

Chavez Now Poised For Boycott-Strike Of Teamster Work

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30 (AP) — Armed with a California Supreme Court ruling, Cesar Chavez, leader of the United Farm Workers Union, is poised for a possible boycott-strike against 45 California "lettuce belt" employers with field hands under contract with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

"We are now making a demand on the growers to sit down and negotiate and sign contracts with a legitimate representative of the workers, the U.F.W.," Mr. Chavez said following yesterday's decision.

"Unless the growers . . . negotiate, they will face a massive boycott and strike," the labor leader said.

In a 6 to 1 ruling, the high court found that agricultural shippers and growers in the Salinas and Santa Maria Valleys had entered an exclusive five-year "union shop" agreement for their field workers without attempting to find out

whether their workers supported the teamsters.

It said the U.F.W. could resume picketing and other union activities against the growers.

The U.F.W. said the high court's action essentially threw out a Monterey County Superior Court injunction prohibiting the union from picketing and carrying out a secondary lettuce boycott against lettuce picked by non-U.F.W. members.

There was no immediate comment from the teamsters union.

The court found that the growers' teamsters contracts could validly remain in effect, but it stated:

"From a practical point of view, an employer's grant of exclusive bargaining status to a nonrepresentative union must be considered the ultimate form of favoritism, completely substituting the employers' choice of unions for his employes' desires."

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