

The third question deals with the fact that apparently the figures are very hard to come by and you say that some of these figures date back to 1959. I notice in particular that, according to these figures, only about 650,000 were employed for more than 150 days. As far as you know, is that approximately a current figure today or do you think it is not accurate for today?

Mr. MEANY. Well, I think I would say that that would not be the exact figure, I suppose, but I don't think the figures have changed a great deal in that respect over the years.

Mr. REID. Of these 650,000, are some of these members of a family working on a family farm, or are these hired farmers who come in to work for a certain period of time on a farm?

Mr. MEANY. No; these are wage earners. These are what we call wage earners who are hired.

Mr. REID. What is your impression, Mr. Meany, of the efforts we have been trying to make to outlaw braceros and wetbacks?

Mr. MEANY. They have been outlawed and, despite all the predictions that the crops would rot and they would not be harvested, that just did not happen. A year ago last January they were outlawed and I think that from my point of view the braceros were handled and I saw this myself years ago, went down to California and saw it. I would say this was a disgraceful procedure.

We find that, as I say, despite the argument used that the crops would rot, we would not be able to get them in, we didn't have any crops rotting and we have outlawed the procedure.

Mr. REID. I think it would be very helpful here to supply to the committee if you could any figures that show the amount and value of the crops harvested before and after braceros were eliminated.

Mr. MEANY. The dollar value of the 1966 crop with the braceros eliminated was considerably higher than the value of the 1965 crop where the braceros were still legal.

Mr. REID. I think if you could present some figures on that, perhaps expanded from your standpoint on the statement that you quote on page 5 of the National Advisory Commission, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the gist of which is, as I understand it, that the opportunity to handle the farms and higher earnings would be enhanced given appropriate wages and working conditions.

Mr. MEANY. Yes. In other words, the question of competition for the family farms, in a sense.

Mr. REID. If you could demonstrate the instances, in a case where reasonable standards for braceros are in fact required, that instead of hampering the earnings, the earnings are improved as well as the human necessity for schooling and all the rest that is implicit in the progress in this area.

Mr. MEANY. I will send you a complete memorandum on all those questions, Mr. Reid.

Mr. REID. All right.

Well, again I just would like to thank you for testifying.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you, Mr. Reid.

Mr. William Ford of Michigan.

Mr. FORD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to join the chairman in complimenting you, Mr. Meany, on this statement.