

away from these discussions disturbed by the seeming resignation of academic people to the inevitability of whatever change economic and technological forces, working with as little restraint as possible, will impose upon us.

In the absence of much scientific research in this area and perhaps academic concern, we are indebted to this subcommittee for the undertaking of a public study of the problems associated with corporate farming. We hope and trust that the subcommittee findings will result in action that will strengthen the family farmer's position in our society.

Now, Senator, I should like to talk just a minute about a brief survey that we made in an area within 12 miles of Stevens Point. We have been reading in our State of Wisconsin about the development that is occurring there. This is an area that is sandy soil. Recently geologists have determined there is an abundant supply of water underneath the soil. We find, going into that area, that during the 1930's when we were in the midst of the drought and depression that our Government then encouraged people to plant wide areas to shelter belts, to preserve some of the natural resources that were there. Today we have a pictorial study of what economic greed can do to those natural resources.

We can also refer to the fact what an impersonal management decisionmaking body does to a community such as that. We have colored slides here which show what happens. The shelter belts have been bulldozed out, trees that were 20 feet tall have been bulldozed out to make room for the huge irrigation devices.

We can show you pictures we have here that we will submit to you for the record; ¹ these pictures show a deposit of sand which the wind has eroded. It has progressively built up on a fence row until it is 6 to 150 feet high. When the old fence is built up in the sand you build another. In these two pictures overdrift is gradually sifting into the next field, it already has destroyed a large part of an alfalfa crop. It must be remembered that these drifting-like particles make up part of the area's topsoil.

We can go through this area and we find where the shelter belt has been bulldozed out, we see pictures of what happens when winds come along. Someday that impersonal decisionmaking process will decide it is no more economically feasible to produce on this land, and then the people left in that community will have to live with whatever is there, and our Government again perhaps will have to go on a planting program to preserve what is still left there.

We would like to submit this to the committee and work out some procedure where we could get it back at some future date.

Senator NELSON. Thank you, Mr. Rohde, for your very fine statement.

Mr. ROHDE. Mr. Ed Christianson will follow me, who is the vice president of the National Farmers Union.

Senator NELSON. We are very pleased to have here today Mr. Christianson, as vice president of the National Farmers Union.

You are also, I assume, still president of the Minnesota Farmers Union?

Mr. CHRISTIANSON. Yes, sir.

¹ Retained in committee files.