

Mr. O'CONNELL. I think there were two questions there, Mr. Chairman. The reason this sentence is in there about the inability of labor organizations to successfully organize the farmworkers is that if farmworkers really wanted to belong to the unions, I think the demand would be great for them to do so.

So the demand, in our view, is not coming from the farmworkers, and it is not coming from agriculture.

Mr. THOMPSON. Where do you think it is coming from?

Mr. O'CONNELL. I think it is coming from the labor organizations. Farmworkers are the last large group of employees to be organized.

Mr. THOMPSON. What is your opinion, sir, as to the economic status of the agricultural worker?

Mr. O'CONNELL. In relation to the farmer, I think it is the equivalent.

Mr. THOMPSON. You think the farmer is that hungry and that deprived?

Mr. O'CONNELL. I am saying in terms of investment and return on capital, and there are exceptions to this, the average farmer is not in the same financial position as the farmers which have been cited frequently in these hearings.

Mr. THOMPSON. You don't really believe, do you, that the average farmer in the United States is going to be subject to an attempt to organize his workers when he has—if Mr. Triggs' statement is accurate—so few workers, hired workers?

Mr. O'CONNELL. I think the average farmer in the fruit and vegetable industry will be organized if this legislation is passed.

You asked a question of one of the witnesses—

Mr. THOMPSON. You can't really believe that if you don't believe that the workers won't voluntarily join the union, sir.

Mr. O'CONNELL. Those same workers in the fruit and vegetable industry—and this is going to cover most of the workers involved in these industries. If I recall a question that was asked, or a statement made by one of the previous witnesses, the implication left in my mind is that 2 percent of the farms pay 67 percent of the total agricultural wage.

Mr. THOMPSON. That statistic, I believe, is accurate.

Mr. O'CONNELL. The implication I believe remains is that this legislation would only cover these large corporate farms, or factories in the fields. In Mr. Triggs statement, if I can remember the data accurately over 50 percent of the man-days used in agriculture is in the fruit and vegetable industries. Therefore according to the U.S. Census for Agriculture in 1964, there was a total of 23,223 farms typed as commercial vegetable farms and 57,255 typed as fruit and nut farms.

This totals roughly 80,000 farmers. These 80,000 probably cover 60 percent of the wage bill in agriculture.

There are 3.1 million farmers in the United States, and 2 percent of this total is about 60,000 farms. The statement by itself, Mr. Chairman, of the 2 percent of the farms paying 67 percent of the agricultural wage bill is correct, but I think it leaves an implication that these are only large farms.

The average farm in the United States in tree fruit production is 19 acres, and the average vegetable farm has 23.4 acres.

Farms of 19 and 23 acres are not huge corporate farms.