

this gives a real vacuum for a corporate structure to move in and take over. Therefore, the atmosphere and the setting is right now, because of low farm prices, to move in and freeze out the family-type farms.

Senator NELSON. The thing that seems clear from the hearings we had yesterday is that nobody really has the statistical information as to who holds and owns the land in the country. The Farmers Union had done some study in South Dakota. Two professors said that we know something about production and production costs involved in family farms, but that we didn't have any information about the corporations. In your opinion, who should do the research to get the information and the figures on landownership in this country and rural areas?

Mr. STALEY. Well, I think it should be partially the responsibility of the land-grant colleges, No. 1. They run studies on everything else, and there is no reason why they cannot run a study of this. I think the USDA should also do studies on this matter, and I think in the end we'll find that the record of efficiency of the family-type farm, which has been unmatched in America by any other segment of the economy, is still unmatched in agriculture, but it does not completely tell the picture as far as efficiency is concerned. When you find a corporate structure—and once a corporation is formed, it doesn't die. It is only a matter of transfer of ownership of stock—once it's formed, it's not formed in the terms of immediate profit, but it's long-range profit or long-range power as far as finance is concerned. And land is still the most valuable resource in this Nation.

Senator NELSON. Thank you very much, Mr. Staley. We appreciate your taking the time to come over here and testify today, and we appreciate your contribution to these hearings.

Mr. STALEY. Senator, I think it's certainly a great opportunity, and we certainly commend you and your committee for taking the interest in this matter which is of vital importance, I think, not only to rural America, but to the Nation because in the final summary we pointed out that in other nations it has been necessary to bring land reforms to restore business and government to the people; and it's certainly foolish for this Nation to go headlong into the type of policy or allow that type of policy to be pushed that would take this Nation into the same situation that has existed, whether you're talking about Japan or Cuba or whatever nation in the South American and Latin American countries. And I think this is where the real concern should be. Thank you for the opportunity.

Senator NELSON. Thank you for coming, Mr. Staley.

Our next witness is Rev. Lester Moore, of the First United Methodist Church, Corning, Iowa. We appreciate your coming here today to testify.

**STATEMENT OF REV. LESTER L. MOORE, PASTOR, FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CORNING, IOWA**

Reverend MOORE. Senator Nelson, my name is Lester L. Moore and I am the pastor of the First United Methodist Church, of Corning, Iowa. I appreciate the courtesy of being given the opportunity to testify before this committee on a matter that is of grave concern to me.