

Control

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and similar actions to guarantee competitive market systems. Open markets for farm products would have to be guaranteed by requiring that food buyers purchase at least a percentage of their requirements through open markets.

Voigt added that unwarranted discounts to large volume buyers would have to be disallowed, research

information would have to be developed and passed along freely to farmers, and they would need a flexible and competitive credit system. Tax advantages for wealthy landowners and large-scale integrators would have to end, and agribusiness corporations would have to be prohibited from engaging in farming.

Virgil Crowley, professor of agricultural economics extension, told the group that if nothing is done to arrest the forces already in motion, commercial agriculture will be increasingly concentrated

in larger, more industrialized units. "A corporate system of agriculture," Crowley said, "has much in common with the giant industrial corporation in its organization, financing and management."

"Control of men and assets is in the hands of a group of managers. If agricultural production were controlled by a few large corporations, the open market for agricultural products would virtually disappear. Land ownership could take several patterns. Financing could be supplied in any other large corporation. Unionization of farm workers would be encouraged and higher labor costs could result. Production costs might be reduced, however, through large-scale production and improved coordination."

In his presentation on a government controlled agriculture, Fred Hughes, an extension professor of agricultural economics, told the group, "A government administered agriculture would be a choice by society either to influence or replace private action in the control of food production and marketing system. Public concern for ample food supplies and economic justice for farmers seems to result in more government involvement in many countries."

"Some kinds of administration have already been adopted for U.S. agriculture through acreage control, commodity price support, and market orders and agreements. Markets, land, credit, and technology seem the most likely means

of government control. The objectives of government control are diffuse and unpredictable. Administrative decisions are difficult. Should the public choose control to favor farmers, effects on farm income could be favorable. But farmers would give up some freedom in decision-making. If the goal is to provide a plentiful low-cost food supply, then lower farm incomes could result."

Thomas Brewer told the conference that a cooperative agriculture would involve fewer and larger units than in the present system of voluntary farm cooperatives. The associate professor of agricultural economics extension said that to maintain control, "Farmers would have to belong to tightly organized cooperatives that would handle most procurement of supplies and all marketing of agricultural products. Land ownership would generally remain with the individual cooperative members. Marketing decisions by the cooperative would place direct restrictions on producers' production and marketing decisions. But farmers would control the cooperatives and they would approve restrictive decisions on themselves. The farmer is preserved as a capitalist, but he must see that the cooperative operates in his best interest."

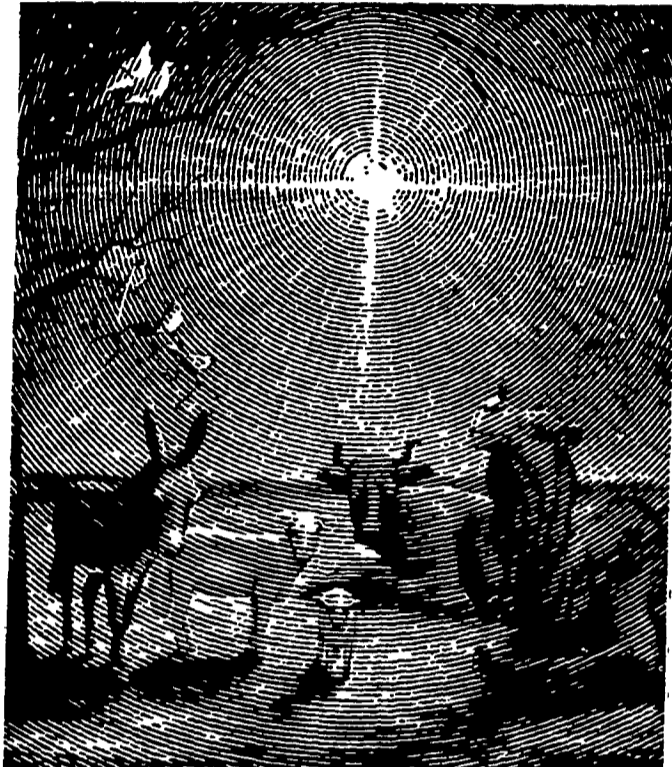
Alvi Voigt, who had earlier explained the open market system, also talked about the combination system of agriculture. "In this system," he said, "independent farm producers would have the freedom to

make management decisions, but cooperatives and corporations would be assured of continued operation. Government would support an active role for each. A special government body would monitor the changing structure and recommend actions to maintain the combination system. No single system could be allowed to dominate.

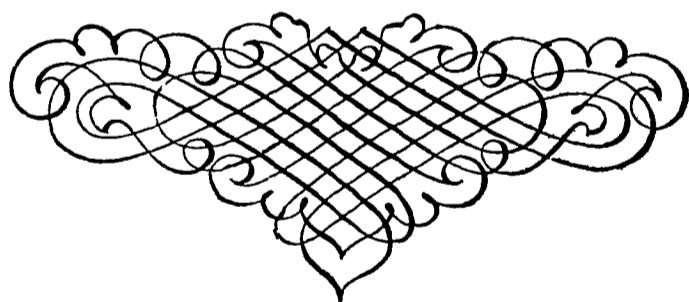
"A minimum and maximum share of business for each group would be set. Policies to maintain and encourage effective competition, develop new institutions and regulations,

and provide for service, research and educational activities would be needed. An open market would be encouraged, but vertical coordination could exist for a share of the total business. Management would be widely dispersed among independent farmers, corporations and cooperatives."

The afternoon session was given over to mini-conferences at which small groups discussed the implications of each of the systems presented in the morning. These small conferences were followed by a question and answer period.



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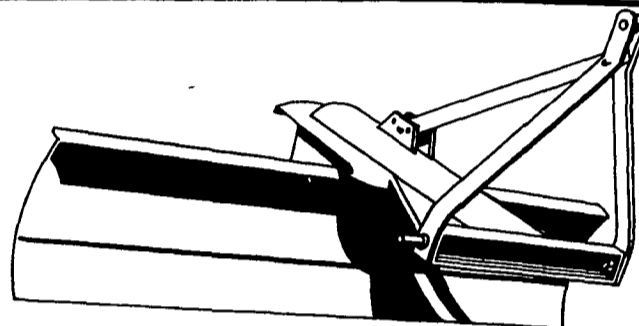
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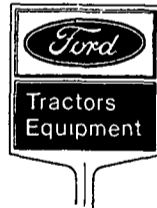


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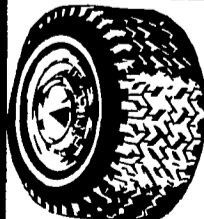


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