

Chavez Is Pressing Nationwide Boycott In Lettuce Dispute

SALINAS, Calif., Sept. 19 (AP)—Cesar Chavez, the farm labor leader, is bringing his most potent weapon—a nationwide boycott—to bear on all United States-grown lettuce that does not carry his union's label.

He announced Thursday that the boycott would focus on 64 major cities across the country and "it will be on until the last lettuce grower is signed."

The United Farm Workers used the same tactic in bringing the nation's largest table grape growers to the bargaining table early this summer after a five-year dispute.

One Salinas area grower now carries the group's black Aztec eagle label. The grower is the Inter Harvest Company, a subsidiary of the United Fruit

Corporation and the nation's largest lettuce grower.

Two Western grower organizations have announced plans to fight a boycott.

The California Council of Growers and the Western Growers Association announced a campaign to convince grocers and the public that their lettuce is also union-produced, under Teamsters union contracts.

Mr. Chavez moved his organizers into the valley less than a week after the rival International Brotherhood of Teamsters announced it had signed most valley growers to contracts covering 13,000 field workers.

Herbert Fleming, a spokesman for 70 grower-shippers who have signed teamster contracts, said, "Chavez will be trying to boycott produce that is grown, harvested and shipped by teamsters union workers."

Mr. Chavez contends that the teamster contracts are "sweet-heart" agreements and says his American Federation of Labor and Congress of Indus-

trial Organizations affiliate represents the field workers.

The Salinas Valley produces 70 per cent of the nation's solid-head lettuce.

Union field workers, now in their fourth week of striking, have slowed shipments of lettuce from last year's high of 242,000 24-head cartons daily to 195,000 daily this year as prices climbed, doubling in some places.

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