

TESTIMONY OF  
FRANK E. FITZSIMMONS  
GENERAL PRESIDENT  
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS, WAREHOUSEMEN  
AND HELPERS OF AMERICA  
IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 4408  
Monday, May 21, 1973

Members of the Subcommittee on Agricultural Labor of the House  
Committee on Education and Labor.

I am Frank E. Fitzsimmons, general president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America, and appear here in support of H.R. 4408, the bill sponsored by Congressmen Sisk, McFall, Ketchum and Rhodes.

I am most grateful for the opportunity to present testimony to your subcommittee on behalf of the more than two million Teamster members on the question of collective bargaining for farm workers.

I come before you to address myself to the rights of farm workers -- not the the rights of the Teamsters or the United Farm Workers, or, for that matter, the rights of any other union.

I am most certain that this subcommittee sincerely appreciates that rights spring from a body of law. This great nation is established on a body of law, the foundation of which is the Constitution of the United States.

Without that great body of law there would be no order in our affairs. Without that great body of law there would be no rights, or certainly rights would be in danger of being abrogated or curtailed.

Since the clergy in this country has expressed much interest in the farm worker controversy and has taken an active role in support of the United Farm Workers' Union, I feel compelled to point out the obvious -- that the clergy is bound by a body of rules and regulations which we call Canon Law.

Another obvious fact -- which unfortunately many have chosen to ignore -- is that collective bargaining in this nation is established according to a body of law. It began, in the main, with passage of the Wagner Act. That body of law has been enlarged to include the National Labor Relations Act, and subsequently amendments popularly called the Taft-Hartley and the Landrum-Griffin Act.

Yet, despite this nation's rightful affinity for conduct of its' affairs according to a body of law, despite this nation's rightful insistence that rights be protected by law, collective bargaining in agriculture is excluded from the National Labor Relations Act, and has been since its enactment in 1935.