

Mr. SCHERLE. Do you believe that farmworkers should be unionized?

Secretary FREEMAN. I don't have an opinion on that one way or the other. That is up to the farmers.

Mr. SCHERLE. Do you believe as do some members of your Cabinet that they should be unionized?

Let's take the migrant worker.

Secretary FREEMAN. I think they should have the right to join a union just like anybody else has the right to join a union.

I don't believe in discriminating against farmers.

Mr. SCHERLE. Do you think unionizing the farmers would enhance the economy of the farm operators?

Secretary FREEMAN. In some cases it would and in some individual cases it might not.

Mr. SCHERLE. Would you explain what you mean by "it would and it would not"?

Secretary FREEMAN. I think in some cases an individual farm operator, if he were dealing with a group that had seen fit to come together and organize, might be able to get more skilled labor and would have a more efficient operation.

In some places that might not be the case.

Mr. SCHERLE. You don't have any reference to harvesttime do you?

Secretary FREEMAN. I have no reference to harvesttime.

Mr. SCHERLE. This is the only time that they would have supreme bargaining power—at harvesttime—is it not?

Secretary FREEMAN. I don't know.

Mr. SCHERLE. You are the Secretary of Agriculture and you are a farmer—I know you come from a farm State, yet you say you do not know the answer to that question.

Secretary FREEMAN. You are answering your own question so I don't have to answer it.

Mr. SCHERLE. I have no intention of arguing that point, Mr. Secretary. I will let the record speak for itself. May I now ask what you mean by depressed areas in rural America?

Secretary FREEMAN. I don't have any such definition before me and that phrase has not been used before today.

Mr. SCHERLE. Again, may I respectfully refer you to the record, Mr. Secretary, which speaks for itself. Let us test depressed or distressed areas. What is your definition of these words? What do they mean to you?

Secretary FREEMAN. I don't have any particular definition for that term, either.

Mr. SCHERLE. I have an article here that concerns your visit to southeast Iowa, I believe last week, when you were there to find new ideas to implement a program that might be beneficial in raising the economy of rural America.

I read here a remark, and it was in your testimony—you read it here this morning—you remarked that the people were angry when Centre-ville was labeled a depressed area.

It is on page 20 of your statement.

Secretary FREEMAN. This referred to the period back in 1962 under the ARA program where certain areas that had a given number of