

EXTENSION OF NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT TO AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYEES

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 1967

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR OF THE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 2:12 p.m., pursuant to adjournment, in room 2175, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Frank Thompson, Jr. (chairman of the subcommittee), presiding.

Present: Representatives Thompson, Dellenback, Gardner, O'Hara, Scheuer, Brademas, Ford, and Goodell.

Also present: Hon. Phillip Burton, of California.

Peter W. Tredick, counsel; Daniel Pollitt, special counsel; Jeunesse M. Zeifman, clerk.

Mr. THOMPSON. The subcommittee will be in order for the continuation of the hearings on H. R. 4769, by Mr. O'Hara of Michigan.

STATEMENT OF HON. ELMER J. HOLLAND, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. THOMPSON. We will now hear the statement of our colleague, the Honorable Elmer J. Holland of the State of Pennsylvania.

Mr. HOLLAND. Mr. Chairman, members of the subcommittee, I am delighted to have the opportunity to testify in favor of H.R. 4769 and my companion bill, H.R. 1999. I do not claim to be an expert on agricultural economics. I do know a little bit about the structure of the agricultural labor force, and the role which the public employment service has played in past years in this area. But the main reason for my deep interest in this problem and my deep commitment to the principle of bringing agricultural labor under the National Labor Relations Act lies in my own personal background.

Many years before I even dreamed of coming to the Congress, I had the privilege of working with the late beloved Phillip Murray in helping to organize the United Steelworkers of America. In those early years of the labor movement, when the right to organize was itself under question, and the right to strike only a dream in the minds of some of us, I learned a few lessons very thoroughly. And I am unlikely to unlearn them now.

The first such lesson is that the workingman has only his labor, only his strength and his ingenuity and his creativity to bring to the marketplace. He cannot bargain on an individual basis with an employer. He cannot debate fine points of contracts with the employer's attorney.