

The point I'm making is that Mr. Fick says there is no concern about it, but I noticed they have a firm now set up to handle mutual type investments.

I have described our concerns about this alarming and pressing problem and of course, the key question is always what can be done?

In summary, Mr. Chairman, I would say that we must act now to strengthen the family farmer in our society so that he can survive and compete with other segments of the economy.

The Agriculture Act of 1965 should be extended and made permanent, as President Johnson has suggested.

The House committee, as you know, now has a 1-year extension introduced or it cleared the House Agriculture Committee and Senate Agriculture Committee, and the Senate Agriculture Committee has it under consideration and hopes to report it out by mid-June. We are hoping that it will be more years than one. I understand it may be as many as 5 years.

We support collective bargaining for farmers, as provided for in Senator Walter Mondale's bill.

I'd like to join my associate Ben Radcliffe, as well as, I know, Mr. Berek and Mr. Gross in commending you, Mr. Chairman, on your Young Farmers Investment Act. You can be assured of Farmers Union all-out support for that very needed legislation.

We believe that legislation should be passed to establish strategic reserves of farm commodities, which will constitute a National Food and Fiber Reserve.

We must protect the family farm. This is why I answered emphatically yes when you asked me a little while ago whether we would support legislation on this corporation farm issue. We should explore graduated direct payments in order to give the family farm the extra protection it needs. There needs to be a limitation of payments based on a county-by-county determination as to what constitutes an average commercial family farm.

The large corporations must be disarmed of some of their unlimited financial resources that are gained at the expense of our Government through writeoffs from taxes owed on profits made in other, often protected, sectors of the economy. We support the legislation proposed by Senator Lee Metcalf of Montana to prevent such tax writeoffs.

We favor the enactment of legislation which would prohibit chain stores and others engaged in food processing and distribution from operating feed lots and other agricultural facilities. This ties right into the whole business of corporation farming. We ask for continuous enforcement of the antitrust laws, together with impartial enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate very much having the opportunity to appear before your committee and I also want to thank you for allowing my associates to join me in making this statement.

Senator NELSON, Mr. DeChant, we appreciate your valuable contributions to these hearings and the contributions made by your State presidents who came here this morning. I thank you very much, gentlemen.

(The complete prepared statement submitted by Mr. DeChant follows:)