

Mr. RADCLIFFE. That's right.

Senator NELSON. How much of a job was it to do this?

Mr. RADCLIFFE. It turned into quite a job before we were through. We contacted every county assessor's office by mail and then finally a followup with many of them by phone calls, personal contacts. Then we also were able to get the complete cooperation of our ASCS county offices and they submitted to us the corporate owners of land that they dealt with; and by combining these two reports we have come up with what you see before you, and we have detailed information county by county.

Senator NELSON. Did the county assessor do the actual work of viewing the assessment rolls?

Mr. RADCLIFFE. Yes; they did. To make it easier for them we sent them a form which listed township by township and city by city in their county and asked them to fill this out, and we were pleased with the kind of cooperation we got from the county assessors. These county assessors are concerned about what's happening in their county, their rural county, and they cooperated very well.

Senator NELSON. How long a period did it take to acquire this information from all the assessors?

Mr. RADCLIFFE. About 60 days. We were in a hurry to get it done because our legislature, which was in session in January and February of this year, considered legislation restricting ownership of agricultural land by corporations, and we needed to get that finished in time to present it to our legislature.

Senator NELSON. Did the legislature pass any legislation?

Mr. RADCLIFFE. No, they didn't. They took it under advisement. During the hearings that were conducted 300 or 400 farmers attended, including all the major farm organizations of the State, in support of legislation controlling corporate ownership of agricultural land, but the Senate agriculture committee of our legislature decided to send it to the legislative research council to study for a year and it will be presented back to the legislature in 1969.

Senator NELSON. What specifically did the legislative proposal provide?

Mr. RADCLIFFE. The bill that was introduced in the South Dakota Legislature, Senate bill 92, was patterned very closely after the North Dakota Anti-Corporation Farm Act, which you may be familiar with.

Their act, which has been on the lawbooks of North Dakota since 1932, specifically prohibits any corporation from owning agricultural land in North Dakota. They allow cooperatives, a bona fide cooperative, but no corporation since 1932 has been allowed to legally, at least, own agricultural land in North Dakota.

Senator NELSON. Does that mean that an owner-occupied farm cannot be incorporated by the owner?

Mr. RADCLIFFE. That's the way I understand it. The proposal that was submitted to the South Dakota Legislature would have allowed a family corporation to own agricultural land. Now, it's a very difficult thing, as you know, to write into law an exception to allow a family corporation to own land and yet prohibit a nonfamily corporation type