First Grapes With Union Label
Shipped to Market From Coast

Cesar Chavez with supporters carrying the union label

By STEVEN V. ROBERTS

DELANO, Calif., May 30—The first table grapes bearing an union label—a fierce black eagle in a white circle on a red background—were shipped to market this week.

The event marked a turning point in the historic effort of farm workers to win union recognition and labor contracts here in the lush farmlands of central California.

In the past two months, the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, headed by Cesar Chavez, has signed contracts with seven grape growers representing about 40 percent of the grape industry. Many more growers are waiting to have the union grapes sell before committing themselves.

No figures are available yet but Renato Cucchi, the coop director, said that 'the strike seems to be being broken up. We're hearing stories like Boston and New York, and many other places.'

The union has a full house for their campaign.

The union intends to keep up the pressure on the remaining growers by continuing its national educational campaign to sell the grapes while urging its supporters to buy union grapes when they can find it.

At least three growers, however, are still in the market, and the grapes are clearly marked by their absence.

Chavez says that his workers will continue to hold meetings at the stores marked only by the union label for the present.

Chavez, who is an immigrant from Mexico, said that the farm workers are no longer owners of their own homes and that he wants the union to be a voting bloc in the election.

The union said that its main effort would be to win the support of the growers and their employees who are represented by the National Farm Workers Association (CWA).

A boycott threat was left open by Chavez, who said that the union needs to win the support of the growers before it can be successful.

No one pretends that the real workers would vote for the contract willingly. Many still remain loyal to the growers, who are still in control.

Yet, some of their animosity has been expressed by the workers who have been protesting against the worst of the conditions.

In the near future, perhaps, if the workers can be persuaded to come to the table and talk about their common problems, some of that animosity might be released.

Talks Break Down
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Two of the growers, Robert D. Friedeman and Company and the Wonder Palm Ranch, both in the Coachella Valley, have agreed to have union contracts. A few weeks later, Mr. Lar- son, who has traveled around the country arguing that farm workers do not want a union, agreed to have an election. On the other hand, the workers voted 72 to 2 in favor of a union contract. The Chelo Ranch of C. C. Larson, Keene Packing Company, was unanimous for the union.

Two of the growers, 2 and 1.9 percent of the workers in the main union, became members of the union after the vote. Larson, 93 percent of them, voted for the union.

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The union contracts have reduced the growers' profits by $1.50 per box of grapes, plus a 25-cent bonus for each grower. The growers' profits go up to $1.90.

The union has been successful in winning a political as well as an economic victory.

If the growers' profits are cut in half, the union's victory will be reflected in the political and economic negotiations. The union's success in winning the support of the growers will be reflected in the political and economic negotiations.

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