QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PICKET LINE

1. WHY IS THIS PICKET LINE HERE?

The picket line is in support of the farm workers' strike in Delano, Calif., and is composed of farm workers and their supporters.

2. WHY DON'T THEY END THEIR STRIKE IN CALIFORNIA?

Farm workers are not covered by the National Labor Relations Act and they cannot have an election or any otherkind of recognition procedure. No matter how many workers want an election or a union, growers are not legally obligated to meet or negotiate with them.

3. WHO IS DOING THE WORK IF THERE IS REALLY A STRIKE?

Mexican strikebreakers. These men are brought into the U.S. by the growers, who do not inform them ahead of time that there is a strike at the ranch to which they are going. When they get to Calif., they owe the growers for their transportation and are too poor to return to Mexico on their own, so they must become strikebreakers.

4. WHY ARE YOU PICKETING IN BOSTON?

Boston is one of the biggest markets for grapes on the East Coast.

5. what HAVE YOU GOT AGAINST THIS STORE?

It sells Calif. table grapes. Part of the price of those grapes goes back to Calif., where the money helps support growers who refuse to treat their workers as human beings. In other words, this store is trying to make a profit from the slave-labor conditions which exist in the grape fields.

6. WHY DON'T YOU TALK TO THE STORE MANAGERS AND ASK THEM TO HELP?

We have. They say they are not responsible for the injustices in Calif.; but we feel that, as long as they continue to profit from this injustice, they are responsible. They also say they are unwilling to lose the money they would normally make from selling grapes. This amount to ½-1% of gross sales, which we believe is a small enough price to pay for justice. We also feel that, if this store stops selling grapes, consumers will respond favorably and more than make up for any loss.

7. WHAT ARE THE FARM WORKERS STRIKING FOR?

A union contract and the right to negotiate their wages and working conditions. They do not have toilets in the fields, decent housing, or provisions for medical care.

8. WHAT DO THE FARM WORKERS EARN NOW?

$1.15-1.40 an hour, which means $1600-2300 per year. They do not have unemployment insurance and other types of social legislation that other workers have.

9. WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING THE FARM WORKERS?

It is the social and moral responsibility of all to help the poor and oppressed.

10. HOW DO THE FARM WORKERS SUPPORT THEMSELVES DURING THE STRIKE?

By contributions from churches, civic groups, unions, students, etc.

11. WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

Refuse to buy grapes and inform store managers of this ddcision. Ask friends and relatives to do the same. Send contributions to the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee. Join us on a picket line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL OR WRITE: Marcos Munoz, UFWOC, Room 527, 73 Tremont St., Boston, Mass. 02108; phone 227-7253 or (home) 442-7283.

THANK YOU!