

# **SECRET BALLOT PLAN FOR UNIONS BACKED**

SACRAMENTO, Calif., May 26 (AP)—A plan for secret ballot union elections that Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. said would end a decade of farm labor strife in California was approved today by the state Senate.

The 31-to-7 Senate vote sends the measure to the Assembly, which is expected to pass it.

The bill is endorsed by Cesar Chavez and his United Farm Workers Union, the teamsters union and major growers.

Governor Brown hopes to sign it by Friday, which would allow a new state agency to

conduct secret elections on California farms in September.

The Governor, a Democrat, personally led negotiations that pieced together the compromise legislation.

One opponent, State Senator Clare Berryhill, a Republican, predicted that California agriculture would become a "disaster area" because of flaws in the measure. He attacked the methods Governor Brown used to bring the warring factions together.

"It was a midnight meeting. Twenty-three amendments were proposed and they had four hours to make their decision. I think many of those persons who made commitments that night would like to change their minds," he said.

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