

farmer cooperatives, and a refinement and expansion of our farm credit system would help achieve this goal.

But in addition we should consider legislation that would close the present Federal and State income tax loopholes that allow city business interests to operate large farming operations at a loss, and then offset these losses against profits in nonfarm business enterprises.

We need legislation to tighten up antitrust law. We need to make it impossible for one corporation to produce, process, and retail farm products.

We need to give serious consideration to a graduated land tax and to take further steps to tailor farm programs to family farms.

We need to work out ways of enabling young farmers to take over the farms of their retiring elders.

All these, and additional measures need to be considered.

Second, we have to find some way of bringing about a better understanding, so far as the general public is concerned, of the danger of continuing to bow down before the altar of bigness.

Unless we can achieve such an understanding there is a real possibility that the American people will automatically assume that as consumers, as taxpayers, and as citizens seeking pride in their country's accomplishments, they will be better off supporting large-scale farming.

The family farmers will never be able to gain the support they need from the general public—and they will need support as they expand their bargaining power and other cooperative activities and make greater use of credit—unless the public understands the true value of the family farm.

Again, Mr. Chairman, let me say that I greatly appreciate the opportunity to appear before this distinguished committee and comment on a subject so vital, I believe, to the welfare of our whole country.

And that, sir, concludes my statement.

Senator NELSON. Thank you very much, Mr. Bertsch, for a very thoughtful, useful contribution to our hearing. We appreciate your taking time to draft this paper and come here to present it.

Our next witness is Mr. Amer Lehman, former Colorado State Director of the Farmers Home Administration from Denver, Colo. We are pleased to have you come here and appear before the committee today.

Your statement will be printed in full in the record. You may present it in any fashion you desire.

STATEMENT OF AMER LEHMAN, FORMER COLORADO STATE DIRECTOR, FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION, DENVER, COLO.

Mr. LEHMAN. May I say, Mr. Chairman, to begin with that since I've left the Farmers Home Administration, I'm engaged in farming myself.

I thank you for the opportunity to appear.

I propose to direct my testimony primarily to the effect of the farming operations conducted by industrial corporations on soil and water resources in eastern Colorado, where I live, and where I am familiar with recent developments.