gut the Act.

The governor of California has correctly refused to pay this blackmail price. As a result, the Baord already has curtailed its activities. Most Board employees have been terminated; the Board has stopped accepting election petitions; scheduled hearings on unfair labor practice complaints have been cancelled; the regional offices have been closed. The machinery of the Act has ground to a halt. Once more, the opposition to legitimate unionization in agri-industry is frustrating the hopes of hundreds of thousands of workers, desperately in need of collective bargaining.

This new crisis has arisen at the very time the UFW and a number of growers, individually and in groups, have reached final stages of negotiations. Destruction of the state agent as an operating entity is impeding the successful resolution of those negotiations.

In addition, large numbers of agricultural employees are being disenfranchised, particularly in the lettuce and asparagus growing areas where elections were anticipated as the harvest season progresses.

The California Federation of Labor has supported the UFW vigorously in a combined effort to tally the decent legislative forces in support of the request of the governor and board for an emergency appropriation. AFL-CIO Local Central Bodies and local unions of AFL-CIO affiliates throughout the state have joined in the effort.

The American labor movement must not allow this opportunity for collective bargaining to be snatched from the eager hands of the states harvest workers. We call upon the California labor movement, the fair-minded growers, the concerned citizens of California, and the members of the Legislature to see to it that this despicable effort of the enemies of free collective bargaining for farm workers is defeated.

The alternative is an inevitable return to economic warfare with all its consequences.

We have said it before and we say it again: The United Farm Workers of America, and affiliate of the AFL-CIO, is the legitimate union of farm workers. We will continue our concentrated afforts to help them win the right ti free collective bargaining.

-30-

opeiu-30-AFL-CIO