

7 Farm Union Aides Arrested For Trespassing on Coast Farm

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EARLIMART, Calif., Sept. 21 —Seven organizers for the United Farm Workers were arrested yesterday for trespassing at the Marco Zaninovich ranch here.

Regulations of the state's Agricultural Labor Relations Board permit organizers access to workers in the field for an hour at lunch, and an hour before and after work.

Sources at the scene said the organizers had been at the ranch during a prescribed time when they were arrested. A spokesman for the authorities, who asked not to be identified, said that he thought the arrests had been made in compliance with the state's trespassing law.

The access rule has been a source of great controversy for the last month during the first round of secret ballot union representation elections held under the state's new farm labor law—first of its kind in the nation.

There have been a spate of lawsuits on the rule, with the growers holding the upper hand until this week, when the California Supreme court issued a stay of a lower court decision that had thrown out the access rule.

Jerry Cohen, the union's chief counsel, said that by continuing to make arrests local sheriffs in rural California counties "continue to ignore the law and serve the growers." "Thus far, the mechanisms for enforcing the guarantees of the new law are almost nonexistent," he said.

Tomorrow, United Farm Workers leaders will meet at their headquarters in Keene, about 100 miles south of here, to discuss ways to attempt to get the Agricultural Board to strengthen enforcement of the access regulation.

Last week, the board issued the first complaints under the law in charging two growers with unfair labor practices.

The farm labor law, which

went into effect Aug. 28, provides that farm workers cannot be dismissed for seeking to form or join a union.

On Friday, the board issued a complaint against Rose J. Farms and Valley Farms, two Fresno-area fruit growers, saying they had illegally dismissed workers because of their support of the union, and had "interfered with, restrained and coerced" other U.F.W. supporters.

The board's action came in response to a score of unfair labor practice charges filed with it by the union. The union's president, Cesar Chavez, has asserted that there has been considerable intimidation of workers supporting his union.

This week, the board also decided to count ballots in 32 elections in the Salinas area, hub of the nation's lettuce industry. The ballots had been impounded because of legal disputes. The International Brotherhood of Teamsters Union initially won 13 of the elections and the Farm Workers 12. The workers at three farms voted against having a union and there was no result in four of the elections because of a large number of challenged ballots. Previously, all 32 ranches were under contract to the teamsters.

Thus far, the teamsters have won 61 elections and the U.F.W. 54, although the latter has polled more votes. Each union has won the right to represent about the same number of workers, though, because each has won some very large elections and some small ones.

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