Do you have any information on the profitability over the last 20 years, the profitability, the balance sheet and the operating statements, of the 6 percent of American farms that employ about 85 or 86 percent of farm labor in the fruits-and-vegetables area, the so-called stoop-labor area, and cotton?

You mention in your testimony that over 20 years prices went down 10 percent, whereas agricultural wages went up 50 percent and industrial wages, I think you mentioned, went up 100——

Mr. POAGE. 133 percent.

Mr. SCHEUER. 133. It's quite obvious that the cost of living in that 20 years went up 50 percent, so, in effect, the agricultural workers did not keep up with the cost of living, and some of their wages remained static in that period.

You mentioned that farm prices in some instances went down in that period, but you didn't mention what the impact of automation and technological advance had on profitability. Can you tell us anything about how the 6 percent of farms that employed the 85 percent of farm labor, including virtually all of the labor that would be covered by this legislation, how they made out from the point of view of profit? The large industrial farms?

Mr. POAGE. I don't think that you can make the calculation as to the number of farms that are now in operation and determine what the profitability has been.

During the last 20 years there have been more than half of the farms of the United States go out of business. More than half of the farmers of the United States have moved to town within the last 20 years.

Mr. SCHEUER. That's true, but those farms are not being covered by this legislation.

Mr. POAGE. Certainly, and those farms were not profitable obviously, or at least most of them were not profitable. There are other personal reasons why people move, of course, but by and large those people simply couldn't make a living on the farm.

Mr. SCHEUER. Mr. Chairman, those are exactly the small family farms that are not covered by this legislation. We are covering the large industrial farms which, as you quite properly say, have lawyers, accountants, tax specialists, who go public from time to time, who sell their shares to high tax bracket investors in New York City for tax benefits and other benefits.

Those are the kinds of farms we are talking about—the 6 percent of the farms that are highly sophisticated that employ all kinds of specialists as you rightly noted, who employ 85 percent of the farm labor.

Can you give us any indication today or can you submit for the record any indication as to the profitability over the last two decades of these farms?

Mr. POAGE. I think that your statement makes it very clear as to what the basic difference of opinion between your members and our members is. You assume that this legislation is always going to remain just as it is. Certainly speaking for myself, and I will not try to say that I speak for the full committee, I am convinced that the Washington Post is exactly correct when they say that when you pass legislation with exemptions that the legislation always tends to be changed and the exemptions tend to be eliminated and I had hoped that I had been able to make it clear that it is our view that the passage of this