

Mr. James R. Wayson, a specialist on labor-management relations in the Library of Congress, had these words to say concerning the legislation.

He said:

The clear indication is that the decision to exclude agricultural workers from the Wagner Act was taken on the grounds of expediency, not philosophy.

And so what we need to do is that we need now to face up with both courage and compassion and do what is right, and undo what was done because of political expedience 32 years ago.

The La Follette committee got into this question, and they made exhaustive studies throughout the country dealing with the problems of agricultural workers, and Mr. Henry Fowler, who now has the distinction of being the Secretary of the Treasury, was chief counsel of the La Follette committee and he said:

Collective action by the hired workers in industrialized agriculture supplemented by social action of the government agencies similar to that applied by other industries must become the order of the day.

What we need to do is take what he proposed 30 years ago and make it the order of the day now, because for 30 years we have been paralyzed by indifference and inaction, and we believe that Congress has a moral duty, and serious social obligation now to bridge this gap that denies agricultural workers their rights as American citizens and American wage earners.

Now, whenever you try to do something meaningful for people, there are always those people who have a vested interest in the status quo, and this is true whether the legislation deals with social security, minimum wages, the right to organize, or any other aspect of the problems of a people in a free society.

There are always those people who are prepared to get up early in the morning and work late into the night finding all the reasons why something should not be done, or why it is difficult, if not impossible, to do it.

And so these people again are working overtime, and they are coming up with all the reasons that they believe represent obstacles in the way of extending the rights of collective bargaining to agricultural workers.

And one of the things that they place great stress upon is the seasonal aspects of agricultural employment. Now, we all know—you don't have to be an agricultural expert to know—that you plant in the spring and you harvest in the fall, and that Mother Nature dictates the essential time schedule in agriculture. This is why agriculture economy is much more complex than industrial economy. The Chevrolet Co. can step up production any time that they want to add more people, and put on an extra shift. But when you breed a sow in the spring, you can't turn over the production process halfway through the cycle. Mother Nature takes over.

And when you plant a crop in the spring, Mother Nature takes over and determines that productive cycle, and agriculture workers are obviously related to that productive cycle which is dictated essentially by the laws of nature.

But does that mean that this presents insurmountable problems with—dealing with how does a free society go about extending the rights of collective bargaining to workers who are in the sector of the