

Oren Lee Staley
Vice President Geo. Mason

Price fight
- Drop but see a few
of my relatives & neighbors

Invitation (Inductivist
8-7-speedy
breeding)

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
NATIONAL FARMERS ORGANIZATION
badse- (Geo. Mason)

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

DECEMBER 7, 1967

war - The lesson of Aggression

I want to outline today some things we can do in
the months ahead to assure farm people a better break --
both in terms of price and income, and in the quality of
rural life and opportunity.

Return from Far East -
Vietnam + Indonesia -
Food, Coops, fertilizer, Pops,
Rice, wheat

We must continue to escalate the War on Hunger, and

make sure that the American farmer gets a fair price for
his growing contribution to world peace and stability.

Food is a powerful instrument for peace and freedom
in this hungry world -- and it is an instrument that is

26 years ago
also 1941
Pearl Harbor
one month
ago
Indo-China
Hungry world
FIRST

almost exclusively American. No other nation can equal us in quantity and quality of agricultural products, and our agricultural power gives us a critical margin of national strength.

and Fortunately we no longer have to depend only on what is left over in our historic struggle ^{help} to feed this world's ^{growing} ~~exploding~~ population. The Food for Freedom Act of 1966 gives us a virtually open-ended authority to assist nations that are willing to help themselves.

But Food for Freedom is much more than an outlet for expanding farm production...much more than a way to improve that one-acre-in-four share of our production that we are able to export. It is good economics -- but it is also good politics and good morals in underdeveloped nations.

It saves lives and it reduces the toll of widespread malnutrition. It encourages political stability. It promotes

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economic development. And it builds export markets for farm products.

↳ We are prepared to use even more of our food abundance in the War on Hunger. American food may well be the key to world peace. *Yes, food is Power; Food is life -!*

↳ But we must find better ways to assure our farmers a fair price for their contribution to this all-important force ~~historic quest~~ *for peace freedom.*

↳ I don't have to tell a farm audience ~~like this one~~ how important that price assurance is, and the most important way to secure it is to retain and improve our existing

commodity programs. They are the best we have ever had, *but they need to be strengthened.*

↳ The record shows that farmers in this year's program are getting an additional 48 cents a bushel on wheat, 12 cents a bushel on corn, and 15 cents a pound on cotton. Government payments, for a good many producers, are making the difference this year between making a profit and losing money.

└ Prices are down, as all of you know, and production costs are up -- a deadly combination for farmers, After year-by-year gains which pushed net farm income up by 70 per cent since 1960, we have lost important ground in a "lag" year.

and └ Unless we can develop a weatherproof acreage allotment system, which isn't likely, we are going to have other years when over-production weakens prices.

└ This year's experience offers a convincing case for *effective* minimum price protection.

World wide. └ The excellent growing weather has brought unprecedented abundance in nearly every grain-producing nation. └ Here in the United States, the grain harvest

was up 34 per cent over the five-year average.

└ This tremendous increase in output, both here and abroad, must share the blame for lower grain prices.

Worldwide conditions, as we found this year, can sharply reduce price response to production controls.

This means we can no longer expect acreage cutbacks to strengthen prices to the extent they did 10 or 20 years ago. *Things are different*

Our entire wheat production, for example, is now only 15 per cent of worldwide production. That means a 15 per cent cutback in our production represents only a one and one-half per cent cutback in world production. Or, put another way, ^{*even*} a 50 per cent cut in our production would shrink world output only about seven and one-half per cent.

So we need additional tools to protect the farmers' prices. Here at home that means new ~~concepts in~~ bargaining power for farmers!

The discussion of bargaining power carried on by *WFO* ~~has~~ has made a major contribution to greater economic stability

✓ Labor is organized
✓ Business is organized
✓ Finance —
✓ Teachers + Doctors
Bargain

understanding of this subject.

✓ ~~The general public understands increasingly that~~

7 Farmers are not now in a position to decide the prices
they get for their products —

*This is why NFA fights for
Bargaining Power*

✓ Look at the language of commerce; We say the

hardware store charges 39 cents a pound for nails;

General Motors charges three thousand dollars for a car.

✓ But the farmer, who also produces and sells things,
gets five dollars and 20 cents, blend price, for his milk;
or gets 26 dollars for his fed cattle.

} ✓ The farmer deserves the right to charge for his
products instead of getting what the buyer decides
he can have!

✓ Further progress toward economic equity for farm
people is going to depend primarily on what they are able
to do for themselves.

*Oh yes, government Program
can + do help - Loans, Purchases,
FHA + CCC - But, as Sen Young
N.D. told you, Farm Political Power,
has diminished.*

So Farmers need to develop
Bargaining Power in the market place
Market Power in the economy!

↳ With the need for bargaining power in mind, we recently made a fundamental change in support loan policy to enable more farmers to maintain control of their grain until they choose to sell it.

↳ When crop loans expired under the old regulations, the government took over the stored grain, and at some point had to sell it. ↳ There was no way the government could get this grain off its hands without having some influence on the market.

↳ The new policy returns this marketing decision to producers, allowing them to retain title while extending the loan under a reseal program. ↳ The reseal privilege applies whether the grain is in private or public storage. — Commercial Warehouses

↳ This approach creates bargaining power for farmers and we hope they use it to keep their prices up. ↳ It fits in with what you in NFO have been fighting to achieve.

✓ Farmers need bargaining power. They want it, and they should have the right and the opportunity to use it ^{to} better to control their own economic destiny.

✓ President Johnson, Secretary Freeman and I are going to do our best to see that you have that right and that opportunity.

Sen Mondak ~~we will~~ *If there is a need for new law to assure the farmer Bargaining rights then we must develop it -*

But let me make these points about successful bargaining:

✓ When you reduce the supply under the tobacco program, the cotton program or the wheat and feed grains program, farm bargaining power is increased.

✓ When Secretary Freeman announced that he would not sell government-held stocks of wheat and feed grains, farm bargaining power was increased.

✓ When you improve nutrition under the school milk, school lunch, food stamp and domestic donation programs, farm bargaining power is increased.

When you step up our efforts under PL 480 or the Food for Freedom Act, Farmers Bargaining power is increased.

When you increase the number of people with ability to pay for food, as this Administration ~~has done~~ ^{is doing} in reducing unemployment and fighting poverty, farm bargaining power is increased.

When you have the ability to maintain a reasonable supply-demand balance ~~in most commodities~~ ^{in most commodities}, farm bargaining power is increased.

Today we have farm programs that are critically important to preserving that supply-demand balance. They deserve to be defended, and they need to be defended!

Those farm programs are under attack. More than 20 bills introduced in Congress this year would, for all practical purposes, terminate existing farm programs.

We got a preview of what can happen when a bill to establish a strategic grain reserve was killed last month in subcommittee.

↳ That bill would have authorized us to pull surplus grain out of the commercial market when prices were low.

↳ It would have protected the nation in times of scarcity.

↳ And it would have helped the producer by substantially boosting wheat, corn and soybean prices.

↳ The sharp drop in wheat prices that followed the subcommittee vote shows how important this bill was to producers.

↳ This country needs strategic reserves of major farm commodities. ↳ It needs a program to keep these reserves at common-sense, clearly-defined levels. ↳ It needs a program that specifies how and when they can be released so they do not interfere with the market. ↳ And it needs a program that relies on private inventories for normal business operations.

↳ The harsh truth is that strong forces are at work trying to undermine and destroy farm programs... programs that we fought hard for and implemented with so much effort.

Sen Young N.D.

L The facts are, as one study after another shows, that net farm income would fall by one-third if present programs were dropped.

L I don't have to spell out the likely consequences of this -- for individual farm families, for the economic life of rural America, or for our agricultural leadership in the world.

* * *

L I have spoken today about a better deal for the American farmer — *and this means a better America.*

But we all know there is more to this subject than just dollars and cents.

L What we are really talking about is the quality of life in rural America -- the opportunities you and your children have to take advantage of the unprecedented standard of living that America offers today.

↳ We are talking about better schools, better hospitals.

We are talking about communities that can afford the public services which will attract new industries, new job opportunities, and new income.

↳ We are talking about making it possible for rural youngsters to stay on the farm, stay in ^{their} home towns and still look forward to a full and rewarding life.

↳ Today, for every 175 rural youngsters who reach working age there are fewer than 100 jobs. This year about 200 thousand of those young Americans will leave home and go into the city.

↳ Their departure will make rural America a poorer place.

↳ Their leaving will not only separate them from their families but weaken our rural communities -- weaken them spiritually as well as economically.

World looks to us. Leadership
our Economy must be strong
our ~~people~~ must be united
our Country must have spirit. Faith.

I am for giving those youngsters -- and every other
American -- a ^{real} choice about where to live, where to work,
where to raise their families.

If they wish to live in the cities, those cities should be
clean, wholesome and safe. Today, too often, they are not.

If they want to live in a small town or on the farm,
they should be able to do so and enjoy a maximum standard
of living in every way. Today, too often, they cannot.

The key to a fully developed rural America -- and one
of the most important keys to the dilemma of urban blight
which confronts this nation today -- is economic equity for
the American farmer. Today, too often, they do not have it.

~~I have given you the facts as I see them.~~

~~This nation has a great debt to the American farmer
and it is not yet being adequately repaid.~~

*120,000,000
more
Americans
by
2000
when
they
live!
& How!*

American Promise - One Nation -
Many, ~~lose~~ ^{nobly} ~~save~~ the last best
hope on Earth.

Existing programs now provide the farmer with an essential margin of income protection -- but the farmer must and should be able to bargain for a full share of this nation's unprecedented prosperity.

When rural America lags behind, all America suffers.

Thomas Jefferson wrote, "Those who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God, if ever he had a chosen people."

If ever there were a chosen farmer, it is the American farmer. It is time we started honoring him accordingly.

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Address of Vice President

Hubert H. Humphrey

National Farmers Organization

Louisville, Kentucky

December 7, 1967

Thank you, Oren, for inviting me to this great convention.

I think I've addressed nearly all of our farm organizations at one time or another, but this is my first visit to an N. F. O. meeting. It's an honor.

I have a pretty good idea what most of you have on your minds.

Clarence Darrow, the great lawyer, once defended a lady charged with murder. When she had been acquitted, she rushed over, hugged him, and asked, "oh, Mr. Darrow, how can I ever repay you?"

"Madame," he replied, "ever since the ancients invented money, there has been but one answer to that question."

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I want to outline for you tonight four ways in which we can help assure the American farmer equitable opportunities in every area of life.

First, we must continue to escalate the War on Hunger.

Food is a powerful instrument for constructive foreign policy in this hungry world -- and it is an instrument that is almost exclusively American.

Moreover, we no longer have to depend only on what is left over in the historic struggle to feed this world's exploding population. The Food for Freedom Act of 1966 gives us a virtually open-ended authority to assist nations that are willing to help themselves.

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All but 2 percent of the food aid supplied to countries around the world in roughly the past decade has been provided by the United States. We have shared over 150 million tons of food, and have helped people in 114 countries. In this effort, the Agency for International Development and the Department of Agriculture serve primarily as catalysts and energizers for private initiative. The additional resources needed to meet the tasks ahead are fundamentally adequate only through the private sector here and abroad.

An abundant supply of food is our margin of strength in the power scheme of the world today. Other nations can surpass us in population. And at least one other nation -- the Soviet Union -- can challenge us in terms of nuclear power.

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But there is no nation that can equal us in terms of our agricultural productivity and quality of agricultural products.

We are ready to make full use of our abundance, and the American farmers should get a fair price for their great contribution to world peace and stability.

Food for Freedom is good politics, good economics and good morals. And you are the people who have made it possible.

Here is my second point.

It is true that rural America is still behind.

More than twice as many farm families as city families live below the poverty level.

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Less than half of our farm families have a decent house, a good car, hot and cold running water, and a telephone. In the city, three out of four have these advantages.

These deficiencies are especially important to rural youngsters who are about to choose a career and a place to live.

For every 175 rural youngsters who reach working age, there are fewer than 100 jobs.

About 200 thousand of the young Americans living in rural areas today will leave and go into the city this year.

Their departure will make rural America a poorer place. Their leaving will not only separate them from their families, but it will weaken our rural communities -- weaken them culturally as well as economically.

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And for what?...What is waiting for them? Some will find fame and fortune. But many more of them will find themselves confined to slums...doomed to low-paying jobs....isolated, lonesome and hopeless.

America is caught in an Urbanization Trap in the last third of the twentieth century.

Seventy percent of us already live on one percent of the land.

We are going to have another 100 million Americans by the end of this century, and all of them will live in the cities if present trends continue.

Our cities are starved for space, fresh air, recreation. Our rural areas are starved for jobs and opportunity.

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This society is rich enough and creative enough to achieve a balance of growth and opportunity between rural and urban areas.

In the 1930's, modernization meant rural electrification and movie theaters in every town.

In the 1940's it meant many well-paved roads.

Now, it means airports capable of handling short-hop jets, community colleges, modern hospitals and good doctors, and the very best in elementary and secondary education. It means golf courses and ballparks. It means drama groups and art classes in addition to church socials.

And it means economic viability -- new investment, new job opportunities, a growing tax base. It means modern America in your town -- your country.

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That kind of modernization is occurring in many parts of rural America today.

Where it happens, it is the result of aggressive local initiative, cooperation from private industries, and better use of federal programs that already are available.

It happens because rural people and city people alike are discovering that the good life can be found in the countryside.

But the countryside cannot grow without prosperous farms.

So point three is this: Protect and improve our existing commodity programs. They are the best we have ever had.

Government payments already are providing the margin between profit and loss for many producers.

This year the program is paying the producer an additional 48 cents a bushel for wheat, 12 cents a bushel for corn, and 15 cents for each pound of cotton.

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Until we develop a weather-proof acreage allotment system we are going to experience crops that exceed our expectations and farmers are going to need protection. These programs offer that protection.

It is true that prices are down this year. After steady progress since 1960, we are in a "lag" year. This is largely because of phenomenal growing weather that brought unprecedented harvests in almost every nation. Here in the United States grain harvests were 34 percent higher this year than the average for the past five years.

What has taken place over the past year should be recognized by every farmer.

A year ago the evidence on world food production and supplies was most unfavorable. The monsoons in India were failing for the second successive year and short crops in the

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Communist countries had required large purchases from Western exporters.

The disappearance of excess stocks in the United States and an unfavorable wheat yield outlook contributed to the uncertainty. The world was clearly in a short grain supply position.

As a result, after a careful assessment of probable world needs in the 18 months ahead, the national wheat acreage allotments for the U. S. 1967 crop were increased sharply. Action also was taken to increase acreage in feed grains and soybeans.

Then within a few weeks after these decisions were made, the world outlook changed sharply with favorable prospects in almost every major grain producing country.

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Canada, Australia and the Soviet Union harvested record wheat crops. Argentina and Western Europe harvested good crops of both wheat and feed grains. Feed grain harvests in Eastern Europe were good and a few months later South Africa produced a record corn crop.

In the United States we have a record grain crop in 1967, with an overall increase of from 4 to 5 percent.

The 1967 feed grain crop is up 12 percent, the wheat crop is up 19 percent, and rice and soybeans are up 7 percent over 1966. Cotton, on the other hand, is down 16 percent, and there's been a substantial drop in the 1967 fruit crop.

These are the reasons for the lower prices.

Some will interpret this as proof of a fatal flaw in the system.

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Let me only say this to you: Progress is seldom smooth.

It usually comes in a series of forward thrusts followed by temporary lapses. Today, even though the farmer is not receiving his fair share, he still has something to protect.

And protect he must. For the programs that have given us progress in the past and promise more in the future are under attack. No fewer than 21 bills have been introduced in Congress this year which would, for all practical purposes, result in the termination of existing farm programs.

Don't think those calls for retreat will be stilled by the time this program we all fought so hard for back in 1965 runs out in 1969.

We got a taste of what can happen a few weeks ago when legislation to establish a strategic grain reserve was killed in subcommittee.

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That bill would have let us withdraw overabundant grain stocks from the commercial market when prices were low. It would have protected the consumer in times of scarcity. And it would have helped the producer by substantially increasing wheat, corn and soybean prices.

I can tell you that it was not killed by people who had the farmers' interest at heart.

This country needs reserves of key agricultural commodities. It needs a program that will keep those reserves at common-sense, clearly defined levels....that specifies how and when they can be released so that they do not interfere with the normal market. And it needs a program that will depend on private sector inventories for normal business operations, but at the same time protect both consumer and producer.

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Stocks required to maintain established levels of reserves over and above the stocks in private positions could be carried by the Commodity Credit Corporation. However, CCC-owned supplies should be insulated from the market.

The harsh truth is that there are people in this country today who want to destroy our farm programs -- programs which were fought for and implemented with so much effort. But the facts are that without our present programs, net farm income would fall by a third.

I don't have to spell out the likely consequences -- not only for individual farm families, but for the prospects of rural America and for America's agricultural leadership in the world.

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It would be tempting to say that extension and better management of our existing programs will solve all the farmer's problems. But it won't.

And that brings me to point four -- bargaining power.

I want to make some basic points regarding bargaining power. When you decrease supply under the Tobacco Program, the cotton program and the Wheat and Feed Grains Programs, it increases farmers' bargaining power.

When Secretary Freeman announced that he would not sell government stocks of wheat and feed grains, it increased farmers' bargaining power.

When you improve nutrition under the school milk, school lunch, food stamp and domestic donation programs, it increases farmers' bargaining power.

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And when you increase the number of people with the ability to buy and pay for food -- as this Administration has done with its programs to reduce unemployment and to fight poverty -- it increases farmers' bargaining power.

We in the Executive Branch are most anxious to consider new ideas to increase farmer's bargaining power, even though at times this may not appear to be so.

For example, more than two years ago I suggested that the reseal program for grains and oil seeds be extended to warehouse loans. As you know, in many instances farmers do not have storage facilities on thier own farms and could not use the reseal privilege.

At first I did not make any headway. But I persisted.

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I felt very strongly about this because the basic effect of this approach -- and one that goes to the heart of the whole subject of bargaining power -- is that this authority keeps the ownership in the farmer's hands.

Under the previous system, farmers gave up ownership of warehouse-loan grains and oilseeds to the Commodity Credit Corporation upon maturity of the loan.

My persistence paid off, and now the resale program is a strong weapon in the farmers' arsenal in our efforts to increase farmers' bargaining power.

The general public understands that farmers are not now in a position to decide the prices they get for their products.

Look at the language of commerce: We say the hardware store charges 39 cents for a pound of nails, General Motors charges 3 thousand dollars for a car.

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But the farmer, who also produces and sells things, gets five dollars and 20 cents, blend, for his milk, or gets 26 dollars for his fat cattle.

The farmer deserves the right to charge for his products instead of getting what the buyer decides he should have.

It has become clearly evident that further progress toward parity of income for farm people must depend primarily on what they can do for themselves. It will depend on their ability to maintain supply-demand balance -- and specifically on their ability to increase their economic muscle or bargaining power in the marketplace.

One of the means for improving farmer bargaining power is through expansion and improvement of our farmer cooperatives.

The great advantage of a cooperative is that your voice is heard. Standing alone you amount to very little in the competition of being heard, but standing together you make,

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as they would say in Biblical terms, a loud noise, and you will be heard.

This is a big country. Everything is big today. We have a big population, big business, big labor, big outlets, big retailers, big wholesalers and big manufacturers. If you try to bargain alone, you will be exercising an old American characteristic of individualism. But you're not likely to do very well in terms of your bargaining power.

Farmers need bargaining power. They have the desire -- and they should have the right -- to get firm control of their own economic destiny.

Competition is a great American tradition -- but so is equity. If American farmers are going to get equity, they are going to have to bargain.

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President Johnson, Secretary Freeman and I are going to do our best to see that you have the right to bargain.

It will not be easy for thousands of independent producers to bargain effectively. There will be difficulties.

Producers of many significant crops are scattered throughout many states. Geography will make it difficult for them to confer and cooperate.

For some commodities it will be difficult to control a sufficiently large percentage of the product. Unity of organization for effective action on production will present problems.

But we have faced greater difficulties and won through. Bargaining for labor had its own catalogue of so-called impossibilities, most of which have been realized.

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American agriculture is providing its urban population with the best diet -- at the lowest real cost -- of any agriculture in the world. And its high time it was rewarded fairly for doing so -- fairly in the marketplace where it really counts.

Tonight I have given you the plain facts as I see them.

Our debt to the American farmer is great -- and it has not been repaid.

Our progress in recent years has been substantial -- but much remains to be done.

Our government and its programs now provide the farmer with an essential margin of protection -- although it does not guarantee him prosperity.

The farmer is entitled to the bargaining power enjoyed by others in our economy. No more and no less.

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The problems of our cities and those of rural America are in reality a single national problem that demands the attention of us all.

Food power used in the War on Hunger is America's special weapon in the quest for peace.

Let's close the Prosperity Gap once and for all.

Let this be one America, under God, with liberty, justice, and a fair share for all.

Thomas Jefferson wrote, "Those who labor in the earth are chosen people of God, if ever he had a chosen people."

If ever there were a chosen farmer, it is the American farmer. May this nation honor him accordingly.

[Dec. 7, 1967]

Thank you very, very much Oren Lee Staley. Thank you my very good friend and one of the truly great leaders in this country in any field, whether it's agriculture or any other area of our society. I want to salute your National President. I like a lot of things about him. I just met his wife. She's pretty too. But I like the fact that he's a stand-up man. He's a fighter for what he believes in and he's worked his heart out for you wonderful people out here in this audience and all over America.

May I say to George Madsen and my friends from Minnesota how much I appreciate this pin. I wish that you'd had those pins made ready before that Purdue game that we had. Minnesota wanted to go to the Rose Bowl and I think our pins were too small, or there was something that went wrong anyway, but it sure looks good. I've never seen a gopher look so happy. And I would wear it all during this speech, but I've had a hard day and I don't want to put any more weight on my shoulders right now than I need to. So, if George will forgive me, I'll set it over here with this fine plaque and spend a little time visiting with you.

Oren, Mr. Staley, first may I thank you very much for the honor that you've bestowed upon me and for the privilege that's mine of being here with you and your officers and delegates from all over this great agricultural Midwest, South, all over America. This auditorium has been in national fame only recently. There was a big

Taped address by the Vice President of the United States, Hubert H. Humphrey, to the National Convention of the National Farmers Organization, Louisville, Kentucky, December 7, 1967, 8:00 P.M. (EST).

prize fight out here, but I think there's more fight in the N. F. O. than there was in both of those fellows that were in this stadium. But I'll tell you, what they should have done was had the fight at the same time that you came to town. They'd of had a big audience.

Oren Lee told me, he said, Hubert, if you have a little time and you could drop down to Louisville, I'd like to have you meet a few of my relatives and a few of my neighbors. Why, I said, I don't know if I can do that or not, but I may be able to. Well, he said, we'd like to have you drop in for a little social occasion. We'll have a few folks down there. I want to tell you this Oren Lee Staley sure does have a big family. And from what I hear it's getting bigger all the time. But you know, for a man from Washington to get an invitation to come out here is really quite a privilege. Gosh, you know sometimes you wonder if you are going to get invited to anything, after you read the polls and see what happens. I've got to tell Oren Lee my favorite story about getting invited. You know, they tell this story about this industrialist that had a fine plant and he had a good union in that plant. They did a lot of collective bargaining. The industrialist was taken seriously ill and he went off to the hospital, and nobody called him, nobody sent him a letter, nobody sent him a card; no get well cards, no flowers. The poor old fellow was up there in the hospital as lonesome as could be and sicker than he ought to be. Then one day the Executive Committee of the local union had a meeting and they discussed the condition of their boss. After due deliberation, they passed a resolution and they decided to send a get well card to the boss of the plant. And the message read like this: "The Executive Committee of Local 190 has

met and duly considered your condition. And after considerable debate and discussion, by a vote of 8 to 7, we wish you a speedy recovery."

I don't know whether Oren Lee Staley had a vote or not, but I'll tell you, I'm glad I'm here.

This is a rather historic evening. I'm sure we all know, if we reflect for just a moment, that December 7 stands in the history of America as a; well, as Franklin Roosevelt once said "a day of infamy", but at least a great historical date. It was 26 years ago on December 7, 1941 that this nation was attacked and we were plunged into World War II, 26 years ago. And leading up to that historic and fateful day were a whole series of events which come flashing back through our minds now. Events of an aggressor and aggression. Events of where democracies withdrew and backed up, refused to stand their ground. Events of where free people thought that they could get peace in their time by appeasing, and then Hitler's attack, and then that fateful and dastardly attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. That date reminds us of the imperative need of our country being ever alert to the danger within and danger without. It also reminds us of the imperative necessity of staying strong. Not just militarily, even though that is vital in this world of today, but staying strong in our economy, staying strong in terms of our people. Our people that are educated and healthy, and people that are devoted to what this country stands for and what it has meant throughout the many generations of it's history. Yes, December 7 is a day that should remind everyone that we either "hang together" as Ben Franklin said, "or we hang separately". It reminds us of the importance of collective security. It reminds us of the importance of being prepared. It reminds us of the importance of facing the threat of aggression before it gets too much, before the world is engulfed in Armageddon.

Only 30 days ago tonight your Vice President was in Demok, Indonesia, far away from Louisville, Kentucky, in a strange land, but the fifth largest nation on the face of the earth. I had spent several days in Viet Nam. It was my fifth trip to Asia since I became your Vice President. Some of you may ask, well, why so many times? Because, my fellow Americans, over 50% of God's children of humanity live in Asia. And it just is my view that the hope of peace or the possibility of total conflagration, total war, may be decided by what happens in Asia. Therefore, we take a keen interest in it. Therefore, we feel that sometimes it is more important to be concerned about the Far East and what happens there, than it is even to be concerned about our own East Coast and what happens there. Both are important, but the fate of mankind no longer is in any one person's hands and, more importantly, there isn't any way that we can isolate ourselves any longer. We're in this world and it's a smaller one every year. And there isn't any way that you can "stop the world, I want to get off", according to that old song. I've got a few folks that I know would like to get off and I've got a few that I'd be glad to let off, but I can't stop the world. And while I know that we're going to be in space travel and I know that we're going to put a man on the moon, I haven't volunteered for that mission, but I've got some folks that I'd be glad to recommend. But, be that as it may, my fellow Americans, this little world of ours is shrinking. It takes no longer to travel from Chicago to Saigon in 1967 than it did to go from Chicago to London in 1940. So what seems to be a far away place is really just next door and what seems to be people with strange names and different cultures are very much a part of a one world; and we have an interest in that world for our children and their children and yet generations unborn.

I didn't come here tonight to discuss foreign policy with you, but I think it's well that whatever we do or say we put in proper context. There isn't anything that we do, anything that we say, that doesn't affect what goes on here in America, and what goes on here in America, affects what goes on in the world. We're so much an important part of this world. Now some people say we try to do too much. That's always a debatable point. All I can tell you is this, that, if America with it's wealth and it's power cannot help the weak defend themselves; if America with all of it's wealth and it's power cannot help the hungry to be fed; if America with all of it's science and it's technology cannot help other people to build a better life; then I ask you who can? Who can? There are forces in the world that are perfectly willing to move in, take over. We do not seek to take over anybody, anywhere, at any time. I know of no nation in the history of mankind that has given so much of it's blood and it's treasure and expected so little. All that we have really expected and all we have really hoped for is what every man and woman in this audience prays for, what every one of us hopes for, a just and an enduring peace. That's the goal of your country, and it must be the goal of every person in this country. But let me say this to you. A very famous, world famous churchman, the late and beloved Pope John XXIII, said that where there is constant want, there is no peace. Where there is poverty and hunger, there is no peace. And the real threat to world peace today, at home and abroad, is frustration, poverty, disease, want, hunger. I saw this nation, that I mentioned of Indonesia, over 100 million people potentially rich. I went there as your Vice President. Two years ago it would have been impossible. Two years ago the "hate America" program was under way. Two years ago this great nation was a captive of the Communist

Party out of Peking, China. Two years ago it had leadership that had exploited it. I saw a country in ruins. I saw a capitol city that was literally ravaged. I saw a people in a nation that had been bled white and yet I saw a new leadership and I saw a brave people only one month ago, struggling as we have struggled, struggling to bring themselves up, out of the dirt to stand high and erect and dignified and what did they ask of America. I talked to their new leaders, President Suharto. I talked to their young people that were educated in American universities, that now are in that government. I talked to their farm co-operative leaders. I talked to their labor leaders. I went in to Central Java. Look at the map sometime and see what I speak of. I went to a city - to a city that was the capitol of the Communist Party of Indonesia. I was told it was dangerous. I was told that my security could not be assured, but I went there because I wanted to see what they were trying to do, and what did I find. I found thousands of young men, thousands of them, ladies and gentlemen, thousands of young men out there cleaning out the drainage ditches, cleaning out the irrigation ditches, fixing up their fields with a simple hoe and shovel and having their wages paid in ground corn from the United States of America. Corn meal from our country - work - what kind of wages -- food for work. And ladies and gentlemen, these young men, and some of them not so young, would work 16 hours a day on an incentive system, so that they could have enough to eat for their family. What did they ask for from us? Guns - no - vast sums of money - very little, but they came to me one after another and said, Mr. Vice President, we're hungry. We desperately need food. Our country has been exploited. We suffer a drouth. We have a population that is growing and the enemies of freedom feed on our misery. We need rice. We need Boger

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wheat. We need corn. We need vegetable oils. We need fats. We need food.

Ladies and gentlemen, I came back to your Congress, back to your President, with this message and said, We have a chance to save a nation through food, through God's blessing of food. "Give us this day our daily bread." So I come to salute peacetime soldiers. I come to salute the farmers of America, as I do wherever I go, whether I am in New York City or San Francisco or Dallas, Texas or Minneapolis or St. Paul. Wherever I go I pay my respects to the tillers of the soil to the stewards of the land. And I want to say right now that America would not be what it is were it not for you and your families, and those who preceded you and those who will yet come after you. Remember it was the embattled farmer at Lexington and Concord, the embattled farmer. That's where our independence started, and we ought never to forget it. There's much talk these days about war, and I come here tonight to ask you to escalate that war on hunger, the war on hunger, and to make sure secondly, that as you do your job of producing, just exactly as a man in the factory produces, that the American farmer will get a fair price, for giving this contribution. That the American farmer will receive a fair price for his growing contribution to world peace and stability. And I want every American to know that that's a small price to pay.

Hurriedly, I looked over some of your resolutions as I sat here, while my friend, Oren Lee Staley, was introducing me and speaking to you. And I looked down the line, and I haven't had a chance to read them all but I know this, that what I've read on this first page looks mighty good to me. And I can say to you that when you seek only a price of \$1.50 for corn and \$3.00 for soybeans and not less than \$2.00 a bu.

for wheat, you're not asking for much. At the most you're asking for equity, for a fair deal, and you're entitled to it. And I'm going to talk to you tonight about how we're going to get to those limited goals and, my, those are limited. I'm not unmindful of the fact that 15 years ago some of these prices were even higher than that. Name me any other commodity in America that has gone down. I know of none. You can't even get a nickel candy bar. So what I've told you is that food is a powerful instrument, a powerful instrument, for peace and for freedom in this hungry world. And it is an instrument, thankfully for a moment at least, that is almost exclusively American. No other nation can equal us in quantity or quality of our agricultural products and our agricultural power. I want generals and bankers and politicians and statesmen to know this: That it is our agricultural power that gives us the critical margin of national strength that this country possesses today.

I've been at this business a long time, my friends, and what I'm saying to you tonight is not new. I believe it with all my heart and soul. I grew up in the Midwest. My mother is still there. Some of my loved ones are buried there. My grandparents were farm folks. I didn't get to be a farmer. I just became a pharmacist, but I want to tell you, I sold a lot of hog cholera serum, and I did take care of a few chickens that had the roup.

Well, we know that we are a little more fortunate today than we were some years back with our Food For Peace Program. For a time all we had in that food program was what was left over by the accident of production. But the Food For Freedom Act of 1966 gives us a virtually open-ended authority to assist nations that are willing to help themselves. But Food For Freedom is much more than an outlet for expanding

farm production. It's much more than a way to improve the one-acre-to-four share of our production which we are able to export. Food For Freedom is good economics, that's for sure, but it is also good politics and good morals in a world that cries out for help and for assistance. It saves lives and what better thing can you do. It reduces the toll of widespread malnutrition, and millions of little children are stunted intellectually and physically all of their lives because of a deficiency in protein in those childhood years. Protein deficiency takes a terrible toll of intellect and health. Food For Freedom promotes political stability. It promotes economic development. It builds export markets, and we need those markets and, thank goodness, I noticed what you said in one of your resolutions here, Mr. Staley, of your interest in the farmers of America having a bigger and a better share of the export market. And I went to Europe this last spring to fight for that share; to make sure that we got a better world price for our wheat and our feed grains and that we were not blocked out of the European markets. I can report to you, we made some progress, a lot more than if we hadn't of taken the trip. I was a good bargainer for you, Oren Lee, good collective bargaining... So you see what I'm trying to say to you is we must be prepared to use even more of our food abundance in the war on hunger, because I sincerely believe that American food may well be the key to world peace and I can tell you tonight that your President has ordered the Department of Agriculture and our Department of State to utilize this abundance to help other people with our food and, in the same process, to help the farmers of America in their bargaining for a fair price for their commodity.

Now I want to outline tonight a few things that we can do in the months ahead to assure our farmers a better break, better in terms of price and income, and that's right at the top of the list, and in the quality of rural life and opportunity. I'm not one of these fellows who comes out and tells you you never had it so good. I know better than that. But I'm also going to tell you some of the things that have been done and what more we need to do, as I see it. I don't have to tell a farm audience anything about the importance of price security and price assurance. You know it. And the most important way to secure a fair price is to retain what we've done and improve, yes, greatly improve, our existing commodity programs.

Senator Milton Young, I saw him just before I came here tonight, we're good friends - Oh, I guess we have a little political difference once in a while, but that just sort of keeps the broth boiling, you know. We're very close friends. And I believe he told you the fight that we have on our hands, even to retain what we have. And this man is a farmer if there ever was one. And he's a good Senator too. The programs that we have now are the best that we've been able to get thus far. I think they are the best that we've had thus far, but they need to be strengthened. The record shows that farmers in this years program are getting an additional 48¢ a bushel on wheat, those that are in the program, 12¢ on corn, which is sorely needed, and 15¢ a pound on cotton. We know this to be a fact - government payments for many producers are making the difference this year between a little profit and losing money. But we also know something else, prices are down and production costs are up, which is the deadly combination for farmers. After year by year gains, which pushed net farm income up

about 70% over 1960 levels, we have lost important ground in this the lag year. And unless we can develop a weatherproof acreage allotment system, which isn't likely, we're going to have other years when over-production weakens prices. This year's experience offers a convincing case for effective minimum price protection. But effective minimum price protection is not enough. We can't settle in America for minimums. That isn't good enough. Not just a minimum price or a minimum standard of living or a minimum job. Americans ought to be looking to higher ground, a fair price, a good job and a good standard of living. That's what a citizen of the United States of America deserves when he works and puts himself to the task of doing something for himself and his family.

This is all old hat to you, you know it better than I do, that we had the most unbelievably good growing weather this past year, and indeed around the world these last two years, that we've ever experienced. Countries that hadn't had a crop for 5 years had a bumper crop this year. Here in the United States the grain harvest was up 34% over the last 5-year average. We just haven't been able to figure all this out yet. All these forecasts of the meteorologists and the weathermen, and we've even got space satellites up there looking at it now. It still fools you - still fools you. You know I lived in South Dakota a long, long time, born there, raised there, and Humphrey's Drug Store is still out there in Huron. In case you go by, drop in. We need the business. I like to just give myself a little commercial. And I saw, you know, I used to look up in the skies when I was a boy out there, and there'd be those big black clouds and I'd say, "Dad, do you think it's going to rain?" And he'd say, "No, son, those are just the empties coming back." You know they told that story about the little fellow with his dad

that went into the clothing store, going to buy a suit for Confirmation. And he got in there and the clerk just had the sale all about wrapped up and all at once the dad grabbed the boy by the hand and they flew out the front door. The clerk said, "What in the world is wrong? What have I done?" He said, "You haven't done a thing that's wrong, sir, but listen, my boy's 15 years old. He's never seen it rain and he may never see it rain again, and I want him to get one good look at this thing that's happening out there." And that's about the way it was. You couldn't predict the weather, nor can we predict it now, with any accuracy. And this tremendous increase in output, both here and abroad has placed a heavy burden on the market and it has a share of the blame for the lower grain prices. Worldwide conditions as we found this year, can sharply reduce price response to production management and controls. This means we can no longer expect acreage cutbacks to strengthen prices to the extent that they did 10 or 20 years ago. Things are different. I was told maybe I ought not to say this, but I said to a friend of mine, why not, it's true. We're grown up people, we have to face facts. Our entire wheat production, for example, is only 15% of the total worldwide production. Twenty-five years ago it was much larger. Twenty-five years ago wheat production was like a series of lakes in Minnesota separated one from another. Today the wheat pool is like an ocean - the world pool. And here we are only 15% of it, and this means that even if you take a 15% cutback in our production, it represents only a $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ cutback in world production. And when we cut back sometimes other people push up. And what you're talking about is a world pool of commodities. Or to put it even another way the most drastic way, a 50% cut in our production would shrink world output only about $7\frac{1}{2}\%$.

You see, this is why Oren Lee Staley has been telling you, and rightly so, that we cannot depend just on the old methods. It isn't good enough. We have to do other things. We have to find other ways. Maybe we have to learn from other people. So we need additional tools to protect the farmers prices, and here at home additional tools means just one thing, effective working bargaining power in the marketplace for the farm producer. That's what it means. Now my friends, you had to take the brunt of this battle. Whenever you want to change anything, you are going to get in some trouble. You know that. Why I'll tell you when the first automobile came in, the livery stables were mighty unhappy. And when the first radio came in, the phonograph manufacturers were unhappy. There's always with change trouble. It's even like in our own society, there's a great change taking place now - social change. I compared it the other day to a flight in an airplane. I fly a great deal, and everytime I leave the airport, before I go, I call up the weatherman or get ahold of the pilot and say, "Say, how's the weather?" And sometimes they'll say "Well, I'll tell you, it's going to be a little rough." I'll say, "What's the trouble?" "Well, we're coming out of one weather system and moving into another and when you come out of a low and move into a high, you have turbulence." Have you had some of those flights? I have - scare the living daylights out of you. You really get religion in a hurry on some of those trips, I'll tell you.

Well, my dear friends marketing practices are changing, production practices are changing. All kinds of things are changing. And this organization understands it. I think the great achievement of the N. F. O. is it's up-to-date. It understands what's going on in the modern world. For a son of a druggist and a druggist, I ought not to

have a cold, but I have. But when I see a farm audience, I get warmed up. And I'm glad to be here with you and, now listen dear friends, what you've done in your work and discussing, even just in the stage of discussing, bargaining power carried on by the N. F. C., this has been a major contribution to a greater understanding of this subject. Why you've talked so much about it and done so much about it, you haven't only convinced some of the public, you're convincing the Government. Abhhhhhh!! My dear friends, I know that sometimes you've been very discouraged with us. Ohh, you've scolded us, and rightly so, many times. Of course, I don't like it. I don't want you to get too oversold on this proposition. But this is the way we do change in our country. It doesn't come easy. Organized labor didn't get what it has today by just going around saying, "I think it's a good idea." Not at all, Modern American industry didn't grow to what it is today because somebody said, "I think it's sort of a nice thing to do." They fought for it. They worked for it. They planned for it. They sacrificed for it. They had to have leadership. I don't know whether you folks know whether he has - listen, I didn't come out here to praise Oren Lee Staley, even though I am. I want to tell you this, that you've been mighty fortunate. I know of very few people in this country that have the perception of the future and an understanding of the present, not only in agriculture but in the total economy of this country, as your President and your officers of this organization.

If I understand what you want, it is that farmers want to be in a position to decide the price that they are going to get for their commodities. That's what you want to do. Now that's not very revolutionary. Most everybody else does, you know. But the fact of the matter is that right now you're having to fight for that right. Right

now farmers do not find themselves in the position to decide the prices they get for their products. And that's why the N. F. O. fights for bargaining and bargaining power. That's why I'm here tonight. I'm here for one purpose tonight. I'm here to tell you that the fight that you've carried on has reached the high counsels of this Government. I'm here to tell you that we know that you're on the right road. I want you to know that I, as your Vice President, and speaking for our President of the United States, we are standing with you. We want to be with you. We want to work with you and that's why Hubert Humphrey, Vice President, came here tonight, so you'd know it.

I've been in public life a long time, and I know somebody's going to say, "Well, he shouldn't have gone that far." Well, I didn't go very far. Look at the language of business and commerce, and believe me, I believe in our business system. I want you to know I believe in the profit system. I believe in it for the business man. I believe in it for the farmer, and I believe in a fair and good wage for a worker. I think that's the only way this country goes ahead. I don't think you can make any money out of paupers. I don't believe in economy that's like a 3-legged stool with one leg shorter than the others is a very stable economy. I watched some old farm friends of mine try to do some milking on one of these short legged 3-legged stools, and the only one that came out on top was the cow.

Well, let's look at the language of commerce. We say, for example, the hardware store charges 39¢ a pound for nails. That's the price - it's put right on there. General Motors charges \$3,000 - \$4,000 for a car, but the farmer, who also produces and sells things, what do they say about him. Well, he'll get - not charge - but, he'll get - Oh, \$5.00 - \$4.50 - \$5.20 blend price for his milk, depending on which

year it is. Or he'll get 24¢ - 25¢ - 26¢ for his fed cattle. He gets it. He doesn't charge it. He gets what somebody is willing to give him. Now ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to make a very conservative statement. One that is fully within the lexicon, within the language of American business. The farmer deserves the right to charge for his products like anybody else, instead of getting what the buyer decides he can give him or what the farmer can have. That's what it's all about.

But let me be equally candid with you. The progress that we're talking about, further progress, towards economic equity, economic justice for farm people, is going to depend primarily on what they are able to do for themselves. That's why you're here. Oh yes, government programs help. Believe me, they do help. Loans, purchases, Farmers Home Administration, Commodity Credit, R. E. A., R. T. A., all of it helps. You and I know that. We don't want to lose a bit of it. We don't want to throw out the baby, you know, when you're tossing out the water from the boat. No, we want to keep what we have. But again, I repeat what that Senator from North Dakota told you last night. Farm political power in the Congress regrettably has diminished, and the reason it's diminished is because of the shift of population. Therefore, my fellow Americans, if your political power in the Halls of Congress diminishes, then you must increase your economic power in the market place. And that's what you're trying to do.

Now I'm not out here to organize for N. F. O. You've got better organizers than I'll ever be. But I want to talk to you a little bit about some of the ways that we, in Government, can help on this bargaining power, because we ought to be partners. And I've been trying to help make it that way, Oren Lee. Let me tell you that I've been trying, as your Vice President, to preach the doctrine of understanding

and tolerance, to preach the doctrine of co-operation and partnership between the Government and every segment of this economy. We don't need the Government fighting farmers or business, or business and farmers fighting the Government. It's your Government. We ought to be on the same team, and when we get together like we are tonight we're going to be on the same team. We're going to learn from each other. At least, I'm going to learn from you. I already have. I've got a big teacher right here along side of me.

With that need for bargaining power in mind, we recently made a very fundamental change in the support loan policy to enable more farmers to maintain control of their grain until they choose to sell it. When crop loans expired under the old regulations, the Government took over the stored grain and at some point had to sell it. And there was no way the Government could get this grain off its hands without having some influence on the market. You know it and I know it. The new policy, and I had a hand in it, your President had a direct hand in it, in fact, he ordered it, returns this marketing decision to the producers, allowing them to retain title while extending the loan under a ~~resale~~ ^{resale} program and that ~~resale~~ ^{resale} privilege applies whether the grain is stored on the farm or in a commercial warehouse, or in your own co-op elevator. Before, you could always store it on the farm and have ~~resale~~ ^{resale}, but what if you don't have facilities on the farm, then you had to sell to the Commodity Credit Corporation. They claimed the loan; foreclosed, so to speak, but not now. Now, Mr. Farmer, you retain title no matter where your grain is and when you retain title to that grain, you retain bargaining power, because it's yours, and it's not going to be dumped on the market. This approach creates bargaining power for farmers and we hope they use it to keep their prices up.

It fits in line with what you in N. F. O. have been fighting to achieve. Oh, I tell you I think the word is out.

I don't think you can hardly go to a farm organization now, but whatthey know that farmers need bargaining power, every one of them. I don't know if all of them said it, but they will. Now they want it and they should have the right and the opportunity to use it to better control their own economic destiny. Now the President of the United States, President Johnson, Secretary Freeman, and I are going to do our best to see that that right and that opportunity is given, and may I say that we now have people working with some of your people and looking forward to working with them more closely to see how we can really make this bargaining power a working proposition for every farm producer across the land. What a day that will be, and how happy you will have been to ha ve been the pioneers of a new birthright for the American farmer, a new Bill of Rights for the American farm producer, the right to control his own economic destiny. Gosh, that'll be a great day!

Well, I'd better run along here. You know, the trouble with my speeches is I've got one here, then I decide to make another one along with it, but I look at you and I just feel better. You have the time; I have the time and the energy, so I think we'll go to it. Now let me just make these points about additional successful bargaining. When you reduce the supply under the Tobacco Program down here in Kentucky, for example, or the Cotton Program, or the Wheat and Feed Grains Program, farm bargaining power is increased. When Secretary Freeman announced that he would not sell, and I repeat would not sell, Government held stocks of wheat and feed grains, farm bargaining power was increased. When you improve nutriti^{ti}on under the school milk and school lunch program, the food stamp program, and domestic donation programs, farm

bargaining power is increased. And when you step up our exports under Public Law 480 and under the Food For Freedom Act, farmers bargaining power is increased, and people are fed. When you increase the number of people with ability to pay for food, improved incomes, as this administration is trying to do in reducing unemployment and in fighting poverty, farm bargaining power is increased. Ladies and gentlemen, the greatest potential market in the world is in our own country amongst our own poor. And when these people, who today are called the children of poverty, become men and women of middle income, of a decent income, the quality and the quantity of food that they will consume is beyond your calculation. It will improve bargaining power.

When you have the ability to maintain a reasonable supply-demand balance for your commodities, at least most commodities, farm bargaining power is increased. And today we have some farm programs that are critically important to preserving that supply-demand balance. And may I say, ladies and gentlemen, in all of our enthusiasm to improve what we have and particularly for self-help, such as you in N. F. O. represent, let me tell you that the programs that are on the statute books in Washington, they need to be defended, they deserve to be defended, and those programs are now under attack. More than 20 bills were introduced in this Congress this year that, for all practical purposes, would terminate all existing farm programs. Twenty bills that said, "Do away with them".

We got a preview of what could happen when a bill to establish a strategic grain reserve was killed last month in subcommittee, and I believe I noticed on this sheet of resolutions that this great organization feels that it would be well that we have some reserves. Now what happened; That bill would have authorized us to pull surplus

grain out of the commercial market when prices were low, remove it from the market and from any influence on the market. It would have protected the nation in times of scarcity and it would have helped the producer by substantially boosting wheat, corn, and soybean prices. The sharp drop in wheat prices alone that followed the subcommittee's vote to "kill that bill" shows how important this bill would have been and was to the producers. My fellow Americans, this great nation with all of it's responsibilities at home and abroad needs strategic reserves of farm commodities. It needs a program to keep these reserves at common sense, clearly defined levels, insulated from the market. It needs a program that specifies how and when they can be released, so that they do not interfere with the market and depress your prices. It needs a program that relies on private inventories for normal business operations. Now that's what we tried to get. And I don't want you to quit fighting for it. There's another session of this Congress coming up and we need a strategic food reserve program as much, or more, as we need bombs and planes and soldiers. Can you imagine what would happen if the Congress of the United States didn't provide for our common defense? Well, you cannot defend America any longer without reserves of food and fiber for ourselves and for the world. This is our margin of strength. So let's get busy and get that bill through.

The harsh truth is, that there are some strong forces, relentless forces, at work trying to undermine and destroy farm programs; programs that we fought hard for and implemented with so much effort. I fought for them, I know. I fought for that wheat program 5 times. I saw it killed 3 times, and I saw us win by a handful of votes, less than you can put on one hand. So ladies and gentlemen, the facts are that net farm income would fall by 1/3 if the present programs were dropped and some people would have you believe that that would be good for the

consumer. Well, let me tell the world right now that the greatest single consumer in the world today is the American farmer, if he has some income. He needs that income. He consumes more steel than the automobile industry. He consumes more petroleum than any other industry. He consumes more electricity than the top ten American cities. He's a big consumer, and you do something to increase income in the United States, you won't have any extra inventory of unsold cars. You won't have any extra inventory of farm machinery that you can't get rid of. Ohh, no, my friends, I've been around too long. I know this much, in our own little business back home, that when the farmer had the money, Humphrey had some, and when the farmer didn't have any, we didn't have any.

Well, what I have tried to talk to you a bout tonight then, as I draw this message to a close, is a better deal - justice - that's all, just simple justice for the American farmer and when it's better for him it's better for America. We know that. But we all know there is more to this subject than just dollars and cents. What we are really talking about is the quality of life in rural America. After all, our founding fathers talked about life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. They didn't talk about life, liberty, and survival. There's a lot of difference. You can survive under a totalitarian regime. You have a chance to be happy in a free society. So we're talking about opportunities that you and your children ought to have to take advantage of the unprecedented standard of living that America can offer today. We're talking about better schools, hospitals, and we're talking about communities that can afford public services, which will attract new businesses, new industries and new job opportunities and new income.

We're talking about making it possible for rural youth to stay on the farm, to stay in their home towns and still look forward to a full

and rewarding life. There isn't any need to compel a young man or a woman to leave his family, his home county, his home town, because he can't make it, and be driven off to our cities that are already overcrowded. Today for every 175 rural youngsters who reach working age, there are fewer than 100 jobs in rural America. That's why they leave. This year about 200,000 of these fine young Americans will leave home and go into the city. What will they find? Well, some of them will find trouble, polluted air, congested streets, and some of them hopefully will find opportunity, but their departure will make rural America a poorer place. Their leaving will not only separate them from their families, but weaken the communities, and weaken them spiritually as well as economically. I'm for giving these young Americans in rural America, and every other American, a real choice about where to live and where to work and where to raise their families. If they wish to live in the cities then those cities should be clean and wholesome and safe. Today, too often, they are not. If they want to live in a small town or on the farm, they should be able to do so, and to enjoy a maximum standard of living in every way, to have every benefit that the city offers. But, too often, they cannot. The key to a fully developed rural America and one of the most important keys to the dilemma of the urban blight, the urban slum, which confronts this nation today is economic equity for the American farmer. Economic equity so that the rural parts of America, the farm and the small community will have an attraction for our young, so that they'll stay there and rear their families, and build their homes, create new jobs, new industry, produce the food and fiber, and unless we do it, my friends, I fear for this nation. One hundred million more Americans will be with us by the year 2000. Where are they going to go? Are they going to be jammed into our overcrowded

cities where 70% of our people now live on 1% of the land, or are we going to do something about it. Are we going to look ahead like you in N. F. C. are doing and see to it that we provide some hope, some sense of economic justice in rural America so that we can have some balance in America, an urban-rural balance that gives America the balance that it needs for its future.

Now my friends, I've talked to you tonight about our country, and you're a part of it; - your role in it. Never forget this, the world looks to the United States tonight and tomorrow for leadership. Leadership is not a luxury or a privilege. It's a burden and a responsibility. And because it looks to us, our economy must be strong, and that's why you must be strong. Our people must be educated. Yes, not only educated, they must be united, and our country must have an indomitable spirit and an abiding faith in its destiny.

You know, Abraham Lincoln put it so beautifully. What a wonderful man, and this is his state, Kentucky. Lincoln said, "We shall either meanly lose or nobly save this last best hope on earth", and he was talking about America. Ladies and gentlemen, he put that proposition to us, not just for his day but for days yet to come, because the real truth is that the decision is yet to be made. Will we meanly lose it? Will we by our indulgence and selfishness or greed; will we meanly lose this last best hope, or will we, because of our understanding, our tolerance, our willingness to see everyone have a fair and equal opportunity; will we nobly save it? I guess I'm an optimist, and I have every right to be. America gives you the faith of an optimist, because it's such a success story.

But I know that America, if it's to realize its destiny, must fulfill its creed. I come to this hall; I see in this hall wonderful people. I know that you are proud parents and good citizens. You

love your country. Your little children, when they go to school, stand at attention every morning, at least I hope they do. I hope that we're old-fashioned enough to do some of these things, and repeat the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States and to the Republic for which it stands. Now our children do it. I'm not asking that adults stand at every meeting and do it, but some way it ought to be like a silent prayer. It ought to be your personal commitment every day; not just those first words, but here is what the pledge is. Here's what America is all about and here is the promise of this nation and here is what Lincoln meant, that we would either meanly lose or nobly save this last best hope on earth. That pledge of allegiance, our creed, our commitment, our promise, one nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all. My fellow Americans, that's what this country must be. Not a nation divided. Not a nation torn. Not a nation that worships itself. Not a nation where there is justice for some but injustice for others. Not a nation in which there is liberty for the powerful, but none for the weak. It must be what we said it should be; one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. That's our commitment. That's your commitment. That's my commitment. And I join you in trying to make it a reality in ourtime.

Thank you very much.

A D D R E S S

by the

VICE - PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HUBERT H. HAMFIREY

to the

NATIONAL FARMERS ORGANIZATION CONVENTION

at

FREEDOM HALL, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 9: PM

Thursday, December 7, 1967

Recorded and Transcribed

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Virginia A. Nelson - Reporter

NFO PRESIDENT STALEY:

It certainly is a great pleasure and a great privilege tonight to introduce our speaker.

My acquaintance with this speaker has been over a period of many years. I saw him as a Senator for the first time, a United States Senator as a member of the Senate Agricultural Committee.

The first time that I met him about 12 years ago, I met him late in the evening, near 9:00 o'clock in the evening when he and his administrative assistant were working very hard to fight for the preservation of what was then a debate in the agricultural field on whether or not we should change from what was then termed a "rigid support program," to a flexible support program.

The basic issues preserved for many years, the important farm support program, was destroyed and after that was destroyed, after that was torn down, the deterioration of agricultural prices then commenced and has continued ever since.

So it is really a great pleasure to have known our speaker tonight over a period of many years and even though some say that they can't agree with our speaker for all the bills that he has gone for, we know he is well born and that he will stand up for the issues he thinks are right.

So tonight it is not only going to be a pleasure to introduce this speaker as a personal pleasure, but also, as I have said

before, it is very seldom that we give awards to people whom we believe have given outstanding and distinguished service to agriculture over a period of years, but our speaker has always been a champion of the American Farmer. He has fought hard for what he believed was right and not only that, he has always been willing to work in any way that he could to try to improve the farmer's welfare.

So I am going to at this time, not only get to introduce our speaker, but I am also delighted to present to him a plaque which reads:

" The National Farmers Organization, NFO, in behalf of its members, recognizes and pays tribute to HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, Vice-President of the United States, for his outstanding contribution and diligent service over the years to Agriculture and to the American Farmer.

Presented at the Annual Convention of the National Farmers Organization, December 7, 1967, in Louisville, Kentucky."

So it is a great honor not only of having the Vice-President of the United States with us, it is a great honor to have as Vice-President, Hubert H. Humphrey.

At this time it gives me great pleasure to present our speaker and our Vice-President, Hubert H. Humphrey, to this delegation here

tonight. Ladies and Gentlemen, the Vice-President of the United States.

A D D R E S S

BY VICE-PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY:

Well thank you very, very much, Oren Lee Staley. Thanks to my very good friend who is truly a great leader in this country in any field whether it is agriculture or any other field. I want to salute your National President, I like a lot of things about him. I just met his wife; she is pretty too. I like the fact that he is a stand-up man, that he is a fighter for what he believes in and he has worked hard for you wonderful people out here in the audience.

May I say to George Maddox and my friends from Minnesota that I appreciate your pin. I wish you had those pins before we had that Perdue game, as we would sorta like to go to the Rose Bowl. I think our pins were too small for something went wrong. I have never seen men look so happy, it sure looks good and I would wear it all during my speech, but I had a hard day and I don't want to put anymore weight on my shoulders right now than I need to, so if George will forgive me I will set the pin over here by the plaque and will spend a little time visiting with you.

Oren thank you very much for the honor that you bestowed upon me and it is my privilege to be here with you and your officers and delegates from all over this great agricultural mid-west and national area.

This auditorium has been in the national scene only recently, as there was a big prize fight out here. I think there is more fight in the NFO than there was in both of those fellows in the ring arena. But I will tell you what they should have done is to have had their fight at the same time that you came to town and they would have had a bigger audience.

Oren Lee told me, "Hubert, if you have a little time to drop down to Louisville, I would like to have you meet a few of my relatives, and a few of my neighbors."

I told him, "Well I don't know if I can come down or not, but I may be able to." He said "Well I would like for you to drop in as we will have some folks down there." I want to say here that Oren Lee sure does have a big family of folks here and from what I see here it is getting bigger all the time.

You know for a man from Washington to get an invitation to come out here, it is really quite a privilege, for sometimes you wonder if you are going to get invited to anything out here after you read the polls and see what happened.

They tell the story and it is one of my favorites, about this industrialist that had a fine plant, had a union in that plant that did a lot of collective bargaining, and the industrialist was taken seriously ill and he had to go to the hospital and nobody called on him, nobody sent him a letter, nobody sent him a card, a "Get Well Card," and no flowers.

The poor ole fellow was up there in the hospital, lonesome as could be and sicker than he ought to be. Then one day the Executive Committee of the local union had a meeting and they discussed the condition of their boss and as a usual thing they passed a resolution and they decided to send a "Get Well Card," to the boss of the plant and it read like this:

"The Executive Committee of Local 190 has met and duly considered your condition and after considerable discussion and by a vote of 8 to 7, we wish you a speedy recovery."

I don't know whether Oren Lee Staley had a vote or not, but let me tell you I am glad I am here.

This is a rather historic evening. I am sure we all know, if we reflect a moment, December 7th., stands in the history of America as President Franklin Roosevelt once said, "A day of infamy," but at least it is a historical date.

It was 26 years ago on December 7, 1941 that this nation was attacked and we were plunged into World War II. Twenty-six years ago, and leading up to that historic and faithful day were a whole series of events which come back to our minds now, events where we withdrew and backed up, refused to stand their ground, events where free people thought that they could get peace in their time by their appeasing.

Then Hitler attacked and then that dastardly attack on

Pearl Harbor in 1941.

That day reminds us of the need of our country to be ever alert to the danger within and to the danger without. It also reminds us of the necessity of staying strong, not just militarily, but the necessity of staying strong in our economy, staying strong in terms of our people, our people that are educated, that are healthy, and people that are devoted to what this country stands for and for what it meant to our generations of its history.

Yes December 7th., is a day that should remind everyone that we either hang together as Ben Franklin said, or we hang separately.

It reminds us of the importance of collective security. It reminds of the importance of being prepared and it reminds us of the importance of facing the threat of tyranny, before it gets too much and before the world is engulfed in a contest and in a conflict.

Only 30 days ago tonight, your Vice-President was in _____, in Indonesia, far away from Louisville, Kentucky in a strange land in the fifth largest nation on the face of the earth.

I had spent several days in Viet Nam. It was my fifth trip to Indionesia since I had been your Vice-President. Some may ask, "Well why so many times?" It is because, my fellow Americans that over 50% of God's children of humanity live in Asia and the hope of peace or total war may be decided by what happens in Asia. Therefore, we take a keen interest and sometimes it is more important to be concerned about the far east and what happens there and how, than it is to be

concerned about our own east coast.

The fate of mankind is no longer in any one person's hands and there is no way that we can isolate ourselves anymore. We are in this world and we can't get off it, like that old song, "I wanta get off," and while I would like to put a man on the moon, I have not volunteered for that mission, but I have some folks that I can gladly recommend for taking the trip.

This world of ours, my fellow Americans is shrinking. It takes no longer now for us to go to Siagon than it does, from Chicago To Siagon in 1967, than it takesto go from Chicago to London in 1940.

So what seems to be a far away place is really just next door. And what seems to be people with strange names and strange culture, are very much a part of a one world and we have an interest in their world for our children and their children and generations untold.

I did not come here tonight to discuss world policies with you, but I think it well to tell you that there is not anything that we do, anything that we say, that does not affect what goes on here in America and affects what goes on in the world. We are so much an important part of this world, that what goes on here in America affects

Now some people say, "We try to do too much, try to help too much," and all I can say is this, if America with its wealth, with its power, can not help the weak to defend theirselves, and if America with all its wealth and its power can not help the hungry to be fed. If America with all its science and its technology can not help other

people to build a better life, then I ask you, "Who can?" "Who can?"

There are forces in the world that are perfectly willing to move in and take over. We do not seek to take over anybody, anywhere at any time.

I know of no nation in the history of mankind that has given so much of its wealth and its treasures and expected so little. All we have expected and all we have really hoped for is what every man and woman in this audience prays for, what everyone hopes for, a just and deserving peace. That is the goal of your country and it must be the goal of every person in this country.

Let us take this view that this world famous churchman, the late Pope John the 23rd., who said, "Where there is constant want, there is no peace. Where there is poverty and hunger, there is no peace."

The real threat to world peace today at home and abroad, is frustration, poverty, the needs, wants, hunger. I saw in this nation of Indonesia over one hundred million people potentially rich. Two years ago the "Hate America Program," was under way. Two years ago this great nation was a captive of the Communist party of the Peking China.

Two years ago under this leadership they were exploited and I saw a country in ruins, I saw a capital city that was literally ravished. I saw a people that had been "bled white," and then I saw a new leadership, I saw a great people only one month ago, that

were struggling to bring themselves up out of the dirt, to stand high and dignified.

What do they ask of America? I talked to their new leaders, President _____. I talked to many young people who were educated in America and who had returned to their country. I talked to their farm cooperative people. I talked to their labor people and I went to the city that was the capital of the Communist party in Indonesia.

I was told it was dangerous, I was told that my security could not be afforded, but I went there because I wanted to see what they were trying to do and what did I find?

I found thousands of young men and women, thousands of them, ladies and gentlemen, thousands of young men cleaning out the drainage ditches, cleaning out the irrigation ditches, working and cleaning out their fields with simple hoes and shovels and having their wages paid in ground corn from the United States of America, corn meal from out of our country for what kind of wages, food for work.

Ladies and gentlemen these young men and some of them not so young, would work 16 hours a day so that they could have enough to eat for their families.

What do they ask for? Do they ask for guns? No, but they came to me one after another and said, "Mr. Vice-President, we are hungry, we desperately need food. Our country has been exploited, we suffered drought, we have a population that is growing and the enemies of freedom feed on our misery.

They said, " We need rice, we need corn, we need vegetable oils, we need fats, we need food."

Ladies and gentlemen I came back to your Congress, back to your President with this message and said, " We have a chance to save a nation, not by bloodshed, but here we have a chance to save a nation through food," and yes, "Give us this day our daily bread."

So I come to salute peace-time soldiers. I come to salute the farm people as I do everywhere I go, whether I am in New York City or San Francisco or Dallas, Texas or Minneapolis and St. Paul, wherever I go, I pay my respects to the "tillers of the soil, to the stewards of the land."

I will say right now that America would not be what it is, were it not for you and your families and those who proceeded you and those who will yet come after you. Remembered too, it was the "embattled farmer who stood at Lexington and Concord, the embattled farmer," that is why I salute you.

I would like to ask you to escalate the war on hunger and to make sure that we can ask you to do your job just as the man in the factory does, we must make sure that the American farmer will get a fair price for getting that food. The American farmer will receive a fair price for his growing contribution to world peace and stability.

Personally I looked at your resolutions as I sat there while my friend Oren Lee Staley was introducing me and speaking to you and

I looked down the line and I haven't had a chance to read them all, but I know this that what I read about, that first page looks mighty good to me. I will say to you that when you are seeking a price of \$1.50 for corn and not less than \$3.00 for soy beans and not less than \$2.00 a bushel for wheat, you are not asking for much, after all you are just asking for equity, for a fair deal and you are entitled to it.

I am going to talk to you tonight about how you are going to get those goals and I am not unmindful of the fact that 15 years ago and some of these prices were even higher then. Think of any other prices in America that has gone down, I know of none. You can't even get a five cent candy bar today.

From what I have told you, you can see that food is a powerful weapon for peace in this atomic world and it is an instrument that is almost exclusively American. No other nation can equal us in quantity or quality of our agricultural products.

Our agricultural power and I want every nation in competition to know this, that it is our agricultural power that gives us the critical margin of national strength that this country possesses today.

What I am saying to you tonight my friends is not new and I believe it with all my heart and soul. I grew up in the midwest, my (mother) brother is still there. My grandparents were farm folks. I did not get to be a farmer, I became a (farmer), but I want to tell you

that I sold a lot of hog cholera syrup and I have taken care of a few chickens that had the roup.

Well we know that we are more fortunate today than we were some years back with our farm programs. For a time all we had in that food program was just what was left over, but the Food for Freedom Act of 1956 gives us an open authority for this nation that is willing to help nations that are willing to help themselves, help feed themselves.

This Food for Freedom program is much more than a help to a man to expand his farm production. It is much more than a way to improve the one acre of our product that we are able to export.

Food for Freedom is doing good immeasurably, that is for sure, but it is also good politics and good morals in a world that cries out for help and for assistance. It saves lives and what better thing can you do.

It reduces the toll of the world's misery. Millions of little children are stunted intellectually and physically all their lives, because of a deficiency in proteins in their childhood years.

Protein deficiency takes a terrible toll of intellect and health.

Food for Freedom promotes stability, it promotes economic development; it builds export markets and we need those export markets. In fact, I noticed what you said in one of your resolutions here Mr. Staley, a Bureau that will help farmers get a bigger and

better share of the export market. I went to Europe this last Spring to fight for that share, to make sure that we got the world price for our wheat and our seed grain and to make sure that we were not locked out of the European market. I would like to report to you that we made some progress. I was a good bargainer for you, Oren Lee, as it was good collective bargaining.

So you see why I am trying to say to you is that we must be prepared to feed more and more of the world's hungry people, in the war on hunger, because I sincerely believe that American food may well be the key to world peace.

I can tell you tonight that your President has ordered the Department of Agriculture and our Department of State to utilize this abundance to help other people with food from the American farmer and to help the American farmer in their bargaining for a fair price for their products.

Now I want to outline for you a few things that we can do with the proper help to show our farmers that we are trying in every possible way in the quality of rural life throughout the country, to upgrade that rural life.

Now I am not one of these fellows who come down and tell you, "You never had it so good." I know better than that, but I am also going to tell you of some of the things that have been done and what more needs to be done, as I see it.

I don't have to tell you farmers of the importance of Price

Security and Price Assurance, you know it. The most important place to secure a fair price is to retain what we have done and improve, yes greatly improve our existing farm programs.

Senator ____Young, we are good friends, oh I guess we have our little political differences once in a while, but that just keeps the broth boiling, but we are very old friends. I believe he told you the fight that we have on our hands to even retain what we have. This man is a farmer if there ever was one and he is a good Senator too.

The programs that we have now are the best that we have been able to get thus far. I think they are the best that we have had thus far, but they need to be strengthened. The farmer, according to the record, this year is getting an additional 48¢ a bushel on wheat sold that are in the program. There is 12¢ on corn, which was sorely needed and 15¢ a pound on cotton.

We know that Government payments for many producers are making the difference this year between a little profit and losing money, but we also know that prices are down and production costs are up, which is a terrible combination for farmers.

After year by year gains, which pushed that farmer up around 17¢ over 1960 levels, we have lost important ground in this last year. And unless we develop a revolutionary acreage allotment system, we are going to have other years of over production, and this year offers a year for effective prices.

We need a fair price, a good job, a good standard of living in the United States of America for those who work to put themselves to the task of doing something for themselves, for their family and for their country.

Now this is all "old hat" to you, you know this as well as I do and you know that we had the most unbelievable good growing weather this past year and around the world in the past few years that we have ever experienced.

Countries that hadn't had a crop for five years had a "bumper" crop this year. Here in the United States the grain harvest was up 34% over the last five year average. We haven't been able to figure all this out yet. All these forecasts of the meteorologists, the weathermen, the weavers of the weather satellite program, our space satellite program doesn't supply the answer, it still fools you, it still fools you.

You know I lived in South Dakota for a long time and the Humphrey Drug Store is still out there and as you go by, stop in, we need the business. I remember when I looked up at the sky when I was a little boy and saw big black clouds up there and I said, "Dad, are those rain clouds?" He said, "No son, those are just the empties coming back."

You know they tell that story about the little fellow with his dad that went into the clothing store, they were buying a suit for confirmation and they got in there and the clerk had the sale

about closed and all at once the man grabbed the boy by the hand and they flew out the front door.

The clerk said, "What is wrong, what has happened?" The father said, "The boy is 15 years old and he has never seen it rain and he may never see it rain again and I want him to get one look at the thing that is happening out there."

We can not predict the weather, nor can we predict the crops with any degree of accuracy. This tremendous increase in output both here and abroad has placed a heavy burden on the market and it has a share of the weight for the low, outrageous prices.

World-wide conditions as we found them to be this year in prices and crops, can sharply reduce price response to production controls. This means we can no longer expect acreage cutbacks to strengthen prices to the extent they did 10 or 20 years ago. Things are different.

I was told that maybe I ought not to say this, but I said to a friend of mine, "Why not, we are grown up people and we have to face facts."

On our wheat production right now, it is only 15% of the total world-wide production. Twenty-five years ago it was much larger. Twenty-five years ago wheat production was like considering the lakes in Minnesota at that point in world production. Today, the wheat pool is like an ocean, the world pool and here we are, only 15% of it.

This means, that even if we take a 15% cutback in our production, it represents only one and one half percent cutback in world production. We are talking about a world pool of commodities. A 50% cut in our production would shrink world output only by about seven and one half percent.

This is why, you see, that we have been telling you that we can not depend upon the old methods, it is not good enough. We have to do other things. We have to find other ways and maybe we have to learn from other people.

So we need additional tools to protect the farmers' prices. Here at home additional tools means just one thing; an effective, working bargaining power in the market place for the farm producers. That is what it means.

My friends, you have had to take the blunt of this battle. Whenever you want to change anything you are going to get in trouble, you know that.

Why I tell you when the first automobile came in the livery stables were quite unhappy. When the first radio came in the phonograph manufacturers were unhappy. There is always with change, trouble. Even in our own great society there is a great change taking place now, a social change.

I fly a great deal, but everytime I take a trip in an airplane, I call up the weatherman every time before I leave the airport and I will say to him, "How is the weather?" Sometimes he

will say, "Well, I think it is going to be a little rough." I say, "What is the trouble?" and he will say, "We are moving into one cycle and coming out of another, and when you come from a low movement into a high, you are going to have trouble. Well I will tell you this, in flying you really get religion in a hurry on some of those flying trips.

Well, marketing practices are changing. Production practices are changing and all kinds of things are changing and this organization understands it. I think the N.F.O. understands what is going on in our world.

For the son of a druggist I ought not to have a cold, but I have, but I feel fine when I get warmed up and get to talking to you my friends. I am glad to be here to talk to you.

Now listen, dear friends what you have done in your work, even just in the stage of discussing bargaining power, that is a great contribution to a greater understanding of the problems you have.

Why you have talked so much about it, done so much about it, well you have not only convinced some of the public, you have convinced the Government.

My dear friends I know that sometimes you get "over-sold" on this proposition of bargaining, but this is the way we do change in our country. You have got to accomplish things.

Organized labor did not get where it is today, by just going

around and saying " This is a good idea." Nor did they get where they are today by saying, " I think this is sorta a nice thing to do." They fought for it, they worked for it, they planned for it, they sacrificed for it and they had great leadership.

I want to tell you and I don't know if you folks know it or not, but you have been very fortunate in this organization in having Oren Lee Staley. I know of very few people in this country that have a perception of the future and an understanding of the present, not only for agriculture, but for the whole economy of this country, as your President of this organization.

If I understand what you want is, that the farmer wants to be in position to decide the price that they are going to get for their products, is that what you want to do?

Right now you are having to fight for that right. Right now farmers are not finding themselves in a position to decide the prices they get for their products. That is why the NFO fights for bargaining and bargaining power. That is why I am here tonight.

I am here for one purpose. I am here to tell you that the fight that you have carried on has reached the high powers in this Government. I am here to tell you that we know that you are on the right road and I want to say that we stand with you, and I want you to know that I as your Vice-President and that your President of the United States, we stand with you. We want to work with you and that is why your Vice-President Hubert Humphrey came

here tonight so that you would know it.

I have been in public life a long time, and I know that some of you might say, " Well he did not go very far," but believe me I believe in our business system. I want you to know that I believe in the profit system. I believe this for business men, I believe this for farmers and I believe in paying a good wage for a worker. I think that is the way we are supposed to have it. We can't make any money out of paupers.

I don't believe in an economy like a three-legged stool, one leg that is shorter than the other is a very stable economy. I watched some farmers do some milking on those short legged, three legged stools and the only one that came out on top was the cow.

Well, let's look at things like prices. Say for example, the hardware store charges 39¢ a pound for nails. That is the price for a pound of nails. General Motors charges \$3,000. or \$4,000.00 for a car, but the farmer who also produces and sells things, what do they say about him, "Well he will get, not charge, but he will get oh, \$5.00, \$4.50 or \$5.20 blend price for his milk, depending on which year it is."

Or he will get 24 or 25 or 26¢ for his fed cattle. He gets, he doesn't charge, he gets what someone is willing to give him.

Now I am going to make a very profound statement, one that is fully within the lexicon, within the language of American business.

The farmer deserves the right to charge for his products like anybody else, instead of getting what the buyer is willing to give him or what the buyer decides what the farmer should have. That is my statement.

Let me be equally candid here. The progress that we are talking about, economic justice for farmers, farm people, is going to depend primarily on what they are going to do for themselves. That is why you are here, aren't you?

Oh yes, the programs help and believe me they do help, those programs like Commodity Credit, all of them help and I know that, and we don't want to lose a bit of it, we want to keep what we have, but again I want you to keep in mind what that Senator told you last night, "Farm political power in the Congress is regreatably diminishing." The reason it has diminished is because of the shift of population. Therefore, my fellow Americans, if your political power in the halls of Congress diminishes, then you must increase your economic power in the market place and that is what you are trying to do.

Now I want to talk to you a little bit about some of the ways that we in Government can help on this bargaining power, because we ought to be partners and I think we can all do it that way.

I have been trying, let me tell you, as your Vice-President to preach the doctrine of understanding and tolerance, to preach

the doctrine of cooperation and partnership between the Government in every section of this economy. We don't need the Government for business alone, for farmers alone, for labor alone, we ought to be on the same team. When we get together like we are, things will go better and we are going to learn from each other, and I am going to learn from you, I always have.

With that need for that pricing power, bargaining power in mind, we recently made a very fundamental change in the Support Loan policy to enable more farmers to maintain control of their grain until they chose to sell it.

When crop loans expired under the old system, the Government took over the store of grain and there was no way the Government could get this grain off its hands without having to throw it on the market. You know and I know how it depressed prices.

Now the new policy which your President has ordered the return of the marketing position to the producers and your President had a great deal to do with this being passed by Congress, and by the return to the producers, it allows them to retain title of the grain and this applies to whether the grain is stored on the farm or in a commercial warehouse or in your own cooperative elevator.

Before you could always store it on the farm, but what if you don't have facilities on the farm, then you had to sell to the Commodity Credit Corporation and they foreclosed, so to speak.

Now you retain title, no matter where your grain is, and when you retain title to that grain you will retain bargaining power, for it is yours and it is not going to be dumped on the market, you can sell it when you chose.

This approach creates bargaining power for farmers and we hope they use it to keep their prices up. This is one of the goals that you have been fighting to achieve.

Oh I tell you, I think "the word is out," I don't think you hardly know a farm organization now that you can go to, that doesn't know that farmers need bargaining power. I don't know if all of them know it, but they will.

Now they want it and they should have the right and the opportunity to use it to better control their own economic destiny.

The President of the United States, President Johnson, Secretary Freeman and I are going to do our best to see that that right and that opportunity is given and may I say that we now have people working with some of your people and looking forward to working with them more closely to see how we can really make this bargaining power a working combination for every farmer across the land, what a day that will be.

You will have then the use of a New Bill of Rights for the American farmer, a New Bill of Rights for the American farm producer the right to control his own economic destiny.

I think the trouble with my speech is that I have one here

that I was going to give and I have been talking on other things along with it, but if you have the time, I have the time and energy to keep talking.

Now just let me make these points about additional successful bargaining.

When you reduce the supply of the American tobacco program and down here it is the burley tobacco, or when you reduce the cotton program or the wheat and seed grain program, farm bargaining power is increased.

When Secretary Freeman announced that he would not sell, and I repeat, that he would not sell the government held stocks of wheat, the seed grains, the farmers' bargaining power was increased.

When you improve the nutrition under the School Lunch Program, the School Milk Program, it is a domestic relations program, your bargaining power is increased.

And when you sell our exports under Public Law 480 and our Food for Freedom, farm bargaining power increases . When you increase the farm marketing program and the prices the consumer will pay for food, improve incomes as this administration is trying to do, by reducing our unemployment and reducing our poverty, the farmers' bargaining power will increase.

Ladies and gentlemen, the greatest potential market in the world is in our own country among our own people, among our own poor. These people today are called "our children of poverty," and when they

become men and women of middle income or decent income, they will consume a quantity and quality of food is beyond your calculations. It will improve bargaining power.

When you have the ability to maintain a reasonable supply and demand balance for your products, farm bargaining power will increase.

Today, we have that farm program that is greatly important to preserving the way of life itself and may I say ladies and gentlemen that all of your energies should be to improve what we have and particularly for self help such as you are doing in the NFO, so that we can have the program on the statute books in Washington that need to be defended, they deserve to be defended for more than 20 bills were introduced in Congress this year that for all practical purposes would terminate all existing farm programs. Twenty bills ladies and gentlemen.

A bill was killed by Congress because we knew that it would be well that we have some reserves. Now what happened, that bill was to pull some of the grain out of the Commodity market when prices were low and it would substantially lower the price for wheat and corn and etc.

The sharp drop of wheat prices alone when the sub-committee was known to have that bill, shows how important that bill was to the market producers.

My fellow Americans this great nation with all of its

responsibilities needs strategic development of farm commodities. It needs a program of strategic reserves of major farm commodities. It needs a program to keep these reserves at a common sense, clearly defined level. Inventory control is needed. It needs a program that specifies how and when they can be released so that they do not interfere with the market and depress your prices.

It needs a program that relies on private inventories for a normal business operation. We need a strategic food reserve program as much in the war as we need bombs and planes and soldiers. You can not defend America without a reserve of food. This is our work, let's get busy and get that bill through.

There are some strong forces, relentless forces, at work trying to undermine and destroy farm programs, programs that we fought hard for. I fought hard for them I know. I fought for that wheat program five times. I saw it killed three times and I saw it win by a handfull of votes, less than you could put on one hand.

Ladies and gentlemen the facts are that if farm income falls by one third, it would be because the present programs were dropped and it would fall one third if they were dropped.

Some people would have you believe that it would not be good for the consumer, well let's tell the world right now, that the greatest single consumer in the world today is the American farmer if he has some income.

The farmer consumes more steel than the automobile industry.

He consumes more patroleum than any other. He consumes more electricity than the top American ten cities. He is a big consumer and you do something to increase his income in the United States, do something to increase his profits and you won't have any inventory of unsold cars. You won't have any inventory of farm machinery that you can't get rid of.

Oh no, my friends, I know this much from our own pharmacy back home, when the farmer had the money, Humphrey had money and when the farmer didn't have any, we didn't have any either.

When it is better for the farmer, it is better for all the American people. We know that there is more to this subject than just dollars and cents.

When we talk about life in the world now, well after all our founding fathers talked about life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. They didn't talk about life, liberty and the right to survive. You can survive under a totalitarian regime. You have a chance to be happy in a free society.

So we are talking to you about the opportunity that you and your children ought to have, to take advantage of the opportunity of the standard of living that America offers.

We are talking about schools, hospitals; we are talking about communities giving more public service and new job opportunities and new income. We are talking about making it possible for rural youth to stay on the farm, to stay in their home town and still

be able to have a full and rewarding life. There isn't any need to compel a young man or a woman to leave his family, his home, his home town, because he can't meet his needs and have to go to our cities that are already over-crowded.

Today for every 175 rural youngsters who reach their teens, find that there are fewer than 100 jobs in rural America. That is why they leave. This year over 200, 000 of these fine young men will leave home and go into the city. What will they find? Some of them will find trouble, polluted air, congested streets, and some of them hopefully will find opportunity, but their departure will make rural America a smaller place and it will weaken their community.

I am for giving these young men in rural America, and every other American, a real choice about where to live, where to work and where to raise their families.

If they wish to live in the cities, let those be clean, wholesome and attractive. If they wish to live in a small town, or farm, they should be able to do so, and enjoy a maximum of living, to have every benefit that the city offers, too often, they can not.

The key to a fully developed rural America and it is a needed key to the good life which confronts this nation today is economic equity for the American farmer. Economic equity so that the rural parts of America will have an attraction for our young Americans, so that they will stay here, produce food, create new jobs and that

job at prices they can make a good life. We need producers of food, as food is vital and we have to have this economic equity to attract these young men.

Unless we do this, my friends, I fear for this great nation. One hundred million more Americans will be with us by the year 2000. Where are they going to go. Are they going to be sheltered in our over crowded cities where 70% of our citizens live on 1% of the land.

We have to have balance to give America the balance that it needs for the future.

Now my friends, I have talked to you tonight about our country and you are a part of our country, never forget it.

The world looks to the United States tonight and tomorrow for leadership. Leadership is not a luxury or a privilege, it is a responsibility.

The country that moves forth must be strong, that is why you must be strong. We must be educated and not only must we be educated, we must be united and our country must have an undivided faith in its destiny.

You know Abraham Lincoln put it so beautifully, what a wonderful man you produced in this state. Lincoln said "We shall meanly lose or nobly save this last bit of hope on earth." He was talking about America. Our position is not just for this day, but for the years yet to come.

The decisions that have to be made, will we lose it, will

we by our indulgence, selfishness and greed, will we meanly lose this last great hope, or will we show our willingness that everyone has a fair, equal opportunity, will we nobly save.

I guess I am an optimist for I guess I like to think that America gives you the faith of an optimist, because it is such a success story. I realize that if America is to realize its destiny, it must fulfill its dreams.

I have come to this hall and I see in this hall wonderful people. I know that you are proud parents and good citizens, you love your country.

Your children that go to school, stand every morning, at least I hope they do. I hope that we are old fashioned enough to do some of these things, like repeating the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States.

I hope they stand and repeat the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and to the Republic for which it stands. I know our children do it and I am not asking that you all stand and do it, but in some way it ought to be like the silent prayer, it ought to be your personal commitment every day. Here is what the pledge is, here is what it is all about, that here is a promise of that nation, that here is what Lincoln meant, that we either meanly lose or nobly save this last bit of hope on earth.

It is our commitment, that pledge, our promise. "One Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all."

My fellow Americans that is what this country must be. Not a nation divided, not a nation that is torn, not a nation unwilling to help. Not a nation where there is justice for some, but injustice for others. Not a nation where there is liberty for the powerful, but none for the weak. It must be what we say it should be, " One Nation Under God, Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all. "

I join you in trying to make it a reality in our time.

Thank You Very Much.

PRESIDENT STALEY:

That ends our Convention of the NFO of 1967. I know it has been a fine evening and be careful now on the way home. Good Night.

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ADJOURNED



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