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Associated Press

Imperial County police suffering from tear gas after a confrontation with 1,000 striking United Farm Workers near El Centro, Calif., on Wednesday. An appeal for National Guard aid there was turned down by Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr.

## Brown Rejects Call for Use of Guard in Farm Strike

By **ROBERT LINDSEY**

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 22 — Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. today rejected a request from Oren Fox, the sheriff of Imperial County, to send National Guardsmen to the county to help quell growing violence in a 34-day-old strike by the United Farm Workers of America.

The Governor said that he did not be-

lieve National Guardsmen were needed, but authorized the deployment of 40 California Highway Patrolmen to the Imperial Valley, which is situated on the Mexican border 120 miles east of San Diego.

As Sheriff Fox was calling for help, the effects of the strike spread to the Salinas Valley 500 miles north of the Imperial Valley, where this morning sheriff's deputies clashed with hundreds of rock-throwing strikers. Yesterday, more than a dozen strikers were arrested and two deputy sheriffs injured in a confrontation.

### No Gains in Talks

Spokesmen for both sides in the dispute said that no significant progress had been made in negotiations to end the strike, despite the submission of a new offer by growers yesterday. The strike against 10 California growers of lettuce and other vegetables began Jan. 19. Most of the strikers are Mexican nationals who live across the border and commute to the Imperial Valley by car. Many of the strikers in the Salinas Valley are American citizens who migrate from job to job.

Law enforcement officials assert that the recently increasing violence is the result of efforts by union members to enter fields where growers have hired nonunion workers to pick lettuce, broccoli and other vegetables.

The authorities charge that the union is attempting to harass and intimidate the nonstrikers. Cesar Chavez, the union president, has said he wants only to inform them of the issues in the strike.

### Tear Gas Used

Yesterday, in the most bitter clash since a union member was shot to death 11 days ago, more than 1,000 strikers entered a field in the Imperial Valley and were greeted by salvos of tear gas fired by scores of deputy sheriffs. At least a dozen strikers and deputies were injured in the battle, and several police patrol cars were damaged.

Mr. Chavez, who is leading his first major strike against growers since the California Legislature legalized the unionization of farm workers in 1975, has asserted that his members have the right

to enter the fields and talk with the replacement workers who are picking crops.

But the authorities and growers say that the union members are trespassing. Three years ago, California voters rejected an initiative measure backed by Mr. Chavez that would have allowed union representatives to trespass on growers' property for organizational purposes.

### The Two Positions

The growers say that they cannot afford to pay the wages and fringe benefits sought by the union and still stay in business and vow to resist the union's demands. The union has called the strike a watershed in its efforts to raise farm workers' pay to levels comparable to those won by older industrial unions that are involved in the processing of food.

The growers say that they have received information from below the border that agents of the union are intimidating nonunion members in Mexico from crossing the border to take the jobs of the strikers. They say that several homes and automobiles belonging to people who have worked during the strike have been set afire. But aids to Mr. Chavez have denied that the union has any links to such violence.

The union is seeking to raise the basic hourly rate for farm workers to \$5.25 an hour from \$3.70. The growers have offered to raise the basic rate to \$4.12 an hour, but the union has rejected it as inadequate. Growers maintain that the hourly wage level is misleading because, they say, more than 80 percent of the farm workers are paid at piece-rate wages that frequently exceed \$7 an hour.

### 3 Union Members Charged

Three members of the union were charged today with assault with a deadly weapon in the confrontation in the Imperial Valley yesterday. Earlier, three employees of one of the 10 growers that have been struck were charged with murder in the Feb. 12 shooting death of Rufino Contreras, a 27-year-old farm worker.

In all, 4,300 members of the union are on strike.