

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Reuther, essentially what Mr. O'Hara's legislation is asking is that agricultural workers be given the very same rights as other workers and nothing more.

A number of the opponents of the legislation seem to envision an immediate and enormous organization of farm workers throughout the United States, when in fact all that this legislation would do would be to give agricultural workers the same right that industrial workers have. Thirty percent of them must petition or show evidence that they would like to have a union, then there is a campaign under NLRB procedures and rules, and then the decision is made as to whether or not they want to be represented.

So I agree with you that although social justice is the ultimate end, it is by no means guaranteed. The only thing that H.R. 4769 guarantees is the right of that worker to organize.

Why, aside from the moral aspect of it, are you and the United Auto Workers so deeply interested in this legislation, Mr. Reuther?

Mr. REUTHER. To begin with, to respond to your first point, it seems to me that we need to make the people understand that the agricultural workers are asking for nothing more than other workers have, and that they are entitled to nothing less than what other workers have.

Mr. THOMPSON. This would give them nothing more, would it?

Mr. REUTHER. That is exactly right. It would give them nothing more. This would only give them access to a democratic tool, the right of self-organization and the right to bargain collectively if they comply with all the other rules of the Labor Board and they have a vote and vote by majority vote, or the company involved uses a card check—it gives them nothing more than any other worker, and it seems to me that no one who is concerned about establishing sound and constructive labor-management relations can possibly object to this, because this is the only basis upon which you can build sound management-labor relations.

The UAW is deeply committed to this. As a matter of conscience, as a matter of social justice, but also something broader than that: We believe that social justice, like peace and freedom, are essentially indivisible. We do not believe in a free society that you can have your freedom and your measure of social justice in a vacuum, that ultimately all of these basic values around which a free society is built, are essentially indivisible, one in their relationship to the other, and you can make them secure for yourself only as you make them universal.

Only as you make social justice, freedom and peace and these other values universal can you protect them for yourself.

And then there is a further interest. As a matter of simple, sound, economics, if we could raise the wages of agricultural workers and give them a greater measure of equity out of the wealth that their labor makes possible, we will be broadening the market. We will be generating high velocity purchasing power, and they will be much more important consumers of industrial production.

How many new automobiles do you think the average migratory worker buys with an income of around \$1,200 to \$1,500 a year?

Mr. THOMPSON. I imagine he buys a fifth-hand one.

Mr. REUTHER. In most cases they don't even get that, they are transported in old beat-up trucks, with their families and their worldly belongings in the back end.