

Ag: H/H/H/H Speech

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Senator Humphrey's Speech Before the  
National Farmers Union Convention  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Let me give you a very hearty welcome and a hearty greeting. You of the National Farmers Union at your 62nd annual convention being held in St. Paul, Minnesota, in our beautiful state of Minnesota. How I wish I could be out there, and I'm sure Jim Patton, your national president, has already told you of some of my difficulties in not being able to attend your 62nd annual convention. You know, if I were out there with you right now, I would be having a mighty good time. I'd be able to look over and see that genial, pleasant gentlemen who is your national president and be able to have a little fun just joking with him. So I am going to just sort of pretend that I'm with you in person. It is not too easy to do that by film, but possibly we'll be able to communicate nevertheless.

I'm very proud of the Farmers Union. I'm proud of the fact it has a fine man as its president, and it has a splendid group of officers and Board of Directors. James Patton, president of the Farmers Union, is one of America's truly

citizens. In fact, he is a great citizen of the world. He is known throughout the entire free world and he surely is known and respected here in America, and particularly in the nation's capital. Jim Patton seems to be a friend of presidents, at least most presidents. He was a close personal friend of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and that within itself should have marked him for greatness. He was a working friend and a helper to Harry S. Truman and he respected, of course, and I'm sure enjoyed the friendship of President Eisenhower. But with the election of President John Kennedy, James Patton, your president, president of the National Farmers Union came into his own because there he found a kindred soul, someone that respected Jim's humanitarianism, his idealism, and yet his practical nature. And now, in the White House, there is a big man, the President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, who for years has included Jim Patton in his close and intimate circle of friends. So if I've ever known a man who headed an organization that was always able to walk into the White House--front door, back door, side door--it's your national president. So Jim, I salute you. But more importantly, I salute you for what you are and what you do and what you stand

for. Your sense of democratic conviction and idealism, your decency, your fairness, your humanitarianism, and above all, your understanding of the problems of other people. And I wouldn't want to pass up this opportunity to say just a word about one of my constituents, the president of the Minnesota Farmers Union, Ed Christianson. We think we're mighty lucky in Minnesota to have Ed as our Minnesota Farmers Union president. He has built this organization into a powerful farm group. He has given wholesome, clean, dedicated, enlightened, progressive leadership. And Ed Christianson represents the best to be found in America in civic leadership. He truly represents the farmers of our nation, and he represents them very well in the State of Minnesota. So to you, Ed, I send my special greetings, and I want to publicly thank you for the counsel you have given to me as a United States Senator. You've come to me many times when I've needed help. You've not only helped me during those crucial periods called elections--and I surely want to thank everyone of my farmer friends for that--but you've helped me as a Senator, as a member of the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry for many years, as the Majority Whip of the United States Senate, and as the senior Senator from Minnesota.



By the way, permit me to bring greetings from all of our Minnesota delegation to you. I'm sure you've heard from them, you're going to hear from the Secretary of Agriculture, you will, of course be welcomed by our illustrious governor, Governor Rolvaag, so I guess I don't need to say too much more in the form of greetings.

Now why is it not possible for me to be with you today? Well, I'm sure you've read in the press, or you've heard on radio or television that I have been appointed as the floor leader for the Civil Rights Bill. The Civil Rights Bill is to me the most important legislative program before the Congress of the United States in the last one hundred years. We've come to the time when the Congress of the United States must fulfill its responsibility in guaranteeing the protection and the privileges and the immunities of the Constitution of the United States to all of our citizens. The American Negro regrettably has all too often been treated as a second-class citizen. There has been a citizenship gap in this country-- a citizenship gap that has separated our people, that has denied certain of our people the opportunities that they ought to have as Americans, and we are closing that gap now and we

have to dedicate ourselves to closing this gap as quickly as we did to closing that missile gap that we faced only a few years ago in our military strength. And isn't it interesting that it didn't take us long when we knew that we were behind in missiles, and missile strengths as compared with the Soviets. It didn't take us long to close that, and there was no sparing of the money. There was no sparing of talent or scientific know-how. We went to work, and we did it. And this is exactly that same kind of spirit that we must have to close this gap between the promise of the Constitution and the reality of its effect, between the promise of the Emancipation Proclamation and the achievement of that promise. We're well on the way to doing it. The courts in these recent years have been magnificent. They have protected the rights of our people. The Executive Branch of government through the President--the office of the President--has done its job. It has spoken up and protected the rights of our people. Now it is the Congress, the representatives of the people assembled in Congress <sup>that</sup> ~~we~~ have their job to do, their responsibility, and I have been given the opportunity and the responsibility and burden of seeing to it that this legislation--proposed legislation--becomes law. I need your help. This is a tremendous

task and it can't be accomplished in Washington. We in Washington in the Nation's Capital can go through the procedures and the processes of passing this Civil Rights Bill, but it will be passed only if there is a great national consensus for it, a great national spirit that demands that the Congress of the United States fulfill at long last its responsibilities to the American people. So I ask you to join me in this, what I call my assignment of conviction, to get this job done, and to do it in a manner that will be worthy of this great democracy, to do it forthrightly, to do it honestly, and to do it with determination and yet with understanding and tolerance. You know, the National Farmers Union is more than a farm organization, even if it consists of farmers, and I want to commend you for that. Your program isn't one just around price supports, or farm credit, or rural electrification. Your program is a program for America, and I think there is one word above all that really typifies what you stand for: progress. I might add, progress and freedom.

So I want to thank you for having a broader vision than just your own immediate economic needs because farmers aren't just the tillers of the soil. Farmers are citizens, they are



very important members of the great American community. Farmers have children, and those children need education. Farmers have sons and daughters who may be called to the defense of this nation, and farmers recognize the importance therefore of national security. Farmers are concerned about the problems that beset this country in every walk of life, our cities with their crowded slums, our rural areas with all too often rural poverty and you are concerned about peace and war. And so in these moments I have I'll glance over it quickly--I can't do much about it in terms of detail because really what I wanted to do is share with you my feelings, not a catalogue of statistics. By the way, I have a pretty good speech here if I'd ever get around to delivering it. Maybe you can see it. I have about 13 pages, double spaced, and Jim, if I were to deliver that speech, you wouldn't have time for anything else at the convention. But this speech, which I'm going to place in the Congressional Record, is a report of the progress of this Administration, the Kennedy-Johnson Administration, since January 20, 1961, a report of progress in agriculture, covering the feed grains program, covering recent legislation, covering our activities in

forestry and soil conservation and watershed development, the Food for Peace program, our school lunch programs, our efforts in building cooperatives, our price supports, our wheat and cotton program, all of the commodity programs--it's all right here. But that's rather dull stuff at times because it includes a tremendous amount of statistical evidence. All I can say is this, in broad terms. We've been making progress. And you judge this progress not on the basis of what you had yesterday, as compared with today, or today as compared with yesterday. But start with 1960 when President Kennedy in January, 1961, took over responsibilities for this government and then continue it up to this day when we now have President Lyndon Johnson, a man that I think understands agriculture better than any President that we've had in all of my memory. He is a man of the soil, he is a man who looks ahead. He is a man who isn't afraid to plan, and he is a man of conscience, and he's a man of action. This I know. And he's dedicated toward making rural America a better place in which to live, not just a better place for growing crops because agriculture in America is something more than just production and price. Agriculture in America is a way of life,



and I want to emphasize the importance of our stressing the development of our rural economy as a way of life, a place to bring up a family, a place to live, and to work, and to plan. A place where we can get educated and enjoy the great our-of-doors, and where we can be proud of the fruit of our labor and of the production of our soil. Yes, agriculture represents more than production, doesn't it. It's conservation, too, the conservation of human and physical resources. All of this is in the President's program, and our Secretary of Agriculture who comes from Minnesota, the former governor of our state, Orville Freeman, is dedicated to the accomplishment of these objectives of the agricultural policy and program of the Johnson administration.

I'm <sup>very</sup> proud of Secretary Freeman. He has had to under go tremendous difficulty. He has had to face up to unbelievable difficulties. But he has stood up like a man, and if there ever was a Secretary of Agriculture who speaks up for the farmers of America, it's Secretary Freeman. He is your representative in government, and he knows what he's talking about and he is fighting for you. He is working for you at home and abroad, in the foreign fields as well as in the domestic areas. He speaks up for you at the White House. He

speaks for you in the Congress. And some of us have had the privilege of working side by side with him. So you give him your help. He needs it. This job of being Secretary of Agriculture can be a mighty lonesome assignment, and as has been said many, many times, it's hardly a way to gain a victory in a popularity contest. But Secretary Freeman is not so worried about popularity as he is results and for this I thank him and commend him.

Now let me talk to you just a little bit about what I consider to be the three fundamental purposes of a national program, of any national program that's worthy of our consideration. What we seek to do above all is to benefit, to help, to aid and assist people. So we can say the first objective of any program should be the well being of people, and then the second objective should be progress--economic progress, social progress, every form of progress, scientific and technical progress, and then the ultimate objective of our entire life should be that of peace. Peace that's more than the absence of war, but peace that is a realization of harmonious relationships amongst people and nations. Peace that liberates the powers of people, the capacities and abilities of peoples

in every land to do good because peace makes possible the good life.

You know in our Declaration of Independence we talk about life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. These are the great American dreams and the promises of this land. Life, not merely to survive, but to live well, and the pursuit of happiness--it isn't always there at our finger tips, but we seek it. This is the motivation, this is the incentive, the drive that compels or propels us along the paths of life for a better life because we want life to be meaningful and one filled with the joy of accomplishment and achievement and the pursuit of happiness, and then of course, above all we seek liberty. To be free, to be free men, free to use our talents, free to develop our country, free to work, free to write and to assemble and to petition. And that's why we have these great voluntary organizations like the Farmers Union representing liberty and we have liberty to write, to speak out, to pursue this great life of meaningful activity and to pursue it in peace. So I would say people, progress and peace is my theme. And we've been doing something about all of this.

This battle over Civil Rights is about people. I've



spoken to you about it. You can no longer tolerate discrimination and bigotry in America. It is knowing at the very vitals of our democracy. It's taking our strength. It's consuming our energy and the tensions that come from misunderstandings between the races from bias and prejudice and discrimination--these tensions can destroy us. Therefore, we must set our house in order. I don't ever believe that we will be destroyed from the outside. What we may have happen to us unless we do something about it, is to be consumed and destroyed and weakened from the inside. If you can ask a man to bear arms for the defense of his country, if you can ask a family to pay taxes for the well being of this country, if you can ask a young man in the Army or the Navy or the Marine Corps or the Air Corps to sit at the same table in the barracks, regardless of his race, to sit black along side of white in war, you also have to expect that it will be done in peace, and it must be done in our domestic life as well as in our military life.

So we need full citizenship. But we need to emphasize education. We can't overcome our problems today just by money. We need to learn. We need the excellence of the mind. We can't overcome our problems today just by money. We need

to learn, we need the excellence of the mind. We need to train the mind--this God given resource of the brain needs to be developed. Because brain power is real power and training the mind we also train and discipline the human spirit so that it is a socially conscious mind and spirit, filled with the desire of social justice. And President Johnson launched this program on poverty as an expression of America's conscience. We simply can't be happy and can't feel right when we know that so many of us are well off and there is yet a pocket of a few who are living in such unbelievable circumstances.

Franklin Roosevelt said there was one-third ill housed, ill-fed, and ill-clad and that was in the Thirties. And now Lyndon Johnson says there is one-fifth ill housed, ill fed, and ill clad. To many in America, the richest of all nations, we must strike a blow against this poverty that consumes us, that denies us the full use of our resources. And much of this poverty is in rural America and that is why we need to build REA, that is why we need farm credits, that's why we need farm cooperatives that are really the instrument of free agriculture and of a free society. Thank goodness for the Farmers Union and what it's done for our cooperatives and how you've built them.

Yes, then I said we need the progress for our nation-- progress economically, progress educationally, socially, technically, scientifically. Look at the progress in agriculture. Fantastic. No segment of our economy has had such a remarkable improvement in technological efficiency. You talked about General Motors and DuPont. Why they are behind the times when it comes to efficiency compared to the family farm of America--the wonder of our time. And I've said from a hundred of more platforms that the Russians can build missiles, the communists can build the satellites that orbit the earth, they can do all of these things, but they've never been able to get a family farm, and they can't make their agriculture work. And our extra measure of strength in this world struggle today --this struggle of ideas, this struggle of the ways of life is our rural community and this idea of a farmer owning his own land, and loving it and caring for it and producing these fantastic amounts of food and fiber. So progress is with us. Economic progress.

We passed a tax bill that cut the tax so we could have more money for investment and consumption, but it will do little good, won't it if farm income falls. So we must have



as a constant objective increasing farm income--getting a better share of the American product and the American gross national product to the farmer and his family.

Finally, of course, there is this great area of peace that we seek. And in this area of peace we have so much to do. Peace doesn't come just by wishing for it. President Kennedy said Peace is a process. Peace comes because we trade with nations, for example, because we talk to them. Peace comes through the use of the facilities of the United Nations, through negotiation--not through the use of weapons. We need to be strong so that we can be peaceful. We need to have strength so that we can negotiate without fear and yet never be afraid to negotiate. But we ~~have~~ have constantly before us this dream of peace--a world that is disarmed, yes, disarmed so that it is safe for people in which to live. Disarmed under inspection so we proceed on a steady course, carefully designed and planned. A nuclear test ban treaty to stop the testing of nuclear weapons in the atmosphere, and an attempt on the part of our government to slow down the arms race because we consume so much of our resources and there is a tendency to build tension in the world. Peace takes time. Peace takes courage. Peace takes sacrifice. Of all the people

who are contributing toward peace, your national president, Jim Patton, stands at the head of the list.

I wanted to talk to you about Food for Peace, and our food and fiber has done wonderful things for people, helping to feed millions of people throughout the world. Our programs of medical care throughout international medical research has contributed to peace. Cultural exchanges have contributed to peace. And we are doing great things now in Latin America through our farm cooperatives, helping to build a solid base to agricultural efficiency and production and land reform through the cooperatives, through the credit unions, through rural electrification. These are all efforts towards peace. Peace doesn't come in a day. Peace may not come in our lifetime. I doubt it. But we have a duty to contribute each day and each year to the building of peace. It's like building a mighty cathedral as a way to worship God Almighty. You don't build that cathedral at once. It may take years, in fact, some of the great cathedrals have taken centuries. And I'd like to think of building peace like building a cathedral of understanding and of love and compassion. A way that we can really exemplify in our

daily lives what we mean by our respect and love for Divine Providence.

So it is on this note that I leave you. I wish so much that I could be there to talk to you about a host of things that trouble me, and yet at the same time challenge me. Be of good cheer. We don't need pessimists in this world. We need sensible optimists. I have always believed it is better to advocate than it is to negate. It is better to speak up for something than it is to speak down. And I'm proud to be associated in a spirit of philosophy with the National Farmers Union because you look to the future. Your eyes are on the stars and you plan for the better life, and you work for it and you pray for it. People who do that make a great contribution to freedom and democracy.

Thank you.



*Excerpts From Senator Hubert H. Humphrey's Address*

Speech of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey

Before the National Farmers Union Convention

St. Paul, Minnesota, *March 18, 1964*

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Let me give you a very hearty welcome and greeting, you of the National Farmers Union at your 62nd annual convention being held in St. Paul, Minnesota, in our beautiful state of Minnesota. How I wish I could be out there, and I am sure Jim Patton, your national president, already has told you of some of my difficulties in not being able to attend your annual convention.

I am very proud of the Farmers Union. I am proud of the fact it has a fine man as its president, ~~and it has~~ a splendid group of officers *(an outstanding)* and Board of Directors. Jim Patton, president of the Farmers Union, is one of America's truly great citizens. In fact, he is a great citizen of the world. I salute you, Jim, for what you are and what you do and what you stand for, *for* your sense of democratic conviction and idealism, your decency, your fairness, your humanitarianism, and above all, your understanding of the problems of other people.

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I ~~would not~~ want to pass up this opportunity to say ~~just~~ a word about one of my constituents, the president of the Minnesota Farmers Union, Ed Christianson. We are mightly lucky in Minnesota to have Ed as our Minnesota Farmers Union president. He has built this organization into a powerful farm group. He has given wholesome, clean, ~~a~~ dedicated, enlightened, progressive leadership. *And* Ed Christianson represents the best to be found in America in civic leadership. He truly represents the farmers of our nation, and he represents them very well in the State of Minnesota. So to you, Ed, I send my special greetings, and I want to

publicly thank you for the counsel you have given me as a United States Senator, ~~You have come to me many times when I have needed help. You have not only helped me during these various periods but~~ You have helped me as a Senator, as a member of the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry for many years, <sup>and</sup> as the Majority Whip of the United States Senate, and as the Senior Senator from Minnesota.

~~My subject today can be summed up on one word. That word is progress.~~

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By the way, permit me to bring greetings from all of our Minnesota delegation to you. I'm sure you've heard from them. You're going to hear from the Secretary of Agriculture, You will, of course, be welcomed by our illustrious governor, Governor Rolvaag, so I guess I don't need to say too much more in the form of greetings.

Now why is it not possible for me to be with you today? Well, I'm sure you've read in the press, or you've heard on radio or television that I have been appointed as the floor leader for the Civil Rights Bill. The Civil Rights Bill is to me the most important legislative program before the Congress of the United States in the last one hundred years. We <sup>have</sup> come to the time when the Congress of the United States must fulfill its responsibility in guaranteeing the protection and the privileges and the immunities of the Constitution of the United States to all of our citizens. ~~The American Negro regretablely has all too often been treated as a second-class citizen.~~ There has been a citizenship gap in this country-- a citizenship gap that has separated our people, that has denied certain of our people the opportunities ~~that~~ they ought to have as Americans, and ~~we~~ We are closing that gap now and we



have to dedicate ourselves to closing ~~this~~ <sup>it</sup> gap as quickly as we did to closing ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> missile gap ~~that~~ we faced only a few years ago in our military strength. ~~And isn't it inter-~~

~~esting that it didn't take us long when we knew that we were behind in missiles, and missile strengths as compared with the Soviets. It didn't take us long to close that, and there was no sparing of the money. There was no sparing of talent or scientific know-how. We went to work, and we did it. And this is exactly that same kind of spirit that we must have to close this gap between the promise of the Constitution and the reality of its effect, between the promise of the Emancipation Proclamation and the achievement of that promise. We're well on the way to doing it. The courts in these recent years have been magnificent. They have protected the rights of our people. The Executive Branch of government through the President--the office of the President--has done its job. It has spoken up and protected the rights of our people. Now it is the Congress, the representatives of the people assembled in Congress, <sup>that</sup> ~~we~~ have their job to do, their responsibility. And~~

I have been given the opportunity and the responsibility and the burden of seeing to it that this <sup>civil right bill</sup> ~~legislation--proposed legis-~~ ~~lation~~ becomes law. I need your help. This is a tremendous

task and it can<sup>not</sup> be accomplished in Washington. We in ~~Washington in~~ the Nation's Capital can go through the procedures and the processes of passing <sup>the</sup> ~~this~~ Civil Rights Bill, but it will be passed only if there is a great national consensus for it, a great national spirit that demands that the Congress of the United States fulfill at long last its responsibilities to the American people. So I ask you to join me in this, ~~what I call~~ my assignment of conviction, to get <sup>the</sup> ~~this~~ job done, and to do it in a manner that will be worthy of this great democracy, to do it forthrightly, to do it honestly, and to do it with determination and yet with understanding and tolerance. ~~You know,~~ The National Farmers Union is more than a farm organization, even if it consists of farmers, and I want to commend you for that. Your program isn't one just around price supports, or farm credit, or rural electrification. Your program is a program for America, and I think there is one word above all that really typifies what you stand for: progress. I might add, progress and freedom.

So I want to thank you for having a broader vision than just your own immediate economic needs because farmers aren't just the tillers of the soil. Farmers are citizens, they are

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-6- ~~Progress, Democracy~~  
~~My subject today can be summed up in one word. That word is PROGRESS.~~

~~You of the Farmers Union know something about this subject.~~

You know, for example, that **P**rogress comes hard. You have to work at it ~~and work at it~~ and keep on working at it. And this you do.

To achieve progress, you have to have good leadership as well as hard workers, and you align yourselves with great leadership.

To make progress, you have to care a lot about other people as well as about your own welfare. And you do care. It often seems to me that the Farmers Union represents the conscience of the Nation. And you bus-trippers make sure that those of us representing you in Washington remember the Nation has a conscience. ~~And it is conditioned by the Golden Rule, the parable of the Good Samaritan, Thomas Jefferson, and Jim Patton.~~

Progress does not come from thinking that the past is good enough nor even from a desire to hold on to the present. Progress comes from willingness to face facts, to look ahead, to plan, and to work.

Today let us measure the progress we have been making in the field of agriculture, and let us face the future.

Fortunately, we have in the White House a man who will face facts --

a man who looks ahead --

a man who is not afraid to plan--

a man of conscience --

a man of action.



President Johnson, in his Message on Agriculture, has charted a practical course of action that will go far toward solving the problems of agriculture. He sees our task as three-fold:

We need, first, to maintain and improve farm income. This will provide the strength the family farm needs.

Second, we can use our food abundance to raise standards of living here at home and around the world.

Our third task is to accelerate the development and conservation of both material and human resources in rural America.

President Johnson recognizes that farm programs are an indispensable bulwark of our agricultural economy. He has called for needed improvements, for policies that will reflect both the opportunities and the problems which accompany abundance.

Our feed grain program, since 1961 shows with great clarity how farm programs can protect and strengthen the economy.

For 8 ~~long~~ years before 1961, we had witnessed a steady rise in production of feed grains, a steady rise in surplus stocks, and a steady decline in prices. With the 1960 crop, we saw government stocks of feed grains climb to 85 million tons, and the price of corn fall to less than \$1 <sup>a</sup> per bushel.

We began in 1961 to consider the alternatives to a program that would not and could not work. We could, however, have continued that program. Had we done so, farmers this spring would be preparing their land in the shadow of 5 billion bushels of piled-up feed grains. ~~Twenty~~ <sup>have</sup> percent more feed grains than we ~~have~~ ever grown, or used, in a year.

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Fortunately, we didn't <sup>not</sup> choose to continue along that route to disaster, the route of flexible supports and no controls.

Rather, through the voluntary feed grain program, we have seen our feed grain surplus reduced by 22 million tons, around 800 million bushels.

Farmers have benefited from the feed grain program. Compared with their 1960 returns, improved market prices, plus diversion and support payments, have brought their average income per year up about \$1.1 billion dollars.

The savings to taxpayers, through reduction of the surplus stocks from what they were, will amount to about \$1.9 billion.

This is one example of what a commodity program can do to serve both farmers and the Nation. It ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> also a tribute to the leadership of the Secretary of Agriculture, Orville Freeman -- one of the most resourceful, forward-looking and dedicated friends of the farmer. And incidentally, he comes from ~~a~~ <sup>the</sup> great State of Minnesota.

The feed grain program is not the only bright spot. ~~Soybeans provide an interesting example of the use of price supports. With the support price pegged at \$1.85 per bushel in 1959 and 1960, down from \$2.09, prices weakened, farmers sold cheap, and speculators then enjoyed selling high later in the crop year. Few farmers were in position to benefit.~~

In 1961, Secretary Freeman boosted the support price <sup>(of soybeans)</sup> to \$2.30. Acreage went up. The action brought wails of anguish. Not, I think, from farmers.

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The soybean grower, able to plant his crop with the expectation of ~~something like~~ a reasonable return, increased the acreage to a point that we could meet the needs of a growing market. The crop moved at good prices. Farmers' return from that crop was over \$300 million higher than in 1960.

The experience the past two years has been similar. Acreage and production and demand have continued to grow. For the past three crops, farmers' returns from soybeans totalled more than \$1.2 billion over the 1960 level. Cash receipts for the 1962 crop were \$1.5 billion, compared to just \$1.1 billion in 1960. A new high is in prospect from the 1963 crop.

Programs like these are essential to financial strength for our family farms. It is unfortunate, and too often misleading, that enemies of farm programs so often charge that only the large operators benefit. Everybody who sells farm commodities gets the benefit. Those who have little to sell don't benefit very much because they need something more than a better price for what they raise. On the other hand, they would be in even deeper trouble if prices were lower.

Price support programs provide orderly marketing for all. Price support loans provide money at a reasonable interest rate at harvest time. They enable the farmer who participates to pay his bills. Then, when or if the market price climbs from its seasonal low, he can repay his loan, with interest, and move the crop into regular markets.

Now who really benefits from this procedure? Everyone who produces for market benefits, particularly the family farm operator.

A price support loan of less than \$1,500 is unquestionably not what we expect to show up in the records of a "big operator." So, let's look at the percentage of commodity loans made for less than \$1,500 on 1962 crops.



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On barley, 70 percent of the price support loans were under \$1,500.

On flaxseed, the total was 61 percent; on grain sorghums, 65 percent; on oats, 77 percent; on rye, 77 percent; on soybeans, 48 percent; on wheat, 39 percent; and on corn, 43 percent.

It is apparent that farms of all sizes can, and do, benefit from commodity programs.

The cases of feed grains and soybeans illustrate that with administrative leadership, commodity programs do accomplish their objectives.

Without such leadership, we could again see farm income plummet. Farmers in 1952 realized a net income of \$14.4 billion on a realized gross of \$37 billion. By 1960 their realized gross was less than \$1 billion higher. Their net income was down to \$11.7 billion.

During the past three years we have had some sound and realistic programs farmers need. We have enjoyed strong, competent administrative leadership at the Washington level.

One result has been \$8 billion more gross income to farmers <sup>now</sup> than they would have realized at the 1960 level. The farm gross income for just the past year was \$3.2 billion above that for 1960.

These billions of dollars have been a major contribution to the strength not only of farmers, but of business and labor.

~~The prospects at this time last year were bright for a continued upward surge in farm income and purchasing power. Then, a program of calculated misinformation, combined with other circumstances which we cannot fully measure, cast a pall over the future of farming with the defeat in the May referendum of the wheat certificate program.~~

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following the defeat of the ~~6~~ wheat Referendum,

Last May 22, President Kennedy promised that his administration would support any new program for wheat that would meet three criteria: Boost farmers income; continue to reduce stocks; and cut government costs.

Farmers later surprised a lot of the so-called experts, when in the fall they ~~voted with their wheat drills for a continuation of the wheat program.~~ They generally seeded within their allotted acreage. Since then, a number of my colleagues <sup>(and I)</sup> have been active in drafting new legislation that would ~~serve to~~ end the threat of a \$600 million downturn in farm income because of lower prices for wheat.

President Johnson has followed developments in wheat with great concern.

He recommended to Congress that the existing law be amended to permit producers to participate in a certificate program on a voluntary basis. He called for immediate enactment in order that the program might be effective for the 1964 wheat crop.

The President also recognized a need for cotton legislation to relieve a price inequity for U. S. mills, and to provide new opportunity for growers to compete in markets here and abroad.

When enacted, the new legislation for cotton should be considered a monument to one man's understanding of farm problems, and to his foresight in developing and suggesting a realistic solution through a commodity price support program. This cotton legislation is a monument to the understanding, the foresight, and to the vigorous efforts and tenacity of Under Secretary of Agriculture Charles S. Murphy.

~~SECRET~~

In the operation of the commodity programs, we observe one of the most heartening examples of the concern of the present administration for the individual, and for safeguarding individual rights through the recognition of local conditions.

This concern is shown in reliance on ASC committeemen for local administration of national farm programs. Beginning in 1961, we have witnessed a return to reliance on the level-headed commonsense of elected farmer-committeemen for getting things done, and done right. This is a manifestation of the fact that we in Washington do not wish to dictate to farmers. We do not believe anyone in Washington can sit ~~there~~ behind a desk and tell a farmer anywhere in the nation how he is to plow, plant, cultivate, or harvest.

We can, with his needs and beliefs to guide us, provide national programs that offer practical ways of balancing supply and demand and of undergirding farm prices. These programs are necessary if farmers are ever going to enjoy the fruits of abundant farm production.

But when it comes to applying national programs on the farm, the best and most equitable decisions on how national programs can be applied can be made by farmers themselves. This is the role of the ASC committeemen. And with each new program, ASC committeemen are finding themselves in the position of exercising more latitude and responsibility in administering that program.

This Administration recognizes that commodity programs are useful ~~in~~ fact indispensable. But they are not the complete answer. They are a part of a concerted drive to improve the rural economy as a whole.



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Rural Areas Development ~~is~~ now getting the leadership needed to produce results. ~~They~~ <sup>There</sup> are over 2,000 Rural Areas Development committees organized to prepare economic development plans for use in furthering local economic growth. Before 1961 there were 200 such local committees.

RAD projects underway or being planned now total nearly 11,000. These locally developed products ~~have~~ <sup>have</sup> already created new jobs for more than 130,000 people. An estimated 135,000 more new jobs will be created when all projects are fully developed.

We have begun to use our farm-abundance at home and abroad.

Agricultural exports have been lifted to new high levels. Agricultural exports in calendar ~~year~~ 1963 reached a new high of \$5.6 billion. There is the expectation of reaching \$6 billion in fiscal 1964, compared with \$3.7 billion in fiscal 1959.

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A vigorous effort is underway to develop and maintain access for U. S. farm products in world markets. The Administration put up stiff resistance to the developing restrictive agricultural import policies of the European Common Market. ~~A special GATT panel conceded that our exports of poultry meat to West Germany had been severely damaged by the new European Economic Community restrictive measures, and sanctioned appropriate trade reprisals.~~

In the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, and in plans for implementing it at the forthcoming GATT negotiations, the Administration brought new bargaining strength to American agriculture's trade position.

The record level agricultural exports achieved during the past three years is a direct reflection of the intensive work done by Government and industry in carrying out the largest and most vigorous program of agricultural export expansion of the Nation's history. Exports sold for dollars represent about 70 percent of the total.

At home, the USDA Food Distribution programs now provide one in six Americans with a better diet. Where six commodities were provided to needy families in 1960, there are now 11 commodities.

Meat and other high protein foods ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> now available for needy families, along with the powdered milk and corn meal previously distributed.

We are seeing farm abundance build strength at home and abroad.

Food for Peace uses agricultural resources effectively in a worldwide attack on hunger and to support much needed economic development. Shipments reached a record total of \$1.6 billion in 1963. This meant that in 100 countries a record 92 million hungry, needy people benefited <sup>ed</sup> U. S. food, in addition, paid a part of the wages of 3.1 million people working on self-help economic development projects in 19 countries.

Domestic Distribution

Food for Peace

We are laying emphasis on using Food for Peace to promote economic growth of the less developed nations. This will enable such countries to become self-sustaining and to emerge as new markets.

The volume of credit service through the Department of Agriculture rose to \$690 million in 1963, more than double the total in 1960. USDA credit ~~is~~ now <sup>is</sup> serving more than 227,000 farmers or other rural peoples. The major part of the funds for credit services ~~have~~ <sup>has</sup> come from private sources, on an insured basis, or from collections on outstanding loans. Funds go only to those unable to obtain credit elsewhere.

Some 600 rural communities are being assisted to provide modern water service for 175,000 people. This broadened Administration activity is leading to home modernization and improved fire protection.

Through loans to rural electrification cooperatives, in the past three years provision has been made for modern electric or telephone service to more than 800,000 rural residents. In addition, these loans totaling \$826 million will mean improved service for hundreds of thousands of consumers and a new and cheaper source of power for about one million consumers. Electric loans to power-type borrowers have accounted for \$417 million of the total.

Total electric loans in the last 36 months of the previous Administration were \$640.2 million, with \$135.1 million to power-type borrowers.

Since January 1961, Crop Insurance protection has increased from \$270 million to nearly \$500 million. The amount of protection offered individual farmers has been increased, while 9 additional crops, making a total of 23, ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> now available for insurance. Sugar beets and safflower are the most recent crops for which this protection is available.

Marketing orders have been increased from 121 in January 1961 to 128. Designed and approved by producers, this is a means of assuring orderly marketing, better returns to producers, and stable, adequate supplies for consumers at reasonable prices.

Milk marketing orders now cover almost half the milk sold by U. S. farmers. They cover 40 percent of farm income from all U. S. fruit and vegetable crops.

All agencies of the Department ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> now working more closely with farmer cooperatives. The Secretary of Agriculture has directed full support of these farmer-owned businesses.

One result has been that the Department helped 18 soybean and cottonseed cooperatives to form a joint sales agency to market here and overseas more effectively.

New approaches, and vigor, have characterized the Administration's approach to land use and conservation.

Participation in the Agricultural Conservation Program, which assists farmers to carry out needed measures to conserve soil and water resources, increased 20 percent, or about 200,000 farms more than the one million farms participating in 1960. This increase is one of the results of stronger dependence on locally-elected ASC committeemen to administer farm programs in their counties.

The Cropland Conversion Program, a pilot program, is another in which ASC committeemen have exercised guidance and helped, in fact, to write the book. Last year the Administration launched the CCP to shift use of land from crop production to other uses, including recreational areas. It is opening new economic opportunities for rural areas. The cost per acre for



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achieving the conversion has been about half that experienced under the Soil Bank.

Approximately \$6.9 million <sup>60</sup> are being paid through 2,800 agreements. Conversion will include 114,000 acres of cropland to grass, 5,900 acres to trees, 296 to wildlife habitat, and 8,200 acres to development of recreational facilities.

Other activities in the field of soil and water conservation in the past three years included authorization of 238 new small watershed projects. More than 48 million acres have been added to local Soil Conservation Districts. In the past two years, 900 of these districts have updated their programs to implement broadened concepts of economic development of rural areas.

The Great Plains Conservation Program has been extended up to 10 years and 34 additional counties were added to the program in this period.

Recreation visits on the National Forests are being encouraged. Total visits in 1963 reached about 125 million, compared to 92.5 million in 1960. Construction of additional facilities and rehabilitation of old ones has helped make possible a steady increase in use.

~~The watch over futures trading and commodity brokerage maintained by USDA is important, providing protection for the funds of commodity traders and a safeguard against price manipulation and abusive trade practices. The trade and public are getting more information on speculation and hedging in futures with the issue of monthly "market composition" reports, started in 1962. But additional safeguards are needed, and can be expected to be adopted without impairing the basic operation of commodity exchanges.~~

*John*

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The record of the past three years has been a good one. Gross farm income has increased. Grain surplus has been reduced at considerable savings to the taxpayers. Food prices have been stable.

We have proven that farm problems can be solved. We now see bright hope in situations where there was only despair. For tomorrow, there is the opportunity for farmers to earn parity of income from sales of the abundance you produce.

No one denies that the farm production record in the U. S. is one of progress.

Now, We can look back on three years of financial progress for farmers. And we can look forward to further improving the standard of living of Rural America.

Provided with splendid leadership, we have moved forward for three years.

And With the continued leadership of President Johnson, with an interested, alert Congress, with the help of each of you, we can make a ~~brilliant~~ record of continuing progress in agriculture, and as a Nation.

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~~daily lives what we mean by our respect and love for Divine Providence.~~

~~So it is on this note that I leave you.~~ I wish so much that I could be there to talk to you about a host of things that trouble me, and yet at the same time challenge me. Be of good cheer. We don't need pessimists in this world. We need sensible optimists. I ~~have~~ <sup>have</sup> always believed it is better to advocate than it is to negate. It is better to speak up for something than it is to speak down. And I'm proud to be associated in a spirit of philosophy with the National Farmers Union because you look to the future. Your eyes are on the stars and you plan for the better life, and you work for it and you pray for it. People who do that make a great contribution to freedom and democracy.

Thank you.



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