

We have done none in relation to agriculture, as such. But I think I would like, Mr. Chairman, to call attention to two of my charts over there, which at least highlight the point you are raising there.

On that large chart to the left, "Employment in Goods Producing Industries," you will see a blue line there, a heavy blue line, which represents employment in agriculture, drawn from our monthly report on the labor force.

Those years run from 1953 to 1962.

You will see that we had about 6.5 million employed in 1953, and, as you can see, our recent figure is about 5.25 million.

Now, that means there has been a decline in the last 9 years of about 1.25 million persons in agriculture.

Since I used to be in agriculture myself many years ago, I might make another remark about it.

In agriculture itself, there is a persistent movement toward higher technical competence, both in relation to farmers who must now be biochemists almost, and in relation to common labor; the kind of common labor I did on the farm 40 years ago does not exist any more.

They do not jig sacks, and in many other areas in agriculture the worker has to be now a machinist or a mechanic, but not an old man with a hoe.

Representative REUSS. We have all had this experience. I am sure Representative Curtis and Senator Proxmire have had the same experience I have had of mothers coming to me in recent summers saying, "My son has not been able to get a job on a farm his father had when he was his age."

Obviously somebody ought to be studying this great movement whereby the family farm is being replaced by larger, mechanized units. The joys of the family farm are, to an increasing degree, transferred to suburbia, but the head of the household there is getting fed up with the excess gardening that is thrust upon him, and complains, if I hear the cries of my neighbors right, that he cannot get anyone to do this.

Well, maybe some organization, some repair of wage scales and so on might be of some help.

So let us just throw this out as something we all ought to be thinking about.

Representative Curtis?

Representative CURTIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Dr. Clague, for giving us this information.

First, let me ask how firm is our employment figure? I had always thought that was pretty much an actual figure, but you mention on page 2 this reference:

The change has the effect of reducing employment, and the civilian labor force by 200,00.

So, evidently, it is a less exact figure than I thought it was.

I thought our employment figure was pretty factual.

Would you develop that a little bit? How do we get the employment figure?

Mr. CLAGUE. Well, the employment figure comes from visits to the family in the household survey.