

File

25th Annual

FILM FOR NATIONAL FARMERS UNION CONVENTION

March 14, 1966

Denver, Colorado

1 Jim Patton, Glenn Talbott, ^{my} ~~our~~ many friends in the
~~_____~~
Farmers Union, I deeply regret ~~that~~ I am unable to be
with you in Denver today. I had wanted to join w~~ith~~
you in your tribute to both of my dear friends, Jim and
Glenn. ~~_____~~ Jim Patton has been my close personal friend for
~~_____~~ a good many years. He has led your organization to
~~_____~~ great victories, not only in the United States, but
~~_____~~ around the world.

4 Under Jim's leadership, the National Farmers Union
has been involved in more than just farm programs. It
~~_____~~ has been more than just a voice of farmers. It has been

all Amer. Citizens

a voice of the people throughout the entire Nation.

Jim's actions have been to protect farm income for the family farmer. But just as importantly he has been on the side of the factory worker and the consumer.

Your organization has helped these people in all walks of life.

Jim, you long will be remembered for your single-handed achievement which was largely responsible for the Full Employment Act of 1946. I shall never forget that your ideas back in the early days moved many of us to see the need for a Peace Corps. Again, it was you and your efforts that moved our Nation into a declaration of war against poverty.

Another idea of yours, Jim, that now is coming to pass, is the need for a National Food Reserve, insulated

from the market to protect our consumers against

National disaster or undetermined international needs.

Truly you are a great statesman, And even though
you are stepping down as president of National Farmers
Union, I know that you still will represent the wishes,
the desires and the interests of these people for whom
you have dedicated your life. I will continue to seek
your counsel and advice, as will my colleagues in
government and others throughout the world.

As most of you are aware, Jim was the first
president of the International Federation of Agricultural
Producers, an organization dedicated to protecting the
family farmers around the world.

There is not enough time to name all the advisory committees, boards and commissions in which Jim Patton has participated. They have made many contributions and recommendations to past presidents, including President Roosevelt, President Truman, President Eisenhower, President Kennedy and now President Johnson.

Glenn Talbott

No less a statesman is the man from North Dakota, Glenn Talbott, who has been Jim's constant companion and confidante through many years of struggle. And, Glenn, you, too, shall continue to be my confidante and my advisor.

Glenn has been the businessman of Farmers Union for many years, arbitrating, dealing, getting the best deal, the best offer, for your cooperatives and other business interests.

Let me take a moment now to reassure all of you that this Administration has not forgotten our family farmers. Now, more than ever, we need a firm, strong agriculture. The record is clear that Lyndon Johnson and Hubert Humphrey advocate an agriculture made up of family farmers.

I have just returned from an extensive trip into South Vietnam and other parts of Asia. I can tell you personally that if the countries I visited had had a strong family farm system, they would not have the problems, both social and economic, that they have today. With the help of the National Farmers Union, we are helping them attain these goals.

*Family
Farm*

Visit

*Coops
REA*

There are many hungry people in the world who badly need the food that each of you can produce. But farmers can not produce this food at less than parity and assume all the financial responsibility of our foreign aid program. This Administration is well aware of this and we are doing something about it.

In closing, let me wish you a most successful convention and many, many more years of success. And, Jim and Glenn, I again salute both of you as Elder Statesmen of Agriculture and two men who unselfishly have served their country with ability and dedication.

FROM: Vice President Hubert Humphrey
TO: The National Farmers Union Convention

Motion Picture
HOLD FOR RELEASE:
MARCH 14, 1966
15,

President Jim Patton of the National Farmers Union and my good friend, Glenn Talbott, and the other Officers of the Farmers Union and all the many delegates that have gathered out at the beautiful City of Denver, Colorado, for this Annual Convention. I extend through film and through the recorded word warm personal greetings to each and every one of you. I am sure you know that if I had my wish-at least that that wish could be fulfilled, I'd be with you in person but there are demands upon my time, as you can well understand, and I do have other responsibilities which necessitate that I remain in Washington, D. C.

I simply had to get to your Convention though, some way, some how. At first I thought I'd just send a telegram or a printed message. Then, I said no, that's not good enough, let's do it by the tape and finally, with your cooperation I am able to send my message, give you my message, by film, filmed with sound so that at least you can see me and you can hear me. I only wish that somehow I could see you and hear you. I always feel better that way and frankly, enjoy talking to an audience much more when there is an exchange of views, at least where we can be in close contact.

For this is a historic Convention for the National Farmers Union. It represents many, many years of growth and progress on the part of your great organization. It is historic too because our good friend, Jim Patton, your friend and mine, will be retiring as the President of National Farmers Union. I hope you notice where

I said "retiring as the President of the National Farmers Union" because I don't think Jim Patton will ever retire. He will be at work as long as the good Lord gives him the breath of life. Jim Patton has earned, however, retirement from your great organization because he has even broader fields that he needs to give his full attention to. Can I say just a few words about Jim and then just a word or two about Glenn. Jim Patton is not only a fine organizer and a great leader of an outstanding American farm organization but he is a great citizen. He is an all-American citizen. Yes, he's been your articulate, battling, fighting spokesman for the family farmer and for the Farmers Union. He's carried your message in the councils of government for years. He has spoken all over the world on behalf of the family farmers of America and farm people of the world. Jim Patton has been interested in foreign policy, national security, full employment, civil rights; he's been interested in everything that makes America a better place and a better nation and he has some mighty fine records to point to. Only recently we celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the forming of the Employment Act of 1946. I'm sure you know that Jim Patton was one of the inspirations behind that Employment Act and while it doesn't bear his name, it surely has his spirit and it's been a powerful force for economic progress and social progress in America. Jim Patton backed the Marshall Plan. He has been in the forefront of a fight for the technical assistance program, the Point 4 Program. He was one of the real authors of the Food for Peace Program and because it was out of his thinking and out of Jim Patton's philosophy that the use of our abundance of our food abundance

for the relief of human suffering came about. I know I talked to Jim about it and I was one of the authors of the Food for Peace Program but I can't claim that it was my own idea, I can only claim that I was lucky. I had Jim Patton as a friend and when you have Jim as a friend, you not only have an associate, but you have a philosopher, you have a political action man and you have a fellow who knows how to get things done. So, Jim, I want to wish you the best. I could brag on you all during this film but you wouldn't want me to do it, you're too modest for that. I can only say that you have been the friend of Presidents and Cabinet Officers and Prime Ministers but above all, you've been the friend of the people--the plain people, the farm people, the man on main street, the working man, the student, the teacher. You've been in there working for the great society, for the New Deal and for the Fair Deal and the New Frontier. Your identification with all of these great movements of America, political, economic and social life, is clear and unmistakable so enjoy your retirement, Jim. We're going to keep you at work--you don't have to worry about that--you're not going to be able to have an easy life. I noted here too that you were the first President of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers--just another way to underscore that Jim Patton is a citizen of the world--he's a world citizen, he understands the great economic and social forces at work in this world and he is a pro-freedom man. He's a democrat with a small "d" and Jim I even like it because you are a Democrat with a capital "D" but I'm not supposed to inject any partisanship in this message.

Now a word about Glenn Talbott. Of course, I think the world and all of Glenn. He comes from a great part of America up there in the Dakotas and Glenn Talbott has been the strong right arm of Jim Patton and the Farmers Union. He's been the man who sort of managed things as he's had to be the person that was in there day after day fighting to see that the farmers got a better deal, to help build those Farmers Cooperatives and to take care of the economic and the organizational interests of the Farmers Union and whenever Jim Patton was out on the stumps, so to speak, carrying the spirit and the message of the Farmers Union, Glenn Talbott was right back there in Denver taking care of the day to day business of the Farmers Union and that's a mighty big business. It goes into producers cooperatives, into distribution cooperatives, into marketing cooperatives. The Farmers Union is more than a name and it is more than an idea, it's a working organization so Glenn, I want to pay my respects to you and to wish you well and to congratulate you on all the good work that you have done. How lucky we are to have men like Jim and Glenn, two great American citizens.

Now, I want to conclude in these next few moments a few reflections and observations on our Country and this troubled world that we live in. We have been enjoying a great period of economic growth and prosperity in America these past five years. It has been phenomenal and even as we have grown richer and stronger we've understood the importance of more and more people in our Country coming into full participation of the social and economic life of the Nation. Think of the wonderful gains

we've made lately. The opening up of opportunity to millions and millions of people. The training of workers, the passage of the Civil Rights Act, the implementation of our Peace Corps where we send our young people out around the World to be of help to those who need help. Just think of the advances we have made in education and in health. Why, Jim, you and I were fighting for Medicare twenty years ago. I am sure you were doing it thirty years ago. The first Bill I ever introduced in Congress was to provide medical care for our elderly under Social Security. So we've been there on the firing line for all of these great programs of social progress and they are coming now into reality and they are really working. We are building a better America, a stronger America but more importantly, we are building a more just America, a more moral America, a more socially conscious America--that's what the War on Poverty is all about and that poverty war is being waged not only in the cities, but in the world countryside where too many of our people have been the victims of poverty. We've taken some time to get this thing under operation and get it going but it is working and today we see thousands of young children in Project Headstart getting their first chance at a little education and getting their first chance to have a little love and attention and care. We see thousands of young men in the Job Corps Centers and young women in our Neighborhood Youth Corps and hundreds and thousands of College students in the Work Study Programs and people who were illiterates only a few months ago that are in our Adult education classes. Things are happening and there is improvement. Oh,

I wish I could say to you that everything was completed but you and I have been in this business of democratic living long enough to know that Democracy's business is never finished, there's always something more to do. The important thing is to get started and to make sure that we continue our progress and we are doing that and the Farmers Union has made that possible. You backed us all the way and I want to thank you and we are making progress in the fields of agriculture. We have a good Farm Program now. Oh, it can stand improvement and we're going to continue to improve it. The farmers of America, the family farmers, are entitled to not only parity of income but parity of opportunity, which is only another way of saying equality of opportunity. All the progress that has been made and yet so much more to be made so we're restless and we're determined, we're energetic and we're also people committed to making this great opportunity available for every person in this land regardless of race, creed or color because every American is needed working at his best.

Now I just returned from a long journey, in fact, two journies to the Far East and the Pacific and these past two and a half months I have travelled over 100,000 miles as a representative of our Government to 11 Asian and Pacific countries. I've been to Viet Nam, I've been to India, Pakistan, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Laos, New Zealand, Australia, Taiwan--I've been in many areas that I never knew before, except as I read about them. Now, what do I find, I find the same urges there, the same hopes amongst the people that we have here.

They want to be free and independent, they want to live a better life and what is so really interesting to me is that with a little help from the United States and from other countries that are blessed with prosperity and progress, they can live a better life. President Johnson went to Honolulu not long ago and there met with the leaders of South Viet Nam and the importance of that meeting wasn't so much military as it was social and political because you and I know that in order to have any success in South Viet Nam, a success of preventing aggression, the success of self-determination and of the right of South Viet Nam to live as a free nation and a free people, in order to have that, people have to believe that there will be a better day. We can't win this struggle with just military power. We know that, but we need, of course, military power to provide security but it actually will be won when people believe that there is a new life for them. The peasantry believes there will be a new life and there is a great social revolution under way now in South Viet Nam. If South Viet Nam and those areas of the Far East had the family farm system that we have, and the farm cooperatives, I doubt that the Communist movement would make any progress. Communism feeds upon social misery so we are now determined to defeat social misery and what a wonderful task this is. It really draws upon the best of us and we are going to help the peoples of South Viet Nam in their villages and hamlets and out in the countryside where over 80% of the people live in those area. We're going to help them with their schools and education, with land reform, with modern

technology in agriculture, with irrigation and flood control, with rural electrification. I was in one area in Thailand not long ago where there were 8,000 farm families in a rural electrification cooperative. That's an area where the Communists are going to have a tough time to penetrate. So what we seek to do is to build a world in which there's opportunity and justice--that's a long-term project but we can do it and we need to face up to the problems boldly and courageously abroad just as we have at home. And I submit that there is no nation on the face of the earth that knows better how to cooperate with others than the United States of America. We have a pattern-of-example of a fair, a decent and a good life for our people. This is exportable. We can help others so we are now pledged and committed in Southeast Asia to defeat aggression, to defeat social misery, to help build democratic institutions and, above all, prayerfully, hopefully and irresistibly to pursue the noble goal of peace.

I want to wish you all well in your Convention. I wish I could be there as I've said, and to you Jim, thanks for all the many years of your service, thanks for what you are. You, Glenn, may you also have many more happy days of productive and good work. God bless each and every one of you. Thank you.



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