

CATHOLIC BISHOPS SPEAK OUT ON PROP.

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The people themselves must "act positively to assure stability for the operations of the Agriculture Labor Relations Board," the Catholic Bishops of California declared in statement issued on Proposition 14.

"Part-time justice is not justice at all." "Peace and stability must go hand in hand."

"We note that in the course of the public discussion on this issue, the access rule adopted by the ALRB, and its impact on private property rights, have surfaced as a focus of attention. This rule, which allows union organizers to enter the fields before and after work and during lunch period, is supported by the Constitution and statutory laws of our country. The fundamental principle is that the ownership and use of private property is not absolute, but is limited by the demand of the common good. This concept, is, in our view, wholly consistent with the traditions of the faith community which we represent."

"It is our prayerful hope that all citizens will recognize the rights and responsibility imposed on them as members of a free society. We urge them to consider carefully the qualifications of candidates for public office and the moral implications of the ballot propositions, and to give expression to their views by voting on November 2."

The full text of the statement of the California Bishops follows:

"The Bishops of California have been approached from many sides to express their views on Proposition 14, an initiative affecting agricultural labor relations which will appear on the ballot on the forthcoming election. While this matter must be decided by the people themselves through the electoral process, we regard it as imperative that we address ourselves to the moral dimensions of an issue such as this which touches fundamental human rights.

"A full measure of justice for farm workers in their right to organize for collective bargaining and their right to free and secret elections in connection therewith has been lacking until recently. For this reason, we have repeatedly spoken on that issue and urged the adoption of legislation to guarantee for farm workers those rights

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which, for many years, have been guaranteed and protected for workers in other industries through the National Labor Relations Act. Adoption and implementation of the Agricultural Labor Relations Act in 1975 seemed to open up a new opportunity for peace and justice in the fields of California. Failure to fund the operations of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board for several months during the current year has made it clear that the protection of human rights to which the ALRA is addressed will not be achieved as long as the Act remains subject to political manipulation in its basic provisions and funding. It is imperative that our state government at the executive and legislative levels and ultimately that the people themselves act positively to assure stability for the operations of the ALRB. Part-time justice is not justice at all. Peace and stability must go hand in hand.

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