

A GROWER DENIES GRAPE SPRAY USE

Disclaims Use of Pesticide
Named in Critical Report

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 30—A California grape grower whose product's pesticide content has been questioned testified today that he does not use the pesticide on his crop.

Anthony A. Bianco Jr., who lives in Fresno, told a Senate subcommittee he did not know how a residue of a toxic pesticide, aldrin, could have been found on a sample of grapes bearing his label.

Aldrin, a chlorinated hydrocarbon chemically related to DDT, is sometimes used as an agricultural pest control agent.

In an appearance before the Senate Subcommittee on Migratory Labor, Mr. Bianco asserted, "The aldrin scare is no more than another effort to whip me into submission."

The grower is one of numerous California farm owners who have been locked in a difficult struggle with the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee over the right of the union to act as a bargaining agent for field hands.

In California, where the union effort has been intense, growers of table grapes have refused to recognize the committee. The union, led by Cesar Chavez, its director, has fought back by organizing a national boycott of table grapes.

Both Mr. Bianco and the witness who concluded the two-day hearings, John G. Giumarra Jr., contended that the pesticide allegation was

brought in in order to promote the grape boycott. Mr. Giumarra is general counsel of a major vineyard in California that has been a target of the union organizers.

The hearings were called at the request of Senator George Murphy, Republican of Califor-

nia, who has expressed doubt over laboratory findings of excessive amounts of aldrin in grape samples. The union last month presented a laboratory report of a sample of grapes taken from a Washington grocery store. The report showed residues of aldrin 180 times the human tolerance level.