

I believe that efforts to organize workers in the fields will take place regardless of whether there is legal framework for it. I believe that a legal framework would permit such activities to take place in a peaceful way, and that much of the friction and tragedy that is taking place today would be halted.

I find it hard to believe that in this country, there can still exist, quite legally, labor practices that were considered shameful 50 years ago, and practices which we outlawed 31 years ago. But it is true, and it is time that we did something about it. I urge approval of legislation which will enable framworkers to enjoy the same benefits and protections that the majority of our workers now have.

I believe that if we deny this protection to these workers, we will be creating a class of second-class citizens, a class of untouchables in a land built on the belief that every man is created equal.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you. I am sure that you have made a fine contribution to the deliberation of this committee.

Mr. O'Hara, would you like to introduce your constituent?

Mr. O'HARA. Mr. Chairman, he is not my constituent, although he comes awfully close to being my constituent, his residence being just a few miles outside of my district.

Our first witness, Mr. Chairman, is Mr. Walter Reuther, who is president of the UAW and of the Industrial Union Department of the AFL-CIO.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Reuther has been very active not only in representing his own membership, the Auto Workers, but in fighting for social justice and for working people, whether organized or unorganized, in whatever field of endeavor, and in pursuit of that interest, Mr. Reuther and his union, and the Industrial Union Department of the AFL-CIO have strongly supported the efforts of agricultural workers to organize and bargain collectively.

I, myself, and I am sure the other members of the committee, are looking forward to Mr. Reuther's presentation of the reasons why he believes this is so important, and his thoughts on what the particular legislation before us would do along those lines.

I am very proud and pleased that he is here today.

Mr. BRADEMAS. Mr. Chairman, I, too, would like to welcome our distinguished witness, Mr. Reuther. I represent a district where there are many members of the United Auto Workers, the district where we used to make Studebaker automobiles, and I am very proud to say that during my college days I worked on the assembly line and I was a member of the UAW Studebaker Local 5.

I have great admiration for Mr. Reuther and his leadership, not only in the American labor movement, but he is one of the outstanding leaders in American life today, and I am glad to see him here.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you, Mr. Brademas.

I might note—without trying to reassert my right to my nickname of "Topper," that I was a charter member of US Local 731, [laughter] while your mother was still attempting to train you. [Laughter.] She met with success, but only in recent years.

That is the Turnstedt Division of General Motors in Trenton, N.J., and this is almost like all-star day. I notice in the rear of the room our distinguished colleagues, one a member of this committee, Hon. Roman Pucinski, and another, a member of the Committee on Appropriations, Sidney Yates. And with them is a popular gentleman,