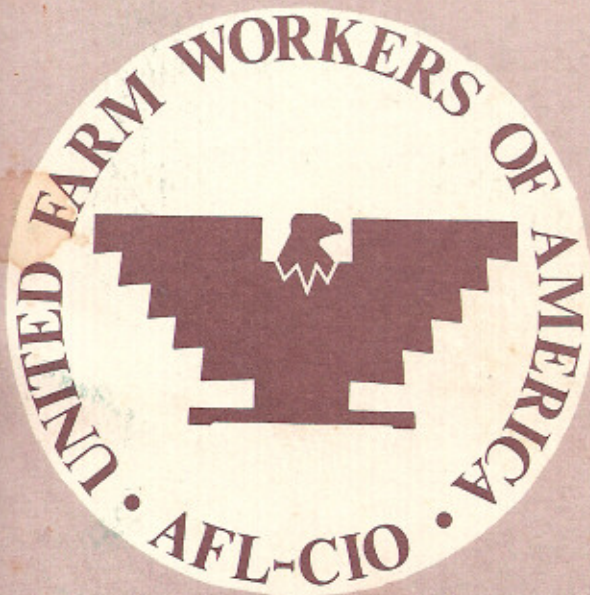


CONSTITUTION

Adopted at the
First Constitutional Convention
Fresno, California • September, 21-23, 1973



PREAMBLE

We, the Farm Workers of America, have tilled the soil, sown the seeds and harvested the crops. We have provided food in abundance for the people in the cities, the nation and the world but have not had sufficient food for our own children.

While industrial workers, living and working in one place, have joined together and grown strong, we have been isolated, scattered and hindered from uniting our forces.

While other workers have overcome economic injustices, we have inherited the exploitation, the suffering, and the poverty of our fathers and their fathers before them.

But despite our isolation, our sufferings, jailings, beatings and killings, we remain undaunted and determined to build our Union as a bulwark against future exploitation.

The right to join a Union is universally recognized, but it is a right those who own the fields have ruthlessly denied us. And as Pope Leo XIII said, "To exercise pressure for the sake of gain upon the indigent and destitute and to make one's profits out of the need of another is condemned by all laws human and divine."

We devoutly believe in the dignity of tilling the soil and tending the crops and reject the notion that

farm labor is but a way station to a job in the factory and life in the city.

And just as work on the land is arduous, so is the task of building a Union. We pledge to struggle as long as it takes to reach our goals.

Above all, we believe that all men must act toward one another in a spirit of brotherhood and that our Union shall guarantee that all are treated equal in dignity and rights.

