

Whereas, farmers and ranchers cannot afford to pay for the continual services of professional staffs that would be necessary for interpretation and consultation; and

Whereas, many farm workers would be disadvantaged by this bill because of accelerated substitution of machines for manual labor by agricultural employers; and

Whereas, the disemployment of these farm workers, most of whom have little other work opportunity, would augment the urban burden caused by the migration of rural people to the nation's cities;

Therefore be it Resolved that the House Committee on Agriculture, in the national interest as well as in the interest of agriculture, does hereby respectfully urge and request the House Committee on Education and Labor to delete from H.R. 4769 or similar legislation language applicable to agriculture.

Adopted this the 8th day of February, 1968.

Mr. THOMPSON. H.R. 4769 would extend to agricultural workers the same rights to organize and bargain collectively under law which are now enjoyed by other American working men and women. The Special Subcommittee on Labor, which has general legislative jurisdiction over the National Labor Relations Act, conducted 6 days of hearings on this bill, receiving testimony from labor representatives, from farmworkers, from administration experts, from academic experts, and from national farm groups. The bill was reported by the subcommittee favorably on December 12, 1967, and the full committee on Education and Labor began to mark up the bill in executive session on January 23, 1968. The bill is presently pending on the committee.

In my letter to Mr. Poage I stated that I would request the chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, Mr. Perkins, to withhold further action on H.R. 4769 until we could have a hearing. He so agreed, and I assume that following this hearing today there will be a discussion as to the final disposition of that legislation.

Chairman Poage kindly consented to appear today in response to my invitation, and to present his committee's views on H.R. 4769.

You are very welcome, Mr. Chairman, and it is a great honor to have you here. You have a statement; you may proceed as you wish.

STATEMENT OF HON. W. R. POAGE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

Mr. POAGE. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate your kind invitation and I want to express to you and your committee my appreciation for this opportunity which you have extended me to talk with you about the extension of the jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Board to the field of agricultural labor.

As I see it, this is the proper way for our committee to function. Indeed, unless we have some way for members of other committees which have some responsibility in the matter to talk with members of the committee which is at the moment considering a subject matter, I think we are going to spend too much of our time in fruitless jurisdictional disputes.

Actually, I must confess that I have been warned that I should not even meet with you. I have had those who have warned me that the members were but seeking an opportunity to get a helpless country boy before them and hold me up to ridicule.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I would like to say at this point that I don't regard you in any way as a country boy and I don't think that any member of this committee regards you as a country boy. You have been in the Congress a great many years; you have