Teamsters Back Farm Labor Accord

SACRAMENTO, Calif., May 20 — Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. has won the support of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and other unions for his bill to end a long and bitter dispute between the teamsters and Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers.

In eight hours of meetings yesterday with officials of the unions the Governor achieved unanimity on his measure providing for union representation elections among farm workers. The Chavez union and growers' leaders had earlier agreed to the plan.

The Governor ordered the Legislature into special session today to act only on the farm labor relations bill, and legislative observers said that secret ballot voting to determine whether the farm workers want the Chavez union or the teamsters—or no union at all—could be held as early as the fall.

Law's Effect Advanced

The effect of a special session is that the law would become operative on the 91st day after the session is adjourned. A bill signed in the regular legislative session, now under way, could not take effect until Jan. 1.

Heretofore the farm workers have not been able to hold representative elections. They are not covered by the Federal labor relations laws, which provide for such elections.

In 1973 grape growers formerly under contract with the United Farm Workers signed contracts with the teamsters, contending that their workers wanted to switch unions.

Governor Brown's plan had come under heavy attack by the building and construction trades unions of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations as well as by the independent teamsters.

The new compromise, which apparently assures that California will have the first farm workers collective bargaining law in the nation, guarantees that construction workers on the farms will continue to be represented by construction unions and not by farm labor unions. It also provides that more than 400 contracts that the teamsters now have with California growers will not be voided unless workers choose to have the U.F.W. represent them or vote for no union.

The bill would set up a five-member board appointed by the Governor to oversee elections and labor negotiations between workers and farmers.

Strikes would be permitted even at harvest time. Representation elections would have to be held at the peak of harvest periods and would have to be held quickly after valid petition had been filed by the workers.

Secret ballot elections among the workers would be required before collective bargaining negotiations could begin. The so-called "hard" secondary boycotts, in which a farm labor union would try to keep a certain product off the shelves of stores or would set up picket lines to stop delivery of the product, would be outlawed. However, consumer boycotts, which have been used so successfully by Mr. Chavez, could continue.

Mr. Chavez, who now has only 14 contracts with farmers, could start challenging some of the major contracts held by the teamsters, such as the one with the Gallo-Wine Company. Gallo has been a major target of the United Farm Workers, which is a member of the A.F.L.-C.I.O.