

than ever, and the theory is because there has been a depression in land prices, a collapse, that now "these greedy corporations", whoever they may be, are going to come in and buy up all the land. Think about any business that you have ever known, been associated with, been involved with, anything you have ever played with in business, the mere fact that the price went down doesn't mean that the product is suddenly going to be snarfed up. If it did, if it did, all of businesses' woes in the world would be solved. In fact, it indicates usually the opposite that there are serious problems, that there are serious problems. The thing that is going to ultimately control the price of agricultural land is going to be the overall profitability of agriculture, both now and for the prospective future. Profitability ultimately is going to be the dictating element. There was a period of time when land prices were driven up almost strictly as a result of speculation, speculation participated in by "family farmers" and the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank as much or more than anyone. Check your records. Check the statistics in your area, who paid the most for land? Who gave the highest bid? Who were they bidding against? They forgot why they were there. They were there for profitability, not speculation, and as a result, that, more than anything, contributed to the high land prices. But let's talk about the corn prices or wheat prices, what more than anything probably contributed to the collapse there? You want the truth. I think you know it. We don't say it. The truth is subsidies, government involvement, and creating a completely artificial production that wasn't based necessarily on need or anything else but based simply on buying in to that supposedly guaranteed government profit. It should be fairly clear to almost everyone on both sides of the question that profitability is now the dictating rule in agriculture and profitability rules apply even more for a corporation or at least as much as for individuals. The word that keeps being heard on this floor is "big corporations". When it was wide open they weren't that involved in agriculture here but they were a major participant from the financing spectrum to actually operating in some cases. I said something the other day and I think it is even more valid. You can't make stew without all the pieces. You can't make stew with only potatoes and water. To make stew you need all the pieces, the spices, the meat, the vegetables. And an agricultural economy needs all those pieces and when you cast a pall or a chilling