

Picket Shot, Many More Arrested in Grape Strike

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DELANO, Calif., Aug. 2 —

Arrests and violence swept across the San Joaquin Valley today as the United Farm Workers Union pressed its strike against California table grape growers.

There were hundreds of arrests. There were reports of many more clashes between striking pickets and both teamsters and sheriff's deputies. But the cause of most concern was an outbreak of shooting that began late yesterday.

In Tulare County, the sheriff's department said that a farm union picket had been shot and that during the same attack several bullets had also pierced the car of a free-lance photographer from San Francisco. The photographer was not injured. In all, the sheriff's department said that about a dozen shots had been fired.

In Fresno County, where tensions were also particularly high, more than 250 pickets were arrested before noon today. Among those arrested was Dorothy Day, 76-year-old leader of the Catholic Workers Movement who has been here on the picket lines with the farm workers the last two days.

The worker who was shot was identified by the sheriff's department as Joseph V. Monzon, 18. Deputies said that he had been on a picket line of 60 workers at the Tudor Ranch. They added that he was the only person struck by the shots that were reportedly fired from a passing truck. He was struck in the upper part of his right shoulder and was not in serious condition.

Violence-Caused Arrests

Before this week most of the arrests were for violations of injunctions that restrict picket line activities. But in recent days, a number of persons have been charged with assault.

The arrests and the increased violence reflect the bitterness that began to develop earlier this week when the farm union called strikes against the 29 growers in the Delano area, producers of some 40 per cent of all the table grapes grown in California.

The strike against the Delano growers was significant not only because they are the largest in the state but also because it was here in 1965 that the effort to unionize the growers began and it was here that the first contract was signed in 1970.

Disputes over three basic issues serve as the background in the squabble that has resulted in the growers refusing to sign with the farm union led by Cesar Chavez. Instead, most of those who once held contracts with the farm union have signed with the Interna-

tional Brotherhood of Teamsters. Thus far the prime exception has been the grower in the Delano area who have not signed with any union.

However, Jim Smith, the teamsters' area supervisor, said last night that he had begun talks with the Delano growers. He said he had informed them that the teamsters represented a majority of the workers in their fields and had asked that they sign teamster contracts. The owners made no comment following the meeting.

Opposition to Chavez

John J. Giumarra, operator of the largest grape-growing company in the area, said in an interview yesterday that while Delano owners wanted peace he did not believe there were any circumstances under which they would ever again sign contracts with Mr. Chavez and his union.

"He can boycott and do all he wants to do," Mr. Giumarra said, "but I don't think the growers will ever sign with him again."

In recent days the Giumarra vineyards have been a particular target of the farm union pickets. Still Mr. Giumarra said he was getting in his harvest. He said that to protect his workers he had already hired some armed guards and that he would take on more if necessary.

Statements by the growers that they will never again sign with the farm union, along with the teamsters' insistence on getting those contracts tend to show the depth of this dispute.

On the other hand, the farm union says that it is prepared for a long struggle and predicts victory.

"We're not going to pick up the phone and call them [the growers] but we're going to raise so much hell on the picket lines that they will call us," Mr. Chavez, the farm union leader, said.

Meany-Fitzsimmons Talks

Mr. Chavez returned here late yesterday from a trip to Chicago where he met with George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations. While there, Mr. Chavez said, he also delivered a progress report on the strike to the A.F.L.-C.I.O. Executive Council.

Mr. Chavez said that the council had again pledged total support for his union in its dispute with the growers and the teamsters. The labor federation had already given the farm union \$1.6-million to help finance its strike.

In an interview on his return here Mr. Chavez disclosed that there had been secret talks be-

tween officials of the A.F.L.-C.I.O. and the Teamsters' Union in an effort to encourage the teamsters to drop their attempts to organize the farm workers who had belonged to the farm union.

Mr. Chavez said that another meeting between Mr. Meany and Frank Fitzsimmons, president of the Teamsters' Union, was scheduled to take place tomorrow.

This is not the classic labor dispute with management on one side and the union on the other. Instead, with the presence of the teamsters, this is a complex three-cornered fight that is filled with the unusual.

It is also a strike that virtually nobody sees except those involved. It begins each day long before dawn with pickets at isolated labor camps attempting to discourage workers who cross their lines.

And from there it switches to the narrow, dusty roads that line the huge vineyards that take up so much of the vast expanse of this valley that is now piping hot. It is on these narrow roads where the violence has begun to creep into the strike.

On Tuesday there were clashes in which the farm union charged the sheriff's department in Kern County with beating dozens of its workers. It was on the narrow roads of Fresno County where dozens of priests and nuns were jailed two days ago along with hundreds of farm workers. And yesterday, on one of these

roads in Tulare County the first shootings of the strike occurred.

Farm Union Blamed

Mr. Giumarra, the grower, says that the talks with the farm union would not have ended in a strike had the union agreed not to conduct any future boycotts and had it not insisted on the right to punish workers who had crossed picket lines and the continuing of the union hiring hall.

He said he believed that the union wanted the strike. He has come to refer to the union headquarters as the academy of revolution and indoctrination and says it is all Mr. Chavez's fault.

"When I tell people that they have been betrayed by Chavez, I'm serious," he said.

The teamsters are looking for more contracts. They blame the farm union for the violence. But on Tuesday when some of the most serious incidents occurred, there were teamsters, too, on the narrow streets where the fighting took place.

The teamsters now hint that if the Delano growers do not soon sign contracts with them, they too may have to call a strike here in the San Joaquin Valley.

Mr. Chavez, who once worked the fields of Delano, says that the problem is that the growers do not want any union. He says that they have forgotten why they signed contracts in the first place.

"They signed because they were in a lot of trouble," he said.