

We could go into our cities and we know the many problems, and it has been already stated here today, that exist in the cities. I would just like to touch on one, and that is the personal noninvolvement that strikes at the very roots of the human personality which develops in urban living. You do not know your neighbors.

In the countryside you still have the "face to face" or "man to man" relationship. Here in work, play, marketing, school, and worship people know one another by name and by association. This is helpful to each individual's personality. Scientific research shows that when animals are confined to crowded conditions, there is a constant harassment of each other. Man needs living space and it makes very little sense to have 70 percent of our people living on 1 percent of our land.

We have already touched on what corporate-type agriculture will do to the rural community and what happens to them. Their schools suffer; their churches suffer; the tax base is eroded, and so on.

I'd like to go on as to what happens to the family. The well-being of the individual person and of society is intimately linked with the healthy condition of the family. The family planted on the land will put down its roots deep in the soil, which will give it a stability offered by no other surroundings in which man can live. Stability is the first requisite for any family; without it nothing permanent can be achieved. A family on the land lives together 24 hours of the day, works together, and prays together, thus establishing the unity of human relationships, that strong bond so necessary to achieve great human development. Civilizations have toppled, but never before family life had disintegrated.

I think we have already heard enough about the efficiency of the family farm system. I might just make this one statement. Many large corporate farming operations have succeeded only because of cheap labor and huge Government payments. The minimum wage of \$1.60 in the urban sector against \$1.15 in agriculture does tell us something.

Specifically, we recommend—and I'm speaking for the Catholic Rural Life Conference:

1. That State governments adopt laws prohibiting the purchase of farmland by corporations with stockholders exceeding a specified number.
2. That no corporation or individual be permitted to write off farm losses against income earned in nonfarm operation. Such loopholes deprive the Government of needed revenue and constitute an unfair competition with families who must earn their support from agriculture.
3. Federal payments for land retirement and crop reduction should be limited to a specified number of units. Distributive justice demands that huge sums of money should not be paid to already wealthy individuals and corporations. Moreover, such a policy enables these individuals and corporations to purchase still more land and push family farmers out of agriculture.
4. The Federal Government should strictly enforce existing laws limiting the use of public irrigation water to a specified number of acres per user. Moreover, appropriations for future water development projects should include similar limitation.
5. State governments should seriously consider the enactment of