

rights to 20th Century-Fox producer Darryl F. Zanuck, Steinbeck was displeased to learn that the studio was controlled by the Chase National Bank, recounts Ford biographer Joseph McBride. Indeed, producer Zanuck must have been at least somewhat skeptical of Steinbeck's distressing account. Writes McBride, "Zanuck told Steinbeck that he had hired a detective firm to investigate the charges leveled by Steinbeck in the novel and found that 'Steinbeck's conditions'

Ominous storm clouds gather, foreshadowing disorder, as Tom and Casey walk home. They make their way along a split-rail fence that in Ford films frequently announce the boundary between community and wilderness. Darkness falls as they arrive at the Joad house and a gloom settles in. They stand before the

plowed under. The bulldozer driven by a young man Muley knows suggests

It's a decisive step toward his redemption. In contrast, characters who are too wedded to the land or the past are left behind, struggling against change, grandpa expiring along the way as he lets a handful of dirt slip through his fingers, and Connie singing "I'm goin' down the road feelin' bad," foreshadowing his unreliability and departure ("I should have..."). Pa departs willingly but confesses in the film's final scene that his attachment to the old ways has left him rudderless. "I'm no good and I know it. Seems like I spend all my time rememberin' how it used to be." Unable to lead, he has ceded that family role to Ma, already overwhelmed wit

films (weddings, serenades, funerals, parades, balls, gatherings and speeches, etc.).⁶ More than this, we are presented with a hopeful picture of a renewed sense of family, a unity of ordinary people asserting their own value and organizing against the wealthy landholders and their agents in law enforcement. The corrupt police are thwarted in their attempt to create an excuse for arrests.

After the dance, Tom is seated in the dark with his mother on the edge of the dance floor that signifies the comforts of community fellowship they had just enjoyed and that he is now about to

