Chavez Charges Growers Conspire With Teamsters

By PHILIP SHABECOFF
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WASHINGTON, April 17 — Cesar Chavez, president of the United Farm Workers Union, charged today that growers in California were engaged in a "conspiracy" with teamsters officials, involving large illegal cash payments, to crush his union.

At a news conference in the Rayburn House Office Building, Mr. Chavez also said that he was again calling on consumers to boycott table grapes produced by growers who do not sign a contract with his union.

Last week more than 40 grape growers in the Coachella Valley of California signed a contract with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters after the growers' three-year contract with the United Farm Workers had expired.

This is only a small percentage of the grape growers in the state, but most of the rest—who also have contracts with Mr. Chavez's union that are expiring—are negotiating with the teamsters.

Labor experts here commented that the loss of the grape contracts could threaten the survival of the Farm Workers Union, and officials of the union conceded that the loss of 60,000 grape workers—only a minority of whom have been lost in the teamster contracts just signed—could destroy the union.

Mr. Chavez called today for a Congressional investigation of what he said was evidence that many lettuce, grape and other growers in California had been passing money to teamsters officials in cash packets of $5,000 each.

Mr. Chavez also said that

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Chavez Charges Growers Pay Teamsters to Thwart His Union

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The government had evi-

dence that the system had

time, but it had failed to take

activity. Mr. Cohen, general counsel of the United Farm Workers, charged that a federal grand jury in San Francisco last June by a team of 100 lawyers had offered to make the transfer of money from a bank account in line.

The teamster, Frank Carolla of San Bruno, Calif., said that he had been asked to take part in handing over a suitcase of money to a hotel near the teamster's headquarters on Salinas, Calif., late in 1972 during the strike by the grape growers and the teamsters union. In $300,000 in cash to growers, according to Mr. Cohen.

Mr. Carolla also testified that he had seen receipts signed by Mr. Cohen of his organization for $5,000 in cash payments. Mr. Cohen said that he had never received such payments.

Mr. Carolla, however, told the jury that he had also received $1,000 in cash payments, and he said that he had never received such payments at the same time he had received the money from Mr. Cohen of his organization. Mr. Cohen charged that the cash transaction was part of a larger plan to bribe members of the United Farm Workers' union and to bribe the federal government's grand jury in New York City.
Cesar Chavez speaking yesterday in Washington.