

Mr. DECHANT. By all means. Let me say first of all, Mr. Chairman, that I certainly do agree that legislation is needed. The aquifer that some of the witnesses will be referring to here in terms of western Nebraska, eastern Colorado, western Kansas, part of Oklahoma, and even parts of Texas, is one of these aquifers that you just mentioned. It does not get replenishment except by rainfall in that area, and there is only one way for it to go, and that's down. I mean, as you start taking out more than the normal replenishment, why, it's going to move that water table down. This is why we have so much concern in terms of western Nebraska, eastern Colorado, and Kansas because it's a rather large area. It's part of four or five States. Nebraska is most concerned. It's not just 20 or 30 miles. It's an area that runs several hundred miles.

A matter of special concern to us all is that many corporations have gone into farming, and their losses are written off against profits in some other enterprise, as you indicated, Mr. Chairman, in your opening statement. In fact, the Internal Revenue Service reported that in 1965, 119 individuals with incomes of more than \$1 million were engaged in farming: 103 out of the 119 lost money in their farming operations.

How much is this kind of thing costing the Nation? Some rather shocking figures are available. When Senator Lee Metcalf of Montana looked into the matter, he found 31 of the 100 largest metropolitan areas reported net tax losses from farming. Four metropolitan areas in California reported a net loss of \$60 million. Four metropolitan areas in Texas reported a collective net loss in excess of \$40 million. These were all absentee farmers, many of them using these losses to reduce the amount of taxes they owed on other enterprises.

Recent occurrences in our major cities make it unnecessary to remind you that our ghettos are filled with people who have been displaced from rural areas of our Nation. Dairy farmers from Wisconsin, farmers from Nebraska and Iowa, all of these Midwestern States, Mideast States, we've been losing farmers by the hundreds and thousands, and they've moved into the cities to compete for jobs and to compete for housing and schools and classrooms, and already the water facilities 15 years ago were overtaxed. The sewage disposal was overtaxed, education, health, all of these things. And since that time in the last 15 years we've moved some 15 million farm people, rural community people into the large cities. This is one of the reasons we have the ghetto problems because they've competed for jobs and taken the jobs that were normally held by the people that live in the ghettos.

Last October 21, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported in some detail on a "cowtel" financed by an out-of-State investor. This elaborately equipped installation keeps 110 cows in total confinement, the newspaper said. It is operated by a 25-year-old manager and his younger brother. Two other such installations are located at Fort Madison and Mount Pleasant, Iowa, the newspaper reported.

Earlier last year, it was reported that an Oklahoma corporation invited 200 representatives of 90 leading companies to "brainstorm" on how their corporations might move into the open fields.

They visualized giant "hothouses," pushbutton irrigation, photosensitive skyroofs to flood interiors with sunlight, buildings span-