

Chavez Farm Workers Gain Over Teamsters

FRESNO, Calif. Oct. 27 (AP) —The United Farm Workers has surged ahead in union elections over the representation of California field hands.

In the last four weeks, the U.F.W., led by Cesar Chavez, has won 82 elections, representing 5,600 workers, according to the latest Associated Press statistics. The International Brotherhood of Teamsters has won 30 elections covering 1,800 workers.

The rival unions stayed almost even through the first two weeks of voting under the state's secret ballot farm labor law, which went into effect Aug. 28.

Since then, the U.F.W. has

won 135 elections covering 13,300 workers while the teamsters' union has won 91 elections covering 9,700 workers.

The teamsters crept slightly ahead in late September after the first rush of elections at major produce ranches in Salinas Valley and grape ranches in San Joaquin Valley.

The pace in voting has tapered off since then, but the U.F.W. has continued to submit representation petitions to force elections at ranches all over the state.

The teamsters failed to file petitions to get on the ballots for most of the elections held since late September, leaving the field free for the U.F.W.

The teamsters' president,

Frank E. Fitzsimmons, said during an appearance here that his union's emphasis had been on protecting the numerous contracts the teamsters held before voting began.

Employees of 13 ranches involving 1,600 workers have voted for "no union representation." Results of 37 other elections involving 10,000 workers remain undecided because of challenged votes that will be decided by the State Agriculture Labor Relations Board following hearings.

More than 34,000 workers have voted at 276 ranches in this fall's elections, the first ever held on a massive scale among field hands in the United States.

The New York Times

Published: October 28, 1975

Copyright © The New York Times