

House of Representatives, U.S.
Committee on Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 1, 1965

GOP members of House Agriculture Committee charge Secretary Freeman fails to speak up for farmers on farm labor issue.

Ten GOP members of the House Agriculture Committee today sent the following letter to Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman:

Honorable Orville Freeman
Secretary of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We want to take this opportunity to express to you our concern about HR 10518, the pending legislation dealing with minimum wages for agriculture, and to urge you to take a more active role in defending the interests of farmers.

Actually we are quite surprised that you have remained silent on this important issue. Your voice in the councils of the Administration and in the halls of Congress has often been heard on many other issues, but on this very important legislation you have been unusually mute.

As you may know, the Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Mr. Cooley of North Carolina, has described this legislation as a bill which would be "disastrous to farm workers...." as well as creating "a rise in food costs of substantial portions throughout the nation...." and "causing a new migration of unemployed farm workers to our cities, to create poverty faster than it can be cured."

We hope you will speak up for agriculture before it is too late.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Paul Dague, Pennsylvania
/s/ Page Belcher, Oklahoma
/s/ Albert Quie, Minnesota
/s/ Catherine May, Washington
/s/ Delbert Latta, Ohio
/s/ Ralph Harvey, Indiana
/s/ Paul Findley, Illinois
/s/ Bob Dole, Kansas
/s/ Laurence Burton, Utah
/s/ Prentiss Walker, Mississippi