

don't think there is much significance to the terms "small" and "large" farms. I think that what most of us have in mind actually is the old idea of subsistence farming.

Now, most people who are as old as I am and who lived in rural areas in their childhood are familiar with some degree of subsistence farming, because we all practiced some of it. We killed our hogs and had our own meat and we even oftentimes grew our own wheat and ground it into flour.

We always kept cows and chickens and grew all sorts of vegetables. In other words, the farmer provided a great deal of his own food. That's a subsistence farmer, the man who grows what his family eats and sells very little and buys very little. Frankly, if he is a 100-percent subsistence farmer, he doesn't enter into the national economy at all. He is neither a purchaser nor a seller.

Of course, there are all degrees from 100 percent on up to none. We like to think in terms of that subsistence farmer and call him a "small" farmer, or rather, we generally think that all small farmers should be subsistence farmers.

I think it would be a terrible mistake if they were. I think the better division is the so-called family farm test and I think that we can rather properly define the family farm as being the farm in which members of the family do substantially all of the work of production and there again there are all degrees, because very few families do absolutely all the work of production and you probably don't have many who meet that test 100 percent but that is the basic test, as I see it, the small and the large farmer or the family farm and the commercial farm.

The commercial farm, I would define as one in which the great, the overwhelming portion of the work of production was done by hired labor. And I recognize that it's these commercial farms that you are seeking to control in this legislation or seeking to bring under control, because they do operate quite similarly to industry. But to draw a legislative line seems to me to be almost impossible and we fear that you are bringing this thing to where it is fast going to envelop what we call the family-farm operator.

Mr. THOMPSON. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. FORD. Yes.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I have some statistics with relation to the number of farms. There are approximately 3.2 million farms in America, of which approximately one-half, or 1.6 million, are entirely family operated and don't hire anyone. Then——

Mr. FORD. Most of those do, Mr. Chairman. I know the statistics state they don't hire anyone. They don't hire anyone for a long period of time, but most all of them have somebody that helps them.

Mr. THOMPSON. 1.3 million of them use a maximum of three hired hands, and then only 67,000, or 2 percent of the total, employ as many as 300 man-hours.

So, if we are talking about jurisdiction, we might give consideration to using that criterion, the number of man-hours hired.

Mr. FORD. I think man-hours used on a farm is a very good method of setting a jurisdictional limit.

Mr. O'HARA. Will the gentleman yield to me on that point?

Mr. FORD. Yes.