

Chavez's Followers Picket Grape Fields In Teamster Dispute

INDIO, Calif., April 16 (AP)—Several hundred Mexican-American followers of Cesar Chavez, leader of the United Farm Workers, picketed several grape ranches in the lower Coachella Valley today after their union lost field work contracts to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

The United Farm Workers won the first farm labor contracts with grape growers in 1970 after a two-year boycott, strikes and some violence. The contracts expired this weekend, and the teamsters' union announced yesterday that it had signed field labor contracts with 85 per cent of the growers in the area, providing for an immediate pay rise from \$2 to \$2.30 an hour.

Mr. Chavez's followers picketed ranches where owners had signed with the teamsters. The farm workers' union urged workers to leave the fields. Some did, but many did not.

Officers said there had been no arrests but several minor incidents involving trespassing and assaults. One rancher, Ray Stanford, had sheriff's deputies escort farm workers' union members out of his field.

Mr. Chavez said earlier that he would call a nationwide boycott against "scab-picked" table grapes, but no boycott was officially called.

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