

members of the local family groups. Churches depending on such groups are more apt to fail.

The school situation will be especially critical. As we have seen, the rural tax base may suffer. Without rural industrialization this would impair education in town and country alike. With industrialization, the towns may not be hurt. But the open country residents are very likely to have trouble obtaining a good education unless ways are found to encourage the farming companies to provide their share of the tax support. Moreover, chances are that the new farm personnel will be better educated than their predecessors and perhaps even more concerned that their children obtain good education. Good educational facilities may be more highly desired yet harder to obtain.

Finally, quite apart from the tax questions, rural class lines may tend to become sharper. It may be necessary for farming companies to hire non-managerial workers. Clearly, we shall then pass through a stage of unrest until farm unions or related organizations are well established. Indeed, such organizations may be necessary not only to provide direct benefits to employees but also to help encourage the companies to bear their share of the tax burden. Obviously this would produce a new source of tension.

(4) *Individual values and behaviors.*—We shall treat only a few of these here. Not all possibilities are necessarily undesirable.

The cost of family farms threatens to break up the old father-to-son farm transfers that were the backbone of the agricultural ladder. The spread of company farms may actually increase the likelihood that capable farm-reared boys might be able to find places in farming—not as owners but as managers.

On the other hand, a decline in public protection services, especially if it also occurred in the towns, would surely bring an increase in crime and delinquency.

Similarly, a decline in the quality of education would have serious consequences. The national labor market continues to have personnel shortages at the top and surpluses at the bottom. A widespread lowering of the quality of education would add to the ranks of the marginally employable and would tend to aggravate class tensions.

CONCLUSION

At this point we wish to remind you that we are presenting our best 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. Would this have the same kind of effects as would have occurred if we had blocked the development of the factory system a century or so ago?

Let us make it clear that we do not have any vested interest either in maintaining the "family farm" or promoting large farming companies. What we have tried to do is to present some of the consequences of a large increase in the one at the expense of the other. A chain of difficult problems always ensues when a big change occurs. But we have no doubt of the ability of the American people either to prevent the change if that is deemed appropriate, or, if change is preferable, to overcome the problems it brings.

Senator NELSON. I think there may be reasons for not only strengthening the family farm but there may be sound reasons for prohibiting the growth of large conglomerate absentee ownership in control of the land.

Now, you referred to the growth in rural areas. I don't think there is any question but what there are going to be tens of millions of people in the next half century who are going to move into the small towns that are already here. You are going to see a restoration in the growth and development of small towns and you are going to see new cities. You have already mentioned several reasons. Another is the good, sound, economic reason in that now for the first time in history you can have an industrial plant in a small town, a rural county where I come from, Polk or St. Croix or on up around Rice Lake, and you can get the