

CALIFORNIA MIGRANT MINISTRY,
Los Angeles, Calif., August 18, 1967.

HON. FRANK THOMPSON,
*Chairman, Special House Committee on Labor, Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. THOMPSON: Following is an excerpt from the 1967 Statement of Legislative Principles adopted by both the Northern and Southern California Councils of Churches. The excerpt is the entire section of the Principles entitled Agricultural Workers. We would like to have this excerpt printed in the record in support of HR 4769, a bill which will extend the protections of the NLRA to farm workers.

"Whether migratory or settled, seasonal agricultural workers are one of the most deprived segments of our affluent society.

"A number of current trends increase their deprivation: the rise in food prices, the ever increasing mechanization and automation of the agriculture and the consequent need for fewer agricultural workers; and the decrease in the number of farmers.

"The poverty of seasonal agricultural workers usually means inadequate housing and sanitation, insufficient medical and dental care, inferior nutrition, educational retardation, and isolation from established communities and their institutions. Economic failure and community rejection also cause a sense of personal worthlessness and purposelessness.

"Recognizing that community service—e.g., health care, child care, education, job training and re-training—must be extended to agricultural families, we place the highest priority upon legislation that will undergird family income and support agricultural workers in efforts to help themselves through organization.

"Specifically, we favor legislation designed to: (a) Protect the right of agricultural workers to organize into labor unions and to go on strike when necessary. (b) Provide for union representation elections at farms where a significant part of the work force seeks to be represented by a labor union. (c) Extend compulsory unemployment insurance to include agricultural workers."

Cordially,

WAYNE C. HARTMIRE, JR.