

LABOR / COMMUNITY ALLIANCE



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All Aboard for Watsonville!

A national call has gone out for a march on Watsonville April 13. A broad coalition of groups has set a goal of 20,000 people to march in support of the UFW's efforts to raise strawberry workers' pay by 5 cents per basket, and in support of a new movement for fairness.

In Fresno the Central Labor Council will rent buses to transport union members and community activists to Watsonville.

The Council is asking people to make a \$10 deposit to reserve a seat on the bus. Five will be returned to those who show up. (Five dollars will be used to purchase sodas and snacks.)

If you are interested in reserving a seat, call Pam Whalen at 442-0488 or Greg Barfield at 485-2363.

County Workers Fight for a Fair Contract

On January 8, over 50 County employees staged an informational picket in front of the Fresno County Jail to protest the County's hostile contract proposals.

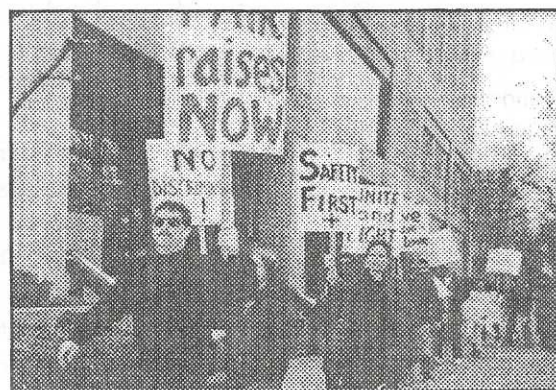
"Fresno county doesn't care about their employees, as long as we come to work and submit to them," said Correctional officer Robert Holmes. "In the last round of negotiations they have shown that they don't care about employees."

The County is proposing to take away long-standing benefits like annual leave, bereavement leave, the health and safety clause, and protection against discrimination. They are also refusing to offer employees salary increases, in spite of the fact that they have increased their own salaries by an average of 18% a year over the past 8 years.

According to Eligibility Worker Lydia Marquez, "The County's proposal is the most awful thing I have ever seen. As a worker it is very degrading. They want to do away with the health and safety clause. In the summer that means if the air conditioner breaks down, the County will not have to fix it. We have holes in the wall where rats come in."

Marquez continued, "We all have to stick together and ask the Board of Supervisors for a decent salary increase and decent working conditions."

Correctional Officer Don Dinnel and others join informational picket at Fresno County Jail.



WILPF to Honor Dolores Huerta

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) will hold a luncheon for United Farm Worker co-founder and Vice President Dolores Huerta on March 1.

The Tribute for Huerta is this year's WILPF celebration on International Women's Day. International Women's Day — now celebrated on March 8 by women all over the world — is based on a demonstration staged by women garment workers in New York in 1857 protesting long hours and poor working conditions.

This year's event will honor Dolores Huerta and other dedicated and brave women who have led the struggle for better working conditions for farm workers.

The luncheon will be Saturday, March 1, 12 noon at Cedar Lanes. \$12 per person.

Inside . . .