

Dr. RIPLEY: Senator Taylor has said that it is difficult to get people to pitch hay these days. However, as long as you can get them to do this sort of thing, you can operate a small farm. I think, however, there are various ways that this larger unit may come about. It may be that a group of farmers would have to form a syndicate or co-operative society of some kind. For instance, several farmers could purchase a hay baler if that is what they needed. It might come about by custom work in some areas. In the old days when we used to have to pitch sheaves of grain, each individual farmer could not afford to buy a threshing machine but a custom operator would do the threshing for 50 or 100 farmers. Those are some of the ways in which I think this can be accomplished. Another way, of course, is to have larger units. Perhaps a company could buy up a group of farms and operate them as a company. That might be the answer. You might even go to the Russian system and set up collective farms. I don't know. I am not a communist, but there could be some sort of development like that. I don't know how it is going to come about but I think we are being forced into it in spite of anything we can do. Some very great difficulties might accrue with respect to some individuals in the process.

Senator HAWKINS: The home itself has a large influence on this question. Women are not going to raise families where they have to use a scrubbing brush and a washboard to do the laundry, and where they are limited to outside plumbing, and so on. They are not going to get along with shelving instead of cupboards.

Dr. RIPLEY: That's right.

Senator HAWKINS: That is where the problem is. There has to be more income per family.

Dr. RIPLEY: I believe that is the situation.

Senator HAWKINS: Your wife will want to have the same household facilities as Dr. Nielsen's wife, for instance, and she will not get it with the scythe and sickle.

Dr. RIPLEY: I had a suggestion as to how we might meet some of these situations.

Senator BRADETTE: Before you proceed I would like to make a comment. I am a farmer too and the thing that puzzles me is this. Over the last 25 years there has been a decrease in the farming population to the extent of 60 per cent. Still there is a glut on the market with respect to farm production. That is an astonishing fact.

Dr. RIPLEY: Yes, that is another factor in this whole thing.

Senator BRADETTE: There is also a glut in the dairy industry. Perhaps as an expert you could give us some advice on this.

Dr. RIPLEY: That is one of the big factors in this whole problem. Farm income has been going down and the outgo, if I may use that word, has been going up. There is no balance and I don't know how you can tip the scales in the right direction. You cannot force farm equipment manufacturers to sell their machinery at a lower price. They probably cannot manufacture their products any cheaper than they are now. Fertilizer companies have to sell their product at a certain price to make a profit, and I will say that these companies have been maintaining a fairly reasonable price.

Senator HAWKINS: The amazing thing in my area—and I think this is quite true in Senator Taylor's area—is that where you find a farmer using machinery and good fertilizer, and electricity in the home and so on, that is where you will find a farmer who is able to pay his taxes each year. I spent most of last year as the head of a Royal Commission studying this problem and we