

fluence on the price of beef, on the price of pork, on the price of poultry, and so forth.

Mr. SHUMAN. This has been the popular argument. But it has been a negative influence because if you take a look at the facts, the feed grain program caused a greater average production than was produced in the 5 previous years without any feed grain program. Of course, the additional feed you have produced, which was stimulated by the feed grain program, very seriously disrupts the livestock markets.

The soybean situation is another story. The cotton program has forced the transfer of resources from cotton into soybeans. The same is true, to some extent, with wheat in the feed grain programs.

So, I say the success of two-thirds of agriculture which has never had any programs, never had any subsidies, never had any price supports, despite the fact that these programs have channeled all these resources over to them, proves beyond any question of doubt that the cause of our serious trouble with agriculture today can logically be laid to the farm programs. The way to improve prosperity in agriculture is not to continue to do the thing that has got us into trouble.

After all, we have been trying to do that in the last 35 years, and particularly in the last 7 years we have gone all out for farm programs, and look where we are—73 percent of parity. It is time for a change.

Chairman PROXMIRE. My time is up. I will yield to Senator Jordan.

Before I do, Mr. Shafer wanted to make a comment, if that is all right with you.

Senator JORDAN. Yes.

Mr. SHAFER. I want to give an actual illustration from an actual farmer's standpoint as to why I think doing away with the programs would increase production.

The farm that I presently farm, my father farmed before me, and 30 years ago the average corn production on this farm was in the neighborhood of 35 bushels to the acre. Now, this did not happen overnight, but by using the increase in technology between then and now, my farm presently produces about 90 bushels of corn to the acre, on the average. Just the fact that we do away—let us say, I am producing 100 acres of corn. I have 100 acres that I can produce corn on. If I put 50 percent of that into the feed grain program, I am going to grow 50 acres of corn.

If I have no feed grain program I am very likely going to grow maybe not 100 acres but way up toward 100 acres of corn, and I do not think it is going to make 1 bushel per acre difference in the production on my farm if I do not have a feed grain program, or if I do, per acre.

So, it appears to me that on my farm there is going to be almost twice as much production of corn without a program as there is with a program. I just wanted to make this point as a farmer actually farming on a farm.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Senator Jordan?

Senator JORDAN. Thank you.

I would like to find something that you would all subscribe to here. You have all stated, I think, the precarious position of agriculture in today's economy and implied that the farmer is the forgotten man in an affluent society.