

MINORITIES TO BACK BOYCOTT OF GRAPES

An eight-month boycott against table grapes grown in California is beginning to cut deeply into grape shipments here, according to Manuel Chavez of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee.

Mr. Chavez, whose brother Cesar has led a three-year strike for union recognition by California field workers, said yesterday that trade estimates showed that grape shipments

into New York since the May harvest season began totaled 200 box-car loads, only a fifth of those shipped by this time last year.

John Saylor of the Department of Agriculture's fresh fruits and vegetables division in Washington said his figures for May through July last year showed 228 carloads shipped to New York, and only 94 this year.

Shipments to all parts of the country last week totaled 545 carloads, he said, up from 496 last year at this time.

Mr. Chavez made his com-

ments yesterday at a news conference at the Overseas Press Club, 54 West 40th Street.

Flanked by six representatives of Negro and Puerto Rican groups, Mr. Chavez announced that the boycott would now be taken up here by minority-group allies.

Negroes and Puerto Ricans have already gone into chain food stores in South Brooklyn and Harlem and exacted promises from managers that they would not stock the California grapes until the union won recognition, Mr. Chavez said.

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