

I am sure that during this hearing today, the entrance into agriculture by some of these giant, nonfarm corporations will be actually illustrated so our organization will stick primarily to what has happened in South Dakota.

On learning of the millions of acres of farmland being purchased around the Nation by corporations and individuals, as a hedge against inflation and for tax loss purposes, we decided to conduct our own investigation into the extent of corporate farming in South Dakota.

Do you have a copy of this investigation, Senator?

Our survey, conducted with the assistance of county assessors and the State ASCS office, reveal that there are more than 400 corporations owning agricultural land in South Dakota, totaling 1,633,529 acres, or the equivalent of five medium-sized South Dakota counties. Corporations now own one out of every 27 acres of farmland in our State. A copy of this survey is enclosed with our statement.

Senator NELSON. This survey will be printed in full in the hearing record at the end of your statement. Please continue.

Mr. RADCLIFFE. During the course of the survey we attempted to determine how much of this acreage was owned by family corporations, family farm or family ranch corporations. By using the name of the corporation and the home office of the corporation, we concluded that probably not more than 20 percent of the total acres involved here was owned by family corporations. There were 56 out-of-State corporations involved, holding nearly one-third of a million acres of this farmland.

Some of the larger holdings by these out-of-State firms include, just to give you an idea, Western Cattle Co., headquartered in New York. They own 70,948 acres in two counties.

Senator NELSON. How recently have they acquired this land?

Mr. RADCLIFFE. They have had this land for 10 years or so.

Homestake Mining Co. of California owns 42,282 acres in two counties. The Shur-Gro Irrigation Co., from Clovis, N. Mex., owns 36,688 acres in four counties. Hickman & Jordan, a Texas firm, with 28,327 acres in one county; and the Norris Grain Co., of Illinois, 41,874 acres in two counties. These are just some of the larger ones.

Senator McGovern, in his address to our National Farmers Union convention in March, declared that a little more than 10 percent of agricultural production in this country is now by corporations.

And, Senator, I hope that you will confer with Senator McGovern and his aide because they have developed a lot of material on the subject that we're discussing here today.

What's more, out of 3 million farm income tax returns in 1965, there were 680,000, or 22 percent, filed by people who deducted farm losses from nonfarm income and still had income tax to pay on their nonfarm income.

Senator McGovern declared that these nonfarmers are avoiding \$200 to \$400 million in Federal income taxes by going into farming each year.

Senator NELSON. Was this survey conducted by the South Dakota Farmers Unions?

Mr. RADCLIFFE. That's right.

Senator NELSON. With the assistance of county assessors and State ASCS?