



United Press International

**ON STRIKE AGAINST FARM OPERATORS:** Pickets for the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee on a road between fields in Watsonville, Calif., yesterday. The sign quotes section of the California constitution to the effect that all men are free and equal.

## Farm Union Halts 'Salad Bowl' Work

SALINAS, Calif., Aug. 24 (AP)—California's "salad bowl"—producer of half the nation's lettuce, strawberries, artichokes and broccoli—was hit by a field workers' strike today in a fight over union jurisdiction.

Pickets waving their red and black union banners stopped work at 31 of the area's 60 largest ranches. They are members of Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, fighting to win grower recognition and involved in a dispute with the Western Conference of Teamsters.

According to estimates of the farm workers union, about 4,000 field hands were on the picket lines. Mr. Chavez used a national consumer boycott to win a five-year battle to unionize the state's table grape pickers.

No violence was reported, although several growers complained that pickets blocked transportation of nonstrikers when sheriff's deputies were not on hand.

One grower who had signed with the teamsters, Bud Antle, obtained a temporary restraining order to halt picketing at his ranch.

Louis Larson of the Federal State Market News Service said that only three of the largest ranches in the 90-mile-long valley were operating at capacity.

In the Santa Maria Valley, 120 miles to the south, Manuel Chavez, Cesar's brother, directed resumption of a strike against 25 smaller growers but said he did not know whether the picketing was completely effective.

The Santa Maria strike began July 27, when the teamsters and major growers announced a five-year agreement. So far, 48 growers have signed teamster contracts, covering about 3,000 workers.

On Aug. 12, the United Farm Workers and the teamsters agreed that the farm workers union would have jurisdiction over future signings of California field workers, leaving cannery workers and truck drivers to the teamsters. At that point, Manuel Chavez called off his strike.

But growers say they will demand that the teamsters stick to the contract, and the teamsters have agreed.

More than 13,000 field hands are employed in the "salad bowl" area at the peak of the harvest, which runs until November.

"We can expect the strike impact will be greatest today," said Les Hubbard of the California Growers' Council. "By the end of the week, there will be a considerable proportion of workers back on the job."

Both unions have asked minimum wages of \$1.75 to \$1.85 an hour with health insurance and other benefits, including piece rate incentive increases. The farm workers union says field hands now are paid from \$1.25 to \$1.45 an hour. The largest grower-shipper association reports current wages at \$1.85.

Meanwhile, the formation of a labor union opposing the Chavez-led group was announced at Sanger, Calif.

Cornelio Macia, director of the union, said it would not be affiliated with any labor groups, would be called the California International Farm Workers and was organized "by the worker, for the workers and run by the workers."

The union is opposed to Mr. Chavez's closed shop tactics, he added, and will set up picket lines wherever the A.F.L.-C.I.O. attempts to sign growers without first holding an election of workers.