

tomatoes—but you can get tomatoes, they are shipped from California or Florida. You can get asparagus from California and now it is coming in from the Carolinas. I had some last night. These are mass-production industries just like the poultry industry is, and this is what this legislation aims at.

We are going to hear next week from the opponents of this legislation. They mean well, even though we do not agree with them. They are going to come in and say what an expensive farm operation it is. They are going to want to know how much more a dozen oranges are going to cost if union agricultural workers picked them than they do now. This was one of the reasons why I asked Mrs. Huerta the economics of the industry out there and learned that so many fewer workers can do the work of so many more only a couple years ago.

They are going to argue that the Nation's grocery bill is going to increase in price because of the unionization of farmworkers. That is not so, and I think that we will be able to establish satisfactorily; that is not so.

Even if it is, I believe that the American consumer is willing to pay a cent or two more for an agricultural product and to be able to sit down and eat it and know that they are not eating the sweat and toil of children who cannot go to school and of laborers who nearly starve in order to put the food on the table.

I am convinced that this legislation is imperative; and like everything else that we do around here it is overdue. I think that it is going to succeed.

I want to thank you on behalf of the members of the committee and myself for the enormous sacrifices that you have made, for your integrity and for your honesty and for your candor. I have been in this business a long time and I am seldom touched as I have been by your testimony. From the bottom of my heart I wish you well and express my determination that you shall have your place in the sun. And I do not mean just the hot sun without any water, either; I mean your place in the economic sun.

Mrs. HUERTA. Mr. Congressman, I hope when you hear the growers testimony next week that someone on the committee will remind them that the American farmer, and now he is really an operator of big business, as a businessman has been in a very favorable position in the last few years with the type of Government protections that he has. Right down in our area they have soil bank subsidies, and the growers in the California area have gotten a tremendous amount of money from the Federal Government on water—I think something like \$577 per acre for water. So this in terms of dollars and cents is just hundreds and thousands, practically millions of dollars that they have gotten from the Federal Government in addition to their parities.

The Federal Government often subsidizes the growers in terms of costs to the country, for example, in social security pensions that they have to give the workers because these people were not able to earn enough money. So the Government has to subsidize for medicare and the State medicare programs and social security programs—the Government subsidizing these employers.

Mr. THOMPSON. Not to mention the deductions for the cost of their doing business.

Mrs. HUERTA. That is right, all the tax and gasoline rebates they get and all of the expenses. The Government has special loan programs for the growers, they can get a low-interest-rate loan. The workers are