

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN,
Washington, D.C., July 7, 1967.

HON. FRANK THOMPSON,
Chairman, Special Labor Subcommittee, House Committee on Education and
Labor, House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. THOMPSON: The National Council of Catholic Women at its convention in Miami Beach, Florida, October 5-8, 1966, passed the following resolution relating to "Farm Workers:"

"NCCW supports the inclusion of agricultural workers under the coverage of the Minimum Wage Law and Social Security legislation. We further endorse an increase in the minimum wage for all workers in order to provide a decent living standard.

"Social justice demands that we recognize the rights of all groups to organize for the welfare of their members, and we urge continued support for such movements. We urge that agricultural labor be brought into line with the dignity achieved by industrial labor by including agriculture in the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act."

The National Council of Catholic Women is a federation of approximately 14,000 local, state, and national organizations of Catholic women, composed of nearly 10,000,000 Catholic women.

We would appreciate your entering this statement in the hearings on H.R. 4769, which would make provision for including agricultural labor under the National Labor Relations Act.

Respectfully yours,

MARGARET MEALEY,
Executive Director.

[Telegram]

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 10, 1967.

HON. FRANK THOMPSON,
Chairman, Special Subcommittee on Labor, House Committee on Education
and Labor, House of Representatives:

On behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People I am extending congratulations to you on your efforts to see that agricultural workers are given the right to organize and bargain collectively under the National Labor Relations Act. Our organization has long been interested in trying to make certain that the persons who work on the farms and in the fields are given the same benefits that our country has made possible for other employees. We strongly support the pending legislation. It will be appreciated if you will make this telegram a part of the hearing record.

CLARENCE MITCHELL,
Director, Washington Bureau, NAACP.

STATEMENT BY CARLOS MOORE, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS, WAREHOUSEMEN, AND HELPERS OF AMERICA

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I am here to represent the views of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America. I am appearing on behalf of General President Hoffa, General Vice President Fitzsimmons and the General Executive Board.

Despite legislation that dates back to 1935, the American farm worker is still without adequate protection under the law. This does not only include the right to organize and engage in collective bargaining, but even the child labor laws are legally circumvented. The farm worker has been denied such rights as Social Security, unemployment insurance, minimum wage, workmen's compensation and membership in unions.

In 1966 Congress enacted Public Law 89-601 which extended some of the benefits of the Fair Labor Standards Act to approximately 300,000 agricultural workers, leaving about one and a half million laborers unprotected.

If the farm worker fails to get statutory coverage, his efforts to obtain recognition and to obtain agreements will have to depend on force and pressure. And admittedly this will be expensive, not only to the laborer, but to the agriculture establishment itself.