

CLF\_FOR TRANSCRIPTION

01:00:12 Chavez: All my life, I have driven by one dream, one goal, one vision: to overthrow a farm labor system in this nation that treats farm workers as if they were not important human beings.

Male Voice: [Foreign language]

01:00:43 Chavez: The average life expectancy of a farm worker is somewhere around 49 years. And we've come to realize that we're cheated out of at least 20 good years of life, you know.

01:00:56 Chavez: We attack that injustice, not by complaining, not by seeking handouts. We organize. Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore.

01:01:21 Male Voice: Why, you [unintelligible], hey, who do you - put your mouth shut. Who do you [unintelligible]? You stink. You smell. You're a lousy bunch of Commies.

01:01:33 We created confidence and pride and hope, and an entire people's ability to create the future.

01:01:43 I think I know what my mission is: righting the wrongs that were committed against workers for 100 years. I have that mission. I want to do it very badly.

01:01:56 Chavez: We have looked into the future and the future is ours. And when that day comes, we shall see the fulfillment of that passage from the book of Matthew in the New Testament. The last shall be first and the first shall be last.

01:02:38 Brokaw: Around the clock medical watch has been ordered for Cesar Chavez, head of the United Farm Workers Union. He has been on a fast for testing the use of pesticides.

00:02:48 Male Voice: The Farm Workers Union blames pesticides used on the grapes as the cause of cancer and other health desorders such as birth defects and miscarriages. Chavez, the leader of the United Farm Workers, represents thousands of people who pick the grapes and the lettuce in California's Central Valley. He says that he's fasting as an act of penance for those who, as he put it, collaborate with an industry that cares little about its workers.

01:03:19 Chavez: We are all here representing, in a way, those people that are concerned about the general situation with pesticides, which is a specific question also of the [unintelligible] McFarland and other communities throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

01:03:36 Sheen: For many of the people in this room, it's a throwback to nearly 25 years ago, when the UFW began, and the many struggles, processions, fasts, and where the word [Huelga] sounded throughout the San Joaquin and most of the growing areas in California. In one sense, we are back to square one. And it is incumbent on Cesar to lead us in the way that he has chosen, to make a personal sacrifice.

01:04:08 Male Voice: The point is, this is a man who refuses to eat, so that all of us can continue to eat and our children continue to eat with health and well-being. It is a situation then that really applies to all of us. What do you expect a man to do? What can an individual do except take a harm that he sees outside and impose it on himself consciously in order to make a point?

01:04:55 Cesar: Thanks, guys.

01:04:57 Male Voice: My dad was the most impatient man that I'd ever met, you know. He understood that we have a limited amount of time. I think that the fast came as a result of the feeling that he had not done enough to bring the pesticide use to the public's attention. It was his way of performing penance for that failure.

01:05:29 I think my mom probably had an inkling of what was going on because you have to prepare yourself for a fast. And so, I remember she - she called us in, right, and she says, "Your dad has gone to Delano, and he's started another fast." And we're saying, "What, you know, he didn't tell us anything."

01:06:09 Penance is an act that - it's a personal act. You're not asking somebody to forgive you for something you've done. You're really speaking to yourself and you're asking yourself to forgive you for your own shortcomings. It's a very personal act.

01:06:45 Male Voice: Cesar Chavez, the president of your union is conducting a fast. Tell us the reason for it.

01:06:49 Female Voice: There are, as you know, cancer clusters in this area; 34 children have cancer. Many of them have already died.

01:06:58 Female Voice: All of a sudden, these cancer clusters came up. All these children were dying of cancer, and so they did a survey and went door-to-door. They found that so many of the children in Delano, McFarland, and the other town called Earlimart, all of these kids were having cancer; and of course, the parents also.

01:07:24 Female Voice: If I would have known this would happen, I would have never, you know, worked in the fields or anything, but you never know.

01:07:36 Moses: We know these children are exposed. We know that it's in the water. The planes are spraying them. These children, they live in a soup of these pesticides. There's no real controls over the kind of exposures that these children have, including you know, the playgrounds where they play and the sand. Everything is contaminated.

01:07:59 Valdez: Anybody who has been out in the fields, you go out there - and most people don't - but go out there, and you see the tanks of poison. You see the tanks of the pesticides that are used in order to spray the fields. And all of those pesticides have gone into the fields, that have been dropped on whatever the produce is, but also on the people. And all you have to do is to walk out into a field that's just been sprayed, and you'll find the lethality of it. Your eyes will burn. Your skin will burn. You can get sick, and you can even die if you have prolonged exposure to these pesticides. Cesar saw this because he was a farm worker. And he did something about it. He took a stand.

01:08:50 Chavez: We started organizing in early '62. I think we went to over 180-some small communities and camps, from one end of the valley to the other end; the biggest, the wealthiest valley in the country. When Social Security was enacted, believe it or not, we were excluded. And they've excluded us from everything.

01:09:15 You know, sometimes I wonder if there isn't one other reason - one other very overriding reason why we were excluded. Who is the farm worker? He is a minority group - racial minorities. The kind of job we have to do is very difficult but very simple. It's a fight of the poor against the rich. It's a fight of the weak against the powerful.

01:09:49 Female Voice: From '62 to '65, Cesar and I were doing house meetings in people's homes, organizing them, you know, telling them that we could come together, that they had power. They didn't speak English. They didn't have any assets, but they had power and the power was in their person.

01:10:07 Chavez: Coverage under the National Labor Relations Act is what made most of the unions as we know them today in America. We are not covered by this law, so it's pretty much the law of the jungle out in the fields at this point.

01:10:21 Cohen: Now in 1935, during the Great Depression, when the New Deal started, one of the reforms was the National Labor Relations Act. It was called the Wagner Act, and it gave all workers in the United States the right to bargain, except for domestics and farm workers. But when you look at domestics and farm workers, you're talking about mostly black women, Chicanos, Mexicans, Filipinos; and those workers didn't have the same rights as other workers.

01:10:50 And when you don't have the right to collective bargain, it depresses your wages, so it had a very detrimental impact on the workers.

01:10:59 Chatfield: The first eight months, Cesar had no money. He almost starved to death. He would have to organize his day so that he was around during the dinner hour, so that he would be invited to join the family, so he could eat for the day.

01:11:28 Chavez: Well, there were five kids, a small family by those standards then. All I remember is having to move out of our house, and I tried to ask my father why, and he would tell me that, "Well, we're moving to another house." As it turned out later, my dad was being thrown out of his small plot of land that he had inherited from his father. And then the next recollection is we were in California and we were migratory

workers picking apricots, walnuts, pears, prunes, trying to get enough money to stay alive the coming winter.

01:12:11 Sleeping under - in a car or under the bridge, you know, wasn't really for kids. It wasn't really that bad. So we jumped from one school to the other. It became a very horrible experience for us, going for - I remember going to some schools that were all Anglo kids. If not wealthy, at least you know, they had shoes on, decent shirt.

01:12:39 We would go in with - many times without any shoes. We were there for two days sometimes, a week, two weeks, three weeks at the most - 37 different schools.

01:12:54 I remember discrimination so vividly. My father - he went to get some coffee for my mother, and you know, you're a kid, you - he asked us not to come in, so we followed anyway. And we went into this small restaurant, and he walked in and asked for the coffee. And this young waitress said, "We don't serve Mexicans here. Get out of here."

01:13:19 This is the story of many of the agricultural workers.

01:13:24 Son: My father was from the Yuma area. He was born there, and that's where - he lived there during his formative years. And then they lost their ranch, and he went out and he began to work in the fields.

01:13:35 Female Voice: Going out there, many times not having anything to eat; having to go to the fields to pick peas and bring something home, so that they could have something to eat. And he was just - made him very - very angry. And he always swore to himself that one day he would change that. That was always his intention.

01:14:09 Chavez: Thousands of farm workers live under savage conditions and amid garbage and human excrement. Malnutrition among migrant Workers children is ten times higher than the national rate. Farm Workers average life expectance is still 49 years. I began to realize that the only answer was in organizing.

01:14:48 Female Voice: The only way the farm workers were going to be able to get an increase in their wages, get any kind of medical benefits, any kind of pension benefits, any type of improvement in their working conditions, had to be through a labor organization, through a union. There was just no other way.

01:15:27 Rodriguez: Cesar was 60 years old at the time when he started that fast in July of 1988. I just knew from my own personal experience that fasting even for three or four days was a - was not easy to do.

01:16:20 Male Voice: It makes a big difference when you are in the presence of someone who has stopped eating, and obviously is endangering their own lives. What can you say under these circumstances?

01:16:43 Chavez: I said, "Don't you ever get hungry? Don't you feel like eating?" He said, "Look, Richard, the first few days are the hardest." Says, "The first four or five days are the very hardest." Says, "That's when you really are tempted that you want to eat, you want to break the fast. But after five or six days, food doesn't come into play anymore."

01:17:10 Chavez: Thank you so much. I appreciate it very much.

01:17:13 Male Voice: The first week, you know, there's the real obvious, you know, you're kind of like you're hungry, and you're kind of fighting that urge to eat. And then

you get into this phase where you don't want to eat anymore. And that's when it can become very dangerous, right.

01:17:34 Male Voice: It's really important to realize that when someone stops eating and you're in a fast, that your perception of reality begins to change. You can even hallucinate.

01:17:52 Son: As the fast goes on, your senses become heightened, like you know, he had to whisper because if not, it would hurt his ears, right. I mean it would - if you talked too loud, it would pain him. I remember we had to keep kind of the curtains drawn because the bright lights would begin to bother him as well. And so - and so you see that more towards, you know, as the fast progressed. But you could see the change in him, right?

01:18:38 Female Voice: Our plan was to organize in the Central Valley for five years, and then call a general strike of all of the Central Valley, so that then we could be able to negotiate with the growers for all of the workers in the Central Valley. We were going to set up centers all over the Central Valley like the one that we had in Delano, and continue organizing; again, very quietly until we had everybody organized. And then we were going to go on strike.

01:19:07 Padilla: So, we had connections to all these towns, right. Then we built the credit union, right. And he resourced the credit unions. And we built the first Farm Workers Credit Union in California - I don't know in the history, but you know, right. And then we built a little co-op, servicing workers with their problems, you know, driver's license, workman's comp, immigration problems, almost any kind of problem, we were helping. We had services.



01:19:35 Chatfield: Cesar had planned that he would take maybe five years, maybe up to ten years of community organizing before he felt comfortable having a base of support that if a strike happened, that they would be able to win the strike, or at least have an opportunity to win the strike. But it didn't turn out that way.

01:19:58 Female Voice: The Filipino workers, headed up by Larry Itliong called me and he said, "We're going to do a strike in Delano."

01:20:10 The wages were abysmally low, and it was unfair. It was - and the Filipinos did not want to work, and no one could blame them.

01:20:21 Female Voice: The growers were so brutal with the Filipino workers. They beat them up. They shut off their lights and gas and water in the labor camps. And many of these labor camps were really far away from town, so this meant that the workers couldn't even cook or feed themselves.

01:20:46 And so then, we had an emergency meeting right away. We had a huge rally at the Guadalupe Church in Delano, whether we're going to support the Filipino workers or not.

01:20:54 Chatfield: It put so much pressure on the National Farm Workers Association, to join or not to join.

01:21:12 Female Voice: And then we said we've got to support the Filipino workers, and you know, we went on strike.

01:21:29 Chatfield: Cesar used that and seized that opportunity. They were going out on strike, and they would not come off until they had a union contract with the

employer. They had a right to collective bargaining and they were going to exercise that right.

01:21:51 Hartmire: The most beautiful thing about strikes is watching people's spirits, when for the first time, they stand up for themselves and for their families. It's a truly beautiful thing to watch.

01:22:04 Male Voice: Come into the fold of unionism. Help bring the [unintelligible] worker into the fold of unionism.

01:22:13 Chavez: September of 1965 we went out. We said three things. Number one, there has to be a strike in order for the farm worker men and women to build a union and make a better life for themselves. We've got to go to the public and tell them what it is that we need, and get them to help us. And third, it's got to be non-violent. And we pursued these three goals.

01:22:36 Female Voice: When the strike broke out, we only had \$70.00 in the bank, basically, and we had no money.

01:22:46 Chavez: We have a lot of pork and beans, and if you get tired of pork and beans, we have a lot of soup. As you know, we're low on food and we're always trying to get our friends across the state to help us with food, so we will continue to do the same and we'll have to - those of you who write to your friends outside the area, always mention food. We can say this. Clothing, no; food, si.

01:23:20 Male Voice: Convincing farm workers who are harvesting - this is their only time of the year to make money - to leave their job and walk out and join the union, is very difficult. And yet, they stood up; they wouldn't take no for an answer; and they just continued to follow Cesar Chavez, and he just led them one step at a time.

01:24:01      Group singing: Like a tree planted by the water, we shall not be moved.

01:24:18      Female Voice:      Come on up, brothers, we are waiting for you. You are earning my money today because the workers here were not on strike on September the 9th.

01:24:31      Male Voice: Do you think that without a union, the farm workers can improve their condition?

01:24:34      Male Voice: It has been done right here, quite a bit.

01:24:37      Male Voice: Is this camp evidence of that?

01:24:39      Male Voice: This camp has greatly improved in the last year, since I have been here.

01:24:43      Male Voice: Would you want to live in this camp?

01:24:45      Male Voice: I wouldn't live here. You know, you're being very impudent. Would I want to live here? This is - I call it an impudent question.

01:25:00      Male Voice: There was a big strike at a big ranch, part of the original 33 growers in the original grape strike - a place called Di Giorgio - the Di Giorgio Food Corporation, which owned the [unintelligible] Ranch, which was about 6000-7000 acres right outside of Delano. And there was no way that we could penetrate to get into this field to talk to the workers.

01:25:22 So, Cesar came up with this idea of putting an altar in the back of a little beat up station wagon. And Richard being the carpenter in the family, built it. They worked on it all night with this kind of youthful enthusiasm and excitement. It was finished at about 2:30 in the morning, and they wheeled it out there to the middle of the fields in Delano.

01:25:43 And they put it across the entrance to the Di Giorgio [unintelligible] Ranch, and lit the candles. And they started holding masses out there. And the farm workers started to come out one-by-one. They started to straggle. They said, "What is that going out there?" And so they came and began to participate in this.

01:26:04 Of course the [unintelligible] started to come. The strikers were coming on a nightly basis. Eventually, within a space of a week, there were thousands of people that were coming to this little shrine on the back of a station wagon with the [Virgin]de Guadalupe, and the votive candles, right across the street from the Di Giorgio camp. Eventually, all of the workers - most of them came out of the camps to pray.

01:26:32 And eventually, the organizers were able to come and go in and out of the ranch you know, because they - the growers couldn't stop it. There was too much traffic coming and going. And anyway, what were they going to do, stop the praying, stop the masses? They couldn't do that.

01:27:11 Hartmire: How did Cesar become such a powerful brilliant organizer and leader? I mean he's not a great speaker. He's not big. He's not a Hollywood hunk. I think it was fundamentally his Catholic upbringing and his mother's teachings. I think that's sort of like what sustained him.

01:28:15 Priest: This celebration has a mixture of sadness and seriousness and reflection. It also has an element of happiness, too, because we are a people of hope.

We think that our efforts are going to bear fruit. But we hear Cesar telling us in his letter to the world, really, that he feels compelled to undertake this fast because he feels that he has not done enough. But how much more can we say that? And we have not done enough. And so our coming together certainly is one of commitment. And so all of us here have been inspired by this action that Cesar takes; a personal action on his part that he so clearly states as an impulse to us.

01:29:08 Female Voice: Every single night of Cesar's fast, we had a mass. We had a rally. So, every night, the masses kept getting bigger and bigger. It was just a very, very emotional evening.

01:29:36 Male Voice: Workers would come from all over. People would come in from the fields and they'd be dusty, and you'd have the [unintelligible] coming in, and you would have politicians coming in. And everybody was coming in to help, right. And that was really the only time that he would do any type of public appearances. Other than that, he stayed in his room to conserve his energy.

01:30:00 And so he'd come out, and that was the chance that people could be with him, but also it was a time that - I mean the energy in the masses, I can remember people coming. You could really feel something in the air. They would come in and kind of charismatic. And they would play their music and it was uplifting; it was beautiful.

01:30:24 And so, the masses would get us through another day. I used to look forward to them.

01:30:33 Sheen: And it was very clear that the mass was the center of the union's activity. Someone would come up with a cross from the grapevines, and it was placed on the altar on this board, and it represented another day of the fast.

01:30:55 Cesar's spirituality came really from a number of sources. Some of them are visible; some of them are not. He was an Indian. He was a Mexican Indian, with very, very deep roots in indigenous America. For 10,000 years before the coming of the Spanish, there was a tremendous spiritual reality about the Americas.

01:31:17 There was a tradition among the ancient Maya that the king had to bleed himself for the good of the tribe. And they would put thorns through their tongues and bleed themselves; and then bleed on paper and then burn the paper. And this would be prayers that would go to the Creator to help bring rain, to help win a war, to help cure disease, whatever it happened to be. There was something in the man that I think was speaking across generations, that was coming from a very profound point of origin in the Americas.

01:31:55 And in his own way, Cesar was speaking for farm workers as the descendants of ancient America.

01:32:32 Female Voice: Immediately after the strike broke out, of course, we sent out the call for volunteers, that we needed people to come and help us. We had to be out there early in the morning before the people came in, so that the people would know that there was a strike, so they wouldn't come in and break the strike. And then we'd be out there on the picket lines all day long.

It was a big sacrifice. I mean people lost their homes. They lost their cars. They didn't have a - well, if they had a car to begin with, because they didn't have any money and the work was very, very hard.

01:33:03 Male Voice: Julio Hernandez was one of the first organizers, lost his house. He had oh, eight, nine kids. They all lost them. I lost mine.

01:33:16 Female Voice: Then of course, the growers started bringing in strike breakers. You know, we're so close to the Mexican border, that they could just go down there and bring people in.

01:33:25 Chavez: The only way they break the strike is by importing illegals. They're bringing illegals from Mexico that'll break the strike. Other than that, they can't do it.

01:33:31 Male Voice: They're planning on that.

01:33:34 Chavez: Oh, sure they are. Sure, they're planning on that. They already have them. They already have some here.

01:33:43 Male Voice: We had to make a choice early in our struggle, you know, whether we're going to permit the employer to use our brothers from across the border who are illegal aliens, to bring them across. And so the farm worker is at odds with some of his brothers in the cities on this one because the farm worker sees this as a very direct threat to his livelihood and to his union.

01:34:13 We're not against any immigration in from Mexico or any other country, particularly poor countries, but we are against the employers using them as pawns, you know, to break our strikes.

01:34:29 Chatfield: These people on the picket lines have sacrificed everything for the sake of trying to better their lives. And it is not right, whether they're brought by the employers or brought by someone else, to come and take the bread out of other people's mouths.

01:35:00 Ganz: It was in February of '66; the strike had been going on since September. The harvest was over. A lot of the workers had been replaced. People were on picket lines.

01:35:11 Female Voice: So, we had to sustain those picket lines every single day, and you know, keep the spirits of the people up. Donations were not coming in as much as they had before, and so we had to do something different.

01:35:22 Ganz: Do we give up the strike? Do we go forward? If so, how?

01:35:29 Female Voice: One day, we're sitting around the office, and this young attorney had come to volunteer with us. So, we're sitting down and we're talking in the conference room, and he says, "Have you thought of doing a boycott?" I remember the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, with Rosa Parks and the civil rights.

01:35:51 Male Voice: Cesar talked to farm workers and said, "What I want you to do is pack up and go to Chicago, Detroit, Boston, New York, Toronto. Let's just see what works. Let's just - it's trial and error, and we will see what works."

01:36:05 Chavez: We'll be boycotting everywhere grapes and lettuce. We'll be asking the public first of all, not to eat lettuce, not to eat grapes, not to buy grapes, boycotting supermarkets.

01:36:17 Male Voice: And people who had never left the valley, they went.

01:36:30 Male Voice: Picket lines have been put around supermarkets in 23 major cities, and the boycott has received wide political support. Presidential nominee, Hubert Humphrey has endorsed it, and so have mayors of New York, Detroit, St. Louis and



other cities. Chavez went to Boston to dramatize what he says is the cause of the nearly 30,000 grape pickers in California.

01:36:55 Like the dumping of the tea, which helped to start the American Revolution, he said, dumping of the grapes here is a symbol of the start of a union revolution in agriculture.

01:37:06 Chavez: We're estimating here that in another ten days or so, we'll be having about 500 different cities and towns boycotting. And the success of the boycott is not so much what we can do with our staff, but what people take upon themselves to do.

01:37:22 Female Voice: We had all of these young volunteers that came, and who would help with the picket lines. I remember a lot of these laborers leaders would say, "How does he do this? You're not paying people, and they're still out there working really, really hard." It was a mission, it was a movement.

01:37:36 Male Voice: Pardon me Sir, can you help the farm workers today by not shopping at Safeway? We're picketing here to support the strike of the workers. Appreciate it if you could go to another store. Okay. Thank you very much, Sir.

01:37:47 Hartmire: The boycott always had something for people to do. And if you got bored just boycotting grapes, you could always come out on Saturday and picket. And if you got tired of picketing, you could go inside and do a prayer service around the grape counter. And if that was not enough, you could go to jail.

01:38:09 Male Voice: From then on, the boycott began to grow and grow and grow, and spread, and spread not only to the United States and Canada, but even to England.

01:38:22 Female Voice: I think at the end of the day, there were something like 14 million people that stopped eating grapes.

01:38:27 Chavez: We've cut sales down by about nine percent.

01:38:34 Male Voice: And so here we were, you know, having cross one threshold, and we found ourselves in a whole new national game. The boycott woke up the whole country to the fact that this farm Workers thing could actually happen.

01:38:50 Male Voice: One of the things I've learned is that often moments of greatest success are also moments of greatest vulnerability because a whole new set of opponents emerge who take you seriously, that weren't taking you seriously before.

01:39:04 Chatfield: The employer - in this case the grape growers - they had the jobs. They're not going to be pushed around. They're not going to stand still for some guy by the name of Cesar Chavez who comes along and says this or says that, or is going to do this or do that. No way.

01:39:31 Male Voice: Got a good cheerleader.

01:39:36 Male Voice: What he's done, he has picked up the gauntlet supposedly for the Mexican American people, and he's trying to better their lot, if you will. I think his approach to solving the problem at times has been distasteful to me. He does not represent the people. As far as we can determine, our employees have emphatically stated if we were to sign a contract with him tomorrow, they would leave the fields, and not work for us, and go elsewhere.

01:40:03 Male Voice: They owned the judges. They owned the police. They had all the power in the community. We would get arrested just every time we went out there and talked to workers.

01:40:18 Male Voice: They're under arrest.

Male Voice: What for?

Female Voice: Hey, what for? Hey, wait. You don't have to push him.

01:40:26 Female Voice: I think that injunction against us - the first injunction was that you couldn't even say the word Huelga. You couldn't have a t-shirt that said the word Huelga on it. That's how far these injunctions went.

Male Voice: Viva la Huelga.

Female Voice: What did we do?

Officer: The left thumbprint of them, and the left thumbprint on the front.

Female Voice: Well, if you'd let go of my hand.

01:40:56 Female Voice: Even driving down the street, you know, trying to go home, somebody would arrest us. They arrested Cesar supposedly for protective custody because he was being harassed by the growers. Cesar had several death threats on his life. He had spoken in Boston, got a call. You can't go give that speech in New York City; there's a death threat on your life.

01:41:22      So, what did we do? We went to a movie. So, we had to stay in this darkened movie house in New York until that rally was over. All of that time, he had to run the union from a payphone.

01:41:35      Chatfield:      Cesar Chavez realizes that something more must be done.

01:41:39      Ganz: People were considering different kinds of ideas.

01:41:45      Chatfield:      And what he and his fellow members decide, is that they are going to march to Sacramento, and demand that the government take steps to stop the violence and the intimidation of the strikers.

01:42:03      Ganz: Like Dr. King had the previous year with the Selma to Montgomery march. And then somebody said, "Yeah, and we could get the people in those towns to house and feed us, too, as we're going on the march." And then Cesar said, "Well, why should it be a march at all, you know, it's going to be Lent. Why not have a Peregrinacion and it could arrive in Sacramento on Easter Sunday?" And so, that's what it became, and so the theme because Peregrinacion Penitencia Revolucion.

01:42:36      Male Voice:      Pilgrimage, penance, and revolution.

01:42:42      Ganz: And it was time then to start on March 17th because it was the day after Senator Kennedy was coming to Delano with the Senate Sub-Committee on Migratory Labor to hold hearings.

01:42:55      Kennedy:      And it's not just a question of wages. It's a question of housing. It's a question of education. It's a question of living conditions. It's a question, a basic question of hope for the future.

01:43:08 Ganz: The idea was there was going to be this Senate hearing, and then we could tell the press that the next day we were starting this march, and they would be there, and so we could get them to tell the story of the march.

01:43:23 Sheriff: Well, if I have reason to believe that there's going to be a riot started and somebody kills me, that there's going to be trouble if you don't stop them, then it's my duty to stop them.

Kennedy: Then you go out and arrest them?

Sherriff: Well, absolutely.

Kennedy: And charge them?

Sheriff: Charge them.

Kennedy:: What do you charge them with?

Sheriff: Well, it's a violation of unlawful assembly.

Kennedy: I think that that's most interesting. Who told you that they're going to riot?

Sheriff: The man right out in the field that they were talking to said if you don't get them out of here, we're going to cut their hearts out. So rather than let them get cut, you remove the cause.

01:43:57 Kennedy: How can you go arrest somebody if they haven't violated the law?

Sheriff: They're ready to violate the law. In other words -

Kennedy: But I suggest in the interim period of time, in the luncheon period of time, that the sheriff and the District Attorney read the Constitution of the United States.

01:44:18 Ganz: So the next morning, 7:30 a.m., there's 87 people to start the march, and sure enough, there's a bunch of press because they were already in town. And we started to proceed down the street and then the Delano Police set up a line that looked like Selma, Alabama. It was like a gift from the gods. With all that press, here we see the police with their visors and their billy clubs, and they're blocking our march through town because we didn't have a permit.

01:44:49 And it made the march because then the picture of Selma in California went all over the place, and eventually it was negotiated that we could go through town, and then the march got underway.

01:45:40 Male Voice: Day by day grew larger and larger, joined by more farm workers because they marched through all the farm worker communities between Delano and Sacramento. I think of all of the marchers, I think Cesar Chavez was the least prepared to walk 400 miles. In Cesar's case, he had two mishaps. First of all, he twisted his ankle at some point early on in the march.

01:46:12 Then the blisters came. At some point, Cesar had to take off his shoes and walk barefoot to cope with the blisters.

01:46:30 Ganz: And so by the time we got to Stockton, this was gathering a lot of momentum, and somebody came running across the street and said, "Cesar, Cesar, there's a guy on the phone. He says he's Schenley's lawyer. He takes the call; comes

back and he says, "It was Schenley's lawyer." So, he asked permission from the marchers to leave to go to LA.

01:46:56 Then the march proceeded. On Friday, it was Good Friday, and so we had, going along the levy south of Sacramento, we had Stations of the Cross there. It was like the Israelites camped across the River Jordan, only we were on the other side of the Sacramento River. We had a little van. We had it turned into a press thing. We had a phone in it, and the phone rang, and it was Cesar from LA, saying we have the first contract.

01:47:29 Chatfield: Schenley's recognition of the union was the first time in the history of California that an employer has recognized a union as a bargaining agent for its workers. It is the first time.

01:47:57 Ganz: That night, a guy named Roberto Roman, who was a farm worker who'd carried a two-by-four cross all the way from Delano wrapped in black, stayed up all that night rewrapping in white, decorating it with flowers. And the next day, he led the march barefoot across the river bridge into Sacramento, where we were met by 10,000 people.

01:48:37 Chavez: Victory came just by the fact that we got to Sacramento. This is victory in itself. Somewhere, somehow, these people are never going to be the same. It's very important to us that people question, that they participate, and that they're never afraid to have some principle and stand up - and stand by their principles.

01:49:20 Ganz: That breakthrough, which coincided with the march to Sacramento in 1966 initiated a whole period of winning contracts and beginning to build a base of support. Eventually, it turned into a boycott of the entire table grape industry, so that by

1970, we had won 200 contracts, brought 70,000 workers under contract, and had brought unionization to California agriculture.

01:49:51      Cohen:          But when those contracts expired, since there was no collective bargaining mechanism in place, the growers made a cynical move and signed sweetheart contract with the Teamsters Union.

01:50:02      Male Voice:      In the past three months, Chavez' United Farm Workers Union has lost virtually all of the union's 180 contracts. Growers refused to renew with Chavez. They instead signed with the Teamsters.

01:50:13      Chavez:          The Teamsters are signing sweetheart contracts and back door agreements throughout the industry, and we're going to - if it takes ten years or twenty years, we'll go ranch by ranch, and we'll take them back.

01:50:27      Male Voice:      That then created basically a revolution in the fields.

Male Voice:    You [unintelligible], come over here. You don't know anything about farm workers. You've never known anything. You never will know anything about farm workers. You don't think about that? You're strike breaking.

01:50:42      Male Voice:      We're the union. The union's supposed to be the brothers, aren't we? Don't you believe in democracy? Then why don't you let us have an election?

Chavez:        If we don't have an election, we're going to be here for ten years. You're not going to be here ten years. Thirty years, five years, we're not going to go. Now if we have an election today, 10:00 in the morning, by one minute after 10:00, we get out of here. You can have all of them. You can have all these guys who are workers, part of the Teamsters. We win the election, you guys take off. Is that fair?



01:51:10 Male Voice: No, Chavez, no, Chavez, no.

Group: Chavez Si, Teamsters no; Chavez si, Teamsters no.

01:51:19 Male Voice: Well, you phony little [Commie]. Hey, [unintelligible] wants your mouth shut. [unintelligible] go to China. You stink. You smell. You're a lousy bunch of commies, bunch of commie bums. Bunch of lousy commies.

01:51:54 Chavez: They have very consistently used profanity against men and women in the picket lines in such language, in such a way as to tell them that directly, that they're going to kill them, and that they're no good son of a bitches, is I think to the everlasting glory of the farm workers, that they've been able to espouse the whole idea of non-violence.

01:52:16 Cohen: Over 3500 arrests were made that summer. Some people had their skulls fractured. There were a lot of injuries, a lot of violence.

01:52:26 Male Voice: Approximately 5:20 in the morning, two Teamster members follows a farm worker. The suspects forced him out of the car, beat him up, and threatened him with an ice pick, and they stuck him several times with the ice pick, holding it against his throat and threatened his life.

01:52:46 Male Voice: This man came at us with a knife. He got a big stick, you know, bigger than my neck. And he hit me across the head three times.

01:52:56 Male Voice: Many workers that were trying to walk out on strike were prevented from walking out on strike by Teamsters with lead pipes, baseball bats, guns, knives, clubs, grape stakes, leather whips and other dangerous instruments.

01:53:10 Male Voice: We don't need clubs man, we just need people that's all.

01:53:13 Chavez: It's the [unintelligible] plan to come and beat the hell out of us. It's not difference of opinion. What there is, is the growers and the Teamsters have made up their mind they're going to stop this strike at all costs.

01:53:28 Ganz: The first casualty was a young Yemeni worker, who was on strike. There was a whole community of Yemenis worker near Porterville in the grape industry. And he was in Lamont, south of Bakersfield, and he was beaten to death by a Kern County deputy sheriff. And so, in a sense, the first farm worker to die was an Islamic Arab.

01:54:13 Two days after he was killed, a man named Juan de la Cruz, who was one of the people I'd worked with since the very beginning down in Bakersfield, [in Arvin], was on a picket line at - south of Bakersfield, and a strike breaker came out and shot him through the heart with a gun. So we lost two people very quickly in succession. And after our Islamic funeral, we had our Mexican funeral.

01:55:07 Female Voice: Cesar and I had very many spiritual and philosophical conversations, starting way before we started the union way back in 1962. Cesar was an advocate of Gandhi, of non-violence. He had read all of Gandhi's works. The only pictures that he had in his office were a Gandhi, Dr. King, his mother [Juana Estrada]. He really believed in non-violence, not only as a tactic, but as a philosophy.

01:55:34 He met with all of the members of the union, and many of them said, "Look, the Teamsters are coming in; can't we react? It's one thing to be non-violent against the growers and the labor contractors, but what about these so-called union

brothers?" And Cesar would say, "Absolutely not." And he sad, "If you want violence, I will leave. I will not be your president if you decide to use violence."

01:55:57 Female Voice: The concept of non-violence, which permeates your approach to this - do you think that you will be able to maintain the idea of militant non-violence as you go all over where there are migrant workers?

01:56:14 Chavez: Workers have come to understand that there is great power in struggling non-violently. Really, what I'm saying is that non-violence can win, it can work, and particularly so when it demonstrated that it has these powers to those who are seeking change.

01:56:44 Male Voice: Some of the younger folks started talking about maybe cracking some heads and breaking some arms; maybe they would listen to us.

01:56:50 Cohen: And Cesar's idea was I set in motion a chain of events, which might lead to violence, and he didn't want that. He felt personally responsible for that.

01:57:06 Male Voice: Slowly but surely, Cesar came to the conclusion that he was going to have to do something dramatic.

01:57:09 Ganz: That's when Cesar decided that he could challenge the movement to recommit itself through sacrifice.

01:57:21 Male Voice: The first long fast that he went, was one in '68.

01:57:27 Male Voice: And he said, "This is not a hunger strike. I'm not putting pressure on anybody. This is a time for us to have some introspective thoughts, meditation. We're going to find out who has the huevos here."

01:57:39 Chavez: I was prepared for it psychologically. And I had done all of my homework, as I say, in order to be able to withstand the - partly the pressures of being on a fast. The most difficult part was keeping the press out and keeping it from becoming such a public thing as it did.

01:58:01 Ganz: I was sent on a mission to explain the fast around the state to farm Workers communities, and they said, "What are you talking about? We need him healthy. What can we do? How can we make him eat?" And I said, "well, you can't make him eat; but what you could do is demonstrate your commitment. And so, how many days a week are you going to picket this liquor store? How many farm workers are you going to reach out to, to support the movement?" "Oh, okay." So then it began to turn into a practical expression of sacrifice in action.

01:58:41 Chavez: We're able to, once and for all, say to everyone who wanted to listen that we - when we spoke of non-violence, we really meant it, and we were willing to do that much to prove it.

01:59:02 Female Voice: This grape grower spokesman today called the fast by Cesar Chavez a hoax. He said it is a publicity stunt, at a time when the union has lost much of its membership, and all of its contracts with grape growers.

01:59:14 Male Voice: We have never had a single death attributed to the California table grape industry, and the use of pesticides.

01:59:20 Female Voice: What we're talking about is [unintelligible] link between the pesticides - there's been speculation, but no agency has come out with a bona fide link between the two.

01:59:31 Moses: There are many studies - several studies that do show a link between pesticide exposure. If you want one, in cancer.

01:59:39 Male Voice: The union was having great difficulties in the late '80s. He was deliberately using, I think, this fast in order to pull together the support that the union absolutely needed.

02:00:00 Male Voice: The United Farm Workers Union used to represent a lot of workers in the grape growing areas, and as I understand it, you no longer have any grape contracts, is that right?

02:00:09 Female Voice: Well, we still represent them. I mean we have won the elections. We have the certifications from the state, and so we do represent the workers. Our problem is that the growers won't sit down and bargain, and since we have a governor who is not enforcing the law anymore, they don't have any obligation to bargain.

02:00:26 Male Voice: A certain kind of disinterest had begun to set in, I think in the country as a whole. There'd been excitement, you know, and support during the '60s and the '70s. And by the '80s, you know, in California, through the Deukmejian administration, and then the Reagan presidency, people disconnected.

02:00:47 Hartmire: This fast, organizationally, didn't lead anywhere. The growers did not call. We were wondering, if the grape growers didn't call after this, what

can we possibly do in 1989 that would make it different? It must have worried him. And I don't know what was going through Cesar's mind.

02:01:32 Cohen: Cesar kept all politicians at arms' length. He knew that you had to put pressure on to get things done.

02:01:43 Female Voice: Jerry Brown, the Democrat, is favored to win this election.

02:01:47 Cohen: If your interests and a politician's interests coincide, you get some work done. So the fact that Jerry Brown was there gave us an opening to do some real bargaining.

02:01:54 Male Voice: There is some bright labor news today from California. After years of dispute, a compromise agreement has been reached between the United Farm Workers, the Teamsters Union, and California growers on the question of union representation of the state's farm workers. The story -

02:02:09 Cohen: The California Agricultural Labor Relations Act in 1975 was a huge milestone because it was the first time farm workers in this country got a collective bargaining mechanism.

02:02:21 Brown: Ever since the '30s, people have been trying to get a bill. Franklin Roosevelt tried to get a Farm Labor Bill. We've got one.

02:02:28 Cohen: When you think about the fact that those workers had struck and boycotted for ten years, they basically wrenched this in the face of a multi-billion dollar industry. It was really a revolution because it organized people all around the

country to pay attention to what was going on in the fields. Out of that, you get a reform, and what's the reform? It's the best labor law in the country.

02:02:50      Ganz: It's a birth certificate; a re-birth certificate for the union. And we were able to organize successfully and build contracts and beat the Teamsters and do all this great stuff in 1975-76.

02:03:05      Male Voice: After '75, after '76, '77, the thing began to change, going a different direction.

02:03:14      Cohen:            There had to be more of a bureaucracy within the union to manage life under a labor law.

02:03:20      Male Voice: Grievances, arbitrations, workers coming and complaining about the employer, had to file a grievance and then go meet with the employers and take the committee. That wasn't fun like it was before.

02:03:38      Female Voice:        And then, you know, you start these little rebellions going on, and over nonsense sometimes, things that really didn't matter.

02:03:45      Ganz: Well, I mean it was a large organization. It had rebuilt. It had a great future. There was a lot of internal tensions, as you would expect, in any kind of those competing interests and so forth. That's the nature of the beast.

02:03:59      Male Voice: I don't think Cesar was happy anymore. When I hung around him in the '50s and in the early '60s, to see him in the late '70s, was completely different human being, completely different.

02:04:15 Cohen: Cesar was looking for ways to administer the union. I mean I remember once he brought an efficiency expert in, who was saying when you're organizing, you shouldn't go to small ranches because that's not efficient. Go to big ranches and think of workers as dues units. At which point, I jumped up in the back of the room and yelled, "Dues units of the world unite," you know, because we weren't going to take that kind of lingo from some management expert, you know.

02:04:49 Male Voice: In this period of Cesar's looking, he hit on Synanon.

02:04:55 Ganz: Synanon had been a drug rehabilitation program based in LA, and the centerpiece is a thing called the game. And the game was a therapeutic method developed in dealing with addicts and ex-cons that had morphed into a mechanism of community control.

02:05:14 Cohen: Somebody would be in a circle, and they would be attacked with either truth or lies, and then they'd have to defend themselves.

02:05:22 Son: I remember in games we had, my father was a target of a lot of folks, and people would spend time on him, telling him things, you know, getting things off their chest. And sometimes there were exaggerations and he would laugh, and other times he'd get kind of serious.

02:05:38 Ganz: It was so out of sync with the whole way we'd built this movement. We'd built a movement that was based on inclusion, creativity, humor, and we were then presented with a model of something that was just the opposite.

02:05:54 Son: I remember talking to my dad and saying you know, "What's this about?" And what I remember him saying was, "Look, [unintelligible], the organization



that we have right now, the heartache we have, it's hard for people to tell their superiors what they really think."

02:06:09 Ganz: It was like a shift toward control, as opposed to provide leadership.

02:06:18 Male Voice: Well, I started telling him, this is - what direction are you going? What have we got to do with this? What do we got to do with Synanon? What do you got to do with this? This has nothing to do with us. And that's when he's telling me you don't understand. He kept telling me that I don't understand. I think at one point, he was more interested in loyalty than [unintelligible]. So I was getting into battles with him.

02:06:37 Cohen: If you have an internal political dispute with a guy as skilled as Cesar, and you lose, what's new? I mean he knew how to fight.

02:06:47 Male Voice: I was president of the credit union [unintelligible], and [Delores] was there and Cesar, and the rest of the credit union. And I was asked to resign. So, we got into it; I cussed him out; got into a little battle, so I went to my house. I told my wife, I said, "You know what, it's time for me to leave." In the morning, I called him. I said, "Cesar, I'm going to honor your wishes. I'll resign." And he says, "Okay." And he hung up. Never talked to him again.

02:07:25 Cohen: It's ironic. We could negotiate contracts with growers. I could negotiate a jurisdictional pact, get the Teamsters out of the field. We all negotiated with Brown. We got law. Ultimately, we couldn't negotiate with each other.

02:07:38 Son: I know my father wasn't a perfect man. He wasn't. Who among us are?

02:08:25 Male Voice: Well, today is day 30 of Mr. Chavez' water fast. Today he's lost approximately 30 pounds, about 17 percent of his body weight. His endurance and physical stamina is rapidly deteriorating. He has not participated in religious services in the past few days. I believe I am - we are getting to a critical point of his fast here. And because of that, I have invited Dr. Moses and Dr. [unintelligible] to come and examine him, and to talk about future management of his care.

02:08:56 Moses: We're all of the opinion that we strongly urge Cesar to give serious consideration to discontinuing his fast.

02:09:05 Huerta: He was dehydrated, you know, we were trying to push fluids. He was nauseous. He wasn't keeping fluids down. He had signs of muscle wasting. He was starting to have renal problems. You know, he - it was a challenge to my life. I still think about that to this day.

02:09:31 Male Voice: How long ago did you recommend that he stop the fast?

02:09:31 Huerta: About a week ago, a week ago. I started talking to him every day about stopping the fast. I started talking to him about being aware of what he's doing to his cardiac and renal status. And yes, he [unintelligible] that.

02:09:51 Chavez: The most difficult thing in a fast of that duration is the pressure that you receive from your loved ones who are very concerned, not knowing that you're well, and [won't of course believe that you're well] because you haven't eaten for so long.

02:10:07 Ortiz: In dealing with a man of his condition, about all we can do as doctors is give him the facts; tell him what the prospects are in terms of permanent damage, or even death. But the decision to stop is ultimately his.

02:10:33 Son: My argument with him was that there's another fight to be had. You don't do anybody any good if you can't come out of this thing, and if you're damaged, right. If you're permanently damaged, it doesn't do anybody any good. Aren't you the one that told me that we got to get up and fight tomorrow?

02:10:58 He was in so much pain, towards the end, he couldn't talk very much. I remember people would come in to comfort him, right. He ended up comforting them, and they felt much better when they left, right. And so not only did he have to carry the burden of his own fast, right, but he had to comfort folks that came to see him as well, yeah.

02:12:12 Jackson: I'm here today in solidarity with Cesar Chavez and the farm workers.

Male Voice: Was he able to respond when you were talking to him?

02:12:22 Jackson: Oh, he's very conscious, very alert. His vision is clear. His will to continue is strong. One of my concerns is that given the implications of this need to address the plight of the workers, and the impact of pesticides upon workers and consumers, Cesar cannot bear the cross alone. When he makes the judgment to come off of his fast, a number of us are going to pick up the fast for two or three-day intervals.

02:13:04 Female Voice: Before Jesse Jackson's press conference, Robert Blake said, "Look, we can't let this end here. This has got to continue." And so the three of us met, Jesse and myself and Robert Blake, and he said that we've got to continue this fast some way. And I came up with the suggestion that they just do a rolling fast because we had done this often on the boycott, that everybody take three days and then pass it on to the next person, and pass it on to the next person.

02:13:31 Hartmire: Jesse Jackson came, right toward the end, and of course, he was concerned. Cesar was very weak. The doctors were worried. So, Jesse Jackson suggested that if you need to stop, Cesar, why don't we - why don't we develop a serial fast?

02:13:58 Sheen: Basically what he negotiated with Cesar was a compromise. Let us do this. And Cesar said, "Well, how would you do it?" He said, "Well, we will - each one of us will do three days, and we'll pass it on, and it will become exponential to the whole community, and the whole nation at large." And it was a stroke of genius.

02:14:30 Jackson: Whatever he may have lost in physical strength, he has more than compensated in spiritual strength. And so, we reach out to people around the nation, to people of goodwill who care, to join in this effort.

02:15:02 Male Voice: I don't know if he was in pain. He never mentioned pain or anything like that, but he said, "It's getting difficult now, so I'll be ending this fast pretty soon."

02:15:11 Son: It was probably like a Thursday evening or Friday morning that he says, "We'll end it, but we'll do it on Sunday." And I think he also understood, too, that that was the time that would afford people to celebrate with him because he knew that people would want to be with him as he broke the fast. And for workers, Sunday is the day that normally - you know, they work on Saturdays. And you know, and the funny thing is, is that you know, some of the media people would say, "Sunday is the worst time for press. Don't they know that TV stations have skeleton crews?"

02:15:44 And I said, "It's not about that, right." It was the time that workers could be with him, and so we began to make plans for a big celebration to end the fast.

02:15:57 Male Voice: Do we have biographical tape for a film of Cesar?

02:16:08 Brokaw: For more than a month now, he has been on a fast protesting the use of pesticides. He says he plans to eat again this Sunday, but there is great concern for his health between now and then.

02:16:46 Male Voice: Let's give a really well-organized farm worker applause to the Kennedy family.

02:16:57 Sheen: And today we are even more inspired than we have been all week, culminating here on this beautiful day, sharing with Cesar and with all of you.

02:17:10 There was something sacred going on. We were on sacred ground with him. He was about the business of doing something deeply spiritual and powerful, and extremely painful and dangerous.

02:17:24 Valdez: The presence of God was very basic in the sense that it was the Divine was present in these poor people. You know, there was no miracle beyond the fact that someone believed enough to stop eating for 36 days and was now breaking the fast as a gesture.

02:17:48 But it certainly dignified everybody. It gave you a sense of the fact that life is worth living because life was worth fighting for, all centered on the very humble and simple figure of Cesar Chavez, who ultimately is not so humble and not so simple at all.

02:18:26 Female Voice: There were three doctors taking care of Cesar during his fast. We all feel that Cesar is too weak to remain for the full day celebration, and have recommended that he stay only for the mass.

02:19:19 Male Voice: He was very weak by then, very weak . He couldn't have made it walking by himself. There was no way he could have done it. On the right hand side was Helen, his wife. And right next to him on the left hand side was my mother - Cesar's mother. And she was crying. Not only her, but a few of us were crying.

02:19:48 Tears of joy, of course, you know. And it was a very - a very, very touching moment, which I can relive this here. It brings back memories.

02:21:29 Male Voice: Cesar has broken his fast.

02:22:09 Huerta: I was elated that he had accomplished his goals, and I was elated that myself and the other medical staff, [unintelligible] Moses had kept him alive because the last thing any of us wanted was for him - to see him perish. I mean he still had work to do. He still had contributions to make. And you know, he was our leader. He was the leader of our movement. And more than anything - oh, sorry. More than anything, was to keep him alive and to keep the movement going.

02:23:28 Son: I remember when he took the bread, right, the host, I remember a tremendous sense of relief, right, thinking okay, now this is coming to an end. Now we can work on getting him strong and ready for the next fight. We can start work on getting him back strong again.

02:23:53 Harry: Cesar Chavez has dedicated his life to improving life for American farm workers. This past summer, he almost lost his life for the cause. Sixty-two-year-old Cesar Chavez is making his first public appearances since the fast, and joins us the morning. Good morning.

02:24:08 Chavez: Good morning, Harry.

Harry: How is your health first?

Chavez: I'm feeling almost there. I feel pretty good.

Harry: You want to renew and rededicate the grape boycott after all these years; after so many people have practically forgotten it.

02:24:24 Chavez: It's - we need to let the public know. We need to get their support and we need to do something very quickly about the use of pesticides on food, and in this case on grapes.

02:25:41 Female Voice: There was a public awakening about the issue of pesticides. We did get some legislation passed.

02:25:48 Hartmire: Some pesticides have been outlawed, actually that were used back in that period, but of course, outlawed in the usual government way.

02:25:59 Rodriguez: You know, I mean the conditions of farm workers today are unfortunately very much as they've been throughout the decades. It's still the hardest work out there in the nation. It's the most difficult work. It's the most dangerous work for men and women, and oftentimes children.

02:26:16 Male Voice: Humanity has come out of the fields in every corner of the earth. And it is only the most desperate, it is only the people that have to, that actually go out there to plant the seeds and to grow the food. They're the ones that are working under the most oppressive conditions, and they're the least paid in our country. The growers and the corporations that represent the growers have found every means at their disposal to sort of evade the question.

02:26:52 The question is, how do you improve working conditions in an occupation that is brutal by its very nature? How do you pay decent wages? Cesar felt this so personally, that the idea of fasting, of stopping and eating was not an act, a pretense. It was not a grandstand. It was an expression of the injustice of it all. And Cesar's example I think needs to continue to speak across the decades, precisely because this injustice has not been corrected.

02:27:52 Female Voice: Cesar had always told Richard that when he died, he wanted Richard to build his coffin.

02:27:58 Male Voice: He even said what kind of wood he wanted and all those kinds of things, you know, just plain pine, not finished, not - just scented, real nice. "I want it very nice, scented, but no polish on it, no stain, no paint, no nothing. I want plain wood where you can see the wood." That's what he got.

02:28:18 Female Voice: It was almost like Cesar knew that he was going to die before Richard.

02:28:47 Son: There was a lot of people that were grieving, and so we spent a lot of time comforting people, right.

02:29:14 Male Voice: There was a rosary said for him that night, and - and it was just immediate family, and the immediate staff from [unintelligible] that was there.

02:29:32 Male Voice: Through him, with him and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor and glorious almighty Father, forever and ever.



02:29:51 Male Voice: It was a funeral, and it was a funeral procession, but it was not - it was not morose. It was not dark. It was very bright. Once everybody was seated and in place, and the musicians were ready, then a special group, the last group, picked up Cesar's body and carried it into the tent.

02:30:52 Male Voice: We had an idea that a lot of people would want to participate in Cesar's funeral. And it was traditional anyway for us to lead processions from Memorial Park to the 40 acres, which a long throw up [unintelligible] Road. We didn't know, but were not surprised that 50,000 people showed up.

02:31:28 Chavez: The consciousness and pride are alive and thriving inside millions of young Hispanics who will never work on a farm. The farm workers gave them the hope that they could succeed, and the inspiration to work for change. The message was clear. If it could happen in the field, it could happen anywhere, in the cities, in the courts, in the city councils, in the state legislatures.

02:32:16 The day will come when we win the economic and political rewards which are in keeping with our numbers in society. The day will come when the politicians will do the right thing for our people out of political necessity and not out of charity or idealism.

02:32:42 And on that day, our nation shall fulfill its creed, and that fulfillment shall enrich us all.

End of Recording.