Name MODEL

Text Cesar Chavez's Commonwealth Club Address

In his speech to the California Common Wealth Club, Cesar Chavez says that terrible environmental damage has been caused in the U.S., and that the growers are to blame. He talks about the destruction at the end of his address, when he says, "Thousands of acres of land in California have already been irrevocably damaged" (190). Chavez states that the land has been poisoned and he is worried about the effects on people (211). He tells his audience that, "Health authorities in many San Joaquin Valley towns already warn young children and pregnant mothers not to drink the water" (193-195).

These problems, however, are not the workers' fault. Chavez claims that the growers have caused this environmental damage. He suggests that the growers have poisoned the soil and water with pesticides, herbicides, soil fumigants, and fertilizers (187-189). He also claims that if the growers do not stop poisoning the soil, that thousands more acres of land will be lost (190-192).Chavez blames the growers, not the farm workers he has organized and represents. He tells his audience, "These are the sins of growers, not the farm workers. We didn't poison the land." (210-211).

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