

# TEAMSTERS MEET WITH CHAVEZ UNIT

## 6th Week of Secret Talks— Some Progress Noted In Jurisdiction Fight

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Special to The New York Times

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 11— Secret negotiations aimed at ending the long labor war between the United Farm Workers and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters over representation of California farm workers have been under way here for six weeks, participants in the talks said today.

Some progress has been made toward working out a jurisdictional settlement between the rival unions in the decade-old fight, observers report, but no agreement has been reached on what to do about the numerous lawsuits that have been filed by each side.

"The lawsuits are the thorniest problem right now," said one of those who has been in on the talks.

But late this afternoon, Cesar Chavez, president of the United Farm Workers, issued a statement charging that "the teamsters and the growers were not interested in a good-faith meeting," though he stopped short of saying that the talks would be broken off.

"Everytime the teamsters find themselves with their backs against the wall, they want to talk," Mr. Chavez said. "We have negotiated three jurisdictional agreements with them since 1966, and they have broken their word on each and everyone of them. They simply cannot be trusted."

How Mr. Chavez's statement would affect the talks was not clear, but earlier in the day, some of the participants, who included representatives from Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. and the state's growers, said they believed the negotiations had a good chance of ending the dispute.

"At least they're still talking," one of the negotiators said.

### Convention Begins

The negotiations came to light as 3,000 teamsters were gathering in Las Vegas for the union's first international convention in five years, which opens on Monday. But the agricultural talks appeared to be unrelated to the convention.

Rather, one of the participants said, the impetus for the current negotiations came from the growers, who up to now have sided with the teamsters and have been happy to see the two unions fighting with each other rather than with them.

"A number of the leaders in the grower community see an advantage in having one union over two," this negotiator said. In addition, the teamsters are believed to be more amenable to some sort of compromise now than they have been in the past because of the recent success of the farm workers' union in getting an initiative on the November ballot that would provide permanent financing for California's bankrupt Agricultural Labor Relations Board.

The board began operation last fall, supervised elections in the fields and generally ruled in favor of the United Farm Workers in disputes over unfair labor practices. The United Farm Workers won a majority of the elections.

When the board ran out of money in February, the teamsters and the growers joined forces to prevent any further appropriations from passing the State Legislature in Sacramento.

### Division of Labor

Stymied, the U.F.W. gathered 700,000 signatures on an initiative petition—more than twice the number needed—that would permit the state's voters to revive and pay for the Farm Labor Board.

Now the teamsters and the growers, fearful that the board will continue to uphold the U.F.W.'s charges, are eager to work out a settlement that will preserve something for them.

The accord being worked out would give the United Farm Workers, which is affiliated with the A.F.L.-C.I.O., jurisdiction over workers in the fields while the teamsters would be free to organize related agricultural workers.

But some amendment to California's Agricultural Labor Relations Act might be necessary to make that distinction legal.

At the same time, the U.F.W. is intent on pressing the lawsuits that it filed after the teamsters allegedly raided fields that the farm workers had already organized and signed contracts with the growers.

The current talks began at the urging of Governor Brown, who is generally viewed as sympathetic to the Chavez union but who has been unable to pry the appropriation for the labor board from the Legislature.

Representing Mr. Brown in the talks have been the Assembly majority leader, Howard Berman, Democrat of Los Angeles, and Stephen Reinhardt, a lawyer. The teamsters have been represented by Harold Gibbons of St. Louis, an international vice president of the union, and Jack Ormes, a lawyer. In the talks for the United Farm Workers have been two of their lawyers, Jerry Cohen and Sandy Nathan. The growers' interests have been represented by their lawyer, Lee Shaw.