

Peace Gesture

Teamsters Cancel 30 Grape Pacts

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — The Teamsters union, for months vying with the United Farm Workers Union for contracts with California grape growers, has cancelled 30 contracts recently negotiated with growers.

The move, announced here by Frank E. Fitzsimmons, president of the Teamsters, was seen as a

peace gesture toward the UFWU, aimed at a resumption of talks between the Teamsters and UFWU leader Cesar Chavez.

In Arvin, Calif., where he was attending the funeral of a slain farm worker Chavez said he did not believe the contracts had been cancelled. He also said he

had no meetings with Teamster officials on his schedule.

A spokesman for the growers, John Giumara Jr., whose father is one of the largest grape growers, said the 30 Delano-area growers who negotiated contracts with the Teamsters believed that the pacts they signed Aug. 9 with the Teamsters are valid and "legally binding." Although top Teamster officials have repudiated the contracts, the growers claim these officials were always aware that negotiations were under way with local Teamster officials.

In letters to growers from Fitzsimmons, the Teamster leader indicated he might abandon the entire organizing struggle when he said "the Teamsters have no interest in organizing your employes in the vineyards in and around Delano."

Fitzsimmons' action did not affect another 30 contracts, signed before Aug. 9. These collective bargaining agreements have been the subject of negotiation among Fitzsimmons, Chavez and George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, which encompasses the UFWU.

On Aug. 10, Chavez broke off negotiations with the Teamsters when he learned the second 30 contracts had been signed in the Delano area with growers who had been under UFWU contracts. Despite an immediate denunciation of the contracts by Fitzsimmons, no action was taken by the Teamsters to cancel them.

Shortly thereafter, violence broke out on the picket lines in the San Joaquin Valley, with two farm workers killed and several others hurt.

Following the fatal shooting of Juan de la Cruz, 60, who Chavez characterized as a "martyr," the

executive board of the UFWU voted to call off the picketing for three or four days in hopes that

the federal government would supply marshals to protect the strikers.



Mourn Slain UFW Member

Cesar Chavez [left] leads a march by members and supporters of the United Farm Workers Union in Bakersfield, Calif., to mourn the death of Nagi Daifullah, a Yemenite farm worker. The farm workers have linked his death to a skirmish with a local deputy sheriff. A large portrait of the late Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser is behind Chavez. Yemen was part of Nasser's United Arab Republic. Chavez called a three-day fast to affirm his union's commitment to nonviolence in the wake of the death of two union members and injuries to many others. The union also stopped picketing at vineyards temporarily. [RNS]



THE SLOT MAN
Carmen Viglucci

Regarding the unsavory situation of a well-to-do and important Washington lawyer calling an American senator a "little Jap," an editorial in another newspaper cited as a possible mitigating circumstance the fact that the lawyer was of an older generation.

People misunderstood the editorial, claiming that it meant that older people are more likely to be prejudiced. The writer explained that what was intended was that many of our older people who lived through the war had become accustomed to hearing and using the word "Jap." I know that I used to. We had been taught "slap the dirty Jap," etc. War games for civilians.

So therefore it came as a pleasant surprise when in an unrelated homily at a recent Mass another member of an older generation put the situation in a different light. Although it was probably not the main import of the sermon, the white-haired priest pointed out that in Christ's eyes all men are indeed created to be equal.

But he added a thought that had never occurred to me before. Pointing out that it was God Himself who created man and his equality, he offered that this was a beautiful thought to consider.

Indeed it is. When one puts creation in its proper perspective it is starkly simple to see racism as sinful. It is the arrogance of a creature distorting the intention of his own Creator.

I am not trying (indeed I have no right to) to point a finger or to damn anyone as sinful or to demean anyone. Oscar Hammerstein was right; you've got to be taught to hate, and we all in some way or other have been exposed to such ministrations. Those who hate, for instance in the context of racism, are as much the victim as those they would victimize.

Neither do I attempt to excuse racism, particularly when practiced by those who use it to further their own ends.

It is important to realize that the next time someone uses words such as "nigger" or "kike" or "polack" or "wop" to disparage or imply inequality he is not only wrong but missing a simple and clear message — all men are created equal because that's the way the Creator wanted it.

It is beyond mere humanitarian sentiment and argumentation and provides a warm feeling to know that's how it really is.

Thank God.



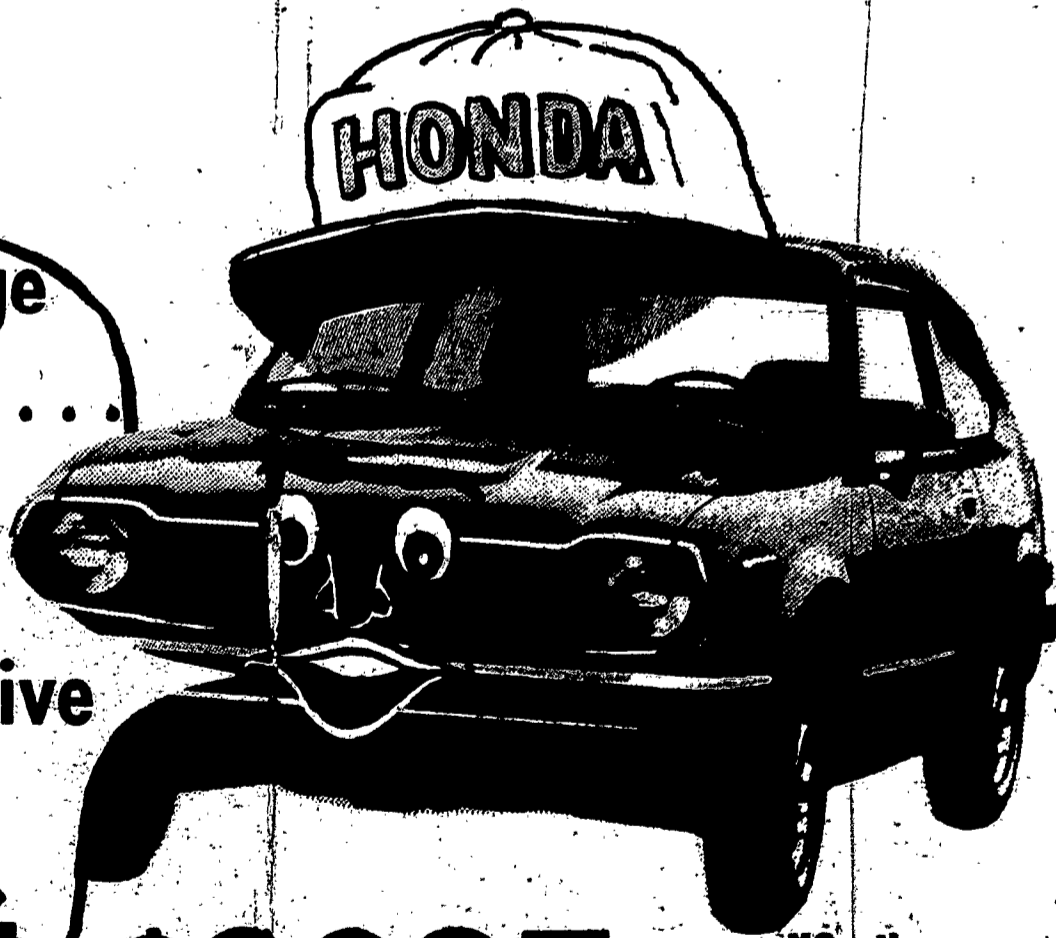
Is your present car eating up your money?

The Gas Shortage Doesn't Bother Me ... I'm a '73 HONDA 'Civic' Sedan; with Front Wheel Drive and 35 M.P.G.

FULL DELIVERED PRICE IN ROCHESTER

\$2265

NO other Charges For Preparation, Freight or Clean-Up THIS IS THE PRICE!



RALPH PONTIAC & IMPORTS

685 Main St. W. 235-3635

Mon.-Thurs. 'til 9

Fri. 'til 6 Sat. 'til 5