

Family farms must adopt modern technology, and if they will work together through marketing and buying cooperatives, they can be competitive. What I mean there is, if we have marketing cooperatives, for instance, in Nebraska we will still have to compete with the large corporations in other States. Really to preserve the independent family farm, for instance, in the poultry business there would have to be some kind of national supply control in order for the marketing cooperative to really be effective.

Senator NELSON. You're talking about supply management?

Mr. EBERS. Yes. On a nationwide commodity you have to have a nationwide supply control.

But, there will have to be legislation to stop a takeover by corporations now, to give the farmers the time to accumulate financing to make the changes. I don't know if we can wait very long, in the livestock business especially, to save it from being completely integrated if we let things as they are.

Senator NELSON. When you say "legislation," are you talking about the same kind of legislation that has been proposed by some of the other witnesses; that is, the prohibition of corporation farming of the type that has been discussed?

Mr. EBERS. Yes. I'm of the opinion that there has to be some kind of a limit like the States of Oklahoma, North Dakota, and Kansas have on corporations to save the family-type farm, and I described the family-type farm in the beginning. I think this gives the most flexibility for the farmer to modernize and to really become as efficient as he possibly can. Full family employment plus the help of a few hired men allows growth to a size that is efficient in our area. And I think this is where we have to stop if we want to keep the family farm.

"Bigness" in farming will be inevitable if we leave things as they are now. In fact, it is taking over.

But as John K. Galbraith says:

What will be the quality of life in the new industrial state? Should we continue to subordinate all to material welfare, that is what we will get. On the other hand, should we raise our sights to more esthetic goals, the industrial system will become responsive to the larger purposes of society.

I submit, that keeping more people as entrepreneurs in a broadly based capitalistic system on farms and towns, and not in our cities, is a human and social benefit our Nation needs, and it will prove to be the most productive economic system, too.

Senator NELSON. I want to thank you, Mr. Ebers, for your very fine statement. We appreciate your taking the time to come here today and your patience in waiting all day for a chance to testify.

Our hearings will resume tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock.

As I stated previously, our first witness will be Mr. Oren Lee Staley, president of the National Farmers Organization, followed by Rev. Lester Moore, First United Methodist Church, Corning, Iowa, and Prof. Paul Farris, professor of agricultural economics at Purdue University.

These hearings are recessed now until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

(Whereupon, at 4:20 p.m., the above-entitled hearings were recessed until 9 a.m., Tuesday, May 21, 1968.)