

These forces will to some extent counterbalance the possible effects noted below.

B. A Possible General Chain of Effects

In general we assume that economic conditions in the country, and perhaps social conditions in the cities, will determine the distribution and composition of the farm and rural nonfarm population. In turn, these factors may well influence local politics and taxation. These factors may be reflected in changes in rural institutions. Changes in values and behaviors of rural residents would be an outcome of this chain of events.

C. Details of the General Chain

(1) *Demographic changes.*—If large-scale farming replaces the family farm, there will probably be a decline in the farm population due to replacement of human labor by more efficient economic means and a *tendency* for the rural nonfarm population (not near cities) to decline both because farming companies can buy and sell more cheaply elsewhere and because of the effects on commerce due to the decline in farm population.

If, as we anticipate, the nonfarm industrial population grows many small towns and cities may well increase in population, more than off-setting the decline caused by the fall of local farm-related business. But the open country would continue to lose population beyond cities. The net effect would be to concentrate the rural population in towns and cities, leaving the open country less populated than it is now, except near cities. If rural industry does *not* increase, there will be a sharp net decrease in farm *and* rural nonfarm (small town and city) populations.

The effects on the farm population will be felt most strongly on moderately to fairly productive farms. Families on large, extremely efficient farms and on subsistence farms might well survive.

The characteristics of farm population will change. Companies may use centralized personnel offices to hire farm managers and key workers. It is our guess that they will demand better educated and more effective personnel than may be the case for today's *average* farmer. It is quite possible that ethnic enclaves of farm people will be broken up as farms are purchased and outside personnel are hired. There will be far less use of family labor because all personnel will be paid salaries or wages.

(2) *Political and taxation changes.*—There could be strong tendencies toward local political apathy on the part of new farm population. Resident farm owners have a sense of responsibility to hold offices and to participate in financing public services. The new farm employees may not see that they have much of a stake in local political participation. Moreover they will be few in number and are likely to be pressured by companies that employ them. Local political participation of the farm population may very likely decrease.

With only a small population to contend with, many of whom are employed by them, the farming companies will see little need to assume fiscal and other responsibilities for the local areas. This will be especially pronounced if nonfarm population does not increase. If it does, the townspeople might succeed in getting the companies to carry their share of the taxes. But even then, local politicians could be influenced by the farming companies.

Thus the prospects are for a decline in the viability of local democracy, especially in the open country, and for a decline in the tax support for public services.

(3) *Institutional changes.*—If they occur, declines in the tax bases will make it more difficult to provide good education, police protection and other locally-controlled public services. If the towns industrialize, they may not feel these effects. But the open country residents will be especially vulnerable.

With the out migration of many previous family-farm people, the extended family characteristics of some rural areas will be further weakened. If the farming companies choose to replace local people with outside personnel, this will put even greater strains on the local extended families.

The local churches, especially those few that remain in small hamlets and in the open country, might close up. There will be fewer farm families to support them. Besides, many of these are tied to ethnic groups and extended families. Out-migrating members of the old ethnic groups of families may well be replaced with personnel with other (or perhaps no) ethnic ties, and who will not be