

Farmworkers

growers "make money by exploiting people, and that's wrong."

But Perkins feels that the farmworkers have let themselves be exploited. "They have no one to blame for their conditions but themselves," he says. He believes the farmworkers would be more effective if they refused to work at all, which would force the growers into a corner: they would have to listen to the workers or have their produce rot on the vine.

Perkins feels the Teamsters union would be able to do more for the farmworkers in California. "We have more muscle," he says. "If you research the background of Cesar Chavez's union, you will find that they are trying to put to-

gether a union with spit and string and anything else they can find."

Why do the Teamsters want to represent the farmworkers? Perkins said that "nobody operates without money," and added the union dues go toward legal fees and other expenses of strike action and other services for union members.

The Teamster's union is one of the largest and most powerful unions in the nation and promises generous benefits and pension programs. But the Friends of the Farmworkers feel the pensions offered on paper are "almost impossible to get" because of requirements for a minimum of hours of work per time period.

Farmworkers have difficulties fulfilling the agreement, they say, since the work is seasonal and often unpredictable.

Asked to comment on this, Perkins explains the Teamster pensions are controlled by a new federal pension reform act. "We try to make pensions available on the basis of the law," he says.

The UFW, say the Friends of the Farmworkers, would also expand programs already in existence for medical clinics and insurance and would continue holding regular meetings, which is something they say the Teamster's union has not done.

The UFW would also change the hiring system, according to the Eugene group. The common practice is for labor contractors to hire workers. Everett says these middlemen have often developed into "exploiters who get kickbacks and hire on the basis of favoritism. They are in it to make money." He believes the UFW hiring hall system is better because the workers are hired on the seniority system.

The Friends of the Farmworkers have brought attention to the farmworkers' problem in Eugene by picketing stores carrying products they are boycotting and by protesting the use of Teamster let-

tuce at the University.

Perkins disagrees with the local boycotting. "If they have a beef with the union in California, they should confine it to the people they have the dispute with, rather than including churches and schools up here in their labor dispute."

Charles Bang, general manager of the M.H. Burris Company, a Eugene distributor of Gallo wines, holds a similar view.

"I hate to see third party people — retailers and consumers — put up with this harassment. The Eugene market has no bearing on negotiations in California," he says.

Bang says his sales of Gallo wine have "never been better." He believes the UFW is "picking on Gallo because it is the largest winery in the world. Gallo has always been good to these people," he says.

Bang says he "could go one way or the other" on which union represents the farmworkers. "But," he adds, "I would like to see the thing resolved."

But the problem is not likely to be resolved soon. The UFW boycotts are almost certain to continue until the union has the representation of the farmworkers.

County candidates attack LCDC

By MARY BETH BOWEN
Of the Emerald

"That damn LCDC is taking our rights away."

The majority of the dinner conversation at the county commissioner candidates forum sponsored by the Lane County Farm Bureau Thursday night centered on the Land Conservation and Development Commission.

The forum attracted 10 of the 15 candidates running for board positions one and three. By the end of the evening, none of the candidates had any doubt what farmers think of the Gallo plan, Gov. Bob Straub's project to preserve the banks of the Willamette River.

The first question the candidates fielded was "Do you or do you not support the repeal of Senate Bill 100?"

Most of the candidates said they favored repeal. Frank Elliot called the Greenway plan "the greatest rip-off of property owners in the United States."

Joseph Skaggs said that land-use planning should be controlled by separate planning commissions serving sub-areas of Lane County. Andy Maxon said the plan should be put to a vote of the property owners. Jack Craig didn't take a position, but said the issue was moot since the commissioners have no power to repeal the bill.

Nancy Hayward was the only candidate to voice her support for the obviously unpopular measure, saying the state must play a role in preserving natural resources.

Hayward also mentioned control of air and water pollution and environmental concerns as among her top priorities.

Most of the campaign platforms were much alike. Everyone supported fiscal responsibility, increased efficiency in government and protection of the individual's rights.

Besides the land-use planning issue, the Farm Bureau members were mostly concerned about what they feel is the excessively high price of the proposed new county jail, the Lane County subsidization of the Lane Transit District and the need for more rural representation on the board of commissioners.

Dotson was the 1972 campaign manager for incumbent Frank Elliot. Elliot is his current opponent.

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LOCAL ECOLOGICAL RECONSTRUCTION

TODAY—

Two short films on Design for the Urban Habitat and Citizen Participation in Decision-Making prepared by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for an upcoming U.N. Conference on Human Habitat.

12:30 Dad's Room

The Santa Barbara Experience: From Eco-Catastrophe to Ecological Reconstruction

A slide show and lecture by Rich Applebaum, U.C. Santa Barbara. Commentary by Neil Murray, Eugene City Council, and Jean Reiter, Fairmount Neighbors.

8:00 p.m. 180 PLC

TOMORROW—

Community Control of Health Care

A talk with volunteers from the Community Health and Education Center.

12:30 EMU Forum Room

Neighborhood Power

A lecture by David Morris, author of a book by the same name, and founder of the Institute for Local Self Reliance in Washington, D.C. Commentary by Steve Lowenstein, Northwest District Association (Portland).

8:00 p.m. 167 EMU

WEDNESDAY—

Building Animating Institutions for the Transition

A talk by David Morris

noon Gerlinger Lounge

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