

CHAVEZ UNION AIMS TO MOVE INTO STATE

United Farm Workers Plans Office in Vineland in Bid to Organize Seasonal Agricultural Hands

By DONALD JANSON
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VINELAND, Feb. 21—The California-based United Farm Workers has completed preparations to open a headquarters here, according to Angel Dominguez of Vineland, who will direct the organizing effort among seasonal farm workers in the vegetable fields, blueberry fields and orchards of New Jersey.

Mr. Dominguez said in an interview today that an office and staff had been selected. Work will begin, he said, as soon as his union and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters settle jurisdictional problems in California.

After a decade of battling with the teamsters, the United Farm Workers, headed by Cesar Chavez, appears to be on the verge of signing a pact with that union, giving the U.F.W. jurisdiction over virtually all field workers and the teamsters control over farm machine operators and a few similar skills.

Mr. Dominguez said the pact would free the United Farm Workers to devote major resources for the first time to organizing efforts in other states.

Merger a Prelude to Move

In anticipation of this, the 20,000-member U.F.W. merged last year with the tiny Asociacion Trabajadores Agricolas (Association of Agricultural Workers) and A.T.A. dropped its name.

A.T.A. was a three-year-old union of Puerto Rican farm workers in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Delaware that lacked the resources to force growers to bargain on wages and working conditions.

With the A.F.L.-C.I.O.'s United Farm Workers moving East, an all-out effort will be made in those states, according to Mr. Dominguez and Juan Irizarry, the A.T.A.'s founder.

Those from Puerto Rico work on contracts with the growers negotiated for them by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Mr. Irizarry says the contracts are inadequate and the workers should do their own bargaining through the newly merged union.

The 1976 court ruling that may come into play was by Judge Michael P. King of Superior Court in Woodbury. He found last August that under an amendment last February to the state's law on summary dispossessions, a farm worker living in housing provided by growers was entitled to the same due process and evictions as anyone else.

Michael S. Berger, director of the Farm Workers Rights Project, said this meant farm workers would get three days' notice of eviction as well as the right to trial if a worker took exception to the notice.

Mr. Berger, whose office plans to join in the union organizing campaign, noted that if workers at the camp were unhappy with conditions and refused to work at harvest time, they could remain in the camp's housing for several days under the ruling, blocking its use by others.

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