

Reuther Opens Farm Union's Center

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DELANO, Calif., Sept. 14—Walter P. Reuther, president of the United Automobile Workers union, joined today with Cesar Chavez, the farm labor leader, in dedicating a new union headquarters of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee.

The 30-room, \$85,000 building was dedicated in honor of the late Roy Reuther, Mr. Reuther's brother, who was one of the first labor leaders of national prominence to join the grape strike organized by the United Farm Workers.

Mr. Reuther's appearance at the dedication ceremonies was seen as a move to bolster the United Farm Workers in its four-year battle with table grape growers to achieve union representation for farm laborers.

As the season's table grape harvest in the Delano area nears an end, both sides in the struggle between the workers and the growers see little hope for a settlement in the near future.

What was considered to be a breakthrough for the farm labor movement—when 12 California growers sat down with union representatives in Los Angeles in July — has developed into an impasse. Negotiations are at a standstill, and

those involved see little chance of the talks being reopened soon.

An international boycott of table grapes continues to be the most powerful weapon of the farm labor organizers.

Mr. Reuther indicated today that his union would enter the boycott by organizing committees in various cities throughout the United States.

"We will assign U.A.W. members to the boycott," he said. "They will be comprised of local leaders and retired workers who will attempt to organize the full force of the labor movement behind the farm workers' cause."

Mr. Reuther said he considered the farm labor struggle a cause for all of organized labor.

The United Automobile Workers' support of the farm labor movement had been demonstrated by the fact that it contributed more than \$80,000 to the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee since its inception under Mr. Chavez, according to Mr. Reuther.

A U.A.W. gift of \$50,000 contributed to the realization of the new headquarters dedicated today.

One of the chief concerns of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee during

the last year has been the health of its leader, Mr. Chavez. Following a 25-day fast early in 1968, he became increasingly immobile due to severe back pains. The condition forced Mr. Chavez to bed and drastically restricted his leadership of the organizing movement.

During the last year, he has made only four public appearances.

The farm leader said that he planned to resume an active role in organizing efforts and in promotion of the grape boycott.

Within the next month, he said, he plans to embark on a speaking tour of 15 major industrial cities in the East.

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