

graduated land taxes which would discourage very large holdings of land by individuals and corporations.

We feel that these steps are required by justice and would help preserve the family farm system which has contributed much to our Nation's welfare.

Senator NELSON. Thank you very much, Monsignor Weber, for your thoughtful statement. We appreciate your taking time to come here today and being so patient to wait until this hour to present your statement.

(The complete prepared statement submitted by Monsignor Weber follows:)

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

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is Monsignor John Geo. Weber. I am Executive Secretary of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference with national headquarters at 3801 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa. I am grateful for this opportunity to present the views of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference regarding corporate type farming in agriculture.

The world and its resources were created by God for the use and welfare of all His people. God intends that these natural resources help man live a good life, develop his personality and contribute to the betterment of society.

The National Catholic Rural Life Conference is convinced that more widespread—not less—ownership of income producing property is urgently needed in technologically advanced nations such as the United States. Since land is a most fundamental form of productive property, this issue is of special concern to farm families.

The National Catholic Rural Life Conference firmly believes that the family type farm is good for families on the land and for the nation as a whole. This conviction is based upon the spiritual, cultural and social values as well as upon economic values. Man needs "daily bread" to live as a man, and the Church has worked for the rightful betterment of this world in which all live, but it is also true that "Man shall not live by bread alone." (Luke 4. 4.)

The root reason for human dignity lies in man's call to communion with God. Those who live on the land, working in close harmony with nature and its Creator, have many opportunities daily to commune with their God. Their work deals with the life of plants and animals, a life that is inexhaustible in its expression, rich in allusions to God the Creator and Provider. Man can place the seed in well prepared soil at the right time but he can not give it life. Only God can give that.

According to an article in the Wall Street Journal, corporations are now failing to convince elite students that they will find the kind of work and life they want through secure employment at a high salary in organizations whose motive is economic, not spiritual. "Let men make all the technical and economic progress they can, there will be no peace nor justice in the world until they return to a sense of their dignity as creatures and sons of God, who is the first and final cause of all created being. Separated from God a man is but a monster, in himself and toward others." Pope John—*Mater et Magistra*—par. 215. We are not saying that people in the city can not and do not worship God, but we insist that people on the land have more reminders of their Creator.

Work of man has a subjective and an objective factor inherent in its very performance. When man works he not only alters things and society, he develops himself as well. This subjective development of man is more important than the objective results produced by his labor. The work on the land demands a capacity for orientation and adaptation, patient waiting, a sense of responsibility, and a spirit of perservance and enterprise. A man is more precious for what he is than for what he has.

We have heard a lot, ever since our country was young, about the beneficial effects upon young men and women growing up close to nature and good, honest work. And it isn't a myth either! Check the 4-H Club, the FFA and FHA programs; review the biographies of many of our nation's leaders. Are we to deny this value to an ever greater proportion of our young people?