

early 1900's, if I recall correctly. I would have to go to my notes to ascertain the date positively.

It appears at this stage that there are a few corporations which have exceeded the 5,000-acre limit and are in apparent violation of the law. There are other corporations with more than 5,000 acres of land but a 3-year statute of limitations has expired and they are not apparently subject to legal action. We also have a State law which requires life insurance companies who acquire farmland as a result of foreclosure of a mortgage or satisfaction of a debt to divest themselves of such property within 5 years.

While these two State laws contain only a part of what our task force will probably consider essential in an anticorporation farm law, these laws should, nevertheless, be enforced.

We regard the existing State laws on ownerships of farmland by corporations and life insurance companies as the framework on which a more positive and effective State law can be considered and developed by the 1969 State legislature.

A draft of the suggested legislation will be prepared by the task force and made available for public discussion by legislators, farmers, and interested citizens of our rural communities before the 1969 session.

We are also exploring the merits of a new State real estate tax on excess farmland tax holdings and may recommend a legislative draft of a tax levied on a graduated basis in relation to the degree to which the land in question exceeds the average size of farms in a particular county.

We are also exploring the development of enabling legislation which would propose to empower county boards of commissioners to establish county boards on farmland resources, which might be given functions including the regulating of farmland transfers, regulation or prohibition of undesirable forms of agricultural enterprise not in character with the existing patterns in the county and which do not represent good land use; the regulation of public nuisances which result from air and water pollution arising from feedlots, egg factories, and confinement types of dairy or livestock operations; and the licensing and regulation of water use for irrigation farming.

Serious water shortages have already arisen in some parts of the country due to the depletion of ground water supplies by excessive pumping for irrigation purposes. Problems are also reported in air and water pollution due to poultry and livestock operations which have tremendous numbers of birds or animals concentrated in a limited area.

Scientists calculate that a 10,000-head beef feedlot creates as much waste matter as a city of 160,000 persons, for example, the combined population of Duluth and Superior, yet there are often no adequate provisions for waste disposal at the feedlots.

We are convinced that considering the problems elsewhere, Minnesota ought to be preparing itself with some reasonable regulations administered at the county level. Undoubtedly, these problems of water-use regulation and air and water pollution may not be long delayed in appearing in this State.

We have not finalized these recommendations but expect to do so in the coming weeks. If it is agreeable with the chairman, we would be happy to submit them when they become available.