

little lower. The answer to that is that this won't bring food prices down.

One reason is that huge farming operations, as the Russians have found out the hard way, simply aren't efficient. Even the experts in our land-grant universities agree with this.

One recent study, for example, shows that the one-man dairy unit with 30 to 50 cows is the most efficient size operation. Another shows that a one-man cotton operation, with 6-row machinery, is the most efficient producer of upland cotton. Others show similar findings.

Corporate agriculture can succeed only by monopolizing both production and distribution * * * by getting rid of all the competition so that administered prices can prevail. The giants, in other words, want to grow the food on the farm, process and package it, and then retail it.

I hope the country can be spared this kind of food industry. We all know corporations well enough to know that once they get control of an area of business the prices go up. It's a foregone conclusion this is exactly what would happen to food prices.

In closing I wonder how many farm people realize what it would be like to have a 40,000-acre corporation farm for a neighbor.

Do you think it would cast a vote for a school bond issue? Or support good roads down every section line? Or help you combine wheat if you were laid up and unable to work? Or support the church building fund drive?

Unless something is done soon to stop the growth of corporation farming by the Congress, some of us may well not be around much longer. Don't let it happen. The American working farmer deserves a better deal.

This concludes my testimony, and again I wish to thank you for the opportunity to appear before this committee.

Senator NELSON. The committee is very grateful for your taking the time to come here today to present your testimony. We appreciate it very much.

We will recess for 5 minutes while I call my office in Washington. Then our next witness will be Msgr. John George Weber, executive secretary of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

(Whereupon, a short recess was taken.)

Senator NELSON. We'll resume our hearings, and the next witness will be Msgr. John George Weber, executive secretary of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Des Moines, Iowa. Monsignor, the committee is very pleased to have you here today, and you may present your statement in any manner you wish.

STATEMENT OF MSGR. JOHN GEORGE WEBER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, NATIONAL CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE CONFERENCE, DES MOINES, IOWA

Monsignor WEBER. Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to be here on the part of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference to present our ideas regarding corporate-type farming in agriculture.

I'm going to summarize some of my high points in my presentation because some of the topics have already been touched, and in the interest of time, I'm just going to summarize it.