

Teamsters Void Grape Accords Reached During Chavez Parley

WASHINGTON, Aug. 21 (UPI) —The president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Frank E. Fitzsimmons, repudiated today contracts his field agents negotiated with 30 California grape growers during teamster peace talks with César Chavez of the United Farm Workers. He thus opened the way for resumption of the talks.

In letters to growers repudiating the contracts signed since Aug. 9, Mr. Fitzsimmons also hinted that he might abandon his entire organizing fight with Mr. Chavez when he told the growers that the teamsters "have no interest in organizing your employes in the vineyards in and around Delano, Calif."

Mr. Fitzsimmons' action did not affect more than 30 contracts the teamsters signed away from the United Farm Workers before Aug. 9. Those agreements are the subject of the peace talks between the teamsters and Mr. Chavez.

Meeting With Meany

The agreement for the teamsters to disclaim the contracts signed since Aug. 9 was reached yesterday in a meeting between Mr. Fitzsimmons and George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations. Mr. Meany has said that any settlement of the dispute must include restoration to the United Farm Workers of all contracts the teamsters have taken away.

A.F.L.-C.I.O. officials said Mr. Fitzsimmons' repudiation of the contracts signed during the negotiations with Mr. Chavez opened the way to resume those talks. But they said no specific meetings had so far been arranged.

Mr. Chavez walked out of the peace talks with teamster Vice President Einar Mohn Aug. 9 in California after learning that teamster representatives had signed with 30 more grape growers after the negotiations began.

The next day, Mr. Fitzsimmons issued a statement denouncing his field representative for signing the agreements while talks with Mr. Chavez were going on. But at that time, he took no action to cancel the agreements.

In his letters to the 30 growers, Mr. Fitzsimmons said, "No person has or had been authorized to enter into any such agreement with you on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters or any of its affiliates.

"We therefore disclaim and repudiate such purported agreement as being unauthorized," Mr. Fitzsimmons wrote. "The International Brotherhood of Teamsters and its affiliates have no interest in organizing your employes in the vineyards in and around Delano, Calif."

Violence has marred the strike Mr. Chavez called against the table-grape growers who signed with the teamsters as soon as their contracts with the United Farm Workers expired. Two of the farm workers' union members were killed last week, one by a sniper and the other allegedly in a scuffle with a deputy sheriff.

Chavez Incredulous

Special to The New York Times

ARVIN, Calif., Aug. 21 — Mr. Chavez said he felt that Mr. Fitzsimmons' statement was no more than a reiteration of the teamster leader's repudiation Aug. 11 of the contracts with the 30 Delano-area growers.

"It doesn't mean anything," said Mr. Chavez. He said he did not believe that the contracts had, in fact, been invalidated. He added that he had no meetings on the subject currently scheduled with the teamsters or with Mr. Meany.

"What is important," said Mr. Chavez, "is that we still don't have contracts. We have to get the growers," he said, regardless of what the teamsters do.

John Giumarra Jr., a spokesman for the growers, said this afternoon the 30 Delano-area growers felt that the contracts they signed with the teamsters on Aug. 9 were still "legally binding."

Mr. Giumarra said that "as far back as March" the teamsters were saying they represented workers in the Delano area and were attempting to organize there "with the knowledge of higher-ups in the teamsters."