

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

I wanted you to see a copy  
of my recent letter to  
Cesar Chavez following my  
meeting with him in Los  
Angeles.

Herbert H. Humphrey



THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

August 1, 1968

Dear Mr. Chavez:

I want you and your fellow officers to know how very much I appreciate your meeting with me in Los Angeles last Sunday on the problems being encountered by farm workers as they attempt to organize to bargain with their employers. Indeed, they are national problems. They deserve national attention.

Your remark that farm workers "want no special favors -- merely the chance to build a union to help themselves," sets the direction for a sound national policy for farm labor.

I have long been committed to the extension of the National Labor Relations Act to cover agricultural workers. To exclude them from any protective labor legislation just does not make sense. Your briefing reassures me. It gives me additional insight. I shall redouble my efforts to encourage the enactment of that legislation now before the Congress to extend coverage.

Most particularly, I appreciate your detailed recitation of the negative impact of our immigration practices and enforcement policies on the efforts of farm workers to improve their lot. This must be changed. If the fault is looseness in enforcement, the enforcement must be changed and tightened. If the fault is in national administrative policy, then that must be changed. I think you are correct in your analysis that no reasonable degree of fairness in recognizing the rights of farm workers, on a comparable basis with other American workers, can occur without

Mr. Cesar Chavez

-2-

August 1, 1968

substantive change in enforcement of immigration procedures to accompany the extension of the NLRA to farm workers.

I want to wish you success with your national boycott effort. As more people know that the boycott is almost your only effective organizing device, more and more will support it.

As you know, I have spoken out in behalf of your movement many times in recent years -- at last year's conference in El Paso, in connection with the Poor People's Campaign, and at other times. My endorsement of the drive to extend the National Labor Relations Act to farm workers was published several weeks ago in a letter to the editor of the New York Times.

In light of this, my support for your endeavors should be self-evident. However, I want to make it clear that I do endorse your efforts and I hope you will feel free to use that endorsement and the contents of this letter in any way you feel will best serve "La Causa."

Sincerely,

  
Hubert H. Humphrey

Mr. Cesar Chavez, Director  
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