Head of Farm Workers Union Ends 25-Day Fast in California

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DELANO, Calif., March 10—Cesar Chavez, who has been on a fast today at an emotion-packed, religion-oriented labor rally in a public park.

More than 4,000 persons attend the rally, mostly Mexican-American farm workers, as is Mr. Chavez, but he was not there, and his name, and that of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

Senator Kennedy marched in a colorful union procession led by the large, wooden cross the farm workers carried on a march to Sacramento last October.

The cross was followed by the increase in the number of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Mexican Revolution.

The Senator marched between rows of farm workers bearing flags with Mexican emblems, printed on them, the insignia of the farm workers. Mr. Chavez, the architect and leader of the drive to organize farm workers, had taken only water from Feb. 14 until last Wednesday.

At his doctor’s insistence since Wednesday, he has had only water, a few ounces of bouillon, unsweetened grapefruit juice, some broth and some fruit. He feared kidney damage from an imbalance of protein consumption. He weighed 140 pounds today, down 50 pounds during the fast.

Calls for Self-Sacrifice

In a statement read at the mass, Mr. Chavez said he undertook the fast because "my heart was filled with grief when I saw the pain and suffering of the farm workers."

His sacrifice was in behalf of nonviolence, he said. He called for his colleagues and the union to look upon self-sacrifice as the ultimate act of manliness.

As his statement was read in Spanish, then in English, Mr. Chavez sat alongside Senator Kennedy in the hot sun beneath the altar installed on a truck bed. A blanket covered his knees. Two men held the sheet as he walked through the crowd to the altar.

"The world must know," said Senator Kennedy, "that the Mexican-American, the grant farmerwork, the Mexican-American, is coming into his own."

Mr. Kennedy, who had flown here from a Des Moines political dinner, repeated the Chavez warning that "violence is no answer."

The fast, its attendant emotional built up, and today’s Workers rally have come at a turning point in the drive to organize farm workers. The effort is to win recognition of the Glumarras Farms.

The Glumarras family grape holdings have been the target of Mr. Chavez’s union since last August. This family produces premium table grapes on about 5,000 acres of vineyards scattered north and south of here in the Central Valley.

Selection of Glumarras as the organizing target came as the union began to exhaust the list of wine companies whose vintner’s it could organize.

Boycotts of wine labels have been the successful device that has won the union recognition from such companies as Schen- zenlitz, Sutter Home, Fruit Company, Paul Masson Vineyards, Gallo Brothers, Christian Brothers Winery and three smaller companies.

This peak employment in these vineyards is about 3,500. Chavez’s union claims employs upward of 200,000 workers.

The union’s attack on Glumarras was at two levels, and it attempted to get field workers to walk out last fall at harvest peak. Union sources said this first attempt to persuade the workers were replaced. Mr. Glumarras said that fewer than 200 left.

The union’s second attack is at the national boycott attempt. About 50 union members, led by Dolores Huerta, union vice president, went to New York in January to talk to stores, fruit wholesalers and union groups.

This effort is directed at next July, when the new crop is ready for harvest and sale. The United Auto Workers has been successful in the strike. The union represented the Glumarras workers in March, and announced today a $50,000 gift for a new holding on a farm tract of 40 acres that the farm workers own.