



Cesar Chavez, United Farm Workers leader, at his news conference yesterday in Washington.

## Chavez Calls on Teachers To Back His Farm Union

By EVAN JENKINS

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 23 — Cesar Chavez, president of the United Farm Workers Union, appealed to an audience of union teachers today to support his struggle with California grape growers and with the teamsters' union, a struggle he said was far from over despite conciliatory moves by the national teamster leadership.

His audience, the national convention of the American Federation of Teachers, responded warmly to the soft-spoken farm workers' leader, who has been described by speakers here as the spiritual heir to the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mr. Chavez's appearance was the highlight so far of a tightly controlled, week-long convention that has seen few moments of intense interest or activity on the part of most delegates. When he finished speaking he received a standing ovation followed by a chorus of "Solidarity Forever."

At a news conference this morning, Mr. Chavez said that he welcomed the action Tuesday of Frank E. Fitzsimmons, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, in repudiating contracts negotiated by teamster field agents with 30 California growers whose contracts with Mr. Chavez's union had expired.

### Meetings With Meany

Mr. Fitzsimmons took the step after a series of meetings with George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, with which both the teachers union and the farm workers are affiliated. The teamsters were expelled by the labor federation in 1957.

Mr. Chavez said today that he had consulted with A.F.L.-C.I.O. officials and had concluded that the contract repudiation, announced by the teamster leader in a letter to the growers, was "extremely important."

His union's conflict with the teamsters, Mr. Chavez said, was "not over by a long shot, but this opens the door to negotiations."

The two unions were in the midst of peace talks earlier this month when the teamster field agents negotiated the disputed contracts. The talks promptly broke off and violence began to erupt at picketing sites in the Delano, Calif., area. Two members of the farm workers' group have been killed, and Mr. Chavez has halted picketing in the area.

Mr. Fitzsimmons' letter to the growers said his union had "no interest in organizing your employes in the vineyard in and around Delano, Calif.," but made no mention of teamster-farm worker competition in many other areas.

In his speech today, Mr. Chavez reminded his fellow unionists that he had arrived in Washington after having just

"buried two of our brothers slain in the struggle" to strengthen his union's position and declared that it was an effort in which "people are harassed, beaten and killed for an ideal."

He appealed for support of boycotts of lettuce and grapes not carrying the black eagle farm workers' symbol.

After the speech George Altomare, a teacher at Stuyvesant High School in New York, told of his jailing by sheriff's deputies last month when he joined Mr. Chavez's pickets during a visit to California.

Mr. Altomare introduced a resolution calling for support from both the teachers federation and the national labor body for the farm workers. It was passed resoundingly, but efforts to specify sums to be raised were unsuccessful.

### United for Once

The activity centering on Mr. Chavez found the delegates united and aroused in a manner that has been unusual since the sessions at the Sheraton-Park Hotel started Monday.

A truce struck before the convention between factions supporting David Selden, president of the union, and Albert Shanker, president of the New York City local and the national union's first vice president, has produced onesided votes on most questions despite sometimes heated debate.

In electing delegates to the forthcoming A.F.L.-C.I.O. convention, for example, the teachers last night chose the entire slate of the Progressive Caucus, the organization slate. Mr. Shanker was on the slate; Mr. Selden is automatically a delegate by virtue of his office.

All the Progressive Caucus candidates received more than 200,000 votes under a weighted-vote system based on local membership. The highest vote total for a member of the opposition United Action Caucus was 35,930.

### Growers Get Letter

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DELANO, Calif., Aug. 23 — Growers in the Delano area said today they had received a letter from Frank E. Fitzsimmons repudiating the contracts signed with them on Aug. 9 by James W. Smith, area supervisor of the Western Conference of Teamsters agricultural workers organizing committee.

Last night Mr. Smith said his position on the subject "hasn't changed one bit from Aug. 10," when the signings were informally repudiated by Mr. Fitzsimmons. Mr. Smith, a teamster organizer since 1955, said then he had been authorized to sign and contended the contracts were valid.

John Giumarra Jr., counsel for the Giumarra Vineyards Corporation, the state's largest table grape grower, said he thought the contracts were legally binding.