

I have always felt guilty as a part of the leadership of the American labor movement, and I think it is one of the dark spots on the conscience of the American labor movement, that the American labor movement was not willing to contribute and to allocate from its resources the kind of resources needed to organize agricultural workers.

We in effect turned our backs on these people.

Oh, we had a lot of noble resolutions, but you have got to measure the labor movement, not by how eloquent it is able to put on a piece of paper a policy declaration, you have got to measure its commitment by what it is willing to translate—what it is willing to do to translate those words into action.

And this means manpower, this means the allocation of resources. This is one of my big arguments with the American labor movement, that it hasn't done this job.

The UAW is suggesting—and the IUD has made a contribution—we believe we ought to put at least \$5 million a year into the task of helping agricultural workers to organize themselves.

We are going to go ahead with this.

We know that if the law is changed, and we urge that the law be changed, that we then will be working in a more favorable climate, because then the growers can't say, "It was the intention of Congress not to include agricultural workers and therefore we have no legal obligation to bargain with agricultural workers."

But we believe that with the law that will make this clear that they are obligated to bargain, we can get on the march, and we can organize hundreds of thousands of agricultural workers, and we can give them access to collective bargaining.

Now, I have been somewhat personally involved throughout the UAW and the IUD. We have been working closely with Mr. Chavez and the grapeworkers in Delano. We have been the two sources of their main financial help, both in terms of their organizing effort, and in terms of their strike struggle.

We know that more must be done, and we are going to try to help mobilize the American labor movement to make that greater effort.

We are making a beginning in Texas under the most adverse and difficult situations. I am told that you had people before your committee from Texas. It is almost unbelievable the indignation and the denial of human dignity, and the abuse, and the denial of social justice that takes place in some parts of this great land of ours, and yet when you talk to these workers and you hear their story, it breaks your heart, and you have got to have a heart of stone, almost, to hold back the tears, and yet this is something going on.

We are making a beginning in Florida. There are really three major groups. There is the California group who work their way up the west coast; there is the group in Texas, and they work themselves up through the Midwest; and your group in Florida, who work up the east coast. And some of it spills over into the bean fields of Michigan, and the cherry orchards of Michigan, and we are trying to deal with that, but our hands are tied, because the law is not with us.

We want our hands untied, we want the hands of the agricultural workers untied so that they can have the tools, the legal tools, with which they can build their own organization and they can get access to collective bargaining.