

We can't all live in Chicago, New York, Milwaukee, Minneapolis. Right now 50 percent of the population of Wisconsin lives in 5 percent of the land, the seven southeast counties. What is it going to be like in 20 years? A lot worse. Just a large congestion of urban population.

Institutional training. There we are going to find changes. There we are going to find good education will be a real premium. This will be affected very adversely if we have this trend away from farms. Education will be influenced by it. With migration of many previous family farm people, the extended family characteristic of some rural areas will be further weakened. In other words, the extended family, meaning its family with all its relatives, will be weakened. You will have a family that has no ties to the land, that have no relationship to somebody else down the road, and this has been very important in American agriculture.

The school, as I indicated, will be very critical. I look for this to be our most critical thing, that plus the political situation that can happen at a local level.

Finally, quite apart from the tax question, the rural class tends to become even more sharp. In other words, we are liable to get more of a class system in rural America.

This will be sharply differentiated. The farmers probably will move down economically and socially, then you will get an elite class coming in and you will get caste and class developing.

What are the individual values and behaviors we can expect? We will treat only a few of these, but most of them are undesirable in terms of values. The cost of a family farm threatens to break up the father and son transfer as the backbone of the agriculture ladder. The spread of company farms may actually increase the likelihood that capable farm-reared boys might be able to find a place in farming, not as owners but as managers and so on in agriculture.

On the other hand, a decline in public protection services, especially if it also occurs in the towns, will surely bring an increase in crime. Goldsmith found this true in his study.

Similarly, the kind and quality of education would have serious consequence. The national labor market continues to have personnel shortages at the top and surpluses at the bottom. All we would continue to do would be to increase the blue collar and uneducated class. And we already put the farm boy and girl at a disadvantage when he moves into the city.

What are my conclusions? At this point we would remind you we are presenting what really are educated guesses. Little evidence is available. We hope that the appropriate agencies will make it possible to obtain more solid data. Though we have not discussed the problem, we think the subcommittee may wish to inquire into the possible consequences of preventing widespread development of farming companies. With this it might seem we are trying to block this development. That is not true. I prefer to think let's strengthen the family farm rather than try to block the corporate farm. Then I am not concerned, as I said, after all, if the family farm is strengthened economically and socially, then they will not sell and they will not move to the urban areas. I don't think legislation is always the answer. Let's