

CHAVEZ REACHES TENTATIVE ACCORD

Announcement Is Due Today on Talks With Teamsters

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 27—

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers reached a tentative settlement today of their bitter dispute

over which union has the right to represent agricultural workers in California, union sources reported today.

A spokesman for the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Relations said that negotiators for the two sides had completed three days of talks and had made "progress toward a resolution of the issues." The spokesman said an announcement by the two unions was expected tomorrow.

It was understood, however, that the two sides had agreed on a four-point document setting out the jurisdictional rights of the two unions in the grape

and lettuce fields of California. The document has been accepted by Mr. Chavez but had not yet been seen by Frank E. Fitzsimmons, president of the teamsters.

Details Are Lacking

The details of the settlement were not immediately available. However, only last week Mr. Chavez had declared at his union's convention that he would accept no agreement unless it gave his union the right to represent all field workers. The teamsters, he said, could represent food-processing and packaging workers.

The chief negotiator for the

teamsters was Einar Mohn, a union vice president and director of the Western Conference of Teamsters, which had been directly involved in the dispute with the United Farm Workers. Mr. Chavez did the negotiating for his union.

A Long Struggle

He flew back to California tonight, reportedly because of a death in his family. But it appears that the agreement reached today will halt the teamster efforts to take over all the contracts to represent farm workers previously held by the U.F.W.

In 1970, after nearly five

years of strikes and boycotts, the United Farm Workers won contracts from California grape growers giving it the right to represent grape harvesters in collective bargaining.

The union's struggle, which was closely identified with the cause of economic justice for Chicanos, was widely hailed as the most successful effort yet to organize agricultural labor in this country.

However, the union's effort to organize lettuce field workers was not successful: the lettuce growers signed contracts with the teamsters rather than with Mr. Chavez. The United Farm Workers said that the

Teamsters had broken a jurisdictional agreement when they entered the agreement to represent lettuce workers.

This year, when the U.F.W.'s three-year contract with the grape growers expired, the growers did not renegotiate with Mr. Chavez but signed with the Teamsters instead. Mr. Chavez charged that the teamsters and growers had joined in a conspiracy against his union.

But Mr. Chavez's union lost all but 10 of its contracts, and its dues-paying membership dropped from a peak of nearly 70,000 to under 18,000 as more and more growers signed on

with the teamsters. The teamsters came under harsh criticism from the A.F.L.-C.I.O., of which the U.F.W. is an affiliate. George Meany, president of the labor federation, charges the Teamsters with strikebreaking and signing "sweetheart contracts" with the growers.

In the meantime, the federation provided the U.F.W. with \$1.6-million in strike funds and also began negotiations with the teamsters to have it drop its campaign against the U.F.W. Paul Hall, president of the Seafarers International Union and Joseph Keenan, secretary-treasurer of the International Broth-

erhood of Electrical Workers, were the chief A.F.L.-C.I.O. negotiators in the talks with the teamsters. These negotiations apparently bore fruit today.

Outlook Favorable

Mr. Fitzsimmons is not likely to block the agreement. Last month he repudiated 30 contracts signed with grape growers in the Delano, Calif., area by his own union's organizers. In fact, some close observers of union affairs believe that the attack on the Chavez union was also a challenge to Mr. Fitzsimmons's leadership of the teamsters by dissident elements on the West Coast.