



Farmers Union Grain Terminal Association

SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

December 1, 1966

Mr. David G. Gartner
Assistant to the Vice President
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dave:

In originally planning for the Vice President's appearance at our convention, we were asked to provide newspaper clippings, a typewritten copy and a tape of the Vice President's speech.

Although the plans for his address were canceled, we had invited the court reporter to be present anyway. While savoring GTA banquet food, he got a tip that the Vice President was coming after all and rushed to get his reporting equipment to the auditorium.

Thus we are enclosing a copy of Mr. Humphrey's extemporaneous remarks and also the clippings collected.

We can also provide a tape of the speech if you'd like it.

Sincerely,

R. L. Johansen
Director of Public Relations

RLJ:mp

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ORIGINAL

29TH
ANNUAL MEETING

* * *

FARMERS UNION
GRAIN TERMINAL ASSOCIATION

* * *

St. Paul Auditorium
Thursday Evening
November 17, 1966

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By JOHN R. BRENNAN
CHRISTOPHER L. COLUMBUS & ASSOCIATES
COURT REPORTERS
720 COMMERCE BUILDING
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101
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Address by the Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey,
Vice President of the United States

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(Standing ovation)

MR. HUMPHREY: Thank you very much. Well, my dear friend, Bill, you didn't even give me a chance to catch my breath which, of course, will shorten the program (applause).

The very first thing that I want to do is to present to you the best part of the Humphrey family and if my wife, Muriel, would stand up, everybody can say hello to Muriel and she can say hello to you (applause).

Bill, I didn't think I was going to make it for a while.

Ladies and Gentlemen, and Members of the Board, my old friend, Emil; Tony Deschant, it is good to see you, and all of the friends we have here tonight, my esteemed associate and colleague of the United States Senate for many years, Senator Eugene McCarthy, and

1 that all concrete hero from North Dakota, Milt Young,
2 who is always with us, and that other concrete hero
3 from South Dakota, George McGovern, I am glad to see
4 you here tonight (applause).

5 It is nice to know that at least at this head
6 table amongst the elected politicians, the Democrats
7 have a majority for a change (laughter and applause.).
8 Of course, according to Milt Young, he doesn't think
9 it is a majority and he says he is as good as any two
10 or three, and he is mighty good.

11 The last time I was in this auditorium, I can
12 tell you, there was a lot more seating space than there
13 is tonight and it was the old fashioned bean feed and
14 there were more beans than people, and if I had much
15 prophetic vision, I would have known what was about to
16 happen.

17 Bill Thatcher, my dear friend Bill, I had the sad
18 ordeal of calling you just a few days ago to tell you
19 that I couldn't be here tonight, and I can tell you that
20 I wanted to be here very, very much because, in fact,
21 Mrs. Humphrey and I were planning to have a little
22 vacation but, I said, "Mom, we are not going to do that
23 until we have been out with Bill Thatcher and the Board
24 of Directors of GTA and our many friends from out in
25 the mid-west, and when that is all through and we have

1 been out home to see our friends, we will go down to see
2 if we can find a little sunshine someplace and get rested
3 up."

4 And then I called Bill and I said, "You know the
5 President is going to the hospital for surgery and I
6 don't think it would be right for me to be away from
7 Washington, at least, during that period of time," and
8 this good and kind, understanding man and friend said,
9 "I understand," he said, "Of course, this will be the
10 first of our conventions that you have missed in many
11 years."

12 Bill, I think this is the seventeenth, at least
13 the seventeenth consecutive year that I have been at
14 the GTA convention (applause) and he said, "Well, just
15 send me a telegram."

16 Well, I tell you, telegrams are expensive (laugh-
17 ter) and in the shape that some of us are in these days,
18 I wasn't sure we ought to send a telegram.

19 But let me just tell you why I was able to get
20 here tonight. Mrs. Humphrey and I went to the Bethesda
21 Naval Hospital to visit our President. We were there
22 at 5:20, and the President, as you have noted by the
23 press and the radio and television, is an active man.
24 He just doesn't give those doctors any peace at all.
25 He just gets out of those operations and immediately he

1 wants to go to work.

2 We visited with our President, and Mrs. Johnson
3 was there and the two daughters, Luci and Lynda were
4 there, and the son-in-law, Pat, and I read in the paper
5 and knew, of course, that this was their thirty-second
6 wedding anniversary and we were invited to come as
7 members, so to speak, of the Official Family, and we
8 were, I guess, the only Members of the Official Family
9 there, along with the President and Mrs. Johnson.

10 The President had a great big anniversary cake.
11 There were a few little presents that were given to him,
12 and Muriel wrote him a love note. I haven't found out
13 yet what is in it. All I said when I went by, I said,
14 "Include me, too, whatever is in there," and the press
15 was in, the radio and television cameras.

16 The President cut the cake and we had some coffee,
17 and I was privileged to raise a cup of coffee in toast
18 to him and I said, "I heard something about you, Mr.
19 President. I heard that thirty-two years ago a young
20 lady by the name of Lady Bird took you home to meet her
21 other favorite man, her father, and her father looked
22 up at you and looked at Lady Bird and said, 'Lady Bird,
23 you have brought many boys in here to see me but at
24 long last you brought a real man,'" and in a very short
25 order they were married, and we celebrated that

1 thirty-second anniversary.

2 It was lots of fun. He was in good spirits, looks
3 good, feels good despite all that surgery. He was
4 visiting for at least an hour with all the friends, and
5 about 7:15 I whispered to the President, I said, "Mr.
6 President, I haven't told you this but I had some appoint-
7 ments out in Minnesota and I had a very important one
8 tonight that I have cancelled," and I cancelled them
9 early because the trouble in this public life is that
10 if I cancelled it on Thursday, somebody would have said
11 the President is very ill and, oh, my, in Washington,
12 they just love disaster; I mean, it makes real news,
13 and, I said, "I cancelled it early so that no one would
14 have any reason to believe anything that wasn't a fact,
15 but," I said, "you are looking awfully good." I said,
16 "I think that you are just sort of cheating the doctors
17 in the hospital the way you look."

18 And I have to let you in on a little matter that
19 maybe you ought to know about. I said, "You know, Mr.
20 President, I had planned on being out in Minnesota, in
21 St. Paul, tonight, for the annual convention of the
22 Farmers Union Grain Terminal Association, out with my
23 old friend Bill Thatcher and all of his good friends
24 out there."

25 Bill, I want to tell you what he said. He said,

1 "What are you hanging around here for?" (laughter) he
2 said, "You get on out there and tell Bill Thatcher
3 hello and tell all those folks hello and bring them
4 my greetings," and that is why I am here, I was sent.
5 (applause)

6 And it didn't take me long to move, Bill, I will
7 tell you that, because I really wanted to come; but the
8 fact is, the truth is, when the President knew about
9 this, he wanted me to come and I surely wanted to come.

10 I just want to say one or two more words and then
11 I am going to sit down because you have a big program.
12 There are two things I learned a long time ago, that
13 you are the most tolerant people in the world and you
14 let me get by with it; one is, that no politician ought
15 to ever interrupt an athletic event. That is one way
16 to gain well-earned unpopularity.

17 And another one is, if you are going to interrupt
18 a program of entertainment, be sure that it's amongst
19 your best friends or they are going to throw you out,
20 and tonight you have let me interrupt this program and
21 my message to you is only one of greetings, only one
22 of solicitation, only one of gratitude and thanks,
23 thanks for all that you mean, thanks for all that you
24 are, thanks for what you do for our country, thanks for
25 your good citizenship, thanks for your production and

1 above all, thanks for your faith, thanks for what you
2 are. This is what you mean to me and this is what you
3 mean to our country.

4 You are going to be called on in the next few
5 months and, indeed, the next few years to do more than
6 you have ever done. I am happy to be here at this plat-
7 form tonight with three great Senators, men who have
8 helped design the new Food for Peace legislation.

9 At long last, Bill, we have a Food for Peace
10 program that isn't based upon just surpluses by accid-
11 ent. We have a Food for Peace program based upon the
12 needs of humanity, the needs of our people, the needs
13 of our nation and the needs of the hungry, so that we
14 can program our production and so that we can call
15 upon our farm people to produce for people that need it
16 and not rely upon the accident of weather or accident
17 of surpluses. We are not going to be talking about sur-
18 pluses any more. We are going to be talking about
19 stocks, we are going to be talking about inventories,
20 we are going to be talking about supplies because there
21 are no surpluses in the world of the hungry and you know
22 it better than I do, and we have now the legislation at
23 long last.

24 Twelve years after the first legislation, we have
25 the legislation now to put American agriculture; yes,

1 indeed, the American Nation, to work in fighting the
2 only war that we ever wanted to fight, the war on hunger,
3 and that is a war that everybody can join in. No one
4 needs to pick at that one, no one needs to be against
5 it. That is a war there can be no conscientious ob-
6 jectors because, believe me, it is a war we have to
7 win and we can help win it (applause) and we are not
8 going to ask you to produce at your expense -- I want
9 to make that clear tonight -- this is a lesson that
10 we ought to remember. In the Korean War period the
11 American Government came out to the American farmer
12 and said, "Open up your land, open up those acres."
13 Came out to GTA, came out to everyone else and said,
14 "Build those bins, build those storage facilities,"
15 and when it was all over, why, they forgot us, and
16 the prices went down, the surpluses went up, and the
17 people were told that the farmers were on the subsidy.

18 Now, if we haven't learned a lesson from that,
19 then, we will never learn anything, and I am here to
20 tell you as a representative of your government that
21 we are not going to ask the American farmer to produce
22 at less than cost, we are not going to ask him to
23 produce at less than a profit, we are not going to ask
24 him to bury himself in surpluses and then be condemned
25 because he answered his government's call. We are not

1 going to do that (applause).

2 American agriculture has a bright future. The
3 market is good, the needs are unlimited, the capacity
4 to produce is literally a miracle. The American farmer,
5 he is the all-time undisputed, uncontested champion
6 producer of the world and, believe me, he ought to be
7 honored for it. (applause)

8 So if nothing more needs to be said, you know
9 what you have done and you know what you can do. I
10 want to ask you to remember one thing. As important
11 as government programs are, and they are important,
12 there is nothing as important to you as your coopera-
13 tives. Don't you forget it (applause) don't you forget
14 it, because politics comes and goes and politicians
15 come and go, and governments change; and if you really
16 want to be sure that you are going to have a good
17 future for yourself and your loved ones, and those yet
18 to come, you build your own institutions that are strong
19 enough to withstand any test and, then, with the govern-
20 ment programs if they are good and come along and are
21 helpful, it makes you a little stronger but you don't
22 have to rely upon them entirely; and if it hadn't been,
23 as I say, for GTA, if it hadn't been for these many
24 farm cooperatives, if it hadn't been for the program such
25 as GTA and the Central Exchange and many others, I don't

1 know what would have happened to us here in the mid-west
2 during these years.

3 This is the farmers' institution. You own it.
4 It belongs to you. It is your private property. It
5 is private enterprise. It is freedom and your govern-
6 ment is prepared to work with you, but I remind you
7 once again, build, build, build; be strong, put your
8 faith and trust in what you build and then demand of
9 us that are elected to public office that we keep our
10 word, that we don't let you down; and if we don't keep
11 our word, there is a place for us, out of office and
12 back home. That we ought to know (applause).

13 I might add, if we do keep our word, though
14 (laughter) there is a place for us, too; in office
15 (applause).

16 Now, let's have the entertainment. Bill Thatcher,
17 God bless you. You look good and the Lord has been good
18 to you and he should be, and, Mrs. Thatcher, it is nice
19 to see you, and it's nice to see all my friends and,
20 Anchor, it is nice to see you, Mr. Invincible (laughter).
21 I can look around here and see a lot of them. I could
22 salute the whole crowd. All I can say is I feel good
23 tonight, I have been blessed with good health, a
24 beautiful, wonderful wife and good family, and lots of
25 luck and a high political office, and I only hope in

1 all my life I will be worthy of it. Thank you very much.
2 (Standing ovation)

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