

Mr. POAGE. We felt the easiest way to express our views was to do it by resolution rather than ask that each member come here and be heard.

Mr. THOMPSON. Will the gentleman yield? Two distinguished members of your committee submitted statements in opposition for the record.

Mr. POAGE. I understand that.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Chairman, your letter to me indicated that you were not the author of this resolution.

Mr. POAGE. That is correct.

Mr. THOMPSON. Can you tell us who is?

Mr. POAGE. Mr. Abernethy is the author of the resolution.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Abernethy. I thought there were two authors.

Mr. POAGE. I don't think there were. I don't recall but one author.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Abernethy, incidentally, was one of the two of your committee members who submitted statements in opposition to this legislation.

Mr. O'Hara?

Mr. O'HARA. I was going to say, Mr. Chairman, that I think I agree with everything the chairman said right up to the last point, which is that the appropriate method of expressing one's concern is by a formal committee resolution. I always felt that the appropriate method was by individual expressions of concern either in the hearings or on the floor, informally to members of the committee. I felt that because I am a great believer in custom and precedent.

But with regard to the specifics of the bill, Mr. Chairman, I take the view—and this is the other point in which we are in disagreement—I take the view that in the long haul and perhaps even in the short run, that it would be of advantage to both agricultural producers and agricultural labor to have a system for determining the rights of each and the procedures available to them in asserting their rights set out by law and that that system be followed rather than the prevailing method of settling these disputes, which is really a reversion to the law of the jungle.

Mr. THOMPSON. If the gentleman will yield, isn't it my understanding, Mr. Chairman, that there is pending before your committee the Mondale bill sponsored by a number of House Members that would grant farmers the right of collective bargaining?

Mr. POAGE. If it is not already before us it unquestionably will be.

Mr. THOMPSON. And isn't the purpose of that bill the right to grant farmers the right of collective bargaining?

Mr. POAGE. It provides for collective bargaining if I understand between cooperatives with those who are buying their products. And certainly that gives the cooperative the right to bargain with these other institutions, and we find no fault with that.

Mr. THOMPSON. Now that would, in fact, give the farmer more protection in the marketplace, would it not?

Mr. POAGE. That's of course what the proponents of that bill think. Obviously they think it would. I don't want to suggest that I think it would, because I don't know. I am not prepared to pass upon that bill. It has been presented within the last few days and there have been no hearings or not even any discussion on it.

Mr. THOMPSON. We will be watching that with great interest.

Mr. O'HARA. Mr. Chairman, by putting agricultural employees under the Taft-Hartley Act, H.R. 4769 provides a regular method of