

# Hundreds Arrested as Strikers Defy Court to Picket at California Vineyards

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ARVIN, Calif., July 18—Striking farm workers were arrested by the hundreds here today as they angrily carried out a series of noisy and often tense demonstrations that defied court orders.

The huge protest that involved nearly 1,500 workers began in the predawn chill and had not ended by late afternoon although the sun was broiling hot and more than 500 persons had been arrested.

Mass arrests filled the main Kern County jail in nearby Bakersfield and forced the sheriff's department to haul hundreds of the strikers off to confinement in the neighboring towns of Shafter, Wasco and Delano.

The demonstrations and the arrests today called new attention to the dispute between the United Farmworkers Union and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters for the right to represent the workers who harvest the grapes grown in the lush California vineyards.

The focus of the dispute between the two unions moved to the San Joaquin Valley two days ago, bringing with it a bitterness built up in a month of grape harvesting in the Coachella Valley to the south. The harvest in the Coachella Valley ended last week and the workers who pick the grapes began their work in the Arvin-Lamont area on Monday.

A year ago the harvest was produced by workers under contracts held by the United Farmworkers Union led by Cesar Chavez. But when those contracts expired earlier this year, the 19 major growers here refused to sign new agreements with the Chavez union, turning instead to the teamsters.

The Chavez Union has declared the action of the growers both illegal and improper and has called strikes against the growers and a war on the teamsters.

Although the harvest did not begin here until Monday, strikes were called weeks ago during the thinning season and injunctions were obtained by

the growers at that time to limit the picketing by the followers of Mr. Chavez. It was an assault on those injunctions that brought the mass arrests here today.

Mr. Chavez assailed the injunctions as part of "a systematic infringement on our constitutional rights" by the Kern County authorities.

The injunctions prohibit the use of bullhorns outside vineyards for periods of more than one hour and require that pickets be spaced at least 100 feet apart.

Even before the arrests Mr. Chavez said that "the Sheriff has pushed enforcement of these unconstitutional injunctions to extremes not seen since the days of Bull Connor in Birmingham, Ala."

He also accused the sheriff and his deputies of being partial to the teamsters in the dispute. As an example, he charged that deputies took no action last month when teamsters, whom he referred to as "goons," attacked a picket line

with pipes and clubs. Mr. Chavez said that 20 of his people were injured in the incident but that the District Attorney charged the teamsters involved only with misdemeanors.

As a result of that and other complaints, Mr. Chavez said, he is asking the Attorney General of the United States to look into possible infringement of the civil rights of the striking farmworkers.

While today's arrests were taking place along the narrow, dusty roads that line the vineyards, teamsters officials were holding a news conference at a downtown hotel denying charges of intimidation and beatings made by Mr. Chavez and accusing members of the Chavez union of provoking violence.

Jim Smith, the teamsters area supervisor, said that his union now held contracts with 26 growers in the area and predicted that the teamsters would get "100 per cent of the contracts" in Delano when they ex-

pired in 11 days.

In addition to the strikes, the United Farmworkers are attempting to force growers to continue their contracts with

them by calling a national boycott of grapes, similar to the one instituted in the late nineteen-sixties when the grape harvesters were first unionized.