



NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

2000 FLORIDA AVE., N.W. • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009 • Area Code 202, 265-7400

June 183

Fate

Done 5/30/66
p. 2 & 8.

April 13, 1966

REA
Speech

Mr. David Gartner
Aide to the Vice President
The Capitol Building
Washington, D.C.

June 18
Yampa

Dear Dave:

Here's the suggested draft of Vice President Humphrey's statement for recording in connection with the 25th anniversary of Yampa Valley Electric Association, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

I was talking about a tape recording when I spoke with you on the phone Tuesday. Since we have sound on film equipment and since it wouldn't take any more time than a tape recording, I wonder if it would be all right to do the statement with the Vice President on film? The people could see as well as hear him.

Sincerely yours,

Phil

Philip McMartin
Assistant Director
Public Relations

PMcM/mj

Enclosure

LOW COST ELECTRIC POWER FOR RURAL AMERICA



(~~DRAFT OF~~ MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY TO YAMPA VALLEY
RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 25TH ANNUAL MEETING)

IT GIVES ME SPECIAL PLEASURE TO BE ABLE TO SAY HELLO TO YOU
~~PEOPLE~~ ^{to} AND CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR COOPER-
ATIVE. I SAY, "SPECIAL PLEASURE," BECAUSE I GREW UP IN SOUTH
DAKOTA AND MINNESOTA AND I SAW RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BEING
FORMED THERE ~~AND~~ I CAME TO REALIZE ~~PRETTY~~ QUICKLY HOW VITALLY IM-
PORTANT ~~THIS PROGRAM IS~~ ^{these cooperatives are} TO THE NATION. [#] I DON'T HAVE TO TELL
~~PEOPLE LIKE~~ YOUR BOARD MEMBERS, MR. ARNOLD AND MRS. BRUNNER, AND
~~SOME OF~~ THE REST OF YOU, WHAT IT IS TO BE WITHOUT ELECTRICITY --
WITHOUT ELECTRIC LIGHTS AND REFRIGERATION ON A FARM OR RANCH.
YOU KNOW BECAUSE YOU HELPED GET YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC STARTED
25 YEARS AGO ^x ~~AND THAT'S WHAT THIS PROGRAM IS ALL ABOUT~~ ^{our rural electric cooperative have done --}
BRINGING AMERICA OUT OF DARKNESS INTO THE LIGHT.

~~IT MAY EMBARRASS SOME OF YOU GOOD PEOPLE TO SAY THIS YOURSELVES,~~
~~BUT I'VE SAID IT OFTEN ONE WAY OR THE OTHER OVER THE YEARS AND~~
~~I'LL KEEP ON SAYING IT.~~ [#] THE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM IS THE
BACKBONE FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN OVER HALF THE NATION. IT'S THE
LIFE BLOOD FOR MOST OF RURAL AMERICA. YOU ~~PEOPLE~~ ARE A PART OF IT ^R
YOU HELPED BUILD IT AND TURN IT FROM A DREAM INTO REALITY.

[#]
~~YOU KNOW,~~ YOU CAN'T DO THESE THINGS UNLESS YOU HAVE A FREE NATION
AND FREE PEOPLE. ^{And} ~~BUT~~ YOU CAN'T DO THEM ~~EITHER~~ UNLESS THERE ARE
PEOPLE WITH COURAGE AND IMAGINATION AND RESOURCEFULNESS. SO YOU
ARE A PART OF THE GREATNESS OF THIS NATION. ~~IT'S PEOPLE LIKE YOU~~

you helped turn
~~WHO HAVE HELD WHAT WE CALL THE AMERICAN DREAM AND HELPED TURN IT~~
INTO REALITY.

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~~THAT'S NOT JUST TALK.~~ WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED ~~OUT~~ YOU HAD 175 MILES
OF LINE TO SERVE 286 MEMBERS. NOW YOU'VE GOT NEARLY 16 HUNDRED
MILES OF LINE TO SERVE ⁵²⁰⁰~~52 HUNDRED~~ MEMBERS. MULTIPLY THOSE MEMBER
CONSUMERS BY 4 TO COUNT ~~IN ALL~~ THE WIVES AND CHILDREN AND YOU
COME OUT WITH ALMOST 22 THOUSAND PEOPLE THAT MAKE UP YOUR COOPERA-
TIVE AND KEEP IT GOING.

THAT'S NOT ONLY A DREAM. THAT'S AN ACHIEVEMENT, ONE IN WHICH THE
WHOLE COUNTRY CAN TAKE PRIDE. ~~I KNOW THAT~~ PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND
I CERTAINLY DO.

AGAIN, LET ME EXTEND MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU.

Message from Vice President Humphrey to Yampa Valley
Rural Electric Cooperative 25th Annual Meeting

It gives me special pleasure to be able to say hello to you and to congratulate you on the 25th anniversary of your cooperative. I say "special pleasure" because I grew up in South Dakota and Minnesota and I saw rural Electric Cooperatives ~~Some of the first in the nation~~ being formed there. I came to realize quickly how vitally important these cooperatives are to the nation.

I don't have to tell your board members, ~~Mr. Arnold~~ and ~~Mrs. Brunner~~, and the rest of you, what it is to be without electricity -- without electric lights and refrigeration on a farm or ranch. You know because you helped get Yampa Valley ~~Steam Boat Springs Colorado~~ Electric started 25 years ago. That's what our rural electric cooperatives have done -- bring America out of darkness into light.

L The Rural Electrification Program is the backbone
~~for economic progress in over half the nation.~~
for economic progress in over half the nation. It's the life
blood for most of rural America. You are a part of it. You
helped build it and turn it from a dream into reality.

You can't do these things unless you have a free
nation and free people. And you can't do them unless there are
people with courage and imagination and resourcefulness. So
you are a part of the greatness of this nation. You have
helped turn the American dream into reality.

When you first started you had 175 miles of line
to serve 286 members. Now you've got nearly 16 hundred miles
of line to serve 5200 members. Multiply those member consumers
by 4 to count the wives and children and you come out with
almost 22 thousand people that make up your cooperative and
keep it going.

That's not only a dream. That's an achievement, one in which the whole country can take pride. President Johnson and I certainly do.

Again, let me extend my warmest congratulations to you.



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