

So he does send his regrets, Mr. Chairman, to you and to your committee, and expresses the hope that the supporting statement to be read by me will be an acceptable substitute. So if this meets with your approval, I would like to read the testimony at this time.

Mr. THOMPSON. You may, and we are sorry Dr. Neigh couldn't be here. We are delighted, though, to have you.

Reverend IGARASHI. Thank you very much. I will just read the statement as he worked it out with his staff.

(Reading prepared statement of Rev. Kenneth G. Neigh:)

My name is Kenneth G. Neigh. I am the general secretary of the Board of National Missions, United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. I am appearing here on behalf of the National Council of Churches, of whose general board I am a member.

The National Council of Churches is composed of 34 Christian communions, whose aggregate membership was 42,500,000 at last report. No one could speak for all of these people, and I do not pretend to. I am speaking only for the general board, which is the representative governing body of the National Council of Churches, and which is composed of 255 members chosen by the member communions in proportions to their size and by whatever procedure each sees fit.

No one can speak for the General Board of the National Council of Churches without authorization by the general secretary and without a very explicit basis in policy adopted by the general board after a rather lengthy and democratic process of preparation. The National Council of Churches has extensive policy in the area of concern under discussion today, and will become evident as this statement continues.

Christian tradition has always emphasized mutual aid and cooperation as practical expressions of the command to love God and neighbor. This ideal applies equally to the owners and operators of agricultural enterprises and to those workers who are employed for wages in agriculture. The General Board of the National Council of Churches asserted in June 4, 1958, in a statement entitled "Ethical Goals for Agricultural Policy":

One of the finest things farmers have done has been to associate themselves together in voluntary organizations for mutual aid and cooperation \* \* \* The Churches should encourage full membership participation in such organizations of mutual aid and cooperation as a genuine contribution to both Christian and democratic ideals for society.

It is our deep conviction that such mutual association with others to achieve legitimate ends is a basic need and right of all in a free society. This applies to agricultural workers equally with other economic groups. Forms of organization for democratic and self-determining participation in economic, political, civic, and other areas of life and work, by which farmworkers seek responsibility to advance their status and general well-being should be encouraged.

It has, therefore, long been a matter of serious concern of the National Council of Churches and many of its constituent denominational bodies that agricultural workers have been seriously limited in the exercise of the right to organize under law, by the specific and offending reference in the National Labor Relations Act which eliminates such workers from the services and coverage of the National Labor Relations Board. We hold that such restriction infringes upon the general right of association which should include the right to or-