

# 2D GRAPE GROWER AGREES TO A UNION

## Di Giorgio, Largest Coast Employer, Backs Balloting

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SAN FRANCISCO, April 7—

The largest employer of vineyard workers in the strike-centered Delano area came out today in favor of organizing farm labor.

Robert Di Giorgio, head of the Di Giorgio Corporation, proposed that secret-ballot elections be held on the four Di Giorgio California farms, totaling 20,000 acres, to ascertain whether the workers wanted to be represented by any labor union. Not all details of the proposal were acceptable to union spokesmen.

The Di Giorgio Corporation is involved in the bulk wine business. It owns S. & W. Fine Foods, Inc.

"Why shouldn't farm labor be organized?" Mr. Di Giorgio asked at a news conference in the San Francisco Press Club. "Why should they be second-class citizens?"

This break with the traditional attitude of California agricultural employers was the second startling development in two days originating in the grape workers strike that began in September in the Delano area of the southern San Joaquin Valley.

Yesterday Schenley Industries, Inc., target of a nationwide boycott instituted in December by the National Farm Workers Association, an independent group, recognized the N.F.W.A. as the sole bargaining representative of its field workers. Negotiations are to be started on a farm labor contract.

Schenley owns the Dubonnet Wine Corporation. It sells Roma vine, Cresta Blanca vine and Dubonnet aperitif.

### March Nearing End

Headed by Cesar Chavez, the association's director, a group of its members and sympathizers is nearing the end of a 300-mile march from Delano to Sacramento seeking a legislative program to aid the field workers.

Mr. Di Giorgio was critical of the Schenley pact, which he said "appears to be a deal between attorneys representing Schenley and the A.F.L.-C.I.O., and takes little cognizance of the expressed wishes of the agricultural workers whose destinies are at stake."

Mr. Di Giorgio, in a letter sent last night to Mr. Chavez, stated:

"I think you will find that our recommendations which follow are consistent with the traditional democratic processes of the American labor movement."

Under the Di Giorgio program, which the company president acknowledged would not have been suggested at the time the strike began, the California State Conciliation Service would conduct immediate elections on the company's ranches and orchards. Should any labor organization win any of the elections, Di Giorgio would recognize that union as the bargaining representative at the facility involved. The four properties, Mr. Di Giorgio said, employed 1,163 workers as of April 1.

A key paragraph in the proposal provided that if no agreement were reached after 30 days' of collective bargaining between the winning union and Di Giorgio, unresolved issues would be submitted to a three-member impartial board of arbitration, whose decision would be binding.

This was suggested as a safeguard to prevent the loss of perishables at harvest time through a strike resulting from lack of a contract.

Mr. DiGiorgio predicted unionization would come to farm labor nationally in time, but he doubted whether Congress would put farm workers under the National Labor Relations Act without placing "some safeguards" around the move.