

Q. Then, do you not think that modern methods of producing food stuffs enter into the picture? For instance, milking machines, and harvesting combines. We have all the difference between the cradle and the flail and modern machinery in handling our grain?—A. I can only suggest that we are not as long a distance from the cradle and the flail as we were three years ago. We have moved back towards that condition a considerable distance, and we are likely to move back further yet. I think the mechanization of agriculture has had a great effect, but I think it is greatly exaggerated. The vast bulk of the world's food stuffs continues to be produced without mechanization.

*By Hon. Mr. Gillis:*

Q. You can suggest nothing, Mr. Robinson, to improve conditions all over the country?—A. I am afraid this Committee will consider I am desperately reactionary and old fashioned when I say I do not think there is very much we can do. We shall have to tinker with the old machine so it does not grind its gears too badly until it can re-adjust itself. There is not very much to be done other than to recognize the fundamental nature of our present troubles, of which I see very few signs. A recognition of that would do wonders towards rehabilitating the machine.

*By Hon. Mr. Burns:*

Q. What do you think about milking machines?—A. I use machine-milking, Senator Burns, because in my particular type of organization I have no use for the extra hired labour which I would have to have to milk the cows by hand. If I had any use either profitably or with an even break for the extra labour, I would abandon machine-milking to-morrow, because I prefer hand milking, but I should have to keep three or four more men and I would have no other work for them to do.

Q. Don't you think machine milking hurts the cows?—A. No, sir.

*By Hon. Mr. Gillis:*

Q. Does it affect the flow of milk?—A. No. I do think that a cow can be kept to a higher production standard throughout the year by the best hand milking; but if you take a succession of hired men to replace one another—a condition which you have to face on the farm to-day—then I prefer machine-milking. That is why I have it.

Q. If you could get men who understand the work you would prefer hand milking?—A. Yes, at once.

The CHAIRMAN: I gather from your remarks, Mr. Robinson, that you are not particularly favourable to too much paternalism; you are inclined to let the individual rely on himself to work out his problems rather than have the Government do anything for him?

The WITNESS: I am afraid the individual will have to exercise rather more intelligence if the Government interferes with him than he does now when relying on himself.

May I register another opinion, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

The WITNESS: Before the Committee adjourns, Mr. Chairman, I should like to register my opinion that the fundamental factor which has brought about the unhappy condition we are now in is an over-growth or an over-development of urban life at the expense of rural life. The cities are too large, too expensive, too high living to be carried and supported by the countryside as they are now.

Henry Ford says history is bunk. I do not think so. If history teaches any lesson at all in the last two thousand years, it is that every time cities