

STATEMENT OF THE FLORIDA CHRISTIAN MIGRANT MINISTRY¹

"In light of our purpose, the Florida Christian Migrant Ministry calls upon the Congress of the United States to eliminate the legal exemptions which have prevented seasonal and migratory farm workers from benefiting from the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act and accessibility to the services of the National Labor Relations Board.

"Mindful of the current unrest among seasonal and migratory farm workers, the Florida Christian Migrant Ministry affirms with confidence that a greater measure of justice in agricultural employer-employee relationships will be beneficial to all-worker, employer and consumer. Flourishing attitudes of condescending superiority, cynicism and paternalism, on the one hand, and inferiority, hopelessness and hostility on the other, will be replaced by new feelings and new relationships as more just and equitable structures are brought into being in agricultural employment with the passage of H.R. 4769."

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MIGRANT MINISTRY, JANUARY 20, 1966, AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE OHIO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, MARCH 22, 1966

Whereas we recognize that mutual association with others to achieve legitimate ends is a basic need and right of all in a free society, this applies to *agricultural workers* equally with other economic groups, such as *farmers' cooperative bargaining associations*. Forms of organization for democratic and self-determining participation in economic, political, civic and other areas of life and work, by which farm workers seek responsibility to advance their status will be encouraged. Specifically included within the general right of association is the right to organize into labor unions and to bargain collectively with employers. Laws and other public policies which have been established to regulate this relationship between employers and employees to establish justice, and to protect all the parties involved should be extended to include agricultural wage workers.

Therefore, (1) We support the efforts of the Farm Workers Association of California to achieve recognition of collective bargaining rights. We recommend to local migrant committees, local churches, denominations and the Ohio Council of Churches, the endorsement of the strike objective of securing collective bargaining rights.

(2) We urge that the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act be extended to include farm labor.

(3) We recommend to local migrant ministry committees, local churches, denominations and the Ohio Council of Churches, the endorsement of the California strike objective of securing collective bargaining and further recommend support for it by providing funds.

OREGON COUNCIL OF CHURCHES,
Portland, Oreg., August 9, 1967.

Hon. FRANK THOMPSON,
Chairman, Special House Subcommittee on Labor, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

Dear CONGRESSMAN THOMPSON: We would like to have the following statement placed in the record of the Special House Subcommittee on Labor:

The Commission on Migrant Ministry and the Executive Board of the Oregon Council of Churches urge enactment and implementation of legislation for the inclusion of farm workers under the provision of the National Labor Relations Act, with appropriate amendments, and accessibility to the services of the National Labor Relations Board. Dated: March 16, 1967

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

BARBARA J. COATES,
Interim Director, Migrant Ministry.

¹ From the "Statement of Policy and Program of the Florida Christian Migrant Ministry" adopted at the Annual Meeting March 29, 1967, in Avon Park, Florida.