

Senator NELSON. As of now, do you have what is normally considered as corporation farming?

Mr. SMITH. We have had since 1932 what we called an anticorporation farming law, but it permitted them to have a cooperative corporation. The only thing this law did was it has all the goodies, if you want to call it this, of incorporating, but it said one man, one vote. You cannot vote your dollar stock, and we have had all of the other advantages of incorporating except that one feature.

Senator NELSON. You mean to say you had in effect a cooperative farm?

Mr. SMITH. Yes; a cooperative corporation. There are only three in North Dakota that I know of.

Senator NELSON. Well, since North Dakota has been a State without corporate farming, do you have any comparative statistics as to the productivity, efficiency of your family-owned farms in the production of feed grains, and so forth, versus what the corporations have been able to do in other States?

Mr. SMITH. I do not have the statements here with me, but our State university said, as you read earlier in your statement, that there is a point beyond which a corporation cannot improve on a family farm. And we find that our family farmers are as efficient as is possible to be whether they are incorporated or as a partnership and we think that family farmers are better stewards of the soil, they are closer to their communities and, therefore, are much more important to us than a corporate entity that comes from the outside.

Senator NELSON. Well, I want to thank you very much for your fine testimony. I appreciate you and Mr. Christianson coming here from Minnesota and North Dakota to make this contribution to our hearings, and I also appreciate your taking the time to come, Mr. Rohde.

Thank you very much.

If you have any additional documentation that you wish to submit for the record, it will remain open for 2 more weeks.

Our next witness is Mr. Edwin Sommers, master, Wisconsin State Grange, from Clinton, Wis.

Mr. Sommers, the committee is very pleased to have you here this morning. Please proceed.

STATEMENT OF EDWIN SOMMERS, MASTER, WISCONSIN STATE GRANGE, CLINTON, WIS.

Mr. SOMMERS. Senator Nelson, members of the subcommittee, I am Edwin Sommers, master of the Wisconsin State Grange. I am a farm owner and operator, and live in Rock County, Wis. I am pleased to have the opportunity to express the views of the Grange to this committee.

First, I want to express our appreciation to the members of this committee for your concern for agriculture and the entire rural community, as you attempt to seek out the effects of corporation farming and hopefully conclude from testimony that legislation needs to be enacted to right some of the wrongs that exist today.

¹ Material had not been received at time of going to press.