

**Linnertz:** On death rates, we don't have that problem here. I'd venture to say, maybe three a year, that are connected to the economy. Three's too many. The established press doesn't talk about that; they don't talk about reality. You have the government saying it's good, too—the Federal government, such as your ag agents, and so forth. You never get the real picture from them. You always get the glossy side.

**EIR:** What has happened to the soils and land, with looting over the years?

**Linnertz:** We have a Cargill company here that is sponsoring people to farm the land. They do it very gently, because we don't have corporate farming in North Dakota, you know. So they hire a farm manager. They go in and lease three or four big tractors. They hook them up with three or four big cultivators. Now, a tractor is \$20,000 a year to lease; and a combine is \$18,000 a year to lease. So that's the situation you have.

They are going in and renting land for \$50 an acre. They're taking spots out of a township, and they'll offer a farmer, who is probably 60 years old, \$50 an acre. He is not making expenses anyhow, so he takes the \$50 an acre. And they'll do that for three years, until they get all the farmers out of that area—milked away. And then they come back in again, in about three years' time, and they say, "We're only going to give you \$20 an acre." And then the farmer says, "Well, I'm not going to take \$20 an acre," and he runs all over the country trying to find out, "Who's going to farm my farm for me?" And he can't get anybody, because everybody is gone. So he takes the \$20 an acre, and Cargill has cheap food.

This has been happening for about 10 years. It's coming to be really noticeable now, in the last five or six years. We have an area down in Carson, North Dakota, where the farmer went broke. Nobody knew where he was getting the money from; but he was buying land hand over fist, and he got himself a great big area there. And they found out that he was doing nothing but seeding barley; everything he ever seeded on his fields was barley. And then they find out, that his money is coming from Japan. So, he puts all the barley that he raises in there, puts it in the car [railroad], and ships it directly to Japan. That started about 20 years ago. A big bunch of land in the Carson area is linked to Japan.

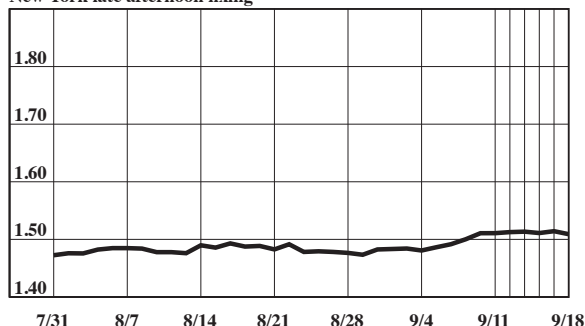
**EIR:** So instead of the kind of community development you saw in the 19th century, with the railroad coming in, and towns growing up amid family farms, you have a landscape that is characterized by Cargill managing farming, fields committed to Japan, cheese factories with their own factory milk herds, instead of family farm communities.

**Linnertz:** Right, and it's all due to price. You can't afford to raise wheat for \$3.00 per bushel. Actually, at today's value of money, the farmer who sells grain for \$3.60 a bushel is making less than we got in 1931, in real terms. In 1931, it was 24¢ a bushel, and then, you had it all.

## Currency Rates

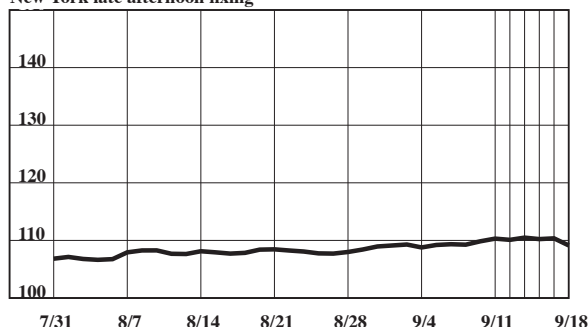
### The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



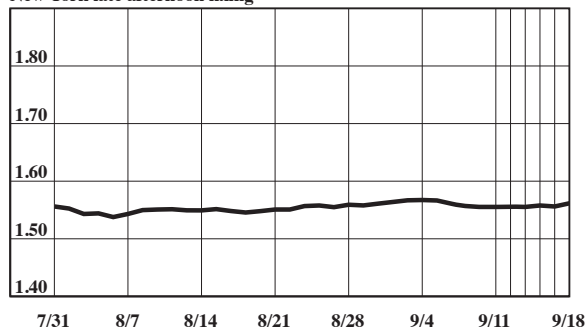
### The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



### The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



### The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

