

GRAPE GROWERS ASK MEETING WITH UNION

INDIO, Calif., June 13 (UPI) —Ten major Coachella Valley table grape growers asked Federal officials today to arrange an immediate meeting with the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee. It was the first major breakthrough in a three-year labor stalemate.

In the past, growers had refused to recognize the committee as a bargaining agent for grape pickers. In retaliation, the committee, which is led by Cesar Chavez, sponsored a nationwide boycott against California table grapes.

The 10 growers asked the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service in Washington to call an immediate meeting with the committee to resolve the dispute.

Lionel Steinberg and John

Kovacevich, co-chairmen of the growers' group, told a news conference here:

"Our committee is prepared to meet in good faith with the union to attempt to bring peace to the table grape industry and an end to the illegal, immoral boycott which is interrupting the flow of the grapes from the farmers to the consumers.

"We are ready to negotiate tomorrow morning. There could be a settlement in 48 hours if both sides pursue the matter."

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