

# FB Calls On Congress To Enact Farmer-Farm Worker Relations Bill

(Continued from Page 17)

the Department of Agriculture—the gathering of factual data for the assistance of the court

We propose the creation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture of an Agricultural Labor Service, a comparatively small agency, to perform these two functions.

### (3) Protecting workers

We would propose that certain rights of workers be protected by statute

These include protection of

- (1) the right to join a union, or to refrain from joining a union;
- (2) the right to be free of discrimination because of membership or non-membership in a union, (3) the right to vote with respect to representation in a secret election; and (4) the right to bargain collectively with an employer if the majority of the employees of an employer so desire

Civil actions could be filed by workers or unions in the event such rights are violated

S 8, if enacted, would in our opinion violate these rights of workers

S 8 would legalize a pre hire contract between a union and an employer which could provide that any workers subsequently employed must join the union within seven days after employment. The bill would also legalize a contract between a farmer and a union providing for a preference in employment for any worker referred by the union—in effect a "hiring hall" arrangement

Although farmers would not be required by law to sign such contracts, it could be expected that many farmers, urgently needing an assurance of labor peace at harvest time, would sign them under pressure

We submit that these proposals would involve an intolerable coercion of workers. Workers would be denied any right at all to have a voice in whether or not they want to join a

union, or be represented by a union, or any choice as to such representation. Farmers should not be compelled to coerce workers to become union members against their will

The enactment of these proposals would be wholly inconsistent with the asserted purpose of Section 7 of the Labor Management Relations Act, that "employees shall have the right to self organization, to form, join, or assist labor organizations . . . and shall also have the right to refrain from any or all of such activities . . ."

### (4) Protecting farmers

Farmers too should be protected against violations of specified rights. As with farm workers, these rights should be set forth in the statute, and should include (1) the right to be free of secondary, hot cargo, or product boycotts; (2) the right to avoid being saddled with specified "feather-bedding" practices, and (3) the right to be protected against a strike

that could result in the loss of a farm product.

Farmers are indeed uniquely vulnerable to labor disputes. Most businesses can close down for a substantial period of time to sit out a strike without disastrous consequences to the financial position and the future of an employer. In sharp contrast, a relatively short strike in agriculture at harvest time can result in the loss of a year's income plus the loss of a substantial investment, often of borrowed money, to bring a crop to harvest stage.

Under such circumstances, a farmer faced with a strike and crops ripening in the field, would have difficulty resisting any demands made upon him; even though such demands were arbitrary, excessive, or otherwise unreasonable.

We must necessarily oppose to the limit of our capacity, any legislative proposal which fails to protect farmers from strikes which may result in a loss of farm products

them concerning their rights, responsibilities, and obligations; and to counsel them if legal action becomes necessary.

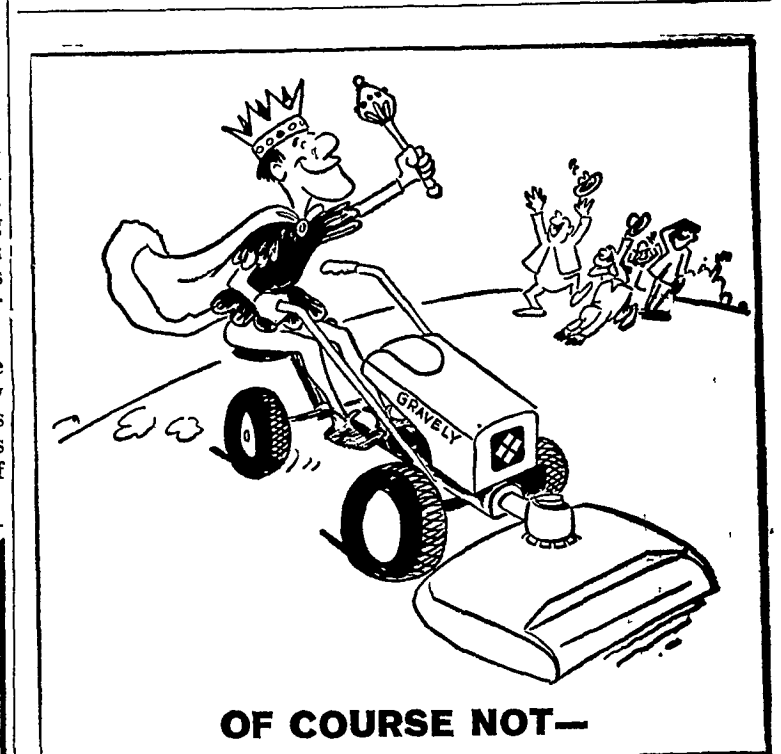
Attorneys with this specialized experience and knowledge are scarce and their fees are substantial. In many rural areas there are no attorneys with such experience and specialized knowledge.

Yet a farmer who did not have such legal assistance available to him would be taking a big risk. The need to employ legal counsel would entail a substantial burden that many farmers, particularly small and medium size farmers, could ill afford.

In contrast, S 8 would authorize . . . (Continued on Page 30)

(5) Exemption from coverage. The Agriculture Labor Relations Act we support would be limited in its application to farmers who employ an annual average of eight or more workers

Most manufacturing and commercial businesses have found it necessary to employ legal counsel to assist them in their negotiations with unions; to advise



OF COURSE NOT—

But come in and see for yourself how the rugged all-gear-drive Gravely compact tractor and its 39 year-old attachments make you indisputably King of the tough jobs.

Come in!

## POSEY'S GARDEN CENTER

(BOB POSEY)

Rear 49 North Broad St.

Phone 717-626-2343

Lititz, Pa.

**SEED  
POTATOES**

**KATAHDINS  
COBBLERS**

**Carl H. & Parke Groff**  
(Formerly Groff Hardware)  
New Holland, Pa.  
100 South Railroad Ave.  
Phone 354-0851

**Erth - Rite**

**Composted Organic  
KELP-LONFOSCO**

**ASK ABOUT OUR  
LITTER - LIFE  
FOR POULTRY**

**ZOOK & RANCK,  
INC.**

Phone 717-442-4171  
R. D. 1 Gap, Pa. 17527

**WANT  
TOP  
Yields?**

You'll be more assured of TOP YIELDS if PIONEER is in your fields. See me now while variety selections are complete.

See or Call Your  
Nearest PIONEER  
Salesman:

**PIONEER**  
BRAND  
SEED CORN

PIONEER is a brand name, numbers identify, variety. Registered trademark of Pioneer Hi-Bred Co., Company Des Moines, Iowa



## GROW BIG

## HEIFERS FAST at low cost with NEW PURINA HEIFER CHOW

More and more local dairymen are proving that a small extra investment in heifer feeding can pay off when heifers freshen and begin contributing to the milk check.

And research has proved that heifers which produce well in the first lactation continue to be high producers over a longer milking life than average cows.

NEW Purina\* Heifer Chow\* has been developed to help you grow big heifers fast, conveniently and at low cost. New Heifer Chow is a palatable, coarse 14 per cent protein ration, fortified with vitamins and minerals to stimulate fast, solid heifer growth.

To build low-cost growth, you need feed only 3 pounds of New Heifer Chow per heifer per day if your legume forages are of good quality. For best results, start your heifers on the Purina heifer growing program at six months of age until 90 days before freshening when they'll be fed on the basis of their condition and on the quality of your forage.

Drop in soon and pick up a copy of our New Purina Heifer Growing Program folder. It explains the program to follow for fast-growing, early-freshening heifers at low cost.

\*Reg. Trademark—Ralston Purina Co

**John B. Kurtz**

Ph 354-9251  
R D. 3, Ephrata

**Wenger's Feed Mill  
Inc.**

Ph 367-1195  
Rheems

**West Willow  
Farmers Assn., Inc.**

Ph: 464-3431  
West Willow

**James High & Sons**

Ph 354-0301  
Gordonville

**Ira B. Landis**

Ph: 394-7912  
1912 Creek Hill Rd., Lanc.

**John J. Hess, II, Inc.**

Ph: 442-4632  
Paradise

