

Meany Says Teamsters Renege On a Farm Labor Peace Accord

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 (AP) —George Meany accused the Teamsters union today of renegeing on a farm-labor peace agreement with the A.F.L.-C.I.O. and threatened to retaliate with a nationwide boycott of some California agricultural products.

He said that the giant labor federation which he heads would "take whatever actions are appropriate" to support Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers, including consideration of a boycott.

A spokesman said any boycott would involve grapes, lettuce and other row crops.

Mr. Meany denounced the Teamsters' president, Frank E. Fitzsimmons, who has denied that his union had an agreement with the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations to leave the organizing of California farm laborers to Mr. Chavez's U.F.W.

Following a meeting in San

Diego yesterday with California growers, Mr. Fitzsimmons told newsmen his union would honor most contracts signed this year. The pacts with the growers cover between 30,000 and 40,000 field hands.

Mr. Meany responded with a statement in which he released the text of what he said was a tentative peace agreement. He said he could not explain why Mr. Fitzsimmons "has now chosen to renege on that agreement."

Mr. Meany said three days of negotiations in Washington among top officials of the A.F.L.-C.I.O., the Teamsters and Mr. Chavez's union had led to a Sept. 28 truce announcement "It was a full and complete agreement and was not subject to further negotiation," he asserted.

But in San Diego, Mr. Fitzsimmons said, "There was no tentative agreement. It was a discussion of the facts. There was no agreement to be broken."

The New York Times

Published: November 17, 1973

Copyright © The New York Times