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**COMPARISONS OF UNION WORKER FAMILIES AND  
OTHER GROUPS IN THE ELECTIONS OF 1948 and 1952**

**I. SUMMARY**

**Statement of Problem:**

- A. How did union households vote in 1948 and 1952 in contrast to non-union workers' households, non-union white-collar households, and farmers? Which group shifted most between 1948 and 1952?
- B. What are the party affiliations of the above groups?
- C. Which of the above groups voted straight-tickets in the largest proportion in 1952?

**Report of Findings:**

- A. Organized labor supported Truman in 1948 and Stevenson in 1952 more than unorganized workers, white-collar workers or farmers. White-collar and farm groups shifted most between 1948 and 1952; union and non-union groups about the same. Union Democratic get out and vote more, though.
- B. The party affiliations of union and non-union workers are more Democratic than the other groups.
- C. Straight-ticket voting amounts to about the same among all four groups, but Democrats voted straight tickets more frequently than Republicans.

## II. DETAILED REPORT OF FINDINGS

1. Organized labor supported Truman more strongly than any other group. Note heavy non-voting among unorganized workers.

### Vote of Union and Non-Union Groups in 1948

(in percent)

	<u>TRUMAN</u>	<u>DEWEY</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>CAN'T RECALL</u>	<u>DIDN'T VOTE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
UNION-MEMBER HOUSEHOLDS (439 cases)	46	20	*	4	30	100%
NON-UNION WORKER HOUSEHOLDS (300 cases)	32	18	1	3	46	100%
WHITE COLLAR Non-UNION HOUSEHOLDS (420 cases)	33	40	2	3	22	100%
FARMERS (173 cases)	32	25	2	3	38	100%

2. Union-member households supported Stevenson more strongly than non-union workers, white collar households or farmers. Note heavy non-voting of unorganized workers.

### Vote of Union and Non-Union Groups in 1952

(in percent)

	<u>STEVENSON</u>	<u>EISENHOWER</u>	<u>NON-VOTING</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
UNION-MEMBER HOUSEHOLDS (472 cases)	42	32	25	1	100%
NON-UNION WORKER HOUSEHOLDS (322 cases)	31	30	38	1	100%
WHITE COLLAR NON-UNION HOUSEHOLDS (322 cases)	26	59	14	1	100%
5	24	41	34	1	100%

3. The shift from Democratic to Republican was substantial among all workers, but not as great as among white-collar workers and farmers

Shift in Voting, 1948-1952,  
of Union and Non-Union Groups ( in percent)

	<u>% CHANGE IN REPUBLICAN VOTE</u>	<u>% CHANGE IN DEMOCRATIC VOTE</u>
UNION-MEMBER HOUSEHOLDS	+ 12	-4
NON-UNION WORKER HOUSEHOLDS	+ 12	-1
WHITE-COLLAR NON- UNION HOUSEHOLDS	+ 19	-7
FARM HOUSEHOLDS	+ 16	-8

4. The patterns of party affiliations among organized and non-organized workers seem to be about the same. Both groups are more Democratic than farmers or white-collar workers.

The Party Affiliations of Union  
and Non-Union Groups, 1952 (per cent)

	<u>Strong Demo.</u>	<u>Weak Demo.</u>	<u>Indep. Demo.</u>	<u>Indep.</u>	<u>Indep. Rep.</u>	<u>Weak Rep.</u>	<u>Strong Rep.</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
UNION-MEMBER HOUSEHOLDS (438 cases)	25	28	12	5	6	13	10	1	100%
NON-UNION WORKER HOUSEHOLDS (300 cases)	25	27	11	6	5	11	8	7	100%
WHITE-COLLAR NON-UNION HOUSEHOLDS (420 cases)	17	21	11	7	9	16	18	1	100%
FARMERS (173 cases)	20	29	8	4	8	15	12	4	100%

5. Straight-ticket voting was found in roughly the same proportions in all four groups. But about 15% more Republican presidential voters split their tickets than did Democratic presidential voters.

Straight-Ticket Voting among Union  
and Non-Union Groups

Voted for President, Congressman,  
Governor and State and Local Candidates  
of the Same Party

	<u>% of all Democratic Presidential voters (cases in parentheses)</u>	<u>% of all Republican Presidential voters (cases in parentheses)</u>
Union-Member Household	46% (195)	40% (151)
Non-Union Worker Households	50 (102)	31 (96)
White Collar Non-Union Households	48 (115)	33 (258)
Farmers	48 (42)	39 (71)

Note on definitions: The question upon which the above social divisions were based was: "Do either you or the head of your household belong to a labor union? (If necessary) Who is it that belongs?"

1. Yes. R. belongs (if other than head).
2. Yes. Head belongs.
3. Yes. Both belong.
4. Yes. No answer who belongs.
5. No. Neither belong.
6. No answer or don't know.

If respondent answered 1 to 4, he was placed in the union-member household group. All who gave 5 were processed by occupation of head of household and divided into blue-collar workers, white-collar people, and farmers.