COURIER-JOURNAL

Wednesday, September 25, 1974

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Interfaith Forum Airs UFW - Gallo Conflict

By PAT PETRASKE

Members of the Interfaith Coalition were barraged with conflicting statements Thursday night at an ecumenical forum featuring representatives of the United Farm Workers Union (UFW) and the E and J. Callo Wine Corporation.

The issue was the nationwide consumer boycott of Gallo products called for by the UFW. "In an effort to be open and to get at the facts," the debate was arranged to bring the issue to a wider church community, said Father Daniel Tormey assistant to the director of the diocesan Office of Human Development and moderator of the discussion.

Father John Mulligan, chairman of the social action committee of the Priests Council, attended as a representative of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, who had asked for an investigation of the boycott. Father Mulligan also was considering whether he should ask the Priests Council to support the boycott.

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops, along with the National Council of Churches, the Priests and Sisters Council and other church groups have endorsed only the boycott of non-UFW lettuce and table grapes. Father Mulligan explained that the Gallo wine controversy surfaced after the bishops' meeting last November. He said there might be a "moral union" of the three issues.

The question of morality was raised by George Frank, regional vice president of the Gallo Corporation, who told those gathered at Blessed Sacrament Parish "to find some proof of legal, moral or ethical injustices so that in your conscience you can boycott this company."

The UFW's attempts to organize the more than 200,000 primarily Mexican-American farm workers in California began in 1957. In 1967 the UFW won a card check election with Callo. With the UFW, led by Cesar Chavez, came the use of a hiring hall instead of the labor contractor system. Dolores Huerta, first vice president of the UFW, said that the union also worked for increased toilet facilities, bans on certain pesticides and on child labor, and the establishment of a health and safety committee and a credit union

-In 1970 contracts were renewed between Gallo and the UFW, but three years later when the contracts again expired, Gallo signed with the Teamsters Union. Gallo spokesman Frank said the UFW contract proposals had declared the hiring hall, union discipline and senoirity to be "non-negotiable."

Negotiations broke down on these points. Frank said the Teamsters then presented a petition signed by the workers requesting representation by the Teamsters. "Prior to verification of these signatures, the UFW called for a strike." Frank said

A majority of the signatures were verified before the Teamster contracts were signed; he said The Fresno Bee Sept. 1, 1974 reported that 'Gallo acknowledged the strikers did not vote on the Teamster contract. The ratification process took place among the workers who were then employed by Gallo. The strikers had been fired."

The crux of the issue was summed up in a letter written by Bishop Hugh Donahoe of the diocese of Fresno, Calif. to Ernest Gallo, president of the winery. we believe the principal emphasis should be on legislation

emphasis should be on legislation The legislation we favor centers on the basic issue elections by secret ballot to determine which, if any union the farm workers desire "he said. If the farm workers were covered by the National Labor

Relations Act, free elections

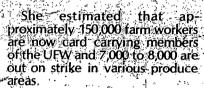
DOLORES HUERTA would be held when 30 per cent of the workers produced unioncards. The UFW opposes coverage by the NERA because it prohibits secondary boycotts and requires a 90-day "cooling off" period. If this period fell during the picking season, it would be disastrous for the workers, Mrs. Huerta said

Kearney Karnival

The sixth annual Kearney Karnival will open at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow with a parade from the Irondequoit Town Hall to Bishop Kearney High School, led by the school's Marching Kings

The four-day affair is sponsored by the parents clubs of the school, in their effort to raise enough money to keep the tuition stable.

Friday evening, Sept. 26, the grounds will open at 6, and a fish five will be served, 5-7, in the cafeteria. A special feature Saturday and Sunday afternoons, 1-5, will be a \$2 ticket for unlimited turns on the various carnival rides. Spaghetti supper will be served Saturday, 5-7, p.m.



Locally the United Farmworkers Support Committee has been pressuring liquor stores to stop the sale of Gallo wine. A

CHILDREN'S SHOW

The Performing Arts Club at Aquinas Institute will play Puss in Boots Saturday morning, Sept. 28, especially for children in grades K-5. Curtain time is 11 a.m.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

A pancake breakfast will be served from 9:30 until noon Sunday, Sept 29, at Our Lady of Mercy High School.

AT ST. BERNARD'S

Hundreds' of Rochester Boy Scouts will camp on the St. Bernard's Seminary grounds this weekend, Sept. 27-29. Troops from Syracuse and Oswego will join, them for a "Reach Out" retreat given by the seminarians GEORGE FRANK spokesman for Century Liquors, the largest distributor of Gallo products in the area, said an agreement has been reached, between the store management and the support committee that had been picketing in front of the store. Centruy Liquors has agreed to keep only representative Gallo items on the shelves and to remove the large displays.

IRISH NIGHT

An evening of trish entertainment will be offered at Mother of Sorrows parish hall, 5000 Mt Read on Saturday, Sept. 28, beginning at 8:30 Proceeds (\$3 per person) will be used to equip the Rovers Junior Soccer Team



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OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, September 29 2:00-5:00 p.m. Every Wednesday Evening 5:30-8:00 p.m.



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