Grape Strike Chief Accepts a Proposal For Secret Election

SAN FRANCISCO, April 8—Cesar Chavez, leader of the grape workers in the Delano area of California, accepted with reservations today a proposal by the Di Giorgio Corporation, one of the state’s largest growers, for ending a seven-month-old vineyard strike.

“We accept the election proposal and look forward to sitting down with Di Giorgio,” Mr. Chavez said at a news conference.

Thus, the National Farm Workers Association, of which he is the director, gave its backing to a secret-ballot election among employees on the Di Giorgio Corporation’s four California farms. The election would determine whether the employees wanted to be represented by any union in collective bargaining.

Robert Di Giorgio, the corporation’s president, had proposed the election at a news conference here yesterday following his dispatch of letters to Mr. Chavez’s group, the agricultural workers organizing committee of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations and the Tulare-Kern Independent Farm Workers Union.

Mr. Chavez said that the election rules should be the same as those under which the National Labor Relations Board conducted elections. His association, he added, would “not participate under any conditions” in an election that involved the Tulare-Kern union, which he said was “controlled by the employers.”