

For this legislation is justified and long overdue. It is necessary and good for the Nation.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you very much, Mr. Mayer. I have only one question relating to your testimony. In the case of Seabrook Farms, which are in southern New Jersey, do you have any statistics or experience to show whether the organization of the workers on these farms caused any significant increase in consumer prices of the farm products?

Mr. MAYER. It has not, Mr. Chairman. Seabrook Farms has been competitive. If our contract had caused a sharp rise in consumer prices of Seabrook's products, the farms would not be competitive because neither our union or other unions, until recently, have been successful in organizing other farms and entering into other contracts.

Seabrook Farms was the only farm that had a labor-management contract for nearly 30 years.

What did happen I have to admit is that the wages are not the sort of wages we would have liked to have negotiated. For example, at the moment, the seasonal wage there for laborers is in the \$1.50's, I believe. This is one-half of what we negotiated in packinghouses and retail stores.

In other words, the union could not negotiate the same wage increases, the same benefits that it did in the retail stores or packinghouses, because this was the only farm organized. The union and management are currently in negotiations. Management has offered a 10-cent across-the-board wage increase, and we are negotiating for more. This is the management offer on wages that was on the table the last time I checked. They may have progressed from there since.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you. The gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Gardner.

Mr. GARDNER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go to your testimony on page 2 to familiarize myself a little more and explain what you mean by "blind, frenzied counterattack."

Mr. MAYER. Let's take one example.

In 1952, Mr. Mitchell, whom I referred to in my testimony, then the president of National Agricultural Workers Union, organized workers on some ranches of a large corporation farm. The workers were immediately replaced by strikebreakers who were imported from Mexico. The sheriffs, deputies, and the local establishment were used to intimidate strikers. There were beatings, fighting, and firings.

Mr. GARDNER. Let me ask you this: Were these strikers only marching in front and picketing? There was no violence on their part?

Mr. MAYER. There was picketing to start out with in front of the ranches and then there were boycotts and the situation escalated.

Mr. GARDNER. So the union should have to share a part of the blame in it also?

Mr. MAYER. Perhaps, but, Mr. Gardner, you have to remember there is a difference between a highly organized farm organization which controls the law, which has the money, and which has the political power in the area. So much political power that until fairly recently it and other farm groups were able to prevent farmworkers from being covered by Congress under all protective legislation. These are workers who at the time were earning far less than \$1 an hour—probably as little as 50 or 60 cents an hour.