TEAMSTERS GAIN CALIFORNIA FARMS

Growers Shift From Chavez - Boycott Threatened

INDIO, Calif., April 15 (AP) - Growers of the state's leading orchard region here have indicated their willingness, in the wake of the recent strike by the United Farm Workers Union, to sell their produce outside the area.

The announcement brought a strike threat and a boycott call by the United Farm Workers Union.

Ralph L. Cotner, a spokesman for the growers, said that the growers' union had not received any letters from consumers expressing opposition to the sale of the produce, nor had any of the growers received any letters from customers expressing opposition to the sale of any of the 4,000 or 5,000 workers seasonally employed in the area.

Mr. Chavez disputed the figures. He said that workers were now employed in the valley, with about 1,000 more coming in during the peak season.

Walkout Planned

Mr. Cotner said the grower-organizing efforts led in 1970 to the first farmworker contract in United Farm Workers territory, a two-year table grape boycott, signed by 14 growers and 3,200 farmworkers. The boycott was rescinded in February.

When the new contract is signed, the growers and the workers will select a union representative at field offices by growers with workers who signed the union contract.

A strategy of organization for the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Congress of Industrial Organizations, told the rally that his group had reason to believe that the state's Chavez union would back the UFW.

"Just 15 minutes ago I was speaking on the telephone with a large farm owner. The farm owner was not against the Chavez group. The farm owner was building their union and had always trusted in the Chavez union as helping them in all the A.F.L-C.I.O. and all its members, George Meany publicly said to them, you can win your struggle," Mr. Kirchner said.

Mr. Cotner said his contracts provide for a 10 percent raise for field laborers to $2.30 an hour. The contracts that the growers are preparing now provide for a 10 percent raise for field laborers to $2.70 an hour, a union spokesman said.

Mr. Cotner declined to re-

lease copies of the new team-

ster contract, which would not identify the growers who signed it. The contract came after several days of private negotiations at Palm Springs.

Mr. Chavez said at the rally that the growers would be trying to get the workers out of teamster-contact.

"When the organizers of the U.F.W.U. go to the fields with a permit they have to show workers the workers. The members of the union will bring every body with them," Mr. Chavez said.

"The only way you can liberate yourself is by a strike and when you have a glorious boycott."