

What I am pointing out here is the imbalance of the National Labor Relations Act turning us down when we wanted a representation election and on the other hand using another part of the act to bring action against us. There are some of us who feel that this is extremely unjust, and that while the National Labor Relations Act will not protect our organizing in fact in this case it has interfered to the detriment of the union.

There are a lot of fears of the opposition, particularly the growers, that if we are covered under the National Labor Relations Act that this would in fact give the unions a license to organize and if we have a license to organize then there will be many, many strikes during harvest time.

We are convinced that if we had the protection of the National Labor Relations Act that out of the 40 growers that were being struck in Delano maybe even less than half would have resisted the attempts of the union to organize. So, the fact that we do not have legislation has brought about more strikes than if we had legislation.

The other thing that should be pointed out that is very significant is that we have run into two growers now who say "we would like to give you a representation procedure, a card check or an election, but if we do we are going to incur the wrath of the other growers and we cannot afford that; therefore, we would rather fight you until you make us, under economic pressure, give you the representation procedures."

So, if we had legislation, this would then back up the growers who do want to recognize the union provided their workers want to have it, and, of course, there are not too many of these but there are some.

Also, because the main issue of the union at this point is recognition, and because there are no procedures, of course the only avenue open to us is to strike them or force them into some recognition procedure. So, I would say that if we get the coverage of the law, that strikes would be lessened.

We know that a union of farmworkers is going to be built somehow because workers are on the move and they want a union; they know a union brings benefits and they will be able to get for themselves and their wives what other union members have been able to do in other industries. We know whether we get legislation or not the effort is going to continue.

We are committed to using the nonviolent method of organizing and we have been extremely successful to this point. The only reason that there has not been any blood shed in Delano—I can say this, I think that all our people in the union would agree with me—is because we have not responded to attacks on us by the opposition.

The issue now is, will the Congress act soon enough to extend the law of the land to the workers to bring about their organization? Will the Congress give the workers the democratic right to self-determination by enacting this legislation? Or will the Congress remain mute as it has for these many years and will it then not give the workers any other avenue except what they have now, which is the law of the jungle where the fittest survive?

We will see that as long as jungle law continues the untold sufferings and the loss on both sides is so tremendous that it will never be made up. So, we say that for orderly organization there must be and