

essing industry from the provisions of the NLRA were based on identical arguments and fears. Organized labor was going to ruin agriculture through its control of processing plants and packing sheds. Because of the same vulnerability and the same perishability of the products, the arguments were just as plausible then. But thirty years' experience has demonstrated that this hypothesis, however sound on paper, was little more than fictitious fabrication."¹⁰

The time has come to allow farm workers to determine their wages and working conditions. At this late date, it is time to bring industrial democracy to the farm from the factory where it has flourished for thirty years or more. The time to act is now before rising aspirations of farm workers themselves turn farms into battlegrounds.

Farm workers are on the march in California, Texas, Wisconsin and Florida. They sense the sweet smell of victory emanating from Delano. They will not be denied that which was refused for so many long and bitter years.

It is to the advantage of everyone concerned—farm worker, grower and public—to bring the rule of law to chaotic industrial relations on the farm. The public interest demands the promotion of industrial peace whether on the farm or in the factory.

Until farm workers are covered by the National Labor Relations Act, there can be no peace. Until laws determine the ground rules between farm employer and farm employee, there will be unrest. Until farmers agree to initiate mature collective bargaining with their workers, many of the fears of farmers could be realized.

Thirty-two years ago, a Representative of Congress stood in the House and uttered words which are as pertinent today as they were then:

"I, therefore, respectfully submit that there is not a single solitary reason why agricultural workers should not be included under the provisions of this bill (Wagner Act of 1935). (The same reasons urged for the adoption of this bill in behalf of industrial workers) are equally applicable in the case of agricultural workers, in fact more so as their plight calls for immediate and prompt action."¹¹

GENERAL RESOLUTION UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

MIGRATORY WORKERS

Whereas: Migratory workers are the most disadvantaged group in our population with below-minimum wages, substandard health and housing, and restricted opportunities for their children; and

Whereas: Protections of social legislation established for the benefit of industrial workers are non-existent constitutes special discrimination against the agricultural worker and his family;

Therefore be it resolved: That the Unitarian Universalist Association send letters to Senator Harrison Williams, Jr., the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Agriculture and to the President's Committee on Migratory Labor, urging them to recommend to Congress passage and vigorous enforcement of the legislative program that has been drawn up by the Senate Sub-Committee on Migratory Labor which will accomplish the following:

- (a) Provide for an agricultural minimum wage (Resolution S. 1122)
- (b) Prohibit agricultural child labor (S. 1123)
- (c) Provide for the education of migrant children (S. 1124)
- (d) Provide for the education of migrant adults (S. 1125)
- (e) Require the registration of agricultural labor contractors (S. 1126)
- (f) Assist in the providing of housing for domestic farm labor (S. 1127)
- (g) Make the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act applicable to agriculture (S. 1128)
- (h) Provide for the stabilization of the farm work force (S. 1129)
- (i) Supply improved health services for migrant families (S. 1130)
- (j) Supply improved welfare services for migrant children (S. 1131)
- (k) Establish a Citizen's Council on Migratory Labor (S. 1132)

(Vote: For—385, against—15.)

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 1987.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 1954.