

Studies of migratory workers indicate that they tend to follow the same work pattern year after year. Indeed they tend to continue to work for the same employers.

I think we could expect that if this legislation were adopted, giving these workers seniority and rehiring rights, this pattern would be reinforced, and we would have even more regularity and stability in this labor force than we already have.

As the witness has pointed out, there are numerous seasonal industries. Canning and fruit and vegetable packing are the most obvious examples. But there are many others including gift wrapping, Christmas card operations, toy manufacturing, the resort industry, and so on, I would think that even in the automobile industry, if one of the Big Three were struck at the precise time of their model changeover, the situation would be similar to the situation in agriculture.

Mr. REUTHER. Every industry has a more vulnerable point, and obviously that is always a factor in collective bargaining, as it ought to be in a free society.

Mr. O'HARA. That is right, and the employers will seek to have no-strike provisions in their contract, and a contract expiration date that does not coincide with their peak labor-demand period. If collective-bargaining agreements in the agricultural field had similar provisions, any attempt to strike at harvest time would of course permit recourse to the procedures of the Labor-Management Relations Act.

The gentleman from Michigan, Mr. Ford, do you have any questions?

Mr. FORD. We are very pleased to have our neighbor from Michigan here.

We have heard testimony here in the past few days that indicates that in some instances the provisions of section 8 of the act are being invoked against agricultural workers on a secondary boycott situation, primarily, while at the same time the Board has held they are not employees, properly so, under the present condition of the statute.

We find that the law at the present time which has been interpreted by the Board to make all employees of an organization which includes any employees who are covered by the act, employees for the purpose of enforcing the obligations under the act, but the act doesn't similarly extend the benefits of this act to all employees because some in the organization are members.

Do you have any comment on that?

Mr. REUTHER. This is, I think, a very simple illustration of how we treat agricultural workers as third-rate American citizens. We subject them to all the limitations and restrictions of the act, and we give them none of the benefits and protections of the act.

That is a typical example of how we have trampled on the basic rights of these people. What amazes me is that they have been as patient as they have been.

I can assure you that if I were a worker in the fields, I would have tried to do something about this a long time ago.

Mr. FORD. I was quite young when I read, "The Grapes of Wrath." That was a long time ago, and the conditions haven't changed. The testimony that has been elicited in connection with this legislation is a replay of a very vital period in the development of this country.