

And I would like to submit, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, that there is something especially significant in the fact that we have appearing before the committee this morning the members of the three faith groups in our country. This is a manifestation of the fact that this matter has been elevated from a political to a moral dimension.

Furthermore, this legislation is needed in order to conform to the new conditions of modern agriculture. In the last generation, the average farm has more than doubled in size, and the value of assets used in agricultural production on the average farm has increased tenfold. The small family farm is giving way to an agricultural industry characterized by all the problems inherent in big business.

Not the least of these are problems of labor-management relations. If farmworkers, strengthened by growing appreciation of their legitimate rights, continue to be ignored by intransigent owners, conflict will be the inevitable result. The increasing number of farm labor disputes, in such scattered areas as California, Florida, and Texas, are already harbingers of more serious controversy which will cause economic loss and disruption to both producers and workers.

Opponents of collective bargaining for farmworkers should recall the history of American labor-management relations. In the absence of agreement on fundamental rights, labor-management relations were predicated on enmity between employer and employee. With the regularization of collective bargaining, labor and management developed mature relations predicated on cooperation and interdependence, to the benefit of the parties involved and the Nation as a whole.

The very fears now agitating growers were expressed 30 years ago by the closely allied food-processing industry, and both of the previous witnesses have made mention of that. But the unionization of this industry has not resulted in crippling strikes during harvesttime. Similarly, the unionization of the dairy industry and of fieldworkers in Hawaii has been beneficial to both labor and management.

We therefore endorse collective bargaining for farmworkers as well as for all other workers. We believe that men are servants of God and not of other men. "For unto Me are the children of Israel servants." (Leviticus 25: 55.) An employer can pay for an employee's time and toil, but he cannot possess his person. The employee is, above all else, a human being and as such is entitled to associate with others, if he so desires, to achieve encouragement, assistance, and strength in pursuit of the means to sustain and ennoble human life.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you, Rabbi.

Next is Reverend Igarashi. You may proceed, if you please.

Reverend IGARASHI. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Isaac Igarashi. As the chairman mentioned, I am director of the eastern field office for the National Council of Churches. In my portfolio is concern for agricultural migrants and it is a real pleasure to represent Dr. Kenneth Neigh, who was to have been here, and wanted very badly to be here, but was unavoidably detained in Massachusetts. He happens to be the chairman on the committee on structures in the efforts by several major denominations to effect a merger.

Perhaps you are aware of the Commission on Christian Union and the attempts of major denominations to develop a far more effective instrument of mission work in local communities.