

TRANSCRIPT OF REMARKS
OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES*

D. T. REDFERN: It's a special privilege now to bring to you the main part of our program. I want to introduce to you, I think, and I believe you believe it, one of North Carolina's most honored senior citizens. This man has served in the Congress. He's been on the North Carolina Supreme Court. He's made an enviable record in Washington as our Senior Senator. Personally, I had the privilege of being in the Congress the day that he made his famous speech censuring Mr. McCarthy. In fact, I got in trouble that day. I got so lost and imbued with his humor and his discussion of that, I forgot I had my wife in Washington with me. Four hours later, she found me and wouldn't speak to me all the way home. (LAUGHTER) And then tonight, he's always getting me in trouble, to night when he came into our little reception, they introduced him to us and he says, "Oh, I'm so glad to meet your granddaughter." (LAUGHTER)

Senator Sam, I love you, North Carolina loves you and we are proud to have you here tonight. (APPLAUSE)

SENATOR ERVIN: Friends, I want you to look at Dave and then look at this very pretty girl sitting over here. (LAUGHTER) He tries to pretend that she's his wife. (LAUGHTER) I'm convinced she's his granddaughter (LAUGHTER) and he ought to have known when he came up to Washington and down to the Senate that if he stayed there long enough to hear a filibusterer like myself make a speech that his granddaughter would become impatient and dissatisfied. (LAUGHTER)

*As presented before the annual meeting of the Farmers Cooperative Council of North Carolina at a banquet Tuesday evening, February 28, 1967 at the Hotel Sir Walter in Raleigh, North Carolina.

My first agricultural pursuit was sowing wild oats and raising cane (LAUGHTER); however, I'll have to confess that during recent years I have become wiser and I have listened to the advice of the members of the Farmers Cooperative Council of North Carolina in voting on measures in the Senate. For that reason, I am convinced that however I may have done on other issues that I have voted wisely and correctly on agricultural matters. (APPLAUSE)

The role of an introducer may be likened unto that of the small tugboat which is assigned the task of towing the great ocean liner out to sea. Some of these tugboats generate so much sputtering and so much smoke that they obscure the ocean liner. I'm going to promise you that notwithstanding my filibustering tendencies (LAUGHTER), I'm not going to do that tonight. (LAUGHTER) I could present our speaker quite correctly as being one of the most brilliant, one of the most eloquent and one of the most dedicated public servants the United States has ever known. I'm not going to do that on this occasion. I could introduce him to you as the occupant of the second highest office in our land, that of Vice-President of the United States. I'm not going to do that. I'm going to introduce him in a category which puts him in first place in the hearts of millions of Americans, all of those who produce the food and the fiber which makes life on this planet possible. I am going to introduce him to you as one who is a true friend of all Americans and all North Carolinians engaged in agricultural pursuits at all times and under all circumstances, our friend of American promise, Hubert Humphrey! (APPLAUSE)

VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you. Thank you very much, my wise and prudent and judicious and learned good friend, Senator Sam Ervin. Any man that can speak such truth as you have just spoken deserves my compliment. You know, Senator, our late and beloved friend, Adlai Stephenson, used to say that flattery is all right if you don't inhale it. (LAUGHTER) But I'll tell you, after you've been Vice-President for a couple of years, you inhale. (LAUGHTER) Just believe me. And I've surely inhaled every word that you have said and I want to thank you most sincerely, my dear friend, for your kind and generous comments.

I just have a whole sheet full of notes here. You just as well lean back and get ready for a long evening (LAUGHTER).

My friend, Senator Ervin, said that he had filibustering tendencies. You know, I'll have to tell you what Senator Russell has said about me a number of times. He said, what a pity to see that man's talents go to waste. (LAUGHTER) When I was fighting against those filibusters, you know I did more filibustering fighting against the filibustering than the filibusters did sustaining the filibustering. (LAUGHTER) And if that's confusing, that's the way we do it in the Senate. (LAUGHTER)

Governor Moore, Mrs. Moore, and Senator Jordan and Mrs. Jordan, and our very good friends here, Mr. and Mrs. Redfern and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Caldwell, and the speaker of the house, Mr. Arndt-Mrs. Arndt and the others that are here tonight and there are many more that I should like to mention. In particular I want to mention Miss Mary, the widow and the wonderful lady of my old and good friend, Kerr Scott,

Governor and Senator, and the Lieutenant Governor, Bob Scott and his lovely wife and all of the others that are here this evening. I'm sure that you know that Mrs. Humphrey and I have had a very rich and wonderful day with you. We've had this day that has brought us together with so many of your good friends who have shown us this warm hospitality of North Carolina. We've had the chance to be with our old friend once again, Harold Cooley. I'm going to say some words about Harold, but I'm going to spare him for a few moments here. And also to have along one of the finest representatives in the Congress of the United States who moves in as Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, a gentleman from the great state of Texas. By the way, I always pay my respects to Texas wherever I go, I want you to know. (LAUGHTER) But I'd do it no matter what the circumstances (LAUGHTER) but I do want you to remember that I did it, in case you are asked (LAUGHTER). But what a joy it is to see this delightful American and fine Congressman, Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Bob Poage. Congressman Poage, like his predecessor, Harold Cooley, is devoted to American agriculture, but not only to American agriculture but to this Nation. So we're all so very fortunate tonight to have these dear and good people with us. We're fortunate to have speaker Britt with us, and we're fortunate to have the members of the Senate and the Supreme Court and the Council of State Government and all of the legislators here. And of course the members of the ninety affiliates. I believe Mrs. Caldwell told me even before Harry got up here to mention it that there were ninety affiliates here with the Farmers Cooperative Council. Well, I just like to get with a good crowd like that. It's nice to know that we're all here

together and I'm hopeful that tonight I can say a few words that will be of meaning to you.

I made a note down here of some of the comments that were made a little earlier. My friend Sam said his earliest association with agriculture was sowing wild oats and raising cane which I just noted was the first step to becoming a family farmer. (LAUGHTER)(APPLAUSE) And then our friend, Mr. Redfern, said he was too old for Headstart, as I noted it, too young for Medicare, and too proud for aid under the War on Poverty. But I want to tell you something, Mr. Redfern, you're just right for paying taxes and we (LAUGHTER), we just hope that you'll just enjoy the prosperity that is flowing over this Nation today 'cause you have no idea how we need you. (LAUGHTER) He told us this wonderful story on the Medicare hospital which I thought he might have put into the form of a dream and because it made such a marvelous fantasy about this chap that kept walking up and down the corridors looking for the right place to go. There is a story here, and there is a lesson to be learned if I may just put in a partisan note for a moment. As I recall, and I joted it down and I hope that I am accurate, he said that this gentleman looking for his treatment under Medicare opened that Republican door and fell headlong into the back lot. (LAUGHTER) Now the lesson there is, don't change doors in the middle of a dream. (LAUGHTER)(APPLAUSE)

Now there are one or two other observations I should like to make tonight. I've been told that there are cooperatives here representing every conceivable type of farm production from blueberries to tobacco to dairy to poultry to cotton to REA. Now that sounds more like Minnesota than anything I've seen if you could just drop out the cotton. We did try a

little tobacco raising up there but it didn't work very good. They moved it over to Wisconsin. But I'm an old cooperator and as some of my friends in this audience know who were there when I spoke out at San Francisco to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, we are very proud back in the great North Star State of the large number of farm cooperatives that we have. We think they've contributed immeasurably to the wealth and to the well being of our people and of our state.

But I noticed that they introduced Harry Caldwell as Executive Vice-President. There's something going on in this state, Governor, that I've got to call to your attention. I went to the University of North Carolina today where, it is true, I had a marvelous reception and I want every parent here to know and every citizen of this state to know about it. (APPLAUSE) Of course Sam Ervin said they wouldn't let Everett Jordan in out there 'cause Everett went to Duke. (LAUGHTER) But other than that, I want you to know, Senator Jordan, Duke or not, we're mighty proud of you in the United States Senate. You can hold high your honors. (APPLAUSE) But when I went there to the University of North Carolina, they had four Vice-Presidents. Here you have an Executive Vice-President. You'd think they'd do something for the Vice-President of the United States, wouldn't you? (LAUGHTER) Here's President Johnson; he has only one Vice-President. I don't want to say I'm doing the work of four but sometimes I think so. (LAUGHTER) They don't even call him Executive Vice-President. But I don't want anybody to get any wrong ideas. I'm not complaining. I like the job. (LAUGHTER) I want you to know that.

Governor, you've reminded us that your state is one where it is known that good government is a habit. I've been proselyted, propagandized, homogenized and all about the great state of North Carolina. The Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Orville Freeman, who is an intimate personal friend of Mrs. Humphrey and myself, demonstrated his first act of good judgment when he married a beautiful young lady from the state of North Carolina, Jane Freeman. And I've been hearing about North Carolina ever since. (APPLAUSE) And I'll let you in on it, he used to court her in our apartment. (LAUGHTER) And I figured it was well worth it and I'm happy that I can come here tonight as a resident of the State of Minnesota and tell you that one of our fellow Minnesotans saw fit to reach way out here to North Carolina and get the best. Now, Muriel, this is not to downgrade you at all, honey. (LAUGHTER) I tell you, we're a couple of South Dakotans originally and I want you to know I think I'm the luckiest man in public life to have this lovely girl here as my partner in all the work we do. (APPLAUSE)

Well, if good government is a habit here, it's one that wears well and your governor exemplifies it. I said to a group as we entered the airport today and as I got off that airplane that I had just had the opportunity to scan through his budget message and his address to your state legislature. Good government is a habit in North Carolina, but education is a priority and this governor of yours, following in the traditions of some others but on his own right, I think has given to the legislature, may I say most respectfully, a wonderful program in the field

of education. And it is such a wise investment for you, so important. This great complex of your university, these consolidated colleges and universities that you have are really some of the most remarkable educational establishments in all of America. And they stand you so well. They bring you new wealth, and new strength, and new prosperity; so whatever you can do to continue this program in education, I know will be a benefit not only to your own people but to this beloved America of ours, so keep it up.

Good citizenship has been mentioned, and it has been called a way of life. I must say that I have seen in this state, not only now but on other occasions, examples of good citizenship which are typified by your people in public office as well as by your students, as well as by your general citizenry that can make every American proud of the State of North Carolina. And I want to salute you for it because there is no greater honor in the world, I don't care whether they call you emperor, king or prince or president. What greater honor is there than to be called citizen of the United States of America. That's really something and believe me, there are hundreds of millions of people in the world today that would like to trade what they have for just the claim of citizenship in this great republic. So we have got to take good care of it. (APPLAUSE)

Now just a word about my dear friend here to my right and your left. By the way, I guess this is the first time you've been to my right. Well, no, you've been on my right several times, Harold. (LAUGHTER) To my friend, Harold Cooley, I'm so glad that he's here tonight, back home

with people he has served so faithfully and well. It's been said that there is neither gratitude nor mercy in politics. Well, I want to say, surrounded as you are tonight, Harold, by your friends that I see at least that there is gratitude. The citation which has been given to you, sir, is richly deserved and much earned. I can think of no man in this Nation who is more deserving of being cited for his service to rural America, to the farm people of this land, not just of North Carolina, than Harold Cooley - in my book Congressman all the time from North Carolina. (APPLAUSE)

I've heard a great deal about your agriculture in this state. I've been closely associated all of my life with rural people, my father, my parents, my father's parents, my mother's parents. We come from the Midwest. We are proud of the fact that we come even from a little town. My children are a bit bored hearing their father talk about it but I am very proud of that heritage. And I am very proud to learn in North Carolina of the tremendous progress in your agriculture and of the number of people that live in North Carolina in what we call the rural areas. And the blending in this state not only in a sense of agricultural production but the blending of agricultural producers with people who work in the nearby town or village or city. There's good living in rural America if we but make it that way and our government, your government, is determined to help make rural America more inviting or every bit as inviting as the most beautiful city in this land, to see that rural America has every modern convenience just as the great urban centers. And to have ways and means of encouraging our young men and women, your sons and daughters, members of your families to want to

stay and live in rural America rather than having this mad rush to the great metropolitan areas where we're overwhelmed with problems that really stagger man's imagination and his capacity to deal with them. So while I shall not tonight dwell on rural development, let me say that this is a high priority in this Nation and you happen to have a rancher as President of the United States. You happen to have the son of a druggist in a small town in rural America as Vice-President of the United States. And we do feel that we do have some feeling for and some understanding of what makes up what we call rural America, and the family farm and that rural community. We're not thinking backward now. We're not thinking about the early 1900's or the latter part of the nineteenth century. We're thinking ahead and we're thinking ahead of a rural America in which there is an agriculture where the prices paid for farm commodities are prices that are fair and just and reasonable just as a worker gets a fair and just and reasonable wage for his labor and, let's make it clear, that's the kind of a price that the American farmer deserves. (APPLAUSE)

I have a few arguments with some of my friends once in a while who feel that their greatest achievement in life is to see that farm prices are low. I'm not one of those and I don't speak any differently in North Carolina than I do in New York City. In fact, in the very last election when I went in New York City, I spoke of a matter of dairy farmers being paid a fair price for their product and that meant more than they were paid, more than they were getting paid for the simple reason that you're not going to keep rural America free, with independent farm units, without the kind of a

society that at least has a reasonable hope of a return on investment and a fair profit. The farm cooperative knows that and the farm cooperative leaders are trying to talk sense to the entire American public.

Well, I want to talk tonight to you a little bit about some of the great blessings that this country has and I think we ought to pause prayerfully and reverently and thankfully for the great privileges and blessings that come to this Nation. We know that the world is filled with difficulties and, generally speaking, if you can just cite enough difficulties, you can get a headline. If you can just cite just enough things that are going wrong and comment upon what's wrong, you can make the news. Our own country has its own quota of difficulties but I think as we concentrate our attention on those difficulties and indeed we must, it's all too easy sometimes to forget what blessings we have. And my fellow Americans, the blessings that have been bestowed upon our Nation through our system, through our sense of dedication, through work, through incentive with motivation, the private enterprise system, free government, this fabulous system of ours - those blessings are beyond human comprehension. Your America, this last year, produced almost 50% of everything produced in this world. Almost 50%. And yet we have less than 6% of the population and we have in terms of personal income over 35% of personal income in the world. It's a wonderful America we live in. And I think the most obvious blessing, the one which is perhaps the easiest to overlook because it's been with us so long now, is the prosperity in which we live. Why when I talk to young people today, I'm talking to a generation that has never known a depression and we're talking to a generation that has no memory of World War II. Thank God. We don't want

to have to have people go through the miseries of a depression the likes of which men and women in this audience as I see in this room have gone through and surely we don't want to have to learn the importance of international leadership and cooperation and of our international responsibilities by once again failing in those responsibilities and ending up in World War III. That's what I spoke to your students about today, organizing for the peace, the agonizing, painful, difficult job that it is to build a system in this world, a set of checks and balances, a system of international law and order that can preserve the peace. It is nothing short of a miracle that we have been able to spare this world nuclear war since World War II considering the tensions and the problems and the threats and the aggression and all that have taken place. And my fellow Americans, we ought to say it once again humbly, and with no sense of false pride, that if there has been peace in this world, and there has been pretty much of it even though the world from time to time has been touched with violence, the fact that there has been no World War III may very well be because this country of yours, this America, has exercised its responsibilities of leadership prudently, carefully, compassionately and I think understandingly. So let's not sell ourselves short.

Our prosperity, which I think, of course, is the wonder of the world, needs to be more equitably shared, especially by the people of rural America. And yet, nevertheless, it surpasses anything ever experienced before by any people at any time on the face of this earth. So, don't take it for granted. I can remember during the '50's when we had three economic recessions in just a few years. We've had six continuous years, seventy-two

continuous months, of uninterrupted economic growth and prosperity. Oh, I know people say, well prices have been rising some. Yes, compared to the rest of the world, the rise is nothing. It's absolutely infinitesimal, compared to any other industrialized nation. The true income, the real income of workers of this Nation, has gone up 25% in the last five years. Income levels, profits, wages, dividends, yes, agricultural income, when you look at them in cold figures, in true purchasing power, not inflated prices, stand today at an all time high. We must protect that system, not only protect it, but nourish it and understand it.

Now there's another blessing which I think we ought to keep in mind, and it, too, is a blessing that some Americans take for granted. That's the blessing of our agricultural abundance. I'm sure that I bored far too many senators talking about this blessing of agricultural abundance when I served in the Senate. But I'm going to keep talking about it. You can talk all about automation, all about the greatness of our industrial productivity and yet all of them take second place compared to the efficiency of the productivity of the American agricultural system. Thanks to the American farmer, thanks to the cooperatives that are such as we are here tonight, thanks to these great free farm organizations, we are better clothed and better fed than any people in the world any time in the history of the world. And there's no reason to think that it can't continue that way.

Oh, I hear people complain about the high cost of food and fiber. The fact is that the worker in this country spends less for food out of his income than any person in the world. And he spends less now than he did five years ago. He spends 18 cents out of each of his take-home

dollars after his taxes are paid and his fringe benefits deducted. He spends but 18 cents out of that take-home dollar for food. If he were a worker in the Soviet Union, he would spend close to 50 cents. If he were a worker in Germany, he'd spend over 30 cents and if he were a worker in Great Britain, he'd spend close to 30 cents. There's no comparison. And yet in this world, there are literally hundreds of millions of people - hundreds of millions with all their meager incomes that are unable to even get enough to eat.

The citizen of India will spend 80 to 85 cents out of every dollar earned for just two items - food and clothing. The rest, if he has any left over, goes for whatever other necessities of life there may be. So tonight, as we count these blessings and I count them in the spirit of thanksgiving, I'd just like to share with you some of my thoughts about some of these hundreds of millions that are less fortunate, and some of them are in our own country. I'm not unmindful of that.

I said that earlier today that what I think this government stands for today and what America stands for is an adventure and opportunity. We're a restless people. We'll never be content until every American, whatever his station in life and whatever his race, creed or color, shares in all of the benefits to his maximum capacity of his own ability to share in them of this great Nation of ours. We are going to surge forward. We're going to prove that it can be done. It's never been done before. No other country has ever even dared dream of having its people, all of its people, share in the wonders of its economy. Every other economy on the face of the earth has

had some form of stratification of class order. We're building here a classless society with class. We're building a society in which there is just one kind of citizenship, the one that you honor and cherish, the American citizenship.

Well, 169 years ago there was a preacher and an economist by the name of the Reverend Thomas Malthus. Now all of your economic students and your sons and daughters and you that have studied economics remember him. He edited a document call "An Essay On The Principle Of Population." Now that document foresaw the time when the world population would far outrun the world food supply. Well, for a long, long time, ever since then, they've been laughing at old Malthus. All of the economists and the university experts has reassured each other that nothing like this could ever happen, that Malthus was wrong. It was just a bad dream. He was off base. But the grim prophecy of Malthus will come true unless we act and act now, because there is a contest on between population and food supply.

Two things have saved mankind up to date and I want every food and fiber producer in this audience to know one thing, that American food and fiber have been responsible for saving millions of lives. And when I read and when I see people hold up signs saying that we've killed this person or that person, it grieves me knowing that war is what Sherman said it was - Hell! But I wish that some of our young people and others would know how many lives we've saved, the hundreds of thousands, yea, the millions that were saved after World War II by American food and fiber.

Some of you may have forgotten that President Truman asked the farmers of this Nation to literally empty their granaries in order to feed a starving Europe. I came from the Midwest where we had vast quantities of wheat, and we cleaned out the elevators; we cleaned out the storehouses. We took a calculated gamble and risk to share what we had with the hungry. Fortunately, another crop came, and fortunately, that decision served to save many lives.

Mankind has been saved from this terrible fate of starvation first because of the spectacular increase in agricultural output and productivity in our Nation in particular and in other advanced nations in the temperate zone. Secondly, there has been a cruelly high death rate in the poor nations mostly in the tropic and subtropic zones. Between a high death rate and the increase in food production, we've averted what is called starvation. But things are changing. Because of modern medicine, and we believe in it, death rates have been cut in these so-called developing countries (they're the ones that are the new and the poor) and birth rates have increased. The result has been the now famous population explosion.

Now let me give you a simple example of what happened in terms of one commodity of how things have changed. Before World War II, the developing countries as a whole shipped an average of five million tons of grain to the industrial nations each year, that is, some of the raw material producing countries shipped and exported five million tons of grain each year. Now the situation is reversed. In 1965, the last year for which we have accurate figures, the developing or the underdeveloped

nations imported to avert starvation some 28 million tons of grain, and no small proportion of it came from this country. Yet with those imports, they were still desperately short of their needs.

The world has been consuming over 200 million bushels more wheat every year for the last four years than it has produced. And the trend seems to be the same. Now some of the same experts who said that all of this couldn't happen have had to change their minds, change their estimates, too. Those estimates now show that unless things do change, there will come a time, probably in the late 70's or early 1980's, and that's just around the corner, when there will simply not be enough food to meet the rock-bottom import needs of hungry nations.

Now what do I mean when I say rock-bottom needs because I'm talking now to you about your future - what does this mean to you? It means disaster of immense proportions if you fail to meet those needs, disaster for half of the world's population through starvation and mass hunger and disaster for the rest of us through turmoil and violence which would surely result. I don't think it is anything that is too unusual to see what happened in the elections in India where there has been shortage of food despite our helpfulness, to see people turning away from a more responsible political party into less responsible hands. Turmoil and violence are not the friends of freedom. Turmoil and violence are the companions of hunger. Now President Johnson put the challenge to us this way. He said failure to act and to act now will multiply the human suffering. The first obligation of the community of man is to provide food for all of its members.

I acknowledged tonight the presence of this dear lady, Mrs. Scott. I knew her husband as I've said, the former Governor and Senator. And when he passed away, I was one of many Senators that spoke in the Senate a eulogy to this good and faithful servant. I said, and I quote my own words from the Congressional Record , " One of Kerr Scott's cherished dreams was the establishment of a world food bank. Mr. President, I submit that the friends of the late and distinguished Senator from North Carolina could do no greater honor to his memory than to re-dedicate themselves to the effort to carry out his dream of using America's food and fiber abundance to win a peaceful world.

Mr. President, I, for one, intend to carry on the fight. History will reveal that Senator W. Kerr Scott of North Carolina was one of the great forces behind its eventual success. Now the world food bank that he was speaking of has become the Food for Peace Program to which the Congressmen that are here tonight and the Senators that are here have contributed so much of their time, energy and talents. But Kerr Scott was like a prophet. He knew that unless there was some way to stem the tide of hunger in this world, there'd be no peace. In fact, the late and beloved Pope John XXIII uttered these very words when he said, "In a world of constant want, there is no peace." So when I see people pleading for peace, picketing for peace, parading for peace, I wonder if they've forgotten what it is that makes for peace. You know, the scripture said, "Blessed are the peacemakers", not the wishers or the talkers or the paraders or the picketers but the makers. You make peace by building a strong social, economic and political structure. You make it by the production and the distribution of food and by the offering

of education and the securing of health. There are some of the building blocks to peace.

Well my friends, do you remember when we used to talk about surplusses? Get that out of your mind. You won't hear that word for a long time, except in a commodity here or there about which some of us are rightly concerned. But the only surplus today outside of maybe a little cotton, which we will use and need, and a little in tobacco is surplus hunger, and even our own amazing agricultural productivity will not be enough to meet that challenge.

We're asking other rich nations to do their share now with money and with food, if they have it to spare, and with fertilizer, agricultural supplies and technical know-how. We're calling on our economic partners, our well-to-do neighbors to join in this great agricultural and food help for hungry nations. But no matter how much food we and the fortunate nations ship to those hungry nations, it'll not be enough in itself.

No matter how big your heart tonight, my fellow Americans, how generous you want to be, God's children will go hungry unless we can do better world-wide than we are doing. And if those children go hungry, they not only will die physically but spiritually, and they become the innocent dupes and pawns of totalitarian ideology. There is no way that you can stem the tide of tyranny in a hungry world. So we have a stake in a world that at least has promise and hope. Now if we're really to get at the problem,

then the developing countries, the western European countries, the United States, Australia, New Zeland, Japan and others will have to help. Some of them will have to produce more of their own food. This is why in our new Food for Freedom program, we're stressing and we're insisting for the developing and the underdeveloped countries, self-help.

And let me compliment tonight Senator Jordan, who I believe it was two years ago, Everett, that you went to India, made a study there of our Food for Peace program, made a study of Indian agriculture and Indian distribution because India today symbolizes what I'm talking about---population and hunger, political unrest and turmoil, political change. You would be interested to know and you should know that your own Senator brought back observations, recommendations, that today are embodied in the law of this land to improve our food program overseas.

The Food for Freedom Act which was passed by the Congress was supported by your Senators and came from the committee chaired by Harold Cooley. That Food for Freedom Act today has a lot of North Carolina observations, philosophy and cooperation, attitudes and policy right within it. So, Tar Heels, when you look at that program and hear about it, just stand a little straighter. If there are lives that are being saved, it's because you and others have helped save them.

All of what I am telling you means just this: the time has passed when a national airline or a steel mill or an officers club or a superhighway from the national palace to the airport can pass for a development program. You've spent a lot of money in foreign aid dear friends, but

a true development program, one that offers any hope to the people, any hope of defeating hunger, is one which gives real production incentives to farmers.

Why do I speak of farmers? Because three-fourths of the population of this earth is rural. It's not urban. Three-fourths of the population of this earth is rural. And it's the poverty of the rural masses that Mao of China seeks to exploit. It is the poverty of the rural masses that the revolutionists in Latin America and Africa seek to exploit. And it's the poverty of the rural masses that's the greatest challenge to the nations and the cities. Mao, the communist ideology expert of China, has said that the struggle is between the nations of the cities and the nations of the rural masses. This is the new ideological conflict.

There's no nation on the face of the earth that knows more how to work with and afford an opportunity to rural people than this America of ours where our rural people live a better life than any other place in the world. So a true development program which we've designed is one which provides better facilities for farm credit and for marketing. It's one which brings basic measures of health and mass education to the people of the countryside.

Development means more than money, and we've had an awful lot of checkbook diplomacy in this country. Whenever there is a problem, we write out another check. We found that doesn't work. Development means more than big industry. It means training and education. An old Chinese

philosopher said in the third century B. C.: "When planning for a year, sow corn; when planning for a decade, plant trees; when planning for life, train and educate men." And it's this technical assistance, this education, this emphasis upon the long term that may spare us terrible tragedy that could befall the world that has the know-how to produce food and fiber but hasn't been able to apply that know-how to the needy.

Now, my friends, we in America know what cooperatives can do in helping people have a stake in life. You know it in North Carolina. The cooperative spirit that we honor here tonight is the spirit of this country. It's the spirit of a pioneer people joining together in barn raisings and husking bees and threshing rings and building roads in the wilderness and the prairie. We know that cooperatives build strength and we know they work.

This is why some years ago I introduced an amendment to the Foreign Aid Act that required your government to develop cooperatives abroad. You'd be interested to know that all the wise men in this government up to that time had not provided for one single specialist in the foreign aid administration to help develop cooperatives - not one. We were busy building steel plants, cement plants, stadiums and four lane highways, most of which never ever got to many of the people that needed the help.

But today things have changed. Last year, your foreign aid agency and assistants went to thirty thousand cooperatives, credit unions, agricultural credit societies and farm organizations in forty-six countries.

I think this is why there is progress in Latin America today. I think this is one of the reasons why the communist movement hasn't been able to take over Africa. I think this is one of the reasons there is hope for a free Asia. It went to sixty million people under such programs. During 1966 alone, twenty-five hundred new cooperatives and five hundred thousand members were organized with our help. And some of that help came from Harry Caldwell and men just like him in the great farm cooperatives of this land.

Let me give you a specific example and I'll take it to the one country, the one place that's closest to your heart in your concern and your worry and that's Vietnam. In Vietnam we wage a war on four fronts: military, economic, political and diplomatic. Militarily, we cannot be defeated. Make no mistake about that. The finest forces this country has ever put in the field without question are today in South Vietnam. They're well equipped, well fed, well trained, combat effective, brave and ingenious. And we're making other progress, political progress in helping to build political institutions. Diplomatically, we have made very little progress because we can find no one that wants peace on the other side. But economically and socially we are making some other progress.

War has marched across the Vietnamese countryside for twenty-seven years now without interruption. That poor Vietnamese farmer, he's been driven off his ancestral land by Viet Cong assassinations and terror. I hear people talk about what an American bomb may have done and it has done some bad things --- innocent people, yes, some civilians have been killed

but not by design. War is a bloody business. But the Viet Cong has assassinated, kidnapped thousands of innocent rural people, intimidated them through sheer fear. The Viet Cong has seized their crops. The farmer's shipments of food have been stolen from under his eyes right on the road, and he's been killed in cold blood before his fellow villagers in order to keep him in line. Yet that peasant, that Vietnamese farmer peasant, keeps living and working. They're a tough little people. I've been there. They're a beautiful people. They say they're little tigers and I think they are. They're an unusual people.

Now we've sent our advisers there including our co-op people, and as I mentioned, we sent our doctors, our teachers, our farmers. We have specialists from our universities out there right now. And we have practical farmers out there too to help him in all of the forty--three provinces of South Vietnam. You don't read about this. You don't see these headlines. Well let me give you some headlines tonight. In the midst of this terrible war, here's what's been achieved: some fifty-nine district farmer associations and two hundred and fifty farmers' and fishermen's cooperatives have been organized by the help of your countrymen. Never before did the Vietnamese farmer ever have a cooperative that was a working organization. Crop losses to insects, disease and rats have been decreased from 30% of the total crop to only 16% this last year. This is a great saving to them. Hog production, this gets up into my part of the country, has grown from less than two million in 1963 to over three million today. And the average weight has increased from 130 to 200 pounds.

How did we do it? Well, we worked with the people. We worked with the South Vietnamese government, too. We bring three small pigs, eight bags of cement for a pig sty and a supply of American grown corn to the farmer. That's what they get as a gift. One pig goes to market after it's grown. And the return on that pig is used to cover the cost of the original gift. The other two pigs are kept for breeding. Over twenty-six thousand Yorkshire and Berkshire pigs were distributed in South Vietnam last year.

The diet has been improved, inflationary forces have been curbed and the farmer of South Vietnam feels a stake in his life and his country. And he's a member of a cooperative just like you have in North Carolina. The success of soybean plantings has prompted the Mekong Delta farmers to ask help in planting fifty thousand new acres in the new growing season. It's an export crop, too. It provides protein for their protein deficient people. Our own National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, under contract with AID, has just completed construction and organization of the first REA co-op in Vietnam. Only ninety families were on that REA line last week. But by the end of this year, there'll be twelve thousand and our program is two hundred and fifty thousand REA families. Yet you'll read in the paper that five men were killed. Why didn't you read a headline that said ninety families have had the blessing of rural electrification? Why haven't we read and heard that twelve thousand at the end of this year will have electrical power that'll literally revolutionize their living standards?

These are some of the other things that are going on in what I call the other war. When this war is over in Vietnam, as it will be one day, that brave farmer who has seen so much pain and suffering will stand on his own feet because he has a cooperative. Because he's been trained. Because he's had learning and technical help, he'll be able to sustain himself and defeat others. Yes, we're helping in Vietnam in the midst of a war but we're also helping because there is a war.

And that reminds me that this is the time when we will have to bring new help and new hope to farmers and other distant places before hunger and unrest grow into revolution and war. Preventive action. And we will give that help because our own security may one day be threatened if we do not. But more importantly, we'll give that help because in our wealth and well being we still want to remain true to ourselves. We'll give that help because it's morally right. We've always believed that every human being has the right to freedom and opportunity. I love that word - opportunity. That isn't paternalism. That's not the welfare state. That's not a hand-out. That's human dignity and self-respect. And while that right and while that opportunity are threatened elsewhere, how can any of us remain complacent here at home? We know that hunger is tyranny's friend. And we know that famine is freedom's enemy. And we shall not stand by while hunger and famine brutally conquer the human spirit around this world, not while we have so much to give and so much to share, and not while we in America have the means to lead.

Now all of this is just a high flown way of saying what

the people of the cooperative movement have known from the start; namely, that people do better helping each other. I think Ben Franklin put it more directly and simply, you either hang together or you hang separately. We know that every man is responsible for his neighbor.

One of my favorite authors that I quoted today at your university is a distinguished North Carolinian, Thomas Wolfe. And I leave you tonight with his message and it is really almost scriptural because to me it tells the story of this wonderful country of ours. If I sound a little patriotic, I am that way. I don't think you prove yourself to be an intellectual or a great learned man by minimizing the magnificent. And this is a magnificent country. The minister of our church about three Sundays ago delivered his sermon on the subject, "Minimizing the Magnificent." And some people do feel that this is the way to get attention. Well, I want to maximize the magnificent. And I happen to think in my religious creed that the way you treat God is the way you treat people and if you treat people all right, you'll maybe do all right.

Thomas Wolfe said words that described the promise that is today finally within the reach here in our own Nation. Some bright tomorrow can be within man's reach around the world, if we have the will, we have the means, if we have the will and the courage to stick with it.

My message to the American people now is - Persevere!
Don't yield! Don't give up! Don't look back! Don't sell yourself short!

You're a great people. We've come through tough times before. And this Nation is a living testimonial to be able to do the impossible. Everybody can do what's possible. You don't even have to be half good. It's the great people that do what's impossible. And it's doing what some people think is impossible that makes you a great people.

Well, Thomas Wolfe signified it, told it to us in these words, "To every man his chance, to every man, regardless of his birth, his shining, golden opportunity. To every man the right to live, to work, to be himself, and to become whatever things his manhood and his vision can combine to make him. This is the promise of America."

I think this is what Abraham Lincoln meant when he said that we shall either meaningly lose or nobly save the last best hope on earth. This promise of America so beautifully described is not only the promise of this land, it is the hope of mankind. And I hope that each of us will in our own individual lives in our own way whatever may be our work, whatever may be our avocation or vocation, dedicate ourselves to the meaning of America - the promise of America, to every man his chance.

Thank you very much. (APPLAUSE)

D.T. REDFERN: Remain standing. Mr. Humphrey, Vice-President of the United States, I want to speak from my heart and from the heart of every person here, we are all better Americans by having heard this splendid address.

VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you very much, thank you. (APPLAUSE)

Mrs Redfern

② Secretary Freeman
and Jane -

③ Bob Page

Farmers Cooperative Council -
over 90 Coops - Affiliated

from

Blue Berries - to REA - to Tobacco
Poultry - Cotton Dairy

#

④ Union North Carolina
Co

- 4 V.P.S.

Council of
State

Harry Caldwell - Exec V.P

Supreme of

(Grange)

Legislature

Coops

North Carolina

"Good Govt is a Habit"

Education is High Priority

Good Citizenship is a Privileged Duty
and way of life.

⑤ Family Farms - Income over \$1 Billion
Balanced Progress !!

Coffee

Dutch Apple Pie

Assorted Bread, Butter

French Dressing

Tomato

Hearts of Lettuce Salad and

Oven Browned Potatoes

Au Gratin Potatoes or

Seasoned Green Beans

Bones-Breast of Chicken with N. C. Country Ham

Farmers Cooperative Council

90 Affiliates

A few from Georgia + South Carolina

Mr. H. -

Program

U.N.C. - A.V.P.S

Harry Caldwell

Spe. V.P.

7 p.m.—Dinner, Ballroom, Sir Walter Hotel

Host—Farmers Cooperative Council of N. C.,

Harry B. Caldwell, Ex. Vice President

Toastmaster—D. T. Redfearn, President

Invocation—Mrs. Harry B. Caldwell, Master
N. C. State Grange

Welcome and Introductions—Harry B. Caldwell

Response—Hon. Dan K. Moore, Governor of N. C.

Special Award—G. D. Arndt, Mgr. FCX

Introduction of Speaker—Hon. Sam J. Ervin, Jr.
Member United States Senate

Address—Hon. Hubert H. Humphrey, Vice President
United States, Washington, D. C.

Council of State
Supreme Ct
Legislature

90 Coops
in Farmers
Cooperative
Council.

Mr Redfearn - to ~~get~~ for Head of
Just Right for Taxes - to Young for Medicare
to Run for Pres

Story on that Medicare Hosp - Elroy had
"opened up that Republican door" a dream
& fell into back seat

"Don't Change Doors in the Middle
of a Dream" -

#

Sen Ervin - "Sowing seed & }
raising cane" }

which is the first step
to becoming a
"family farmer"

④ Filibustering Tendencies - #

Lt. Gov. Scott
Mrs. G. D. Arndt
Congressman Poage
Jesse Rae Scott (Wife of Lt. Gov.)
David T. Redfern (Toastmaster)
Katherine Jordan
Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr.
Jeanelle Moore
Harold D. Cooley
Margaret H. Caldwell
The Vice President

Dias

**(Chair for toastmaster)

Madeline Cooley
Harry B. Caldwell
Muriel Humphrey
Gov. Dan K. Moore
Mrs. Louise Britt
Senator B. Everett Jordan
Evelyn Redfearn
G. Dewey Arndt
Mary W. Scott
Speaker David W. Britt

✓ "Miss Mary" Scott
✓ Harold Cooley

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

Speaker Britt

FARMERS COOPERATIVE COUNCIL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

FEBRUARY 28, 1967

Mr Redfearn - ~~Speaker~~ ~~Mr. Hunt~~

✓ Gov Moore
✓ Sen Evers
✓ Sen Jordan
✓ St Goo Scott
✓ Harry Caldwell
Cong Poage

Bob Scott

Rural American
Johnson
Humphrey

I have heard it said that in politics there is
neither gratitude nor mercy.

I must say to my old friend Harold Cooley,
surrounded here by his friends tonight, that there is
at least gratitude -- yes, deep appreciation for your service!

Harold, you have done a great deal over the
years for the people of rural America and of North Carolina,
and your friends and colleagues honor you for your services
to our country.

Tonight, ~~as we join together in the warmth and good~~
~~spirit of this occasion~~, I hope we might pause for just a
moment to give thanks for what we have here in America.

⌞ The world is filled with difficulties -- and our own country has its own quota. But, as we concentrate on our difficulties, it is sometimes all too easy to overlook our blessings. — God has Blessed America.

⌞ Our most obvious blessing -- and one which is perhaps the easiest to overlook -- is the prosperity in which we live.

But ⌞ Our prosperity needs to be more widely and equally shared -- especially by the people of rural America -- nevertheless, it surpasses but ~~it nevertheless surpasses~~ any prosperity ever experienced before by any people on earth.

⌞ This month we observe the sixth anniversary of uninterrupted economic growth in our country -- six years during which each month, there has been ~~one after the other,~~ has brought new expansion and well-being to our people.

⌞ There is another blessing which far too many Americans take for granted. It is the blessing of agricultural abundance.

Thanks to the American farmer and to the great Co-op
farm organizations such as yours, we are better clothed,
better fed than any people in history. We spend
only 18 cents out of every take-home dollar for food --
and this is in a world where hundreds of millions, with
all their meager incomes, are unable to get enough to eat.

18¢
—
for
food.

Tonight, as we count our blessings here in
America, I would like to share with you a few thoughts
about those ^{hundreds of} millions, and what they will mean to us in
the years ahead.

Some 169 years ago the Reverend Thomas Malthus
wrote a document entitled "An Essay on the Principle of
Population." That document foresaw the time when world
population would far outrun world food supply.

For many years the wise people in the economic
ministries and universities ~~pointed out the fallacies in Malthus'~~
~~ideas and~~ reassured each other that such a thing would not
happen.

But the Grim Prophecy of Rev Malthus

~~But I bring you this news, Reverend Malthus!~~

~~grim prophecy~~ will come true, unless we act and act now. !

thus far

Two things have saved mankind so far from such a fate.

(1) First, there has been the spectacular increase in agricultural output and productivity in the advanced nations in the temperate zone, such as our United States.

(2) Second, there has been the cruelly-high death rate in the poor nations, mostly in the tropic and sub-tropic zones.

But we are not keeping up. Because of modern medicine, death rates have been cut in the developing countries. And birth rates have increased! The result has been the now-famous "population explosion."

Let me give you a specific example, in terms of one basic commodity, of how times have changed.

L Before World War II, the developing countries,
as a whole, shipped an average of five million tons of grain
to the advanced nations each year.

L Now the situation is reversed.

In 1965 -- the 1966 figures are not yet in -- the
developing nations imported some 28 million tons of grain.

And, with those imports, they were still left desperately
short of their needs.

*- World Consuming 200 million more
Bushels wheat than Producing!*

L ~~Today~~ some of the same experts who said this
couldn't happen have had to revise their estimates.

L Those estimates now show that, unless things
change, there will come a time -- probably in the mid-1980's --
when there will simply not be enough food to meet the
rock-bottom import needs of the hungry nations.

L "Rock-bottom import needs" -- what does this
mean?

NOTE FOR NORTH CAROLINA TRIP FOLDER

"Can Scott"

When Kerr Scott died (1958), HHH said, "One of Kerr Scott's cherished dreams was the establishment of a world food bank... Mr. President, I submit that the friends of the late and distinguished Senator from North Carolina could do no greater honor to his memory than to rededicate themselves to the effort to carry out his dream of using America's food and fiber abundance to win a peaceful world.

...Mr. President, I for one intend to carry on the fight....
(history) will reveal Sen. W. ~~Kerr~~ Can Scott was one of the great forces behind its eventual success."

("World Food Bank" is now "Food for Peace.")

- 1) "Miss Mary" Scott, Can Scott's widow, is at head table.
- 2) Sen. Jordan visited India 2 years ago in connection with the Food for Peace Program.
- 3) North Carolina has more family farms than any state in the nation, with well over 1 billion in farm income.
- 4) A crease-poundage (tobacco) very successful -- Give Jordan, Ervin and Cooley Credit.

L It means disaster of immense proportions -- ~~Starvation~~
disaster for half the world's people through starvation and
mass hunger ... disaster for the rest of us through the
turmoil and violence which would surely result.

L President Johnson has put this challenge in
clear terms:

"Failure to act -- and to act now -- will multiply
the human suffering ... The first obligation of the community
of man is to provide food for all its members."

Can Scott
Surplus
L Do you remember those food "surpluses" we
used to hear about?

L The only surplus today is a surplus of hunger. Hunger
And even our amazing American productivity will
not be enough to meet the challenge.

L We are asking other rich nations to do their share --
with food if they have it to spare ... with fertilizer and
agricultural supplies, with money, with technical assistance as well.

Today, in Geneva, Switzerland, in the so-called Kennedy Round trade negotiation, our negotiators are trying to conclude -- with other fortunate nations -- a grains agreement which would help meet these needs.

We are, in the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD, also calling on our economic partners to join in greater agricultural and food help for the hungry nations.

Others
to
help!

But No matter how much food we in the fortunate nations ship to the hungry nations, it will not be enough in itself.

If we are to really get to the problem, the developing countries will have to produce more of their own food.

Self
Help

That is why, in our new Food for Freedom program, we are stressing -- yes, insisting on -- self-help.

Food
for
Freedom

② Sen. Jordan to India 2 yrs ago -
to study Indian Agric. and see
Food for Peace Program in operation
in India - His suggestions now
being followed.

L This means that governments in these countries must give a much higher priority to agriculture, ~~than they have in the past.~~

L The time is past when a national airline ... a steel mill ... an officers' club and a superhighway from the national palace to the airport ^{can} pass for a "development" program. -

L A true development program -- one with any hope of defeating hunger -- is one which gives real production incentives to farmers.

L It is one which provides better facilities for farm credit and for marketing.

L It is one which brings basic measures of health and of mass education to the people of the countryside.

Educ + Health

It is one which gives the people a real stake in their
So Development means more than money - more than industry - It means Training - Education.

L A Chinese philosopher, Kuan Tzu, said in the
third century B.C., "When planning for a year -- sow corn.!
When planning for a decade -- plant trees.! When planning
for life -- train and educate men.!"

yes, areal Development Program is one
~~It is one~~ which gives the people a real stake in
their future -- a stake in their livelihood and a stake in the
progress of the whole nation.

Here in America we know that cooperatives
can help in giving people that stake. *- You know it in N.C.*

The cooperative spirit is the spirit of America!

It is the spirit of pioneer men and women joining together
in barn raisings ... in husking bees ... in threshing
rings ... and in building roads in wilderness and prairie

We know that cooperatives work. *Strength through Cooperation*
We know there is strength in all in Cooperation.

That is why I introduced the so-called Humphrey

Amendment to our Foreign Assistance Act several years ago
when I found that there were no cooperative programs
being carried out under foreign aid.

Today, things have changed, and I am proud of it.

Last year, AID assistance went to 30 thousand
cooperatives, credit unions, agricultural credit societies
and farm organizations in 46 countries. It went to 60 million
people under such programs.

During 1966 alone, 25 hundred new cooperatives
with 500 thousand members were organized with our help.

Now, let us look at one specific developing country --
South Vietnam. !

If there is a brave man in the world, he is the
South Vietnamese farmer -- and 85 per cent of South
Vietnam's people live on the land.

War has marched across the Vietnamese countryside
for the past 27 years, without interruption.

The Vietnamese farmer has been driven off his
ancestral land by Viet Cong assassinations and terror. His
sons have been kidnapped. The Viet Cong have seized his
crops. His shipments of food have been stolen on the road.

Yet he keeps on living and working. !

And we have sent our advisers -- including co-op
people -- out to help him, in all of ⁴³ South Vietnam's provinces.

Vietnam
our Atlantic
Military
Economic
Political
Diplomatic

↳ In the midst of war, ^{here} ~~these~~ are some of the things that have been achieved:

↳ -- Some 59 district farmers' associations and 250 farmers' and fishermen's cooperatives have been organized.

↳ Crop losses to insects, disease and rats have decreased from 30 per cent in 1961 to only 16 per cent today.

↳ -- Hog production has grown from less than two million in 1963 to well over three million today, and the average weight increased from 130 to 200 pounds. How do we do it? ?

well,

Working with the South Vietnamese government, we bring three small pigs, eight bags of cement for a pig sty, and a supply of American-grown corn to the farmer.

↳ One pig goes to market after it is grown, and the money is returned to cover the cost. ↳ The other two pigs are kept for breeding.

L Over 26 thousand Yorkshire and Berkshire pigs were distributed last year.

-- The success of soybean plantings has prompted Mekong Delta farmers to ask for help in planting 50 thousand new acres in the next growing season.

L -- Our own National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, under contract with AID has just completed the construction and organization of the first REA co-op in Vietnam. Only 90 families are on the line today -- but by the end of the year there will be 12 thousand. Our goal is 250 thousand Vietnamese REA families. *How to Freedom!*

And when the war is over in Vietnam -- (as it one day will be) -- the brave farmer who has seen so much pain and injustice will stand on his own feet able to sustain himself and to feed others.

L We are helping the farmer of Vietnam in the midst of a war, but also because there is a war.

Now is the time when we will have to bring new help, and new hope, to farmers in other distant places before hunger and unrest grow to revolution and war. !

and, we will give that help because our own security may one day be threatened if we do not give it.

But, we will also give our help for a far more important reason: Because -- in our wealth and well-being -- we still remain true to ourselves. It is morally right to do so. !!

We have always believed that every human being had the right to freedom and opportunity.

While that right, and while that opportunity, are threatened elsewhere, how can any of us remain complacent here at home?

We know that hunger is tyranny's friend. We know that famine is freedom's enemy.

And we shall not stand by while hunger and
famine brutally conquer the human spirit around the
world -- not while we have so much to give ... and so
much to share ... not while we have the means to lead.

L All this is a high-flown way of saying what the people of the cooperative movement have known from the start: That people do better helping each other ... that every man is responsible for his neighbor.

COOP
SPIRIT

L One of my favorite authors is the distinguished North Carolinian, Thomas Wolfe.

Quoted him today, NEU

I couldn't leave you tonight without repeating words written by Thomas Wolfe in a time of deep despair and depression here in America. L They describe the promise that is today finally within our reach here in our nation ... and that some bright tomorrow can be within man's reach around the world, if we have the courage to stay with it.

"To every man his chance, to every man, regardless of his birth, his shining, golden opportunity. L To every man the right to live, to work, to be himself, and to become whatever things his manhood and his vision can combine to make him. This ...

is the promise of America."

— what a beautiful promise — and what a challenge to all of us.

COPY
ADDRESS OF VICE PRESIDENT
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
FARMERS COOPERATIVE COUNCIL
OF NORTH CAROLINA
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

February 28, 1967

I welcome this opportunity to be with you. The constructive work which is being done by the great cooperative organizations and their farmer members deserves the recognition of all men. One hundred years ago Abraham Lincoln said, "I like to see a person proud of the community in which he lives. And I also like to see someone living in such a way that his community is proud of him."

This can be said today of my friend, Harry Caldwell, your executive vice president. Under Harry's leadership, you have for many years helped provide this nation the spark needed in our efforts to light the fires of improvement for our farm and rural people.

COPY

This month we celebrate a significant anniversary. This is the sixth year of the continuing business upswing which began in February of 1961. This truly historical event has reversed a trend of ever shortening periods of expansion.

We know that Government policy alone did not provide the upward thrust to our economy. A healthy, well-balanced economy can operate only in a climate in which the private sector is allowed to fulfill its role in production and distribution, thereby providing all of us with the fruits of realistic economic growth.

Private enterprise--and that, of course, includes our cooperatives--and the Federal Government are natural partners in working toward our objectives. The Federal Government has the function of designing policies and programs to encourage private initiative and innovation for the good of all the people.

COPY

-3-

This partnership has generated an agricultural production record of which we can all be proud. From our supplies we have shared with hungry nations 15 billion dollars worth of agricultural commodities during the 12 years that Public Law 480 has been on the books.

During this same period we have more than doubled our commercial exports. And we have fed the American people better than any people in history, at only 18 cents out of every dollar of take home pay.

Why, then, do we talk about the world's food and population problems? What is this food crisis about which there has been so much recent talk. And why does it concern the President?

There are four basic factors which must be understood in dealing with the world food problem.

COPY

First, about half the world's population still is chronically undernourished.

Second, the world population is increasing rapidly.

Third, per capita food production in many of the less developed countries is declining. Even with greater imports, primarily under PS 480, consumption per capita has had difficulty remaining stable.

Fourth, some time within the next twenty years the United States will have lost the ability to fill the world's food gap, regardless of all the efforts of North America and other food exporting countries to increase production.

These facts create an environment of political, economic and scientific problems that should be of major concern to every person on this earth. If the challenge of winning the War on Hunger is not met, we can look forward to misery, political

COPY

upheaval, economic problems and ultimately extended conflicts.

President Johnson is determined to rid the world of hunger.

He is using his office to summon the world to action.

We now recognize that the job of providing enough food ultimately is going to rest with the developing countries themselves. But increased yields will take huge foreign capital transfers for inputs, and technical assistance from government and private sector specialists.

They also will require government policies within the developing countries that encourage production and give incentives to farmers. They will require economic changes to provide institutions for credit and marketing. And they will require elementary mass education to allow farm level acceptance of new methods and materials.

COPY

-6-

The remarkable advances in agricultural scientific development have given us the know-how to eliminate hunger.

The answer to whether the world can in fact feed itself in the years ahead hangs on the question of whether the world can be mobilized to do the job that is required.

So far the evidence is mixed. There are signs of real progress in many countries, but overall progress is tantalizingly slow. The world does not change easily.

In the logistics of the War on Hunger, there is an essential role for the cooperatives of this nation. Here in this room we have the result of people facing common problems, investing their own capital to meet and solve those problems. This is the same kind of self-help we are trying to generate in the developing nations.

COPY

The cooperative spirit and organization is a concept deeply rooted in the traditions of America. The pioneers joined together in barn raisings, husking bees, threshing rings and in building roads as they carved their farms out of the wilderness and prairies. Out of these beginnings cooperatives have become an increasingly important tool for farm people.

Our job is to translate these basic skills and strengths into building viable, productive economies in the developing nations.

Strength through cooperation can be a basic motto. The cooperative is a free institution which can serve as a bridge over which the benefits of a free society can pass.

Out of economically barren lands there are being built a whole new pattern of institutions -- with co-ops as architects.

COPY

Hope and expectation are replacing despair.

Today in Vietnam there is another war. It is the war to raise living standards and unfurl the banners of the democratic institutions. Coop-trained people are working side by side with representatives of our government in trying to bring a better life to the people of South Vietnam.

Vietnam's population is 85 per cent rural. These are the people that have borne the brunt of the war.

Farmers have had to leave their ancestral lands to escape Viet Cong terror and fighting. The Viet Cong have seized crops for their own use for tax levies. Viet Cong interference and declining production have drastically reduced shipments to the cities and towns.

But the Government of Vietnam, with our help, has mounted a growing effort to help revive Vietnam's agriculture. Despite

COPY

wartime disruption, progress is being achieved. Major credit is due to the U. S. agricultural advisers, including coop people, who work with Vietnamese farmers in all 43 of Vietnam's provinces.

Fifty-nine District Farmers' Associations and 250 farmers' and fishermen's cooperatives have been organized. Farmers have become enthusiastic about new crops and techniques. The success of soybean plantings has prompted Mekong Delta farmers to request help in planting 50,000 acres in the next growing season.

Vietnamese and American specialists have trained and worked closely with farmers to prevent losses from insects, disease, and rats. Losses from these causes, which were 30 percent in 1961, have fallen to 16 percent.

Success in improving hog quality and output is especially notable. Hog production grew from less than 2 million in 1963

COPY

to 3 million in 1965, and the average weight increased from 130 to 200 pounds.

Part of this is due to the "hog-Corn" program whereby a farmer is given three small pigs, eight bags of cement for building a pig sty, and a supply of corn grown in the United States. One pig is marketed after it is grown and the money is returned to cover the cost. The other two pigs are kept for breeding. Over 26,000 fine quality Yorkshire and Berkshire pigs were distributed in 1966. Your government is mounting a tremendous effort to encourage the development of cooperatives. This is directed largely in the areas of farm credit, rural credit unions, agriculture marketing and supply, and rural electrification.

Last year, AID assistance went to 30,000 cooperatives, credit unions, agricultural credit societies, and farm organizations in

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46 countries. These worldwide cooperative efforts reached y
60 million people.

During the year 2,500 cooperatives with 500,000 members were
organized. Most of them were agricultural.

Freedom begins with food. Empty bellies and their rumblings
can drown out the voice of democracy. Freedom must be sustained
with substance.

President Johnson has said, "Self-help is the life blood
of economic development." Progress cannot be sustained without
it.

Communications have produced a revolution of rising expecta-
tions. People no longer accept hunger as the will of the gods.
Rather they expect the wisdom of man to help them meet this and
other problems.

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A Chinese philosopher, Kuan Tzu, said in the third century B. C., "When planning for a year -- sow corn. When planning for a decade -- plant trees. When planning for life -- train and educate men."

There is wisdom there from the ancient East. With it we can free men -- all men -- from the bonds of hunger.



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