



United Farm Workers' Representative Cesar Chavez, right, met with federal Labor Minister John Munro and NDP leader Ed Broadbent, left, during a visit to Ottawa.

UPI

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Chavez vows UFW backing for Canadian farm workers

OTTAWA — (CP) — The United Farm Workers of America (UFW) would support any attempts by Canadian agricultural workers to form unions, UFW president Cesar Chavez said yesterday.

Chavez, touring eastern Canada to publicize the UFW's boycott of California grapes and lettuce, told a news conference that such support can take the form of money from the UFW and

help in organizing a United States boycott of Canadian produce.

However, he said he was not familiar with the farm labor situation in Canada and the Canadian farm workers would have to do their own organizing.

"It would be presumptuous of us to impose ourselves on them . . . to tell them that they need a union."

Chavez' visit to Ottawa in-

cluded a lunch meeting with Labor Minister John Munro and a group of MPs and a demonstration at a local Dominion Stores Ltd. supermarket. Dominion is the chief target of the boycott in eastern Canada.

At a breakfast meeting in Hull with local clergy, Bishop Adolphe Proulx, of the Roman Catholic Hull diocese, called on his parishioners to boycott Dominion stores.

Bishop Proulx said later in an interview he was prompted to make the plea because Dominion acquired a court injunction last week in Quebec which prohibits picketing of its stores.

"Dominion stores are helping the big California growers exploit the farm workers . . . I am asking all Christians who are aware of the injustices and who want to present some solidarity with the poor farm workers . . . not to shop at Dominion."

Chavez said Munro indicated general support for the attempts to improve the farm workers conditions.