

Mr. REUTTER Thank you, sir.

Senator MUSKIE. Our next witness this morning is Mr. Matt Triggs, legislative director of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

**TESTIMONY OF MATT TRIGGS, ASSISTANT LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR,
AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION**

Mr. TRIGGS. Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and Senator Baker. It is a pleasure to appear before the subcommittee once again.

The American Farm Bureau Federation welcomes the opportunity to present our views to the bill.

This bill contains many provisions of no direct significance to farmers or with respect to which we have no policy position.

We will limit our testimony to the question of relocation payments in title VIII and to the uniform land acquisition policy in title IX.

At the last annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation, the official voting delegates of the member State farm bureaus approved the following policy position:

Federal land acquisition statutes should be revised to provide more equitable severance damage compensation and adequate resettlement costs.

The appraised value * * * should be made available to the property owner during the initial phase of negotiation for purchase.

Individual private parties * * * often find that their efforts to seek relief in the Federal Courts seriously delay equitable settlement and are often exceedingly expensive. We support establishment of a civilian Review Board, independent of government agencies, to which property owners could appeal condemnation decisions before proceeding in the Courts.

TITLE VIII, RELOCATION PAYMENTS

We support the provisions of section 801-806 inclusive, relating to relocation allowances to landowners whose land is acquired for a Federal purpose.

We believe the amounts proposed are reasonable, and certainly not excessive and provide no more than equitable treatment to those required to move as a result of Federal land acquisition.

LEGISLATION TO SO PROVIDE IS LONG OVERDUE

We suggest for the consideration of the committee that the following concept be added to the purpose of the act at line 6, section 801 (p. 33) and at line 22, section 805(a) (1), (p. 41):

* * * and to so far as practical leave such persons not worse off economically than they were before being displaced..

We understand that section 802(a) would be applicable to farmers as to other landowners.

We raise the question as to whether or not farmers would be eligible for a relocation allowance under section 802(b). For example, a farmer may own a fruit or vegetable packing shed, or a cotton gin, or a grain dryer, or a livestock feeding yard, or storage or processing facilities which may be taken as a result of a Federal program. We understand that if he offers "services to the public" that under the definition of a business in section 114 that he would be eligible under section 802(b). But in many cases the farmer's costs associated with the taking