

Mr. LYONS. You know, farmworkers have been left out of certain laws and certain government elections, they have not been encouraged to participate in these elections, but since the strike started in Delano they have become aware of their vote and they know that one vote does not mean too much but a united vote is about the strongest thing that you can have.

Mr. THOMPSON. Are you registered to vote in Delano, Calif.?

Mr. LYONS. Yes, in Bakersfield.

Mr. THOMPSON. In Bakersfield.

Mr. LYONS. That is right.

Mr. THOMPSON. So you can vote in that county.

Mr. LYONS. Yes.

We are not here to get a new law passed, we are only here to get the same rights that workers in other industries have. We are just asking for the same right, we are not trying to get any special treatment, no special privileges, no special laws passed. We are just asking for the same law that other workers have.

Mr. THOMPSON. That is what Mr. O'Hara's bill does and that is all that Mr. O'Hara's bill does. It would allow agricultural workers the same right to organize as workers in industry, workers in the building trades and workers everywhere else. If this law is to pass, and I fervently hope that it does, then you would have the same rights, responsibilities, and privileges as any other workers. In other words, you would be brought under a whole body of labor-management relations law and you could organize under that law. You would be subject to unfair labor practice cases and so would your employers.

I gather that your big problem has not been your right to organize. The problem has been your inability to get your employer to discuss with you the possibility that you might organize. I am sure you realize that if you were brought under the law 30 percent of your workers in any one given situation would have to indicate by card or otherwise that they wanted an election. Then, under the auspices of the National Labor Relations Board, an election could be held. You understand that?

Mr. LYONS. That is right.

Mr. THOMPSON. And you understand that if a majority did not vote to have a union, that for 1 year you could not petition for another election?

Mr. LYONS. That is right.

Mr. THOMPSON. You are willing to do that? Are you willing to take your chance and say, "OK, we want the NLRB to have an election. If we do not get 30 percent to call it, we cannot have it. But if we do get 30 percent and we have the election and lose by one vote, we are willing to wait the year?"

Mr. LYONS. That is right.

Mr. THOMPSON. Peaceably?

Mr. LYONS. Yes. You know, at DiGiorgio to get an election it took almost a year of strikes and pickets and boycotts.

Mr. THOMPSON. But even then it was not an NLRB election, was it?

Mr. LYONS. No, it was not. If we had had a right to organize like you say, if we had 30 percent of the authorization cards signed, we could have had elections right then.