

GRAPE GROWERS FILE DAMAGE SUIT

California Group Puts Loss in Boycott at \$25-Million

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FRESNO, July 3—Growers of California table grapes told a United States District Court today that the nationwide boycott of their produce had caused them \$25-million in damages.

The damage figure was stated in a suit filed under the Sherman Antitrust Act. The complaint asked for an injunction against the boycott and treble damages, as provided by antitrust law, of \$75-million.

The boycott was begun a year ago by the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee and its leader, Cesar Chavez, as part of a three-year-long drive to organize employes of grape growers.

The suit was a class action on behalf of both growers and shippers. It was filed by the Central California Farmers Committee, Inc., of Dinuba, and 81 individual plaintiffs.

Shortly after the suit was filed, the growers obtained a court order authorizing the taking of depositions from executives of nine Chicago area food store executives.

In Delano, Mr. Chavez's attorney, Jerome Cohen, called the suit the growers' "annual attempt to scare the chain stores," who are urged by union members not to sell California table grapes.

Mr. Cohen said the farm workers might bring a countersuit alleging that the growers had acted "in restraint of trade" by threatening the few who had begun negotiations with the union.

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