

What I deplore, however, in the climate that the postwar years created, is the general complacency about the relationship of people to the land.

In fact, though I hate to admit it, even in the New Deal days our actions fell far short of measuring up to the spirit of our slogans.

We passed the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act in 1937 to enable tenant farmers to use long-term, low-interest loans to acquire land of their own. We amended, broadened, and perfected the act in following years.

But it was not until the sixties that the program was funded at a significant level. In the past 7 years we have advanced \$1.4 billion to help farmers buy and develop family farms. That is more than the amount loaned in the entire previous history of the program.

To be really effective this program should be placing \$1 billion a year in the hands of young farmers to help them acquire and hang on to the land resources of this country.

I hope I live to see the day when this is done.

I believe we should work as hard at implementing our national land policy as we do at implementing our national price policy.

We concentrate our attention on making our price policy effective.

We should recognize that price policy is no substitute for land policy because if our land winds up in the hands of a few the price policy will benefit only those few.

We do have a national land policy.

The free-hold pattern of family farm agriculture in pioneer days was recognized as the system most consistent with the democratic precepts upon which the United States was founded.

Many of our Nation's farmer settlers came from countries where those who owned the land also owned the people.

As they settled this continent the ideal of family farm agriculture was always before them.

Certainly for the past hundred years, it has been the official stated policy of this country to foster, encourage, and protect the concept of an independent family farm structure in agriculture. The Homestead Act, the Morrill Act, the Smith-Lever Extension Act, the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, were all expressions of this idea.

Officially, we continue to strongly endorse this policy.

But in my opinion, our official statements and our official actions are being negated by forces beyond our control.

Unless the people of our country as a whole, can be made aware of the way in which the family farm is being undermined, the official position of the U.S. Government is of little value.

To use the term "corporation farming" as the threat to the traditional American farming system is an oversimplification.

Farming that is carried on by corporations that own the land, hire the labor, and provide the management are certainly the antithesis of the family farm.

But what about the type of integrated farming that is representative by the poultry industry where the farmer makes none of the basic decisions. That, too, is hardly my idea of family farming.

And what about those farmers who work under contract and find themselves stripped of any decisionmaking power so far as the price,