

MORE FOLLOWERS OF CHAVEZ SEIZED

Hundreds Arrested on Coast in Dispute With Teamsters

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BAKERSFIELD, Calif., July 19—Across the San Joaquin Valley farm workers were again arrested by the hundreds today as they continued to defy court orders in pressing their strike against grape growers.

In the vineyards and orchards around Fresno, more than 450 striking workers were arrested. In Tulare County, 100 more workers were arrested before noon. And here in Kern County, where nearly 500 workers were jailed yesterday, sheriff's deputies were unable to make additional arrests because the jails were already filled beyond capacity.

The arrests, which brought new tensions to the San Joaquin Valley, prompted growers to ask that the National Guard be brought in to enforce the law.

"It's obvious that the sheriff's department can't handle this any more," Eugene Nalbandian, one of the larger growers in the nearby town of Arvin, said. Mr. Nalbandian, whose sprawling ranch was the target of demonstrations yesterday, said that he would hire his own guards and arm them with shotguns if he felt that action was necessary to protect the workers who were bringing in his harvest.

Grower Fears Losses

Mr. Nalbandian said that he had "about 20 days" to harvest the grapes in his vineyards. He said that if the workers were frightened away by the strikers he would "lose millions of dollars."

The injunctions—obtained by the growers—that had angered the striking members of Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers are those that prohibit them from using bullhorns for more than one hour a day, from picketing within 15 feet of the vineyards and from having pickets closer than 100 feet apart.

The regulation that bans the use of bullhorns is particularly disturbing to the union. The bullhorns are used by the strikers to explain to those workers who cross their picket lines why the strike has been called, what the issues are, and also to attempt to talk them into walking off their jobs and joining the strikers.

Mr. Nalbandian declined to discuss any details of the call for the National Guard but said that "the move has been made." That action was taken, he said, when it was learned that the sheriff's department was not enforcing the injunctions.

Chavez Repeats Defiance

While the growers talked of the action they might take, Mr. Chavez was reiterating his position that he did not consider defiance of the injunctions was breaking the law. He said that the injunctions were unconstitutional and that the restrictions they placed on his union were part of an effort by the courts to help break the strike.

In an emotional rally outside the Kern County Jail here where some 500 workers remain in custody, Mr. Chavez told about 1,000 supporters that "those inside have won great glory."

Of the police action in enforcing the injunctions, Mr. Chavez said: "If they arrest us we win and if they don't arrest us we win."

Mr. Chavez, the 46-year-old labor leader who is a disciple of nonviolence, also disclosed that he met last night with representatives of the Justice Department who he asked to come here and investigate union complaints that the courts, the sheriff's department and the district attorney's office are all involved in a conspiracy to deny the farm workers their civil rights.

'Right to Have a Union'

"There have been too many violations for this to have been a coincidence," Mr. Chavez said. "We have every right to have a union."

Although the picket lines were around the vineyards where the grape harvest is now under way, the strike here stems primarily from a jurisdictional dispute between the farm workers' union and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Three years ago the farm workers' union signed contracts with the growers, but when those contracts expired earlier this year, the growers, instead of renewing of them, signed with the teamsters.

Mr. Chavez has said that the agreements between the teamsters and the growers constituted "sweetheart contracts" and said that the teamsters were acting as a company union. He accused the teamsters of going along with a plan to destroy his union.

Mr. Chavez said that his union had been involved in a long fight to unionize the grape industry and said that the members were prepared for another long fight.

"All we have is time, nothing else but time," he said. "That's our stock in trade. But what we do with it will determine the conclusion of this struggle."