

LABOR VOTES FUND FOR CHAVEZ UNION

**\$1.6-Million Will Be Used in
Fight With Teamsters**

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WASHINGTON, May 9—The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organization voted today to give Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers \$1.6-million over the next three months. The money is to help the small union in its struggle with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters for control of the grape growers in the Coachella Valley of California.

Officials of the federation agreed that the action was tantamount to a declaration of open war by the labor federation on the two-million-member teamsters' union.

The teamsters signed labor contracts recently with growers in the Coachella Valley to represent most of the grape workers who formerly had been represented by the United Farm Workers.

George Meany, president of the Federation, repeated today his charge that the teamsters were engaged in "vicious union busting" and said that the \$1.6-million would be used to help Mr. Chavez's union conduct an effective strike against the growers.

The federation's Executive Council voted today to raise the money for the farm workers by assessing member unions 4 cents a member in each of the next three months.

Purpose of Funds

Mr. Chavez, who was present at Mr. Meany's news briefing after the council meeting, said that the money would be used to sustain strikers and their families during the grape harvesting season. He said that initially the money would help support about 2,500 union members who ordinarily harvest the table grapes grown in the valley.

But he added that the money would also go to outside workers brought in by the teamsters and the growers to harvest the grapes. "These are hungry men, men without a job," Mr. Chavez said, expressing the belief that the outsiders would respect farm worker picket lines if they were assured of food and shelter.

Mr. Meany said that the federation "will do what is necessary to keep the union alive."

On another issue, the Executive Council issued a statement declaring that the Administration could no longer "reasonably expect the trade union movement to counsel moderation of wage increases."

Noting the sharply rising cost of living and what it said was the failure of the Administration to control profits or interest rates while wages were held within guidelines, the council said that the economic stabilization program was no longer "tolerable."

"We have no further alternative but to seek equity at the bargaining table," the council stated in what appeared to be a clear invitation to unions to seek wage settlements higher than the Phase 3 guidelines, which nominally limit wage increases to 5.5 per cent a year.

However, Mr. Meany said the executive council decided not to recommend that labor representatives leave the labor-management advisory committee of the Cost of Living Council.