
Picketing Charges Dropped In California Grape Strike

COACHELLA, Calif., April 20 (UPI) — Illegal picketing charges against more than 300 supporters and members of the United Farm Workers Union were dropped today following agreement on new rules governing picketing.

Sixty-nine persons arrested earlier at the Mel-Pac Ranch near Thermal were released and the contempt of court allegations against them purged.

Last weekend, growers raising more than 85 per cent of the table grape crop in the Coachella Valley announced that they had signed contracts with the teamsters union, a rival of the Farm Workers.

Cesar Chavez, founder of the farm union, proclaimed a new grape boycott and strike, saying that his union was fighting for its life.

The new agreement on picketing was put in the form of a court order by Judge Fred Metheny of Superior Court in India.

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