

Chavez: UFW Organizer Visits Rochester

By PAT PETRASKE

The stark black emblem of the Aztec eagle hung like a gigantic thank-you note to those who have been supporting the striking farm workers of the Southwest in their fight for unionization. The controversial leader of the struggle, Cesar Chavez, promised victory and vowed to come back and "help your farm workers get organized."

Right now the soft-spoken Mexican-American has his hands full with his own workers. He and his followers are trying to regain contracts for the United Farm Workers through strikes and boycotts on three fronts, covering western iceberg lettuce and table grapes and Gallo wines, produced in Modesto, Calif.

Chavez's whirlwind visit to Rochester last Tuesday took on a victorious atmosphere as he announced the success of a boycott in Syracuse, one of his stops on a nine-day tour of New York State. One of the largest retail liquor stores in Syracuse had decided to stop the sale of Gallo wines, he said.

At an Interfaith Prayer Service at Immaculate Conception Church, a letter of support was read from Bishop Joseph L. Hogan who could not personally welcome Chavez because of illness.

The Bishop reiterated his support of the resolution passed by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops backing the boycott. Other endorsements have come from the Priests and Sisters Councils, the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Sisters of Mercy.

"We have more support now than we did when we won our first contract. We have the support of every single independent union in the country

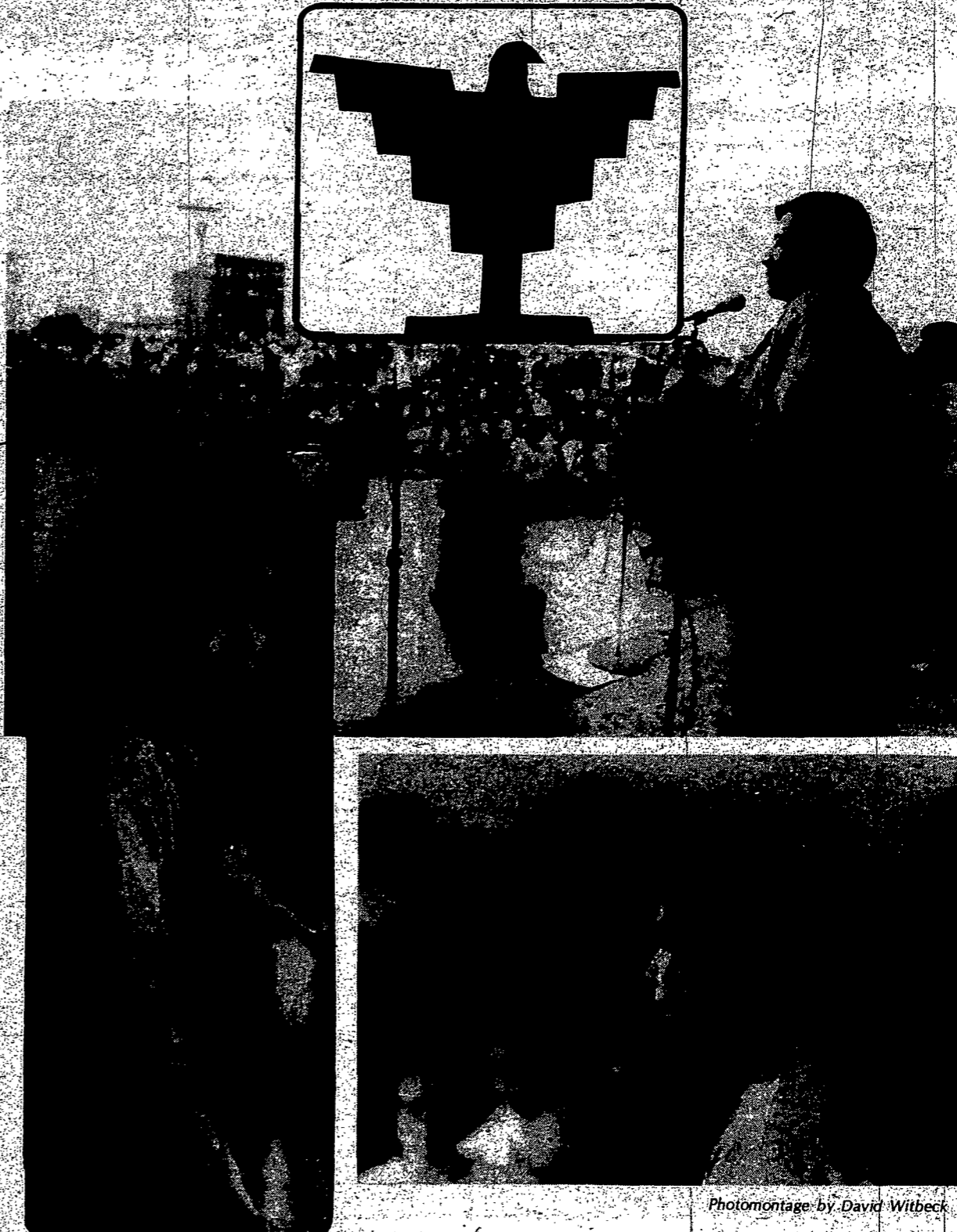
except one, and guess which one that is," cried Chavez. Last year, the growers in the California's Coachella Valley negotiated "sweetheart" contracts with representatives of the Teamsters Union. Chavez stated that these contracts were signed behind the picket lines without the vote of the workers.

While folksinger Julie Babb played songs of power and hope and supporters shared a supper of soup and bread, Chavez discussed the farm workers' fight for unionization.

"When we strike against the growers they can very well fire us all," he said. "The growers have all the community resources. They have the support of the local judges to jail us. There is an open-gate policy for Mexican workers."

He said that approximately 80 per cent of the workers under the Teamster contracts have been brought in from Mexico. Requests for free elections have met with no response from the growers and farm workers are not covered by any of the traditional labor laws, he added. However, he does not favor coverage of farm workers by the National Labor Relations Act. "There are differences in the work that we do. There has to be an employer-employee relationship. Our people have a different employer every day. Also if you go to the board for elections and someone contests it, the board can hold the elections up for several months. Then the workers are gone."

By the time the rally began on the chilly plaza of the Civic Center the crowd had swelled to around 500. The Swamp-Root String Band entertained the crowd and a few prisoners who peered out the windows of the adjacent Monroe County Jail as Chavez took the stage to express his thanks again.



Photomontage by David Witbeck

Catholic Warfare Study Launched

Washington, D.C. [RNS]—The Catholic Church in the U.S. can make a major contribution toward world peace through its newly-launched interdisciplinary study of warfare in the nuclear age, Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia said here.

He told the Study Group on International Laws of Warfare at its inaugural meeting that the symposium had been called because of the pressing need "for an in-depth study of morality and modern war."

The study is sponsored by the Division for Justice and Peace, U.S. Catholic Conference (USCC). Participants include leading Catholic scholars in religion, sociology and international relations and law.

AYM Sets Arts, Crafts

The Area Youth Ministry, (AYM) will be holding a class in arts and crafts this summer, at Holy Family School.

All teens between the ages of 13 and 18 are invited to join. Class will be held Mondays from 6:30 until 8 p.m., starting July 8, 1974 and running six weeks. Registration for class will be held before the first instruction period July 8 and a small fee is payable at that time.

Classes will include candlemaking, sculpture and ecology crafts.

PEACE-MASS

A noon Mass at St. Joseph's Church on July 6, will be celebrated in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for world peace. Following the Mass will be recitation of the rosary, prayers for peace and Holy Year prayers. The event is sponsored by the Lay Carmelite Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

"In the post-modern age power is a multi-dimensional reality; it assumes scientific, technological, economic, political and strategic forms," said Cardinal Krol, president of the USCC.

He said that the study will seek to clarify the moral question formulated over two decades ago by German theologian Romano Guardini — "whether we can develop the moral capacity to control the power we have created."

The cardinal said that the scale of nuclear power has increased to "staggering dimensions in terms of economic costs and destructive capacity" and "it is not yet clear whether we have both the moral wisdom and political will to control the potential for destruction which we possess."

Development of increasingly more powerful weapons is defended on the grounds of self protection and deterrence, "but this logic has its moral and political limits," the USCC president said.

One of the major goals for calling the symposium was to seek to "prevent the ultimate weapon from ever being used again," Cardinal Krol told the study group.

He said a "second dimension of empirical or strategic order which has moved us to convene this study is the Vietnam experience of the last decade."

"While the most devastating strategic consequences and moral damage of the war descended upon the Indo-China peninsula, the impact of the brutal and tragic conflict upon us as a nation cannot be easily calculated. The domestic implications of the conflict remain unanalyzed."

OUR PARISH COUNCIL

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A random survey in the Peoria, Ill., diocese by The Catholic Post revealed most parishes contacted were getting better than 50 percent, with a high return of 85 percent in one small parish.

A random survey in a New York diocese showed voter turnout in parish council elections ranged from six to 15 percent, with an average of eight percent.

Parish council elections "will play in Peoria." I would suggest that if you want to push your election percentages higher that you learn something from the Post survey.

"We open up nominations two Sundays before," says one pastor in a one-parish town. "We pass out a ballot at Mass, then have the people drop it in the ballot box on the way out. Using that method we get about 80 percent of the people to vote."

This pastor's nearby mission church uses the same voting method and also gets about four out of five parishioners participating.

"We've got about 150 families in our parish," notes another pastor, "and we had about 285 votes last year. If you figure a little more than two persons

voting per family, that's about 85 or 90 percent."

In this pastor's parish the parishioners also vote for council members with a ballot right in church. Anyone 18 years or older is eligible for the parish's paper ballot election, but the high school students vote separately and place both a boy and a girl on the council.

In another parish, all the envelope holders are eligible to vote. Nominations are taken at a parish-wide assembly and the first 30 are accepted. These names are then published in the bulletin. Parishioners vote by putting their ballot into the collection envelope, which is then gathered with the weekly offerings.

A parish in a larger town has tried several different methods over the past eight years, but found that it gets its best results (60 to 80 percent) when they mail ballots to each of the parish members.

The parish encloses a prepaid self-addressed envelope, which the parishioner can either drop in the collection basket or put in the mail box.

A larger parish of over 4,000 persons gets about 50 percent for elections. They provide nomination blanks in the bulletin, run a picture and information about the nominees in the bulletin, and then poll the parishioners in the hall after the Sunday Masses.

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