to what our rapid technological advance is doing to people, aside from the economic factors involved.

He wrote in a farm publication recently: "They talk about creating jobs, but in the 100,000 family-size farms which went out of existence in the United States last year, there were lost, 100,000 jobs, 100,000 family homes, and a great deal of part-time and individual work for people.

"At the same time, in those very communities, there were young men and women capable, willing and anxious to have this land and to start on the way toward farm ownership. Yet the very economics, or economic power that is being more and more concentrated in the hands of a few big operators simply wipes out these efficient—and they are efficient—medium-size family farms."

Farmers Union has long contended that programs exist for people, not people for programs and that social consequences should be weighed in determining our economic objectives.

In March the President's riot commission reported on results of a several months study and made recommendations for at least a start on solving the problem of riots—by cleaning up the ghettos and slums.

The cost, in round figures, was estimated at $100 billion.

So now we are paying the penalty for our failure to help our people stay on the land, and we are paying many times over what it would have cost initially.

It is not too late but the time to start is now. We must look beyond the sacred cow of efficiency and begin thinking more about people.

Our organization feels there are several steps that could be taken to assist our independent farmers in their battle for survival:

1. Enact SB 2613, introduced by Sen. Lee Metcalf of Montana. This measure would prohibit persons who are not bonafide farmers from using losses incurred in their farming operations as an offset to income from other sources. This type of practice by these big city investors has year after year denied the government its rightful share of taxes on income while helping drive prices down so that family farm operators are forced out of business, and, as is happening in South Dakota, forced out of the state.
2. Appoint a committee to thoroughly investigate the encroachment into agriculture by non-farm interests.
3. Enact legislation to assure parity prices and income protection only up to a family-farm level of production with USDA defining family farmers on a county-by-county basis in every state.

Present farm programs have too often benefited the giant corporations. A report issued by the USDA in mid-1967 lends credence to that charge. Of the three billion plus dollars paid out in Federal Farm Program benefits in 1966, over one billion went to farms receiving $5,000 or more. Nine farms collected over one million dollars each and two of these collected over two million each.

It would be in the broad national interest to utilize our farm program appropriations to provide maximum benefits to our independent farm families. Channeling these program benefits to family farmers also would quiet the voice of the farm program critics.

South Dakota Farmers Union is also happy to endorse the Young Farmers Investment Act, SB 1567, introduced by Sen. Gaylord Nelson, and co-sponsored by numerous others.

Young people today are finding it increasingly difficult to get started in farming. Farming investment, according to the USDA Economic Research Service, has increased from an average of $6,158 per farm in 1940 to a current figure of $59,519. What's more, capital needs have doubled in the past 20 years and are expected to double again in the next five years.

We were therefore enthusiastic over the Nelson bill which would enable borrowers to borrow money at a maximum interest rate of 4%, with a 40-year period to repay 50% of the loan. The balance of the loan would be due and payable in a lump sum or balloon payment at the end of that 40-year mortgage period, with a provision for refinancing if necessary.

It's a good bill and could be a big help in keeping some of our young people on the farm.