

October 12, 1976

Cesar Chavez, President  
United Farmworkers Union  
La Paz  
Keene, California

Dear Brother Cesar:

Your recent visits to Ventura County have genuinely turned on the people to political awareness and involvement to an unprecedented level. As a result there is a growing cadre of committed campesinos to be reckoned with. From what I can observe, this tempo has almost doubled following the successful FIRST POLITICAL ENDORSEMENT CONVENTION held in Fresno on September 5.

Ventura County has always been Chavez country; but now in this general election year, the campesino's political muscle is beginning to manifest itself in no uncertain terms. The campesino here, led by Leo and Mary Nieto, Fritz Conle, Ines Rosas, Jerry Ramos and other dedicated people from the UFW office have done an outstanding job in voter registration. They've, also, already set up a team to get the vote out.

One of the serious dilemmas which we face right now is Jane Tolmach's 36th Assembly District candidacy. Her would-be predecessor, Ken Mac Donald, who for a long time related well to the Chicano community and who supports her, has come out strongly against Proposition 14. The question "Did he really represent Chicano interests, and will Jane Tolmach really represent the campesino and the Chicano?" poses quite a problem. The Chicano vote in Ventura County can swing an election and so, therefore, we need to come up with an answer to our question.

Jane has strong grower support, in spite of her being a democrat. This only adds to our confusion; and hers too, I'm sure.

We need direction. You announced your backing for her at a recent Cabrillo Village rally, but since then she appears to have done a turn-about. She won't declare her support for Proposition 14 even though her supporters such as Governor Brown, Senator Cranston, Mayor Bradley, yourself, etc., have endorsed her.

I plan to call your office by phone for advice. Until then and always,  
QUE VIVA LA CAUSA!

Yes on 14

*Donato Ventura*

cc: Jane Tolmach  
George Martinez, IMAGE  
Ray Garcia, MACA  
Manuel Vega, Club Civico Mexicano