

Mr. FORD. Thank you.

I notice at the beginning of your statement, Mr. Triggs, that you pointed out to us that you are representing here 1,703,000 family members and 2,770 county farm bureaus.

Are you speaking for the Michigan Farm Bureau today?

Mr. TRIGGS. Yes. I am speaking on behalf of a policy in which the Michigan Farm Bureau participated in developing.

Mr. FORD. Has the Michigan Farm Bureau or its officers been asked specifically for a position on this legislation?

Mr. TRIGGS. No, sir.

Mr. FORD. Has the Michigan Farm Bureau been asked specifically to take a position on the question of whether farmworkers should be covered by the National Labor Relations Act?

Mr. TRIGGS. The Michigan Farm Bureau did participate in our national meeting, proportionate to their total membership, at which they had the same voice as other States with a comparable membership, and this policy was adopted with complete unanimity. There was no objection raised.

Now, we do not, after we have done that, then go back to each State farm bureau and ask them, "Do you agree with all these policies?"

We assume that since they had a role in developing those policies, that they agree with them, although each State farm bureau, by agreement with the American Farm Bureau, has the right to object to any particular policy that has been adopted at an annual meeting and to indicate that they cannot go along with it. No State has done so in this instance.

Mr. FORD. Who would have represented Michigan in the annual meeting? Would the State have been represented by an opinion poll taken of Michigan farmers, or would someone like Dan Reed be at the meeting and vote by a show of hands?

What do you have to show the support of your over 1 million members of a piece of legislation like this?

Mr. TRIGGS. I will tell you the ideal situation and admit that it doesn't always work.

Mr. FORD. With respect to this legislation, you say you are speaking for 1.7 million people who are opposed to this bill.

Now, how did you determine that a majority of those 1.7 million members you speak for are opposed to this legislation?

Mr. TRIGGS. We start out with a resolutions process at the county farm bureau level.

Mr. FORD. Were the county farm bureaus in my State of Michigan asked to take a position on this legislation, and have they been canvassed?

Mr. TRIGGS. There has been no poll taken.

Mr. FORD. Mr. Reed, a personal friend whom I don't often have the opportunity to agree with politically, and whom I have seen often since this session of Congress started and since this legislation was introduced, has never sent even a post card to me or said a word in our several conversations of concern for this legislation.

I wonder if you are speaking for the Michigan Farm Bureau when you tell us that farmers in my State are opposed to this legislation.

Mr. TRIGGS. I think we are, Mr. Ford.

Let me say that our policy—