

CHAVEZ IS JAILED IN LETTUCE STRIKE

Held in Contempt, He Defies Order to Halt Boycott

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SALINAS, Calif., Dec. 4—
Cesar Chavez went to jail to-
day.

Mr. Chavez, director of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, was cited for contempt of court after he refused to call off a nationwide boycott of lettuce produced by growers who do not have contracts with his union.

Superior Court Judge Gordon Campbell sentenced Mr. Chavez to 10 days in the Monterey County Jail for violating an injunction prohibiting the boycott. He also gave the Mexican-American labor leader an indefinite sentence, to run until he actually tells boycott organizers to halt their campaign.

Mr. Chavez vowed to defy the court. As he was being led off to jail this afternoon he told his followers, "Boycott the hell out of them."

Lawyers for the union said they would immediately file a writ of habeas corpus seeking Mr. Chavez's release.

The jailing of Mr. Chavez is

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A Defiant Chavez Goes to Jail, Refusing to Halt Lettuce Strike

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the latest episode in a bitter and violent dispute that has shaken the Salinas Valley for the last four months.

Last summer the farm workers committee won a victory by gaining labor contracts with most of the state's grape growers in the San Joaquin Valley. Mr. Chavez then announced he would shift his battle to unionize farm workers here to Salinas.

Meanwhile, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters signed contracts with most of the area's lettuce growers. Mr. Chavez protested that the teamsters had signed "sweetheart" contracts and that farm workers should be represented by his union. In late August he called a strike and boycott to force the growers to sign with him.

Three major growers accounting for 15 per cent of the crop did sign, but the rest resisted. They brought suit against the farm workers and on Sept. 14, the courts ruled that Mr. Chavez was leading an illegal strike because it involved a jurisdictional dispute between two unions.

On Oct. 8, Bud Antle, Inc., which grows about 8 per cent of the valley's lettuce, obtained an injunction prohibiting the farm workers from continuing their strike and boycott until the original case was settled. Judge Campbell refused to stay the injunction pending appeal unless the union posted a bond of \$2.75-million to protect Antle against damages.

It was that injunction that Mr. Chavez was accused today of violating.

As court convened this morning about 2,000 farm workers stood quietly outside the courthouse. Many carried the red and black flag of the farm workers union and home-made banners celebrating the Virgin of Guadalupe, long the symbol of La Causa, as the union's movement is called among Chicanos. One man carried a carved figure of Christ tied to a crude wooden cross.

Order Called Vague

William Carter, the union's lawyer, argued that the injunction was unconstitutional because it violated the union's First Amendment right of free speech. He also charged that it was too vague and confusing and could not be obeyed.

Richard Maltzman, representing Bud Antle, replied that the order was clear and did not violate the defendant's rights. However, he asked that Mr. Chavez be kept out of jail at least until next week, and be given a chance to obey the court's order.

However, Judge Campbell lectured the defendant. He declared: "this court expects its orders to be obeyed. Otherwise the courts might as well close



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Cesar Chavez sitting in corridor in court house waiting for start of his hearing.

their doors." Then he meted out the punishment, which also included a \$1,000 fine against the union.

Outside the courthouse, Larry Itliong, vice president of the union, spoke to the workers gathered there. "Today shows us," he shouted through a bullhorn, "that the growers can utilize their influence with the courts and the Government to destroy the right of the poor and the farm workers to have a decent life. But we won't let them stop us."

Then the crowd knelt in prayer. As they did, one observer said, "This was the one credential Chavez didn't have. Now he's been in jail, too."

U.S. Food Aid Up Sharply

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 (AP)

—The Agriculture Department says in a monthly report on food program participation that an estimated total of 12.3 million people received Government help during October, compared with seven million a year earlier. Assistant Secretary Richard E. Lyng said the largest increase came in food stamp enrollment, estimated at 8.8 million in October, compared with fewer than 3.3 million a year earlier.