

Senator NELSON. We want to thank you very much for your fine contribution in these hearings and we appreciate the time you took in coming here today.

Our next witness is Mr. Philip Doyle, a former State senator from Beloit, Kans., president of the Mitchell County Farmers Union. We appreciate your coming here today, Mr. Doyle. Your statement will be printed in full in the record. You may present it to the committee in any fashion you desire.

STATEMENT OF HON. PHILIP J. DOYLE, FORMER STATE SENATOR, BELOIT, KANS., AND PRESIDENT, MITCHELL COUNTY FARMERS UNION, OMAHA, NEBR.

Mr. DOYLE. I want to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and I'm here speaking for myself and I also feel that I'm speaking for the businessman and the family farmer throughout all of Kansas, and as far as that's concerned for the family farmer and small business throughout the Nation, because we all realize that we're in serious trouble.

The idea of Federal legislation setting up barriers to huge non-farm corporations trying to take over agriculture simply makes sense to me as a farmer * * * and to my neighbors up in Mitchell County * * * and to the business people in Beloit where my family has done business for three generations.

That's one of the main reasons I am here today, hoping that Federal legislation can be passed, restricting corporation farming in America.

I am at a complete loss to explain why America * * * a nation built with family farm agriculture and still dependent on a strong rural-based economy * * * has permitted corporation farming to gain such headway * * * and threaten the family farm system.

Now there are those who contend corporation farming is necessary to provide the additional financing, the tax benefits, and the generation-to-generation transfer that family-owned operations need. I want to lay that argument to rest right at the outset.

The incorporation of family farms is not the issue before us.

Rural people in our State are fortunate to have the Senate committee interested in this problem.

Laws to keep big corporations out of farming are in effect in only two other States—North Dakota and Oklahoma. And in both of these, just as in Kansas, big corporate interests are pushing to get them repealed.

Senator NELSON. What does your Kansas law provide?

Mr. DOYLE. Well, it provides, I think, simply that corporations cannot operate farming operations. An agricultural or horticultural business can produce wheat, corn, grain sorghums, barley, oats, rye, or potatoes, or milk cows for dairy purposes. They can own land but they cannot operate it. The law is a little weak but at least we do have an anticorporation law in Kansas.

Senator NELSON. Has it kept corporate farming out of Kansas?

Mr. DOYLE. No. It hasn't kept ownership out; no.

Senator NELSON. What do you mean?

Mr. DOYLE. They can lease.