

faced with a highly unusual situation in that no question of jurisdiction has been raised, especially in view of the fact that the Committee on Education and Labor, in Executive Session, has already commenced marking-up the bill, H.R. 4769. Notwithstanding this fact, and in view of the unique action taken by your distinguished Committee by the adoption of a Resolution on February 8, 1968, I shall ask the Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, The Honorable Carl D. Perkins, to defer the completion of the mark-up for at least a few days in order that you may have this opportunity to present your Committee's views.

I have scheduled a meeting of the Special Subcommittee on Labor at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 21st, in Room 2175. I am sure that this will provide ample opportunity for you and your staff to prepare your presentation. We look forward, Mr. Chairman, to the honor of a visit from you. I shall eagerly await your appearance.

Kind regards and best wishes,
Cordially yours,

FRANK THOMPSON, Jr.,
Chairman, Special Subcommittee on Labor.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D.C., February 10, 1968.

HON. FRANK THOMPSON, Jr.,
*Chairman, Special Subcommittee on Labor,
Committee on Education and Labor,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR FRANK: Your very gracious letter of the 8th was here when I returned from a speaking engagement in North Dakota last night. I very much appreciate the opportunity that you have extended to members of the Agriculture Committee to present our views in regard to the proposal to make agricultural labor subject to control of the National Labor Relations Board.

While I do not know which of the sponsors of the resolution that our committee passed will be in town at the time of the hearing (I have had no opportunity to talk to any of them this morning), I assure you that it is my hope that I may discuss this with your subcommittee and I am, therefore, seeking to arrange my schedule so that I can be there, although I had no personal part in the drafting of the resolution and claim no special knowledge on this subject. I do, however, think that it is of such far-reaching importance to agriculture as a whole that our members should try to arrange to cooperate with your kind invitation. I am, therefore, placing this date on my own calendar and will ask such members of the Farm Labor Subcommittee as may be available to accompany me.

Let me again assure you that I appreciate your courtesy, and with best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

BOB POAGE,
Chairman.

AGRICULTURAL LABOR RELATIONS—RESOLUTION

Whereas, the House Committee on Education and Labor is presently considering H.R. 4769, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act, as amended, so as to make its provisions applicable to agriculture; and

Whereas, this bill would for the first time in the history of our nation subject farmers and ranchers to the type of legislation which created and now applies to the National Labor Relations Board; and

Whereas, unlike industrial employers, farmers are uniquely susceptible to strikes, labor disputes, and work lapses because of the perishability of their crops; and

Whereas, farmers would lose not only their annual income, but also much of their farm investment in the event of prolonged labor disputes; and

Whereas, realized net farm income in 1967 was over \$1.5 billion less than a year earlier and the 1967 parity ratio was 74, the lowest level in 34 years; and

Whereas, it has been the long time goal of the federal government to attain 100 percent of parity for agriculture and H.R. 4769 would make the attainment of such goal exceedingly more difficult; and

Whereas, farm employers are now caught in a vicious cost-price squeeze; and

Whereas, to bring farmers under such a program as set forth in H.R. 4769 would substantially advance farm production costs and further reduce farm income to a point far below the present parity level; and