

legislate the family farm into existence. Let us make it clear I have no vested interest. I have none whatever. I have looked at this problem for 25 years. I have no vested interest in a family farm, other than the indication I have a role to play in America, both rural and urban. They are tied together, they are not separated. They go together. What happens in one influences what happens in another.

What we have tried to do is present some of the consequences of a large increase in the one at the expense of another. A chain of difficult problems always ensues when a big change occurs. We, no doubt, have the ability as American people to curb this change, prevent it. We don't have to let it happen. Why should we spend millions and millions? Let's do something about it. We sit idly by on our hands. Let's find some answers, some facts, let's get some research and do something about it.

I am all for it, Senator Nelson, I think we can do something rather than sit idly by. Thank you very much.

Senator NELSON. Thank you very much for a very thoughtful statement.

(The complete prepared statement submitted by Mr. Marshall follows:)

STATEMENT OF DOUGLAS G. MARSHALL, PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF RURAL SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Gentlemen, I'm Douglas G. Marshall, a Professor of Rural Sociology and Sociology at the University of Wisconsin (Madison). I am here as the spokesman for an ad hoc committee of the Department of Rural Sociology, the other members of which are Professors W. K. Warner, Archibald O. Haller and Research Assistants Richard Rodefeld and Kurt Parkum.

Our remarks are addressed to the question of social consequences of a major shift of American agriculture away from the small-scale operations known as the "family farm" to large-scale operations involving thousands of acres, including single ownership and full-time operation of many farm units.

THE LACK OF DATA

The rapid emergence of large-scale ("corporate") farming is a new development in the Midwest. Firm data on the long-term social consequences of such new economic forms can be obtained only by careful research on relatively contemporary cases. So far as we can determine there appear to be very little such data available. The issue may be with us for some time to come. We recommend that appropriate research begin as soon as possible so that policy decisions may be made in the light of the facts rather than upon guesswork.

THE NEED FOR ANTICIPATING THE FUTURE

Nonetheless, we are aware that policy makers may need to act on the basis of incomplete information. Hence, recognizing that our comments are based upon incomplete data, we offer several suggestions as to what *may* happen if and as Midwestern agriculture is taken over by large-scale organizations.

A. *The Changing Context*

Obviously, the consequences of such a development will differ according to the shape of other trends in the society. Perhaps the most important (assuming a generally healthy economy) will be the partial decentralization of previously urban industry to the rural areas. We anticipate this because it is already happening to some extent and because there has been discussion in Washington about encouraging its growth. Also, public distrust of unsettled conditions in the cities may encourage people to avoid or leave urban areas.

Besides these factors, it should be remembered that deliberate policy decisions may change any of the links in the chain of events we expect. Indeed, it may be necessary to pass new state and/or national laws to protect key local institutions.