

**STATEMENT OF DOUGLAS G. MARSHALL, PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT
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WIS.**

Mr. MARSHALL. Thank you, Senator Nelson.

I am going to highlight some of the points in my speech, then I have one or two comments that are parenthetical and I will indicate those.

I am Douglas Marshall, professor of rural sociology, and I am representing a committee of our department who has been looking at this problem of the family and what's been happening to it.

Rural sociologists are the poor man's social scientists. We try to get along on a shoestring and we are called in to "put out fires" in many cases, researchwise. One of the problems, Senator Nelson, is that we just do not have answers to the social implications of this contemporary change going on, namely, the movement to corporate farming, particularly here in the Midwest, this is a new phenomenon. Suddenly, as you well know, we became very interested in rural urban movement and particularly the movement to urban ghettos and the problems therewith.

I want to remind you these are related, in other words, the problems of the family farm are related to the problems of the urban ghettos. Many of these people in urban areas originally were rural people, so in many cases we have transferred rural poverty to urban poverty. Many people forget that many of our population who are labeled low-income are still rural, in fact, the majority are, and this is often forgotten.

I do not come here to advocate that we continue to transfer the problems of rural low-income to urban low-income. I think these are related. Now, lately, and this is parenthetical because so much has happened, as you well know, in the last few weeks, there have been congressional committees looking at the movement to urban areas and now the movement back out. We are trying, very frankly, to get them to move back out into at least small cities and even rural areas. This will have an impact on the family farm.

For example, in many areas now we have forgotten that we have a rural nonfarm population that is growing very rapidly. Your next door neighbor is probably a part-time farmer but who still is a family person. Some of our studies have indicated they get along very well in the community. In other words, if we are to have healthy rural communities we can't just depend on the farm population, but we also have to look at the rural nonfarm population that is growing very rapidly in many areas, especially within 50 miles of large cities.

Coming back to the highlights of my speech, as I indicated, we do not have really many answers. The last really detailed study that I am embarrassed to mention was by Walter Goldsmith of Corporate Farming in California. This has been one of the classics that was published, as you know, in the Congressional Record, and he indicated that when you move to corporate farming you move to many problems. You lose your schools, you lose your churches, you have high delinquency, all of the ensuing problems that we do not want.

Somebody asked me when they heard I was going to testify if I was coming up to save the family farm. Well, very frankly, I am. I think