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AN OVERVIEW OF SOME OF THE COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL DISCUSSION

- To the extent that genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are going to be part of the food chain in the next twenty years, farmers' ability to negotiate may become a moot point. They may not own the product they are producing. Poultry is as an example—you do not really negotiate for a price if you sign a Tyson's contract. I am not sure of the extent we can couple a tightly integrated vertical system with an old idea of farmers knowing what a fair price is. One of the larger issues now is who will control agriculture. It is an old issue, but it is much more of a policy issue now than it was thirty years ago.
- National Pork Council members come to me all of the time and ask about open market access. I think open market access is a meaningless term; it only applies to commodities. Once you differentiate a product, no one is guaranteed open market access. If I want to make carburetors, that is fine, but I am not guaranteed anyone will be there to buy them unless I have a contract. That is the same type of concept we are getting in agriculture with differentiated products. Hopefully, our products will have better returns because of technological innovation. Deciding how to share the returns will be the issue. We are missing the boat on GMOs. Companies are not going to put GMOs out in the public sector. They are going to contract with somebody to produce GMOs all the way through the market channel and control the end product. There will be no such thing as open market access in a classical sense.