

The current \$300 maximum on fines has had a very limited deterrent effect on violators. The practice of violators in forfeiting collateral has become a public scandal. We advocate mandatory court action with denial of permission to forfeit collateral in all cases where personal or fatal injuries are involved. We also urge raising the maximum fine per violation to \$1,500 and heavier fines for repeated violations.

In the past twenty-five years the responsibility for literally dozens of fatal accidents have been met simply through the callous forfeiture of \$300 collateral. Simple justice contradicts this solution to basic problems of health and life itself.

The 89th Congress passed amendments to the District of Columbia Minimum Wage law making substantial improvements in wages and extension of coverage to workers in the District of Columbia. We are sure that this Committee will continue to recognize its responsibility to those workers in private employment by updating the Industrial Safety Law.

The Public Health, Education and Welfare Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia held hearings on an identical industrial safety bill on March 10, 1967. There is a reasonable expectation that the Senate Committee will favorably report the legislation. Favorable action by the House Committee would help to insure action on this important legislation.

We are grateful for this opportunity to appear before your Subcommittee. We urge prompt action on this industrial safety legislation which vitally affects the lives of many workers in the Washington metropolitan area.

Mr. SISK. Thank you, Mr. McGuigan. Now, Mr. Turner, did you have a statement that you would like to make?

Mr. TURNER. I would like to say that I attended the last hearing. I heard the statement made by Mr. Kneipp on behalf of the D.C. Commissioners and I was quite disturbed that in his statement he urged that casual employment not be covered by the act. Now, agricultural workers and domestic workers I can understand, but the present law says that the employer shall provide a safe work place. Now, when you start breaking down into categories of workers I think it changes the whole concept of the bill. And certainly we believe that casual employees are just as much in need for a safe work place as anyone else.

Also, he made the statement that so far as cases not being tried rather than collateral being forfeited that he thought this matter could be settled by a letter from the Board of Commissioners to the Court, asking the Court to give a trial perhaps in the case of fatalities or serious personal injury. The fact of the matter is, however, they never have written such a letter despite the fact, as Mr. McGuigan has said, this forfeiture of collateral. For instance, we had thirty-eight fatalities last year. A number of these were cases where employers forfeited collateral rather than standing trial and giving an opportunity of some publicity to what did occur, maybe to learn something through the trial procedure as to why the accident occurred or help to inform the public as to how to prevent future accidents of this nature. As Mr. McGuigan said, it is a public scandal that we keep reading about these matters. Therefore, we believe that