

ever, Mr. Fitzsimmons has been edging away, declining explicitly to reaffirm it. His evasiveness continued last week at a California meeting with leading growers. The result has been a decision by Mr. Chavez to widen his boycott of grapes and lettuce grown under Teamster contracts and also of wine made from such grapes.

The consumer boycott is a poor weapon; but the continued deceit practiced by the Teamsters and the gross imbalance in the forces aligned against Mr. Chavez leave him no other instrument of resistance. The basic need remains for passage by Congress of a law extending to farm workers the same machinery for free elections and enforcement of fair labor practices that other American workers have had for nearly four decades.

Teamster Fakery

In line with a long string of broken promises, the giant International Brotherhood of Teamsters seems well on its way toward repudiating its latest pledge to stop blocking the organizational progress of the United Farm Workers, a tiny union rich only in idealism.

Two months ago the Teamsters' president, Frank E. Fitzsimmons, assured George Meany of the A.F.L.-C.I.O. that his union would leave the organizing of laborers in California's vineyards and lettuce fields to the farm union. That commitment implied a readiness by the Teamsters to junk the shabby partnership some of its local leaders had formed with the large growers to exterminate the U.F.W. and discredit its crusading leader, Cesar Chavez.

Ever since the supposed promise to Mr. Meany, how-