

WOODCOCK URGES AN F.B.I. INQUIRY

Asks Action in Alleged Plot
to Assassinate Chavez

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 — Leonard Woodcock, president of the United Auto Workers, called today on the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate an alleged conspiracy to kill the farm workers organizer Cesar Chavez.

"The F.B.I. [should] involve itself immediately in this investigation before men are killed," he said.

This afternoon, Jerry Cohen, general counsel for the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee in California, and Stephen Schlossberg, general counsel for the auto union, met with F.B.I. officials to discuss the reported assassination plot.

Farm Owners Accused

At a news conference here this morning, Mr. Cohen contended a "private conspiracy to deprive people of their civil rights" had been created, and that the matter fell under the F.B.I.'s jurisdiction.

A spokesman for the F.B.I. said that he had no comment on the request for an investigation.

Mr. Schlossberg said that he felt the bureau officials he had met with had been "very sympathetic." He also said that he would meet with David Norman, Assistant Attorney General for civil rights, in the next few days to ask the Justice Department to move into the case.

"I hope to convince them this is a matter the F.B.I. should be involved in," he said.

Mr. Chavez, who has led a



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CALLING FOR F.B.I. INVESTIGATION: Larry Shears, left, who revealed last month an alleged plot against Cesar Chavez, with Leonard Woodcock, president of United Auto Workers, during conference at which they called for investigation of the charges.

bitter fight to organize farmworkers in California, was reportedly the target of a \$30,000 plot last year to assassinate him and burn the records of his union.

Larry Shears, who said that he is a former police informer in California and who made details of the alleged plot public last month, said today that three or four farm owners in Delano, Calif., had been behind the reported conspiracy. He said that he had approached the al-

cohol, tobacco and firearms enforcement division of the Internal Revenue Service last spring in an attempt to stop the assassination plot.

However, he said, the Federal agency ended its investigation of the alleged conspiracy in September.

Mr. Cohen said that he still feared an attempt would be made on Mr. Chavez's life. "The people who put up the money have not been apprehended," he said. The union

lawyer said that the person who was to give the money to a man hired to kill Mr. Chavez had left the country, making the case an interstate violation that should be investigated by the F.B.I.

Mr. Woodcock said that the California U.A.W. had added \$10,000 to an award of an equal amount being offered by the United Farm Workers for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the alleged plot.