NEW PICKETS GO UP OUTSIDE ALRB IN E.C.

By JOHN NUNES

The United Farm Workers renewed picketing today at the state Agricultural Labor Relations Board office in El Centro.

Only eight demonstrators were on the picket lines this morning, but a UFW spokeswoman promised more "after the workers get off work" later today.

The ALRB office has been the target of the union since Feb. 28. Last week, 28 demonstrators were arrested and the state office, 523 State St., was taken over twice by the UFW.

The El Centro arrests touched off statewide demonstrations. UFW President Cesar Chavez unsuccessfully "invited arrest" during a sit-in at the state agency's San Diego office.

The union is still under a temporary restraining order, sought by the ALRB and issued by Superior Court Judge George Kirk last week, which limits the UFW to 10 persons inside the state office at a time.

This morning, a hearing to make the temporary order a permanent one was continued to 9 a.m. Thursday at the request of the ALRB, an El Centro Superior Court clerk reported.

Meanwhile, the ALRB plans to enforce the temporary order. But Fred Lopez, in charge of the office, said today, "Perhaps the union is looking for a confrontation and I'm not going to oblige them."

"I don't want anyone hurt. If the police are called in, people may get excited."

A California State Police security agent is, however, stationed inside each of the ALRB offices in the state, Lopez noted.

"Their function is to make sure every office remains intact," Lopez said.

He also reported that none of the ALRB employees at the besieged El Centro office have requested a transfer.

"These people are used to..." See NO, page 2.
No 'confrontation' seen with UFW: ALRB head

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demonstrations. Many of our
agents have been working in
farm labor for years.

The plot thickened Monday
when the UFW filed a $2.1
million civil rights suit in
federal court in San Diego
because of the El Centro in-
cidents.

The suit, which seeks a
court order halting alleged
discriminatory practices, ac-
cuses ALRB officials of
depriving UFW members of
civil rights, including freedom
of speech, assembly and
association during the mass
arrest.

It
is filed against the State
Police, ALRB General
Counsel Harry Delizonna and
other ALRB employes. The
suit was filed by American
Civil Liberties Union at-
torneys on behalf of the UFW.

It charges that the defen-
dants engaged in a deliberate,
systematic pattern of selec-
tive enforcement of laws
against union members.

Under the direction of
Delizonna, "The El Centro of-
face of the ALRB has engaged
in a pattern of discriminatory
conduct designed to interfere
with and discourage members
and supporters of the UFW for
association ..." with the un-
ion, according to the suit.

Twenty-eight UFW
demonstrators were arrested
during last Tuesday's incident
after 35 lawmen surrounded
the state office.

The suit said the
demonstrators were arrested
while "exercising their rights
of association and free
speech, and were lawful and
peacefully engaged in the ex-
ercise of their right to petition
the government and to seek
redress of their grievances."

The temporary restraining
order against UFW was ob-
tained by the ALRB after the
mass arrest and after ALRB
employes reported physical
and verbal abuse by the
demonstrators two days in a
row, Feb. 29 and last Tuesday.

The Chavez union has been
demonstrating because of an
ALRB decision to allow "a
company union" to file for an
election among workers at the
Royal Packing Co.

The "company union,"
which some label it, won the
election Thursday. It is called
Agrupacion Independiente de
Trabajadores en Royal Pack-
ing Company.

The suit alleges that the
lawmen did not have warrants
for the arrests and had no
probable cause.

Manuel Hernandez, one of
the demonstrators, whom the
suit contends did not resist,
"was suddenly grabbed by a
California State Police of-
ciifer, who then twisted both
arms behind his back, hand-
cuffed him, picked him up and
threw him into a corridor."

A woman who was also in
the ALRB office was subjected
to a body search by a male officer, according to the
suit.

Lopez said this morning that
one of his female ALRB
employes was asked to con-
duct the body search. She
denied and a policewoman
conducting traffic outside was
called in, according to Lopez.

The UFW also charges in its
suit that the ALRB's dis-
criminatory conduct includes
failing to appear for or cancel-
ing appointments with
workers or pre-election con-
ferences without notifying the
union or members involved
and transferring ALRB agents
who were in the middle of in-
vestigations.

Meanwhile, Delizonna
issued a press release that
was highly critical of the
UFW.

"It is now apparent that a
few organizers, led by
Marshall Ganz, have shown
that they intend to use every
tool they can, including
violence, to upset farm
worker elections whenever
they feel that the procedures
or results are not to their lik-
ing."

"Although most UFW
demonstrations are peaceful,
Ganz and his band of
organizers have pierced the
peaceful veil that once was
used by the UFW," Delizonna
added.