

ALRB employes starting own union after shakeup

Agricultural Labor Relations Board employes have begun to form their own union. Ratification of bylaws and election of officers are scheduled this week throughout the state, sources report.

Unionization was triggered by a statewide ALRB personnel shakeup, revealed by this newspaper last week.

Sources say actions by Harry Delizonna, ALRB general counsel, prompted the state employes to form the union for their own protection.

"We started talking about forming a union in late October, but it wasn't taken seriously, then," a source stated.

"We have people (forming the union) in every office," he added.

About 12 ALRB workers met over the weekend in Fresno to draft the union bylaws.

The new union is called The ALRB Workers Union. It is not affiliated with another union at this time. "We haven't discussed that," one ALRB employe said.

Meanwhile, Carlos Bowker of Heber, who was an ALRB agent until Delizonna fired him last week, plans to appeal the dismissal.

He will take his case to the state Personnel Board before March 2, his attorney said.

Bowker was one of the ALRB employes attempting to form a union, but Delizonna denies that action was why he fired Bowker.

Bowker's attorney said his client was accused of making a verbal threat against another ALRB employe.

In a related matter, Ralph Faust was appointed the new ALRB executive secretary. He replaces former El Centran Annie Gutierrez, who took a job with the Carter Administration. Faust was Gutierrez' deputy.

Sources today agreed that Gutierrez' leaving helped Delizonna broaden his power base.

One of the ALRB's primary duties is to ensure that farm workers have the right to vote by secret ballot for the un-

ion of their choice or no union at all.

Ironically, the people hired to carry out this function are ready to vote for a union of their own.

The voting, however, will not be by secret ballot, according to sources.