

Mr. TRIGGS. Thank you.

Mr. FRIEDEL. Our next witness is Mr. Angus McDonald, National Farmers Union.

**STATEMENT OF ANGUS McDONALD, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH,
NATIONAL FARMERS UNION**

Mr. McDONALD. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee: I am research director of the National Farmers Union.

I would like to have this brief statement incorporated in the record. Although it is very brief, I will be even more brief in my summary.

I would like to indicate first our complete support of S. 752 as passed by the Senate.

I also would like to comment on the fact that Mr. Harmanson referred to a number of groups who, ordinarily are not on the same side of the table, are in support of the bill.

It is not unusual, however, for the Farmers Union and the National Grange and Farm Bureau to support legislation together particularly in regard to transportation. We have over the years supported the agricultural exemption. We feel it is necessary for efficient transportation of farm commodities necessary to the livelihood of members of farm cooperatives.

We feel that this bill, while it was not sponsored particularly by our group but our agreement was reached after lengthy consultation with other individuals representing farm organizations, particularly Mr. James Harmanson, whom you have just heard, we agreed that it would be a step in the right direction, that it would possibly avoid lengthy and costly litigation.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my statement.

(Mr. McDonald's prepared statement follows:)

**STATEMENT OF ANGUS McDONALD, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, NATIONAL FARMERS
UNION**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I appear here in support of S. 752 which would, we hope, resolve some of the controversies which have arisen regarding the administration of the agricultural exemption as set forth in the Interstate Commerce Act.

The National Farmers Union, over a long period of years, has supported this exemption which is vitally necessary to the efficient marketing of farm products. We have also opposed various attempts which have been made both by Government officials and certain organizations to weaken the exemption.

We feel that the problem of the transportation of farm commodities is unique. Congress was wise when it passed the Interstate Commerce Act in exempting farm commodities from regulation. Certain commodities are of a highly perishable nature and rigid rules in regard to both transportation rates and routes would greatly hamper efficient transportation.

The agricultural exemption also provides protection for consumers and enables them to purchase high quality food which has been transported to the market in the shortest possible time. Certain agricultural products are not only very perishable but are of such a seasonable nature that transportation facilities may be strained to the utmost at a particular time. This involves relying on all kinds of transportation—both regulated and non-regulated—to bring food products to the point of distribution without spoilage and waste.

We have been very much aware of certain problems which have arisen in regard to the non-member portion of products which are transported by cooperatives in interstate commerce. It is perhaps unnecessary to tell this committee that there is a wide divergence of opinion pertaining to the administration of the agricultural exemption provisions of the ICC Act, both among Government