

Mr. THOMPSON. Do you know that the contract contained no strike, no lockout clauses?

Mr. TRIGGS. I am familiar with that fact, Mr. Chairman, yes.

Mr. THOMPSON. Just how, then, can you be so sure that bringing farmworkers under the act would increase strikes and conflict?

Mr. TRIGGS. Mr. Chairman, much of the attention of this committee has been focused on the *DiGiorgio* case.

Mr. THOMPSON. Because it is a success story from both the workers' and the company's viewpoint.

Mr. TRIGGS. We would argue it would be most unrealistic to base national policy on the *DiGiorgio* experience. I think *DiGiorgio* is the country's largest farm—it is a large operation, it is not typical of California, and it is not typical of the Nation, and to look at the *DiGiorgio* case and write policy—

Mr. THOMPSON. And yet you would have us believe by your testimony that these unions will be going around to 3 million farms and trying to organize them, asking for card checks, for proof that one-third of the 10 workers want a union, and calling the NLRB in and call an election.

Mr. TRIGGS. I have given you a wrong impression, if I have given you that impression. The 3 million farms would not be involved. Primarily the fruit and vegetable industry would be involved.

Mr. THOMPSON. As a matter of fact, you know, right now there is unrest and there are strikes in Texas and elsewhere. These are going to continue, notwithstanding what happens to this legislation.

As a matter of fact, I would predict that they are going to increase in number, in unpleasantness and perhaps in violence unless there is some legal mechanism by which there can be an orderly process for agricultural workers to seek to increase their wages.

Now this bill is not going to increase the minimum wage for agricultural workers. You seem to say here, "Well, what difference would it make, really, because how much, if any, wage increase would unions be able to obtain over those which would occur anyhow without winners?"

Mr. TRIGGS. There will be a real struggle in every situation between farmers and unions if they proceed to try to organize farmers without the act or with the act.

Mr. THOMPSON. It is going to be infinitely worse without the act.

Mr. TRIGGS. We will take our chances without the act, as one of the parties to the conflict.

Mr. THOMPSON. You are brave.

Mr. TRIGGS. That is virtually a unanimous position of the farmers.

Now we come to a crucial point, the effect on workers. I think it is important to avoid the oversimple answers to problems that aren't really answers at all. For example the major effect of the extension of minimum wage legislation to some farmworkers and sharecroppers is the disemployment of tens of thousands of workers in the southeastern States and an acceleration of mechanization of farm operations.

Unfortunately those who are being disemployed by this process are those least equipped to find alternative job opportunities. The welfare and poverty problems in many areas have been magnified.