Merged Group Gets Charter in Fight With Teamsters

By DAMON STETSON
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CHICAGO, Aug. 23—The Exec- cutive Council of the American Farmers Union, to get a
Con- joins of Industrial Organiza- tors throw its strength and
voters of the merger of a widely held, creditable farm labor
concern that has been held off the Teamsters for many years by the
Consolidated.

The council on Wednesday granted a charter to the United Farm Workers Organizing Commit- tee, Inc., an affiliate of the American Farmers Union by
the consolidation of the Na-
tional Farm Workers Association, Inc., and the National Farm Workers Organizing Commit- tee.

George Meany, president of the federation, said that grant- ing the charter was a form of recog- nition of organized labor’s "con- tumburance in bringing some measure of justice to the for- gotten men of our time"—the farm laborers.

Later, at a press conference, Mr. Meany declared that the federation had been contributing $100,000 a year toward the or- ganizing drive and that $25,000 was being added to this amount. He recalled, however, that in the first two years of this organizing effort, in the late 1860s, the federation spent $50,000.

WILLIAM L. Kircher, the fed- eration’s executive director, said the organiza- tion, pledged a "massive and continous organizing effort" by the American Farmers Union, would give substantial assistance in both money and men to the merger drive.

Today’s move by the council has particular significance in that it appears to be a down- election day next Tuesday between the merged Union and the Teamsters.

The Teamsters have the right to repre- sent 2,200 agricultural work- ers employed by the Di Giorgio Co., the largest employer of field hands in the Delano area.

Delano has been an organiz- ing battleground since last year, when the National Farm Work- ers Association called a strike of grapepickers there.

Barred at Convention

The Union had been barred from the convention at its convention in San Francisco last December.

Subsequently, Walter P. Reuter, publisher of the United Automobile Workers, visited the Teamsters at the convention and told them he was a strike to the strikers, a contribution that has been continued, ac- cording to Mr. Kircher.

Schenley Industries and Chris- topher Johnson & Sons, the two com- panies in the area, have already 边界 the National Farm Workers as bargaining agent for their employees, but the out- come of the election is in doubt, as the Di Giorgio employees is consid- ered a hard core of the merged group.

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The Teamsters, under the leadership of James P. Hoffa, have been represented by members of the new group.

Governing the group was an earlier election that the company that called it on its own short notice. Mr. Hoffa was elected president at that time.