

H. L. Mitchell, the president of these organizations, now heads one of our local unions of food-processing workers in Louisiana. He is currently in the early stages of attempting to organize some farmworkers. Since management will probably viciously oppose the organizing drive and since there is no means of adjudicating the issue, the result can be strikes and economic disruption again.

Because of our experience and that of other efforts to organize farmworkers, we believe that the legislation you are considering is of the utmost importance and is long overdue. Our union has urged the enactment of farm labor coverage under the National Labor Relations Act since the early 1940's.

LAW OF THE JUNGLE

Currently, the law of the jungle prevails in agricultural labor relations. If we Americans, as a people, believe in the rule of law, then we ought to change this deplorable situation. If the Congress abhors violence, chaos, and disorder, then it ought to provide the mechanism for limiting or avoiding these conditions in the field of farm labor-management relations. And the most logical mechanism is the one operating in other industries, the provisions of the NLRA and the rules and regulations of the NLRB.

One point is certain: Whether the Congress approves NLRA coverage or not, farm labor organization will continue and it will succeed. The question which Congress can and will decide is what are the costs to workers, employers, and communities attendant to this highly charged emotional situation going to be. Either the law of the jungle will continue and the costs will be great or established national laws will set the limits for both sides and will provide an impartial body to settle differences.

"UNIQUENESS" MYTH

In past legislative battles with the growers, we have found that they tend to believe their own propaganda. As a result, a series of myths develop to cloud not only the issues, but also the growers' thinking. So it has about this legislation. I should like to deal with some of the myths which have developed.

In each legislative battle involving farm labor reform, the "agriculture is different" myth is trotted out. Obviously, agriculture is different from other industries in the same way that the construction industry is different from the steel industry or the canning industry is different from the merchant marine or the movie industry is different from garmentmaking.

Each industry has some degree of uniqueness. Agriculture does, also.

But that hardly means that the National Labor Relations Act which operated in virtually every industry in the United States will not work in agriculture.

What are these alleged areas of agricultural uniqueness? Is it that some parts of agriculture operate on a short season? So do individual construction jobs and so does the canning industry.

Our union organizes cannery workers. We have participated in NLRB elections involving workers of plants which operate only a part of the year. The campaign and the election took place while the