

tural labor the same certification and collective bargaining protection that industrial workers have had for three decades. Unfortunately, lack of formal Administration endorsement makes the measure's chances negligible, even though it has the personal backing of Secretary of Labor Wirtz.

Farm laborers, with average incomes of \$1,100 to \$1,500 a year, are the most exploited of American workers. Until recently, organized labor itself extended almost no help to these economic outcasts. The emergence of Cesar Chavez as leader of an indigenous group in California's San Joaquin Valley last year produced an upsurge of union interest that is now manifesting itself on the Atlantic Seaboard as well as in Texas.

Every consideration of equity and orderly procedure calls for the creation of machinery through which farm workers can indicate, freely and democratically, whether they do or do not want to be unionized. Settling such questions through guerrilla battles between police and pickets is a throwback to the pointless violence that accompanied the unionization of the mass-production industries in the early years of the New Deal. The United States has passed beyond that stage.

Unionizing Farm Labor

Recent clashes between Texas Rangers and striking Mexican-American field hands in the Rio Grande Valley point up the desirability of prompt Congressional passage of a bill establishing procedures for the unionization of farm workers.

The Senate Migratory subcommittee is holding hearings on a bill sponsored by its chairman, Harrison A. Williams Jr. of New Jersey, to give agricul-