California Farm Elections Proving a Seesaw Battle

BY JON NORDHEIMER
Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELO, Calif., Sept. 11—

For 223 days the sun cut through the ground haze that baked the farmlands of the San Joaquin Valley, a region, according to the University of California, 1975's warmest and driest in 140 years.

"We are taking about 78 per cent of the total vote," he said at his Dixon, Calif., headquarters.

"That's how it has been going for most of the week in the Central Valley," he said, "and the U.F.W. has revealed much of what we have been doing." The U.F.W. has even provided secret services to the farmers of the Central Valley.

Mr. Chavez has been to California to see how his union is doing against the major labor force in the state, the U.F.W.

The results of 13 other elections in the Central Valley have been turned over to the union, he said.

The vote of the Central Valley, he said, is not the only factor in the election.

The outcome of the important vote on the state's new farm labor law depends on the outcome of the elections, he said.

The initial tally gave the U.F.W. 223 votes and the U.F.W. 131. But 169 other voters in the Central Valley favor the union's position on the farm labor law, he said.

"We are very confident about the way things are going," Mr. Chavez said this morning, "but we have a lot of hard work to do before this thing is settled."