

ported by farm groups generally as a measure which promised encouragement for the entrance of new industry into the State.

As will be noted from the testimony herewith included the amendment was proposed because of the apparent intent to use the powers granted under the act to aid a Nebraska municipality in purchasing certain sizable portions of the Naval Ammunition Depot located near Hastings, Nebr. which would in turn be transferred under a lease-purchase arrangement to a corporation for the purposes of initiating a huge hog feeding plant.

The amendment proposed under L.B. 670 was adopted and is now a part of Nebraska's statutes however the General Services Administration did sell the land to the city of Hastings, the land was promptly resold to certain industries one of which is the hog feeding plant and the action was, as a matter of fact, consummated outside of and without benefit of Nebraska's industrial development act provisions.

We introduce the testimony therefore as an indication of what can happen and is now happening in this area of transfer of farm and ranch operations into the hands of other than family farm operators.

The key point of the argument seems to be most clearly identified in the dialog between Senator Carpenter, chairman of the legislative committee and a Mr. Hegstrom representing the city of Hastings. The particular section can be found on page 18 of the April 7th testimony and we call attention to the fact that Mr. Hegstrom speaks to the interest of the city of Hastings in finding means to provide job opportunities while Senator Carpenter, from his first hand information concerning the numbers of actual jobs that are provided by such giant corporation farm activities states and I quote "they out there, (referring to the Kern County Land Co. cattle operation in his district) employ about 15 people to feed about 40 some thousand cattle."

Here we have the crux of the problem attending farm operations by giant conglomerate corporations. The rural community will wither and die when the integrated feedlot operations of one giant conglomerate corporations can replace the services of hundreds of family farm feedlot operators. According to the latest statistics furnished us by the State Federal Statistical Reporting Service as of the first of this year feedlot operations under the 1,000 or less head grouping in Nebraska numbered 21,960 with 741,000 head on feed while in the group feeding over 1,000 head we had some 400 feeder operations reported with 613,000 head on feed.

In our study regarding the movement of corporations into agriculture in Nebraska it becomes evident that while many have spoken or voiced an opinion concerning the problems attendant thereto few studies have actually been made concerning the dimensions of the movement. In other words, few studies have been made concerning just how fast this movement is taking place.

Such information is not readily obtainable and few farm groups have the financial resources to devote to such a statistical analysis. Agencies of State government which we have contacted have been helpful, but this specific area is one which has not to date apparently become the subject of an intensive analysis.

By way of example there are over 38,000 cattle brands registered at the secretary of state's office in the State capitol but in only one instance do we find a substantial number of brands registered to one corporation and this is the registration for 115 brands in the name of the Oppenheimer Industries with offices in Kansas City, Mo.

Whether the brands in this instance are registered by the Oppenheimer Corp. in its own interests or instead as agent in behalf of a number of individual out-of-state owners is a matter which would require further investigation for which we have neither the staff or the finances. The most recent investigation was carried out during the past winter by the State A.S.C.S. under a directive from the U.S.D.A.

It should be realized that this survey, a copy of which has been attached by permission, does not reflect a complete and accurate picture of the situation for a number of reasons as follows:

1. The report indicates only the corporations which have, at some point or at a given time, been involved in Federal farm programs.
2. Since out-of-State corporations are, or as it appears they might be using agents with a local or State residence to represent their interests within the State it is difficult to estimate what percentage of the corporate farms listed in this report are owned by out-of-State or foreign corporations.