Now, if this is not a correct statement, I think all of us would be very grateful, since none of us are highly sophisticated agricultural economists. If your committee would give us information on the profitability, the profit experience in the last two decades of the large industrial farms; as I say, the 6 percent of the American farms that produced the overwhelming proportion of the farm product in the fruits and vegetables and cotton area and which employ 85 percent of the labor which would be covered.

Could your committee staff specialists give us this information?

Mr. POAGE. I don't know whether we can give you anything different than what you have. Where did your figures come from? Whose are they?

Mr. SCHEUER. Mr. Chairman, I will find that out in a minute.

As a very junior Congressman, sir, I would like to ask just one more question——

Mr. POAGE. May I answer your question a little further, if I may.

Mr. SCHEUER. Certainly.

Mr. POAGE. I think we must all recognize, and I think we do all recognize, that corporate agriculture, large agriculture, just as large distribution of retail goods is more profitable than the small units, I think there is no question about that. I think that is a fact of life in agriculture. I think it is a fact of life in manufacturing; I think it is a fact of life in retailing; and I think we have seen the same trend in all phases of our economy, including the organization of labor unions.

Certainly some of the larger farmers are making more money than smaller farmers who produce the same amount in toto and I think that is exactly what I was trying to point out in my statement, that the small farmers are the ones that are paying the lowest wages, because they have to. The small farmers are the ones that are going to be hurt by this kind of legislation.

As a matter of fact, I assume it is true in agriculture the same as I assumed it is true in industry, that you will find that the larger operations very oftentimes want all of the restrictions that they can placed on the employment of labor and to make it as expensive as possible and drive out their less efficient competition.

Why certainly it is to the advantage of the largest operator to drive out the little people who cannot meet his scale. Certainly you are going to, as we see it, with any legislation of this kind, make the big bigger and the small smaller.

Mr. SCHEUER. Except that the small here have an infinitesimal impact on the employment of farm labor. The 95 or 96 percent of the farms that are small only employ 15 percent or less of all the farm labor so that it will have a terrific impact.

Mr. POAGE. To the farm that only employs one man, that one man is just as important to that farmer as those thousand men who are employed by the big operation in California and Hawaii, and that one is just as important, and if you take that one man off of that farm you have broken the farmer.

We think that the point that is so often overlooked is that the small man has the same percentage stake that the larger one has and ofttimes more, because he cannot transfer his labor requirements. He cannot convert them into machinery as the larger man can and does.