

**STATEMENT OF EDWIN CHRISTIANSON, VICE PRESIDENT,
NATIONAL FARMERS UNION, DENVER, COLO.**

Mr. CHRISTIANSON. Thank you, Senator Nelson, and we want to commend you and the Subcommittee on Monopoly for having scheduled these hearings, and we are grateful for the opportunity to submit our views.

Now, in essence of time I will summarize the prepared statement that I have, but would request with your permission that the entire statement be included in the record.

Senator NELSON. Your entire statement will be printed in the record and if you wish to summarize points at any place, please do so.

Mr. CHRISTIANSON. Thank you.

We regard it particularly appropriate that the hearing is being held by the Monopoly Subcommittee because we believe that monopoly is and should be the central issue in the whole controversy about the kind of agriculture that we should have in this Nation.

The competitive race between the family farms and the corporation farms is not a clash of two equally efficient and productive types of agricultural organizations, capable of producing the food and providing the foods and fiber with equal assurance of abundance and comparable costs.

Rather, we believe it is a question of whether an extremely efficient family farm system of agriculture which has provided ample supplies for American consumers and industries over many, many years is now to be displaced by another form of agriculture which provides no assurance that abundance and reasonable costs of food and raw materials are its principal goals for existence.

We in the Farmers Union believe that there is no economic need or justification in the terms of the national interest for the takeover of agriculture by corporations.

Our Nation's family farms do have a productive capacity more than capable of meeting all possible needs and demands. We have a productive capacity of 10 to 12 percent in excess of existing demands. We have had to place a part of this productive capacity on a standby basis for many years, and for some time under the soil bank and currently under voluntary acreage diversion programs associated with the major field crops. Some 50 million acres were held out of production during the past year under these programs.

We are not convinced that farm production by corporation farms is needed to assure dependable supplies and given specifications and uniform quality. Family farms are capable of providing what is needed at the time that it is needed and in the grades and quality that are desired. If the family farm is truly superior as we maintain it is, and if the corporation farms are not capable of providing a better economic service to the Nation, it might be well asked what the motivations of the corporations might be, what they are and why they do pose a threat to the economic well-being of rural America.

The truth is that despite the marvelous efficiency of family farming, despite the major gains in productivity which overshadow any other major industry, despite the rapidity with which farms have adopted