

Farm Union Posts Picket Lines After Contract Talks Break Off

DELANO, Calif., July 30 (AP)—César Chavez called his United Farm Workers out on strike today after negotiations with 29 table grape growers were broken off hours before a contract expiration at midnight.

The Kern County sheriff's deputies said that farm workers in about 500 cars had set up picket lines in this area by 6 A.M. No incidents were reported.

The contracts signed in 1970 resulted from a five-year strike and international boycott. The union, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, has been locked in a power struggle with the Teamsters Union over representation.

'5 Years of Struggle'

"We were fighting to keep what we got after five years of struggle, and they were trying to take away what he had," Mr. Chavez said. "It is the same as usual. They had the Teamsters while negotiating with us."

A Delano grower, Frank Lucich, said: "We would prefer to have Chavez's union

as our representative because we are in Delano where it U.F.W. activity all started." He said the 29 growers were not negotiating with the Teamsters.

"If we can come to terms with Chavez, we'll sign," Mr. Lucich said. "But if we can't, I don't know where we'll go from there."

The Key Issues

The negotiations stalled on the issues of hiring halls, labor camp conditions, pesticide control, grievance procedures, the right to boycott and union recognition, Mr. Chavez said.

Harry Keaton, attorney for the Delano Growers Negotiating Committee, said:

"The collapse was essentially related to one overriding issue. The U.F.W. demanded to have absolute control and combination over who was going to work in the grape industry, refusing to agree that growers would be allowed to employ their regular seniority work force because many of these workers had shown a preference for the Teamsters Union."

The growers said that the strike would affect 4,000 to 5,000 workers around this San Joaquin Valley town of 15,000.