UNITED FARM WORKERS of AMERICA AFL-CIO

National Headquarters: La Paz, Keene, California 93531 (805) 822-5571

September 24, 1979

Honorable Harrison A. Williams, Jr. New Senate Office Building, Room 352 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Williams:

Just a thank you for attending the United Farm Workers reception earlier this month at the National Democratic Club.

As I mentioned, things are finally starting to break for us now. Since August 12, 17 vegetable growers—including the giant Sun Harvest, Inc.—have come to terms with the union for precedent—setting contract improvements. Although it will be many years before farm workers equal the standard of living unionized industrial workers enjoy, our people are beginning to break the extremely low wage barrier that has plagued them for generations.

Your committee's public hearings in Salinas and Washington, D.C. this year were very helpful in focusing attention on the farm workers and, I believe, contributed to the historic breakthroughs this summer.

Unfortunately, the hearings did little to curb the growers' illegal strikebreaking tactics or improve the Immigration and Naturalization Service's performance. If we can ever get an administration to simply enforce federal law during farm worker walkouts, our strikes will be won and there will be no need for protracted consumer boycotts. Someday!

Again, thank you for being with us in Washington. And for your steadfast interest and concern for America's migrant farm workers.

With warmest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Cesar E. Chavez

President

CEC/mg

HUMAN RESOURCES

