

rectum; the resulting internal injuries may be permanently disabling. The strikers deserve great credit, in my view, for maintaining their commitment to nonviolence in the face of such brutalities. Enactment of the bill you are considering would do much to eliminate the present atmosphere of lawlessness with its attendant violence.

What of the other effects of this bill on growers? Some growers have argued that because agriculture is "different" it should not be subject to the same legislation as other industries. They have claimed that bringing the collective bargaining process to the fields would result in rotting crops and financial ruin, if workers chose to strike during the harvest season.

Surely these arguments will sound familiar to you gentlemen. They are echoes from the distant past when leaders in various industries assured us that financial disaster would follow if unionization was permitted in the automobile, steel, general manufacturing, construction and other industries. Was American business brought to its knees? Obviously exactly the opposite happened. Business today is bigger and more profitable than ever.

One is reminded, too, of the dire predictions that if Congress were ever to stop the massive importation of poorly paid foreign workers growers would suffer financial ruin. Again the predictions were mistaken, assuming that they were honest in the first place. The 1967 farm labor picture is brighter for growers than it has been in years and California growers particularly are reaping record-breaking profits. As a wealthy man, a capitalist myself, I approve of this. I hope that next year's profits for growers are higher still. But I also hope that wealthy growers will be as willing to share profits with their hard-working employees as are successful leaders of other industries.

Now it is indeed of valid concern that a total strike, even of short duration, could effectively destroy a whole crop. The National Labor Relations Act, however, was amended years ago to include processing workers, those who work both in commercial canneries and in field packing sheds. These workers, now strongly unionized, deal with crops in their highly perishable state just as do the unorganized field workers. According to Father Austin P. Morris, S.J., in an article written for the *California Law Review*,

"The only arena in which agriculture's evaluation can be validly tested, however, is actual experience. The thirty years' experience of the food processing industry has sufficiently demonstrated the poverty of farmers' thinking about unionism."

Other examples of successfully organized farm operations include the sheep-shearers—highly seasonal skilled laborers who have been organized since the 1890's—and the dairy industry, which is "in many areas highly organized from top to bottom including field workers * * *" (Austin P. Morris, S.J.)

The field workers in Hawaii have been protected since the 1940's, along with other industrial workers, under the state's "little NLRA." Field workers are entitled to hours, wages, working and living conditions equivalent to those mainland industrial laborers. The economy is characterized by its stability, prosperity, and lack of crippling labor strikes.

Thus, not only does agricultural labor organizing find its precedent in the equally seasonal construction, lumber, and garment industries already organized, but also in isolated situations within agriculture itself. From these exceptions in particular, growers should be reassured of the outcome. As a result of the recent victories on the Schenley and DiGiorgio ranches in California, farm workers all over the country are increasingly demanding the right to unionize, and this right should be protected by law without delay so that conflicts, long and costly for both growers and workers, may be minimized.

Congress ought not to view this problem as a bitter controversy pitting management against labor. Rather there should be efforts to promote negotiations so that both sides might profit. Labor-management history shows that there is a workable, American way of accomplishing this morally obligatory end.

STATEMENT BY INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS, INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S & WAREHOUSEMEN'S UNION

We welcome the opportunity to submit a brief statement in support of H.R. 4769. There can no longer be any excuse for not according agricultural workers the same rights and benefits enjoyed by workers in other industries.

The ILWU is the collective bargaining representative for some 15,000 sugar and pineapple workers in the State of Hawaii. Our members include all classi-