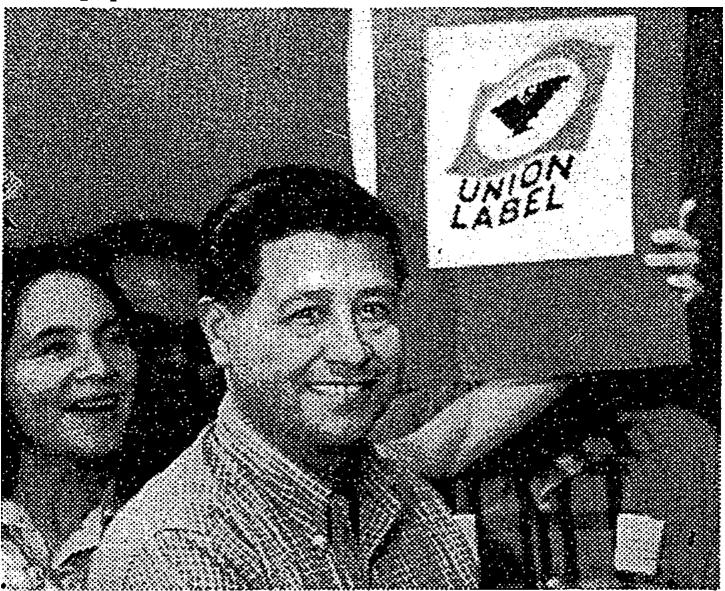
First Grapes With Union Label Shipped to Market From Coast



United Press International

Cesar Chavez with supporters carrying the union label

By STEVEN V. ROBERTS

Special to The New York Times

a union label-a fierce black eagle in a white circle on a red flag—were shipped to market this week.

The event marked a turning point in the historic effort of farm workers to win union recognition and labor contracts here in the lush farmlands of Larson's brother, the vote was central California.

In the last two months, the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, headed by Cesar Chavez, has signed contracts with seven grape grow who had long feared that the ers representing about 4 per union would threaten their cent of the grape industry. Many more growers are waiting to see how the union grapes sell before committing themselves. No figures are available yet, but Keene Larson, a grower in the Coachella Valley, about 300 miles south of Delano, reported that "the demand seems to be very healthy for grapes in areas like Boston and New York, and that hasn't been apparent for the last two years."

DELANO, Calif., May 30-Freedman and Company and The first table grapes bearing the Wonder Palms Ranch, both in the Coachella Valley.

A few weeks later, Mr. Larson, who has traveled around the country arguing that farm workers do not want a union, agreed to have an election on his ranch. In a secret ballot, the workers voted 72 to 2 in favor of the union. At the ranch of C. C. Larson, Keene unanimous for the union.

Pressure Still On

The union, however, is not all living off the same vine." relaxing its pressure. "We hope The union contracts have rethese contracts will have a flected this spirit of conciliadomino effect, but the battle is tion. Workers are getting \$1.75 not over by any means," said an hour, a raise of 10 cents, Jerome Cohen, a lawyer for the plus a 25-cent bonus for each union, which has its headquar- box picked. Next year the rate ters in Delano, 150 miles north- goes up to \$1.90. east of Los Angeles. "We still "Both sides had a political have a full-scale fight on our problem as well as an economic hands."

the growers by continuing its na-were expecting a bigger wage tionwide boycott of nonunion increase and the growers were grapes while urging its sup- under a lot of pressure from porters to buy union fruit- other growers not to raise wage when they can find it.

the stores are marked only by nomics, they were able to reach labels on the wooden shipping a settlement." crates. Later shipments will also have union labels stuck on the grapes.

Mexican-American and Filipino Rev. Roger Mahoney, a staff farm strike against the table grape mittee, explained: industry more than four years "I don't like to use the word ago (they have had contracts racism, but a feeling really exwith the wine industry for sev- ists between the growers and eral years) but the rootlessness their Mexican-American workand poverty of union members, ers. The growers had to comin addition to a number of re- pletely switch their relation-strictive court rulings, made ships. They're not used to the strike ineffective. So the union shifted its main their workers; for efforts to the boycott, which they've just been telling them became an impotrant political this is the way it's going to be. issue in cities across the coun- They're not used to dealing try. "The boycott has had a with workers on an equal significant impact on the plane." market," conceded Anthony Bianco, one of the growers to maining growers will sign sign a union contract "and any contracts willingly. Many still grower who doesn't admit it is hate and fear the union, and a liar."

Last week, Mr. Blanco and two other growers became the first ranchers here in the San Joaquin Valley to sign. It was not an easy decision for men whole industry and way of life.

"It was time we started thinking with our heads instead of our hearts," said Mr. Bianco, whose business has entered bankruptcy proceedings. "Every year Chavez was getting stronger and stronger, and if the union didn't come today it would come tomorrow. Labor will be organized, it's the way the whole country is going."

"The union has really been very reasonable," added Keene Larson, "they don't want to destroy the grape grower. We're

one," said one observer of the The union intends to keep up negotiations. "The union had a pressure on recalcitrant problem with workers who levels, but once they were able Union grapes now reaching to separate politics from eco-

Not the Only Barrier

Money was not the only ob-Mr. Chavez and his union of stacle to an agreement. The workers started their member for the Bishops' com-

Talks Break Down

Last opened negotiations with the honey said: union, but the talks broke down.

vived negotiations this year but the Bishops are saying that was a special committee set to live like à Christian you up by the National Conference have to be concerned with the of Catholic Bishops, headed by everyday problems of people. Bishop Joseph F. Donnelly of Everybody is for social justice Hartford. The Bishops acted as someplace else. When you get neutral observers during the in your own backyard, that's talks and the first contracts where you really have were signed April 1 by David problem."

sitting down and talking with decades

No one pretends that the resome of their animosity has rubbed off on the Catholic Church, which helped arrange spring, 12 growers the settlements, Father Ma-

"A lot of people are telling us that you can't mix religion One of the catalysts that re- with economics and politics, a

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