The Delano Grape Strike and Farmworker Organizing and Advocacy  
Records (1959 – 2001)**

Collection number: CS ARC 2022/3

**Ethnic Studies Library**



University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, California

**Finding Aid Written By: Nathaniel Moore**

**Date Completed: October, 2022**

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## COLLECTION SUMMARY

**Collection Title:** The Delano Grape Strike and Farmworker Organizing and Advocacy Records (1959 - 2001)

**Date (inclusive):** 1959 – 2001

**Date (bulk):** 1965 – 1981

**Collection Number:** CS ARC 2022/3

**Creators/Collectors:** United Farm Workers (UFW), United Farm Workers Organizing Committee (UFWOC), National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), Agricultural Workers' Organizing Committee, National Campaign for Agricultural Democracy, California Church Council, National Farmworker Ministry, The Farmworker Action Committee, Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), San Francisco State University

**Extent:** 2 boxes (.42 linear feet) and 1 oversized folder

**Repository:** Ethnic Studies Library  
University of California, Berkeley  
Berkeley, California, 94720-2360  
Phone: (510) 643-1234  
Email: [esl@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:esl@library.berkeley.edu)

**Abstract:** The collection contains materials related to farmworker organizing and their struggle for labor rights and unionization. The majority of the materials draw from the work of the National Farm Worker Association (NFWA), the United Farm Worker Organizing Committee (UFWOC), Cesar Chavez, and the United Farmworkers (UFW). The specific focus of the collection is on the Delano Grape Strike (1965-1970) but also includes subsequent boycotts and organizing campaigns.

**Languages Represented:** Collection materials are in English and Spanish.

**Physical Location:** Collection mainly stored offsite and oversize folders stored at Ethnic Studies Library.

## INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

**Access:** Collection is open for research.

**Publication Rights:** Materials in this collection may be protected by the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.). In addition, the reproduction of some materials may be restricted by terms of University of California gift or purchase agreements, donor restrictions, privacy and publicity rights, licensing and trademarks. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by copyright beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owner. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user. All requests to reproduce, publish, quote from, or otherwise use collection materials must be submitted in writing to the curator, Ethnic Studies Library, University of California, Berkeley 94720-2360.

**Preferred Citation:** The Delano Grape Strike and Farmworker Organizing and Advocacy Records (1959 - 2001), CS 2022/3, Ethnic Studies Library, University of California, Berkeley

**Alternate Forms Available:** There are no alternate forms of this collection.

### Related Collection(s):

- [Munoz \(Carlos\) Papers 1936-2015 \(bulk 1969-1993\)](#) : CS ARC 2016/1
- [Tavera \(Hank M.\) Papers 1952-2000](#): CS ARC 2002/4
- University of California, Berkeley. Chicano Studies Program Records 1961-1996: CS ARC 2009/1

### Indexing Terms:

United Farm Workers — History — 20th century

Migrant Agricultural Laborers — United States — History

Boycotts — California — Periodicals

Cesar Chavez

Labor unions — California — Periodicals

Cesar Chavez — Catholic Church — Religion

Mexican Americans — Politics and government

Chicano Movement — History

Political participation — United States

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## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Acquisition Information:** Collection mainly derived from office files donated by Tomas Almaguer (UC Berkeley alumni, San Francisco State University Professor Emeritus and former director of the Cesar Chavez Institute for Public Policy).

**Accruals:** Additional accruals possible.

**System of Arrangement:** Arranged to the folder level.

**Processing Information:** Processed by Nathaniel Moore

## Organization History

The robust period of farm worker organizing and unionization started in the early 1960s with the foundation of groups such as the National Farm Laborers Union (NFLU), later called the National Agricultural Workers Union (NAWU), the Agriculture Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC) and the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA). These groups were instrumental in building the organizational infrastructure, conducting political education and providing the leadership core that would sustain the subsequent years of protest and result in labor contracts, union recognition and galvanize the Chicano Movement.

Key to achieving these improvements was the Delano Grape Strike – a labor strike led by the Agricultural Organizing Committee (AWOC) and the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA). Initiated by Filipino American workers in the AWOC in 1965, the AWOC's Larry Itliong met with the National Farm Workers Association's (NFWA) Cesar Chavez, and the organizations merged to form the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee (UFWOC). The main targets of their campaign were the two largest corporations involved in the Delano grape industry, Schenley Industries and the DiGiorgio Corporation.

For the next 5 years the UFWOC would focus on their efforts on grassroots organizing in conjunction with a national consumer boycott of grapes. Despite drawing support from many sectors including the Church, students, grassroots organizers and the Mexican-American community, farmworker pickets and protests experienced fierce and often violent resistance from growers, police and other unions; and many farmworkers were injured or killed. Ultimately, the strike resulted in victory for farm workers when in 1970, a collective bargaining agreement was reached with major table grape growers, affecting more than 10,000 farm workers.

In 1972, the UFWOC renamed itself United Farm Workers (UFW). Additional efforts to unionize farmworkers, boycott non-union agricultural products, especially lettuce, and improve worker conditions wages continued throughout the 1970s. The Delano Grape Strike is notable for the national attention it received, the broad based support it received and the success of its grassroots based efforts. It also catapulted Cesar Chavez into the national spotlight.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT OF COLLECTION**

The items in this collection capture the harsh working and living conditions of the farmworkers and their families, the farmworkers' broad-based calls for strike assistance and boycott support, and document the organizing efforts and often violent backlash experienced by the striking farmworkers. Many of these items also depict the unique culture of the strike and strikers with the inclusion of song booklets, bumper stickers, literature, and religious references and supporting materials. In addition to a major focus on the Delano Grape Strike (1965 – 1970), there are also items from other strike campaigns influenced by the UFWOC's leadership or tactics. This collection contains a number of items related to Cesar Chavez as one of the leaders of the UFW and his legacy as an activist and organizer.

Specific focuses within the collection include organizing documents and advocacy materials from the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC), the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA) and United Farm Workers (UFW). Particularly notable are leaflets of "El Mosquito Zumbador" the one page informational leaflet of the NFWA featuring cartoon attacks on DiGiorgio and the Teamsters, Schenley, and so forth that were distributed to DiGiorgio workers. There is also a bulk of materials from California Church Council and National Farmworker Ministry, denoting the role of religious institutions not only in the lives of farmworkers but also in support of their organizing efforts.

The collection also contains: news clippings, assorted periodicals, boycott flyers and information sheets and ephemera, press releases and correspondence, and materials related to the legacy and political accomplishments of Cesar Chavez.

## Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Box 1	1	Students for a Democratic Society	n.d.
Box 1	2	Flyers	n.d.
Box 1	3	Boycott Grapes	n.d.
Box 1	4	United Farm Workers Canciones (Songs)	n.d.
Box 1	5	La Familia Code of Conduct / Rules for Pickets / Membership Rules	n.d.
Box 1	6	Boycott Gallo	n.d.
Box 1	7	Boycott Safeway	n.d.
Box 1	8	Teamsters Flyers	n.d.
Box 1	9	Farm Worker Action Committee	n.d.
Box 1	10	Republicans Attack Farmworkers	n.d.
Box 1	11	Yes on 14	n.d.
Box 1	12	Bumper Stickers	n.d.
Box 1	13	Buttons	n.d.
Box 1	14	Statement of Ernesto Garcia	1959
Box 1	15	National Farm Workers Association (NFWA)	1965 – 1978
Box 1	16	Statements, Press Releases, Memos	1965 – 1972
Box 1	17	Delano / Delano Grape Strike	1965 – 1972
Box 1	18	Boycott Di Giorgio Corporation / Schenley's	1965 – 1966
Box 1	19	News Clippings / Articles	1965 –
Box 1	20	Boycotts (Assorted)	1965 – 1994
Box 1	21	Miscellaneous	1966 – 1972

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<b>Container</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Box 2	1	National Farmworker Ministry	1965 – 1981
Box 2	2	California Church Council	1964 – 1981
Box 2	3	El Mosquito Zumbador	1966
Box 2	4	Pilgrimage / Peregrinacion	1966
Box 2	5	Central Valley Chapter NASW (Grapevine)	1966
Box 2	6	National Campaign for Agricultural Democracy	1968 – 1969
Box 2	7	Huelga Committee - Washington DC	1968 – 1970
Box 2	8	Farm Labor Issues Conference	1969
Box 2	9	United Farm Workers Organizing Committee (UFWOC)	1969 – 1971
Box 2	10	United Farm Workers Calendars	1970 / 1974
Box 2	11	Cesar Chavez (General)	1970 – 2001
Box 2	12	Boycott Lettuce	1970 – 1979
Box 2	13	Proposition 22	1972
Box 2	14	United Farm Workers (UFW) Correspondence	1974 – 1980
Box 2	15	United Farm Workers (UFW)	
Box 2	16	Boycott Strawberries	1997 / n.d.
Box 2	17	Wayne State University Research Guide	1999/ n.d.

<b>Container</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Oversized	1	Cesar Chavez cardboard cutout	n.d.
Oversized	1	United Farmworkers of America Flag	n.d.
Oversized	1	Cesar Chavez Speaks Poster – Yes on 14	n.d.
Oversized	1	Union Men Help Your Brothers Poster	n.d.
Oversized	1	Peregrinacion / Penitencia / Revolucion Poster	n.d.
Oversized	1	Huelga! [California Farmer]	1966
Oversized	1	The Grape Workers' Strike	1966
Oversized	1	Women who care... Don't buy grapes	1968
Oversized	1	Cesar Chavez School Mural Dedication	1996
Oversized	1	Cesar Chavez (1927 – 1993) Commemoration	2001