The independent farmer in many rural communities throughout this great Nation could face oblivion unless the movement of huge nonfarm corporations into agriculture is halted.

I think you have my statement, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to summarize very briefly.

Senator NELSON. Your statement will be printed in full in the record and you may condense it if you wish.

Mr. RADCLIFFE. Certainly one of the most important issues of 20th century America revolves around the question: "Who Shall Control Agriculture?" This struggle attracts few headlines. Changes in the control of agriculture have come about so gradually in the last quarter century that policymakers are inclined to attribute it to evolution rather than to use the more appropriate term, revolution.

Nearly every third farm in a broad area of the agricultural midsection of America stands empty today with the silent migration to the cities accelerating. Meanwhile, thousands of small towns throughout the country feel the impact from the loss of their farmer customers which were the lifeblood of the community's economy.

South Dakota has not escaped this trend. During the years of 1959–64, our State lost 6,027 farms for an average loss of 1,205 farms per year, and the picture is getting darker instead of brighter. The South Dakota Crop and Livestock Reporting Service recently estimated that our State lost another 1,500 farms in 1967.

Equally alarming is what has been happening to our small towns and, actually, our entire rural community. During the years 1959 to 1964, as I stated before, our State lost over 6,000 farms. In a similar 5-year period, 1958–63, we lost 1,101 business places, according to the 1963 U.S. Department of Commerce census of business. This means that for every six farms left vacant, one business place closed its doors.

Furthermore, according to a recent study by Marvin Riley, a rural sociology professor at South Dakota State University, one out of every seven South Dakotans left the State to seek a living elsewhere during the decade from 1950 to 1960, including one out of four young adults, the real productive segment of any State's population. During that 10-year period, according to Mr. Riley's report, the State had a total exodus of 94,279 people.

Senator George McGovern, in an address on the Senate floor in February, declared:

> We are more and more accepting technology, unquestioningly, as an irresistible force, and optimum mechanical efficiency as the goal of existence. It is time to take a look at what is being done to people. It is time that we took a look to see of the change is either inevitable or desirable, and whether the new society toward which we are heading, a sort of corporate collectivism, is what we really want.

Our farms in rural America have been disappearing not because the farmer has not been working hard and efficiently. In most cases his productivity exceeds that of his city cousin. But while our farmers have been producing more and better food, they have been continually asked to produce it at lower wages for themselves.

The exodus from rural America has been brought about by two elements which go hand in hand: low farm prices and the increasing entrance into agriculture by giant, nonfarm corporations.