

Mr. O'HARA. You are not willing to wait for farm labor organizations to achieve that degree of strength before you establish restrictions.

You know the farm labor organizations don't amount to a hill of beans right now.

Mr. TRIGGS. That's correct. Our members frankly fear that if the farm labor associations were to obtain this authority provided in this act, that they would become a very potent influence in the agricultural picture.

Mr. O'HARA. You are not willing to wait until they do, as you are in the case of the agricultural marketing association?

Mr. TRIGGS. No, sir.

Mr. O'HARA. Let's pursue S. 109 for just a minute.

You are in favor of S. 109 not because you favor associations. You have an ultimate objective, I take it.

Mr. TRIGGS. Yes.

Mr. O'HARA. What do you think the ultimate benefit to farmers will be of farmer marketing associations?

Mr. TRIGGS. As you of course appreciate, Mr. O'Hara, one of the fundamental problems in agriculture is that farmers have inadequate market power, because they consist of many individuals dealing with a comparatively few buyers.

We hope that by promoting the organization of bargaining associations farmers will get a little stronger voice in the market picture.

Mr. O'HARA. And they will use that stronger voice toward what end?

Mr. TRIGGS. To get the market price.

Mr. O'HARA. To get better prices?

Mr. TRIGGS. Yes. We don't believe that a cooperating marketing association can, or ever will be able to fix the price at the level they choose. Their role is to try to find where the market price ought to be on the basis of a complete examination of the marketing situation facing a particular commodity.

Mr. O'HARA. Certainly, but the immediate objective is higher prices?

Mr. TRIGGS. Yes, sir.

Mr. O'HARA. And you can see that that might in some instances result in higher prices to the consumer?

Mr. TRIGGS. No. [Laughter.]

Mr. THOMPSON. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. O'HARA. Yes.

Mr. THOMPSON. Who is going to absorb the increased price that you are going to get?

Mr. TRIGGS. I don't think we will get an essentially larger price. I don't think that the economic strength of the bargaining association under the most favorable associations will ever permit it to write the price.

It will permit it to get, we hope, the price that is warranted by the market, and sometimes prices are lower than are warranted by the market.

Yes, the consumer will pay—

Mr. THOMPSON. I understand that, but let's assume that you get more strength at the marketplace, and therefore get higher prices, and I am for this.

Who is going to absorb the higher prices?