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FOREWORD

to make such a study. The study of the two towns was made with care. The treatment is temperate and scholarly. The conclusions are based upon data which were selected well and handled with critical ability. I have no hesitancy in recommending that your committee publish the study as a scholarly contribution to an understanding of an important problem.

It cannot be stressed too strongly that this report deals with a comparison of only two communities. It is not intended to be considered representative of other communities in the United States. However, it is not thereby rendered valueless. On the contrary, here is a detailed analysis, following the approved techniques of social and economic research, of two "case studies." Such careful, unbiased, and impartial scientific collections of facts permit of conclusions having considerable validity and reliability. They are quite likely to be true descriptions of the cases being examined, and raise pertinent questions concerning their probable application for other communities exhibiting similar, if not identical, conditions. The data suggest many questions concerning the relative desirability of different types of farm organization as their size and the character of their operations influence the cities which are their trading and cultural centers.

It would be unwise to summarize the findings of this study, apart from the descriptive material which forms the setting, and the techniques employed which determine the adequacy of treatment. With the major difference between the two areas being that of the size of the farm holdings, in one predominantly large-sized ranches, in the other numerous smaller-sized farms, the communities were subjected to many measures. The people living in each city were examined as to their number, size of families, age distribution, social background, occupations, incomes, and living conditions. The social aspects of the two cities were examined as to government, schools, social institutions, problems of youth, the social role of the church, and the social structure. The business structure was examined in detail. Out of this mass of facts came certain observations concerning the causes of the differences found. The conclusion drawn, and which impresses itself on any unbiased readers as in reality emerging from these numerous facts, is that the size and character of the farm holdings and operations is responsible in no small degree for the conditions in these cities. On the one hand, in the community surrounded by big farms the social, cultural, and economic attributes of life are developed to a lesser degree than in the other community which is in the midst of an area made up primarily of smaller farms independently operated where the community welfare is of a higher order and more wholesome in every particular.

The bearing on the American way of life, which is all-important to all of us who seek to see the virility of this Nation go on unimpaired, is at once apparent. I submit this study to the Senate Small Business Committee, to the United States Senate, and the citizens of this country, feeling that it further indicates the importance of independent small-scale business as the cornerstone of our American economic system of free enterprise.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES E. MURRAY, *Chairman.*