

percent below April of 1966, and 29 percent below the 1961-65 average.

The next table shows indexes of farm costs. It illustrates trends in prices of farm inputs in the past 16 years. It will be noted that the prices of some inputs have been fairly stable, the prices of motor vehicles and farm machinery have increased substantially, and then over in the last column, that the upward trend in farm wage rates is the sharpest trend of any.

Farm wage rates have increased 85 percent since 1950. But the average prices received by farmers as of April 1, 1967, were 5-percent lower than in the year 1950.

Incidentally, the index of farm wage rates of April reported by the Department—

Mr. THOMPSON. Do you have any statistics on productivity on those years, the increase in productivity?

Mr. TRIGGS. Those would be indicated in the table on page 2, which indicate that output per man-hour has gone from \$1.03 in 1950 to \$2.50 in 1966.

Mr. THOMPSON. So wages went up 85 percent and during the same time productivity went up over 100 percent.

Mr. TRIGGS. Yes, but we have also made the point, Mr. Chairman—

Mr. THOMPSON. 150 percent.

Mr. TRIGGS (continuing). That the productivity of the average worker who is still engaged in hand harvest, and that is where most of them are employed, has been static, has not changed in the past 25 years.

Mr. THOMPSON. Can't part of this be attributed to the mobility of the farmworker? If a fellow is a migrant worker and is, let us say, harvesting a crop in Maryland, and learns that he can make 10 cents an hour more in nearby New Jersey, he will go there, won't he?

Mr. TRIGGS. Yes, he will.

Mr. THOMPSON. Isn't this a factor in the instability of the work force?

Mr. TRIGGS. Yes. We do have to keep in mind in this connection that of the total farmworkers, about 10 or 11 percent is migratory.

Mr. THOMPSON. Yes.

Mr. TRIGGS. The balance is local labor. People who are resident in the areas, go to work during the summertime, such as high school students.

Mr. THOMPSON. Such as the strawberry crop in Washington and Oregon, for instance.

Mr. TRIGGS. This is handled almost altogether by local labor.

Mr. THOMPSON. Families do this.

Mr. TRIGGS. And because of the provisions that Congress made in the Fair Labor Standards Act, it is continuing.

Mr. THOMPSON. They insisted it is good for the children?

Mr. TRIGGS. I would say it is. It is supported by the community and the churches.

The last table shows that vegetables and fruits are the commodities in which the largest number of seasonal workers are employed.

The last, appendix B, briefly, we have noted the steady increase of imports of fruits and vegetables from Mexico and this appendix is