

I have seen many statements from representatives of organized labor before this committee in the last couple of years, and this is one of the most exciting, because the subject matter is most interesting.

Mr. Chavez has opened a lot of eyes in this country to the problems that his people have encountered. But those of us who entered college immediately after the war and read the LaFollette committee reports as a part of what was then considered to be labor history, are really much surprised when we start to delve into this problem and discover that things have not changed very much during the past 35 years with respect to a substantial segment of our society.

I am also amazed at the close parallel to the conditions so very vividly burned into my mind as a young person by the "Grapes of Wrath" and the conditions that still exist in my own State of Michigan each year as the crop followers come to our State.

We pride ourselves in Michigan on being rather sophisticated in recognizing the great value to a stable economy of collective bargaining which we have had now in our major industry, the automobile industry, for many years.

As the third largest user of migrant labor in the United States, we are, I believe, one of the States that you mention in your testimony which provides absolutely no workmen's compensation coverage for migrant workers.

As a matter of fact, I discovered when I was a member of our State senate that we afford more protection for a "wetback" who finds his way to Michigan to pick cherries than we do for an American citizen who puts his family in the back of a truck and comes there to pick cherries.

I spent two summers living with these people in northern Michigan and still wonder at times how they could ever turn into citizens with roots with the kind of conditions they are content with. I have seen families where everyone large enough to walk and everyone who had reached the age where their canes would not permit them to go into the field, maybe three generations in one family, coming off of one truck to pick in Michigan. I am informed that that has not changed since 1942 when I had that experience in northern Michigan, and I am very grateful that we now have before us a piece of legislation that might bring about a change.

I am particularly interested in your references to the small farmer vis-a-vis the large corporate farmer. I think there is again a parallel here with what we have experienced in our State.

I had the opportunity of attending a meeting with an organizer for a small business association who was attempting to organize small shopowners—into the protective umbrella of the Small Business Association. Some of these shopowners were my clients. I asked the organizer what his definition of a small business was in terms of the total employees and he said, "Well, we would not consider much over 500 or 600 employees to be a small business," whereupon my clients immediately began to cool off in their ardor about what they had in common with the employer of 500 or 600 people.

Unfortunately, the farmers in my State have not had a similar confrontation, and although they will write most of the letters opposing this legislation and will be heard most frequently in the public media in Michigan, it would seem to me that you have made a very