

Mr. FORD. That is based upon your interpretation of what you think general policy statements mean when applied to this specific legislation, and not a specific inquiry with regard to the legislation itself.

Mr. TRIGGS. No, we have a specific policy statement on the extension of the National Labor Relations Act to agriculture, have had it in our book for as long as I have been with the American Farm Bureau.

Each policy is subject to revision at each annual meeting, at which the delegates from the State farm bureaus may raise and do raise questions with respect to modification of any policy.

Mr. FORD. I would like to say that we do appreciate, I appreciated it when I was in the State legislature and I appreciate it here, that at the beginning of the year, before any legislation is introduced, we get a very compact and a very thorough little book from the Farm Bureau that gives us an opinion on everything that might happen, and I know of no other organization that gives us that much advance notice that they are going to be against or for something that early.

Mr. TRIGGS. That is the Bible I go by.

Mr. FORD. Your statement indicates on page 1:

Most of the farmers who would be affected by this proposal are Farm Bureau members. Farm Bureau is a general farm organization with 1,703,908 family members in 2770 County Farm Bureaus in 49 States and Puerto Rico.

Is DiGiorgio, Schenley, Hardin Farms of Texas, are they members of the organization? Are you speaking for them?

Mr. TRIGGS. I don't have any information yes or no. I would expect that they would be. The big farmers don't make very good members from our standpoint, because they tend to——

Mr. FORD. When you collect their dues, I am sure you will be interested in that.

Mr. TRIGGS. The very large farmers you refer to, and there are only a few of them, tend to be involved in other businesses, they tend to be more closely associated with chambers of commerce.

Mr. FORD. But are they not farmers who are most likely to be first affected by enactment of this legislation?

Mr. TRIGGS. Yes; I would say that. A great many of the commercial farmers are members of the Farm Bureau.

Mr. FORD. You don't have any knowledge that a member of the Schenley family works on one of your farms?

Mr. TRIGGS. No.

Mr. FORD. Now, with respect to the pre hiring arrangement.

One of your objections to this legislation was the preseason contracting. I notice that you are speaking here for the farmers in 49 States and in Puerto Rico.

A good many of the farmers that are members of your organization in several States that employed Puerto Rican labor, as a matter of fact, enter into preseason agreements regularly; don't they?

Mr. TRIGGS. Yes; this is correct.

Mr. FORD. The Puerto Rican agreements are probably the most sophisticated hiring agreements for the bodies shipped into the agricultural areas of this country. They cover wages, hours, working conditions, and living conditions, and the rate of pay is specifically set out by category; isn't it?

Mr. TRIGGS. Yes, sir.