Our recruiter reports by telephone that most apple picking orders from other states, except West Virginia, now carry a wage rate of 20¢ plus 5¢ to crew leader. Crew leaders are primarily interested in amount of override and are not too impressed with the $1.70 per hour crew guarantee.

B. E. PERRY.

Date: April 18, 1967.

DAIRYMEN'S LEAGUE
CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC,
New York, N.Y., June 29, 1967.

Hon. FRANK THOMPSON, Jr.
House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN THOMPSON: My attention has been called to the severely adverse effect which the proposed bill H.R. 4769 would have on dairy farmers and their families across the country if it were passed. As I understand it the bill seeks to amend the National Labor Relations Act so as to make its provisions applicable to agriculture.

I am a dairy farmer and have been elected an officer of the Dairymen's League through the elective process available to its 15,000 dairy farmer-members. I have found absolutely no sentiment among farmers for the idea represented in the bill H.R. 4769. And to require farmers to make collective bargaining agreements with a union representing farm laborers without requiring the union to show that it represents a majority of employees is even more unthinkable.

Since milk is a highly perishable commodity, a labor dispute at the farm, or production level, would not only be harmful to the public good but would place the farmer in an extremely vulnerable position. His income is already at too low a level and in case of a labor dispute he would have no means to secure an alternate income. The American dairy farmer has provided the American consumer with a stable and dependable domestic supply of milk and dairy products over many years. Labor disputes and strikes would imperil the stability of the entire dairy supply system from the farm to the consumer.

The last few years we have seen great numbers of dairy farmers go out of business because of the weak dairy farm income picture. I have no doubt that the injection of labor unions together with collective bargaining into the American farm system will result in many, many more farmers leaving the farm immediately.

Because of the reasons stated above, on behalf of the members of this organization, I sincerely urge you to vote "no" in any consideration of bill H.R. 4769.

Sincerely,

EUGENE J. VANDENBORD,
Member of Executive Committee,
First Vice President, Treasurer.

STATEMENT OF CECIL WILLIAMS JR., EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL OF ARKANSAS

The following statement is submitted to the Special Subcommittee on Labor by Cecil Williams, Jr., executive vice-president, Agricultural Council of Arkansas, regarding H.R. 4769, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act, as amended, so as to make its provisions applicable to agriculture.

Arkansas farmers are deeply disturbed about the possibilities of this legislation. They feel very strongly that due to natural conditions and the economics of farming, agriculture does not lend itself to unionization.

If the provisions of NLRA are extended to agriculture, unionization of farm labor will be relatively easy. As we understand the Act, the NLRB would be obligated to call an election if only 30 percent of a farm's employees sign a petition asking for an election. Theoretically, three employees on a farm having nine employees could determine if all the workers are to be unionized.

Once a farm is unionized, union leaders would certainly pick crucial times in the crop year to make contract demands. For most crops there are three crucial periods—*planting,* cultivating and harvesting. A crop can be completely lost during either of these periods. The planting season varies with different crops from two weeks to two months. Usually there is a critical period of three