

Correspondence between President Harry S. Truman and Activist Roy Wilkins, October 10-November 8, 1949

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November 8, 1949

Dear Mr. Wilkins:

Your letter of October 10 with reference to the agricultural problems of colored people raises several questions which are under consideration by the Government.

Letters also have been received from Mr. H.L. Mitchell and other persons concerned with various aspects of the questions you raise, and for your information a copy of the reply to Mr. Mitchell is enclosed.

The Department of Labor now is considering the feasibility of recommending the establishment of a Presidential Commission on Agricultural Problems. I am sure that if such a Commission is established the questions you raise would be among those to which it would give close study.

Please be assured that whether or not such a Commission is established the Administration will be continually interested in fostering policies which will improve the working conditions and opportunities of our colored citizens who are engaged in agricultural activity.

Very sincerely yours,

Harry S. Truman

Enclosure
Mr. Roy Wilkins
Acting Secretary
National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People
20 West 40th Street
New York 18, New York

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National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Wilkins, Roy, Acting Secretary
20 West 40th Street
New York 18, New York

Letter to the President, dated 10-10-49.

Writes re the importantation of MEXICAN CITIZENS who are being used to break a STRIKE of COTTON PICKERS in CALIFORNIA. Joins with Mr. H.L. MITCHELL, President of the FARM LABOR UNION, A.F. of L, in urging that a Presidential Commission be set up to investigate conditions among farm workers.

Respectfully referred to Dr. Steelman, 10-14-19.

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National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
20 West 40th Street, New York 18, N.Y.

October 10, 1949

My dear Mr. President:

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is gravely concerned about the importation of Mexican citizens who are being used to break a strike of cotton pickers in California. Mexicans, Anglo-Americans, and colored people have stopped work because they are fighting for better working conditions. The use of citizens of another country to wreck the economic hopes of Americans is a practice which our government must actively oppose.

Mr. H.L. Mitchell, president of the Farm Labor Union, A.F. of L., has sent us a copy of his letter to you dated September 28. We have worked with Mr. Mitchell on numerous occasions. He has a deep and patriotic interest in bettering the lot of our agricultural workers who are so vital to our welfare, but so neglected in our legislation.

We join him in urging that a Presidential Commission be set up to investigate conditions among farm workers. Among other things, such a commission would be a valuable aid in focusing public attention on the plight of those who plant and harvest our crops.

Very sincerely yours,

Roy Wilkins
Acting Secretary.

President Harry S. Truman
The White House
Washington, D.C.