Coast Grape Pickers Called
Free of Red Direction

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September 9—California farm worker union
officials cleared this week by a panel of the
Delano grape picker strike of any unper-
ceived activity in the conduct of the long-
standing strike.

Nor did the Senate fact-find-
ing subcommittee on un-Amer-
ican activities approve the par-
ticipation of three Republican and two
Democrats, accuse Communists of
conspiring to overthrow the govern-
ment, or that drew international at-
tention.

The five-member subcommit-
tee, which included a Republican
Democrat and president pro
tempore of the Senate, did, how-
ever, consider that "the mem-
bers of the Communist party were
on the scene and aiding the strike
almost from its in-
ception."

The subcommittee submitted its report after a "veto session"
during a "veto session" of the state
Legislature that ended yester-
day.

The session, which is to be an
annual affair, was authorized
by state law which permits the
House to veto bills passed by the
Senate, to enable legislators to act on bills
vetoed by the Governor during the recess.

Signed by All Five

The Burns subcommittee in
submitting its report charged
that some members refused to
vote on the bills and that par-
ticipation bore all five signatures.

"The best-case public official was Cesar
Chavez," the panel said. The fiery
Congressman from the Baja-
American, occupied a major part of the
report.

The subcommittee made a
clearing of not only the
California grape pickers but also the
Migrant Ministry, a group of
clearing the "high intelligence,
sharp criticism from several
quarters, although it continued for its participation in the strike.

"Many people in California, unfor-
thunately, appear to be mis-
led by the unions," the report
said. "It appears that the unions
were carrying away with the idea of achieving power
to dictate terms to the grow-
ers of the valley."

Outside Influence Charged

"We are saying that out-
side persons entered the
Delano struggle," the report
said. "There were people for the pur-
purpose of using it for
political purposes. This does not
mean that the leaders of the unions
were perhaps carried away with the idea of achieving power.

Mr. Chavez, when the strike started, headed the National
Farm Workers Organizing Committee of the AFL and was
composed largely of Mexican-
American labor leaders."

Mr. Chavez, who is 300 miles
outside Delano, was asked in
an interview at his homestead
at the state Capitol steps on
Monday. "We are talking," he
replied. "Our contracts were
won with Schenley Indus-
tries, the DiOrio Corporation
and others. We are talking
with both worker groups."