

# GRAPE UNION SIGNS PACT AT SCHENLEY

## First Contract Provides for 35-Cent Pay Increase

LOS ANGELES, June 21 (AP) — A one-year contract involving about 450 grape pickers in the Delano vineyards was signed here today by Schenley Industries, Inc., and the National Farm Workers Association, an independent union.

The pact, the first since pickers in the Central California area struck last year, provides a 35-cent hourly wage increase, raising the minimum to \$1.75 an hour.

Piece rates will be adjusted to correspond to the new basic wage, a spokesman said. These rates apply to those paid for the amount they gather rather than for the hours they work.

Cesar Chavez, director of the union, said, "This is a milestone in the history of U. S. agriculture."

Schenley also agreed to a union shop and a union hiring hall, making the association the prime source of labor for the company.

Under the agreement the company must give the union 72 hours' notice of a need for workers. Should the union fail to provide them within that period, the company is free to hire outsiders.

Settlement of fringe benefits was left for further discussion.

The contract, effective today, specifies that "in cases where inequities exist with respect to insurance, medical, hospitalization and vacations, the company and the union will meet to eliminate them."

The contract was signed after negotiation sessions at the offices of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor.

Last April 6 Schenley became the first of 33 grape growers in Tulare and Kern Counties, north of here, to recognize the association as bargaining agent for some 5,000 pickers, who struck last Sept. 8. The strike against Schenley was called off when that company agreed to negotiate with the union.

A few days after recognition came from Schenley, the DiGiorgio Corporation, biggest employer in the Delano area, pledged it would negotiate with a union if its workers voted for it. Later DiGiorgio offered the association a contract if the union first would sign a no-strike clause and submit to arbitration. The union declined.

Subsequently the Christian Brothers, another major wine and grape producer, recognized the union, but no contract has been negotiated.