

# Union Chief Scores Boycott of Heublein

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SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 9—A rift between the A.F.L.-C.I.O. and its affiliated United Farm Workers Organizing Committee intensified today.

George Meany, president of the 1.6-million member labor federation, said he had not been consulted by the farm workers, headed by Cesar Chavez, on Mr. Chavez's plan for a nationwide boycott against the products of the Heublein Company.

In announcing the boycott here today, Delores Huerta, of the farm workers, also disclosed that the union had filed suit against Heublein in Fresno County charging that Heublein officials had "deceived and defrauded" Mr. Meany in their alleged contention that the company had no control over its suppliers of grapes.

Meanwhile, the executive council of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations continued its criticism of President Nixon's economic strategies, declaring in a policy statement that "gross mismanagement" by the Administration had put the nation in an "economic mess."

The council, holding its quarterly meeting here, reasserted its support of wage and price controls as the only way to curb inflation. The council, composed of the chief officers of A.F.L.-C.I.O. unions, said it was "prepared to cooperate with mandatory government controls, if the President decides they are necessary, provided such controls are even-handed and across the board."

## 'Untrue' Forecasts Scored

Noting the persistence of high unemployment rates and continuing inflation, the council decried the "chorus of patently untrue" economic forecasts by the Administration that it said were "undermining public confidence."

The council urged the Presi-

dent to release \$12-billion in funds appropriated for various Federal construction projects but frozen by the Administration. It also recommended as spurs to the sluggish economy full Congressional funding of Government programs such as low—and moderate— income housing, community facilities, education, health care and pollution controls. It said that a Federal public works program was also needed.

To increase consumer purchasing power, the council called again for an increase in the Federal minimum wage law to \$2 an hour from the present \$1.60 and urged rapid expansion of money and credit at lower interest rates.

The boycott of Heublein products, which include Swiss Colony Wine, Smirnoff Vodka and Colonel Sanders Kentucky Fried Chicken, was an attempt by the farm workers to force contract negotiations with the grape producers who supply the company. Officials of Heublein were not immediately available for comment, but the company has contended that it has no control over its independent suppliers.

The farm workers dispute that position and charge that through fraud and deception the company convinced Mr. Meany not to support its boycott.

## Meany Wants Proof

At a news conference following this morning's executive council meeting, Mr. Meany said the A.F.L.-C.I.O. constitution prevented his support of the boycott. He said that Heublein had had good labor relations and that several unions affiliated with the federation had contracts with the company.

Mr. Meany said he had not been consulted by Mr. Chavez and declared, "If they think Heublein has deceived me—they are part of the A.F.L.-C.I.O.—I would be delighted if they came in and showed me

how." Mr. Meany noted that the executive council had supported earlier boycotts of the farm workers against grape and lettuce growers where there had been no conflict with other unions.

The farm workers over the last year have negotiated contracts with most of the large California growers of table grapes after a five-year battle in which the union won wide national support by consumers in boycotting the fruit.

In its suit, the farm workers named as defendants Heublein and Allied Grape Growers of California, an association of 1,700 grape producers in the state. The union charged that the defendants had conspired to prevent the organization of vineyard workers in violation of the Federal antitrust laws. The union asked the court for damages totaling \$42.5-million.

In his news conference at the Mark Hopkins Hotel, Mr. Meany said that "from every point of view, the economic program of Nixon has been a complete failure." Calling the economy "a mess," he said, is "an understatement."

Mr. Meany first announced his belief that wage and price controls were needed last month.

The council also issued a policy statement calling for Federal tax reform and criticizing the Administration's policies in that regard. "Rather than furthering the goals of tax justice, the Administration has relentlessly pursued tax policies which would heap more of the tax burden upon the shoulders of wage and salary workers and redistribute still greater shares of the nation's wealth and income to those who need it the least," the council stated.