Chavez Says His Union Is Suing the Pentagon

César Chavez, head of the United Farm Workers Union, announced at a rally here yesterday that the union had sued the Defense Department to prohibit the Army from buying lettuce from a concern being boycotted by the farm workers.

Mr. Chavez, who led a successful boycott of California grape growers, announced the suit at a rally of farm workers and other union laborers outside the Federal Court House at Foley Square.

The suit, asking injunctive relief, accused the Defense Department of buying lettuce from the Bud Antle Company to break the union boycott and of halting purchases from those growers who have signed contracts with the union.

Such actions, the suit alleged, violated the workers' First Amendment rights to organize and freely associate. The Defense Department had no immediate response to the suit's allegations.

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