

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

Farm workers and the Gallo Boycott

PART III

Many centuries ago the Prophet Habakuk wrote these words as he witnessed the oppression in his own day.



"Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law is slacked and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous, so justice goes forth perverted."

[1:2-4]

As we study and observe the oppression of the farm worker in our day we feel many of the same sentiments. Nationally and locally, we have seen how their lives have been marked by strife and contention; how laws have been inadequate, and how justice has been put aside.

This same pattern is evident from New York State to California, whether we speak of crew bosses, dilapidated housing or less than subsistence wages. For generations, farm workers have worked hard and earned little. The problem is real and serious but the situation is complex and long-range.

In most parts of the country, migrants have been too weak and scattered to combine their efforts to gain their objectives. However, in California during 1965, the first successful union of farm workers in history, the United Farm Workers of America (UFWA) was launched by Cesar Chavez. Under the leadership of the UFWA, farm workers have organized, petitioned growers for elections, gone on strike, made their own service programs and told their story to the entire nation. They have demonstrated their willingness to project a long struggle in order to maintain their commitment to non-

violence. That commitment to non-violence is at its heart a commitment to human life and represents a radical, biblical respect for the worth of every person.

From 1965 to 1970 the UFWA conducted a strike and consumer boycott that resulted in the signing of contracts with wine and table grape growers in California. These contracts provided for: "Wage increases, overtime and rest periods, paid holidays and vacations; job security based on seniority through a union hiring hall; jointly administered health-care benefits and protection from pesticides; 'No strike at harvest' clauses, grievance machinery and arbitration procedures."

One of these contracts was signed with E and J Gallo Winery, a company that produces about 1/3 the wine consumed in the United States. In 1967, the California Department of Industrial Relations verified a UFWA claim that it represented the Gallo farm workers. A three-year UFWA-Gallo contract was negotiated, then renegotiated in 1970.

In June 1973, efforts to renegotiate its UFWA-Gallo contract failed, and Gallo workers went on strike. On July 9, as the workers picketed the Gallo vineyards, Gallo signed a four-year contract with the Teamsters Union. This new contract, signed, **without the consent of the workers**, included Gallo's position on all the issues over which negotiations broke off with the UFWA (union security, hiring hall and seniority).

Gallo made no attempt to find out which union his workers preferred. The Gallo workers are demanding publicly that they be permitted to have a free election so that they can choose which union they want to be a part of. **At the heart of the Gallo dispute is the question of self-determination:** who determines which union the workers should belong to? The UFWA firmly believes only the workers have that right. A boycott of

Gallo wines is being called by the striking farm workers until they have gained their basic rights to choose through a free election. The boycott is the only means this small union has to compel the growers to recognize their workers' rights.

While we in New York are 3,000 miles away from the scene of the problem in California, we are deeply involved. The grapes, lettuce and Gallo wines from California are sold here in the East in great volume. It is here that we find the majority of consumers. Here, committees to support the boycott exist in every major city of our State. They are seeking the assistance of church groups, labor unions and community groups in their effort to obtain justice for the farm workers.

In the last year within the Diocese of Rochester over forty church, labor and community groups have endorsed the boycott of Gallo wines. I would add my personal support of the United Farm Workers Union's consumer boycott of Gallo wines until such time as secret ballot elections are held. I would also recommend that you:

1. Do not buy or drink Gallo wines (all wines "bottled in Modesto, California").
2. Raise the issue of the Gallo boycott at liquor stores, restaurants, and wherever else these wines are served or sold.
3. Help your local boycott committee in this struggle for social justice.

Farm workers in New York State, California, and throughout this entire country have challenged us to identify with them in their poverty and to advocate their cause. They have challenged us to recognize the validity of their task and to validate our own calling by being with them. And inspired Wisdom exhorts us to this mission: "Uphold the rights of the poor." (Proverbs 31:9)

vatican news

Pius XII Defended Against Charges of 'Silence'

Vatican City [RNS] — An American Jesuit historian and expert on Vatican diplomacy states that Pope Pius XII's conduct in the face of the Nazi menace in World War II should be evaluated on the basis of the late pontiff's deeds, rather than on an alleged failure to speak out.

"We know for a fact," said Father Robert A. Graham, SJ, "especially since the publication of the archives of the Vatican Secretariat of State," that Pope Pius "was constantly intervening on behalf of Hitler's victims — Jews, Poles, refugees, hostages, and so on."

The Jesuit scholar (whose byline frequently appears in the Courier-Journal) was interviewed by Vatican Radio in connection with the recent publication of his latest study of Vatican diplomacy in World War II, *The Vatican and Nazism*.

Father Graham was asked to comment on a charge that the Roman Catholic hierarchy "condemned communism more harshly than it did Nazism, which was also anti-Christian."

"Both of them were anti-religious in their ideology and particularly in their deeds," said Father Graham. "But the harsh condemnations of communism to which you refer began only in 1930, more than 12 years after the Bolshevik revolution in Russia. By that time, the Church in Russia was destroyed, its bishops shot or in Siberia, religious education made a crime, and churches were closed and profaned. The war

against God was out in the open

"In Germany, on the other hand," the priest went on, "Hitler never was able to touch the Catholic bishops, except in one case. The churches remained open, and Hitler, at the start, even pledged to respect the Church in a formal political agreement."

"Of course," he added, "Hitler did not keep his promise. We now know that he intended, if he won the war, to proceed as the Communists had done. Fortunately, he never got the chance."

Father Graham insisted that the Catholic Church's opposition to Hitler was clear. "Racism and the neo-paganism of Nazism was clearly and repeatedly condemned," he said. "Within a few weeks in March, 1937, for example, Pius XI issued two encyclicals, one against Communism and the other against National Socialism, each being denounced as evil."

The U.S. historian was then asked about the controversy over the alleged silence of Pope Pius XII in the face of Nazi atrocities particularly as directed against European Jewry.

"The controversy," said Father Graham, "burst upon the scene with the presentation in Berlin in February, 1963, of a play that was highly critical of Pope Pius XII."

(The play, "The Deputy," by Rolf Hochhuth, portrays the Pope as cynical, money-minded, and callous, particularly in regard to

the Nazi persecution of the Jews)

Pointing out that the play was written "many years after the war and a long time after the death of Pius XII," Father Graham asked, "What had happened to trigger the reaction which was worldwide and still continues? Had any new documents been found? Had a new situation developed on the international scene to cause a re-evaluation" of Pius' role in World War II?

"The playwright," said Father Graham, "did not accuse the Pope of not doing anything, but rather of not speaking out. And we know for a fact, especially since the publication of the archives of the Vatican Secretariat of State, that Pope Pius XII was constantly intervening on behalf of Hitler's

10,000 Due At 'Renewal' Meeting in Rome

Ann Arbor, Mich. [RNS] — At least eight Roman Catholic bishops are expected to take leading roles in the four-day 1975 International Congress on the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church to be held in Rome, May 16-19, over the catacombs of St. Callixtus, the burial place of early Christian martyrs.

Some 10,000 participants, more than 4,000 of them from the U.S. and Canada, will gather under a large canopy and in four smaller tents for general sessions, workshops and liturgical services focusing on the congress' theme, "Renewal and Reconciliation."

victims — Jews, Poles, refugees, hostages, and so on.

"Why this latter-day insistence on words rather than deeds?" asked the Jesuit. "One explanation is that in 1963 the world was going through a great crisis of conscience. It was then, and still is, a time when sincere persons felt the need to bear witness, to speak out in protest against injustices around the world, as though their silence would somehow be interpreted as approval of these injustices."

"In the 1963 controversy, the Pope appeared as a sort of symbol of this world conscience, as a substitute or surrogate for the conscience of us all. It was an indirect compliment to the role of the Pope in world opinion."

Father Graham continued: "I

President, Pope To Meet June 3

Vatican City [RNS] — President Ford, on his first trip to Europe as the U.S. chief executive, will have an audience with Pope Paul.

The Vatican press office announced that the audience will take place during Ford's visit to Rome on June 3 to confer with President Giovanni Leone and other Italian officials.

Original purpose of Mr. Ford's European trip was to confer with Western leaders at a meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Brussels, May 29-30, on ways to strengthen the alliance.

The White House announced

can testify from my own personal observations and experience that in many circles there is now a stronger understanding of the role and importance of the Holy See. It does matter what the Pope says or does not say.

"I may add that Pius XII is fortunate in having his pontificate examined so closely and with such critical intent within the life-time of many who knew him in the war years."

"The main charge, it seems, is still that of 'silence.'" Father Graham concluded. "But it is a so-called 'silence' that is measured, not by the real possibilities the Pope had to speak out, but by the subjective norms of a later generation projecting its newly-found moral scruples."

later that the President would also meet in Austria with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and would visit Spain and Italy to bolster ties with the key Mediterranean countries.

Ford is scheduled to go to Madrid on May 31 for talks with Generalissimo Francisco Franco, the chief of state, and other Spanish officials, including Prince Juan Carlos, the designated successor to Gen. Franco.

On June 1 and 2, Ford will confer in Salzburg, Austria, with Sadat on what are considered crucial talks on the future course of Middle East diplomatic efforts.