



FOR RELEASE
THURSDAY PM's
MARCH 28, 1968

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE
STATE CONFERENCE
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
MARCH 28, 1968

There is a poem that describes North Carolina as a place "where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great."

There is a ring of truth to those words. North Carolina is a land of promise, and you don't have to look far to find an example of it.

We're meeting today in one corner of your dynamic Research Triangle, one of the truly great experiments in economic development underway in this country today. The Research Triangle is succeeding because it has fused the energy of three fine universities to provide industry with the research and technology it needs.

But there is another, deeper reason. You are providing the kind of human climate in which industry and agriculture can thrive side by side...where people can freely choose to live in cities, in towns, or on the farm, and have an equal chance to share in American prosperity.

The health and well-being of American agriculture depends heavily on the job you county committeemen and community committeemen and county office managers and clerks do.

The committee system is the backbone of farm program administration. The vast majority of the men who are part of this system have a firm understanding of the programs they administer.

They are pragmatic.

They are imaginative.

They are sensitive to the needs of their neighbors.

They are public servants in the highest sense.

We are able to respond quickly and flexibly to the needs of this nation's farm population because of what you do, and I want you to know I appreciate it.

* * *

But what are our needs, and how shall we respond?

Not long ago, President Johnson sent his new Farm Message to the Congress. It included these words:

"The American farmer, who helped to build America's prosperity, still does not fully -- or fairly -- share in it.

"While retail food prices have risen in recent years, the prices the farmer receives have actually declined 9 per cent in the past two decades.

"Too many rural communities have been by-passed in the climb to abundance, the poverty of their people standing in stark contrast to the wealth of the land."

President Johnson then called for a prompt and permanent renewal of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1965.

He has asked Congress to renew this legislation in 1968, one full year before it expires, because the 1969 programs will have been announced for commodities covered by this Act before Congress meets next year. Farmers, like any prudent businessmen, ought to be able to plan in advance.

Our present legislation works -- and it works better than any farm program this country has had before.

You and I know that the Programs of the 1960's have been a tremendous improvement over those of the 1950's -- despite what the critics may say. Although 1967 was not as good a year as 1966, realized net farm income for the nation was still 25 per cent higher than in 1960.

Here in North Carolina, realized net income per farm was 35 per cent higher in 1967 than 1960.

Indeed our present farm programs achieved more acceptance -- and better results -- in North Carolina than almost anywhere else in this nation.

The feedgrain signup is a good example. North Carolina ranks near the top in the nation in percentage of participation.

I am pleased to see that almost a million and half American farms have been signed up to participate in the 1968 feedgrains program nationwide. It now appears that over 34 million acres will be diverted from the production of corn and grain sorghum in 1968.

That will mean a lot to farmers all over the United States, but especially here, where almost 4 out of every 10 dollars in farm income comes from the sale of livestock products. For it's an economic fact of life that cheap feed means cheap livestock.

We also need good dairy prices to insure adequate supplies of milk for the year ahead.

Just last week Secretary Freeman announced an increase in the dairy price support level to the highest legally permissible level -- 90 per cent of parity for the marketing year beginning April 1.

* * *

Yes, our present farm programs protect farmers. But protection is not enough to guarantee the American farmer a fair price in the marketplace.

Our farmers are going to have to bargain for equity.

They want to bargain. And the President, in his agriculture message, has asked the Congress to consider ways of strengthening farm bargaining power.

Farmers are the only business men left in America who are still forced to sell their products at wholesale prices set by somebody else...and to buy their production supplies at retail prices, also set by somebody else.

They are especially vulnerable when it comes to commodities not covered by present government programs--- livestock, poultry, fruits, and vegetables, which supply 60 per cent of all gross farm income.

The farmer who produces these items sells them, not necessarily for a fair price or for what a support price would guarantee, but strictly for what he can get.

The power of the farmer in the marketplace is fragmented and diffused. It badly needs solidifying. And I hope this Congress will set up the machinery the farmers of this country need to better control their own destinies through bargaining.

* * *

A third ingredient in President Johnson's Message on Agriculture is establishment of a National Food Bank -- a Security Commodity Reserve.

It has been evident for some time that there is a limit to the amount of grains the commercial trade will carry without forcing prices down.

Millers and exporters are naturally reluctant to buy and hold grain when bumper crops might lead to lower prices.

It is equally evident that there are limits to what the present farm programs can do in tightening down over-supplies, the cause of recent price slumps.

No system of production estimates, however carefully developed, can be entirely accurate.

We have seen drought, floods and searing winds cut production. We have seen extreme wet weather and disease cut production.

We have seen unusually high production abroad adversely affect prices.

And our needs may fluctuate, particularly as we continue to make what President Johnson has called "our humane responses to the hardship and hunger that may strike other nations."

With a National Food Bank we would make deposits when production is high...and make sales, under carefully restricted conditions, when production is short.

The Secretary of Agriculture would have authority to purchase additional reserves in the open market -- before prices drop to the support levels. These stocks would be insulated from the commercial market and would not be sold at less than parity adjusted for government payments.

The President has said:

"A National Food Bank can provide important protection for all Americans.

"-- The farmer will not have to bear the burden of depressed prices when production exceeds current needs.

-- The consumer will be protected from unanticipated food scarcity.

-- The government will have a reserve stock 'cushion' in making acreage allotment decisions, and in responding to international emergencies."

Help us get this legislation.

* * *

I would like to visit with you briefly, too, about Public Law 480. The President has proposed that this Act be extended for three years.

Last year American farmers kept literally millions of people in developing countries around the world from starvation. They improved the diets of millions more.

In a world that knows too much of hate and selfishness, our food aid programs have stood out year as a humanitarian beacon of hope. That in itself is ample justification for the Food for Freedom Program.

But there is more than the humanitarian justification. Food aid has meant economic development which in turn has created new markets for American agricultural products. Japan, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Spain and many countries which have received assistance under U. S. food aid programs are now among our best dollar customers for farm exports.

Food aid is more than good-neighborliness. It is good business.

And in a hungry world, strong, productive, independent American family farms amount to no less than a massive defense system in the cause of peace. No other nation can equal it.

Food power -- and the food aid programs which we have fought so hard for over the years -- are America's exclusive tool for building a safer, freer world.

This nation should pay its producers a fair price for that food power -- and use it to the full.

I might add that with our new emphasis on self-help, food under Title I of Public Law 480 has not been given free since 1966.

We have been exchanging commodities for commitments -- not political commitments which cannot be bought from any sovereign nation, but commitments to build farm to market roads, to adopt incentive price policies, to build fertilizer plants...to save people. That is America's business in the world.

America owes its farmers a great deal -- most of all, a first-class share in the abundance of America for first-class producers.

America owes all of you who work to keep our agricultural programs functioning smoothly a special vote of thanks.

And we all owe it to our nation and to people everywhere to protect and enhance our priceless treasure of agricultural plenty.

EXCERPTS FROM VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY'S
SPEECH TO THE STATE CONFERENCE OF THE
AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSER-
VATION SERVICE -- RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA,
MARCH 28, 1968.

Vice President Humphrey today called President Johnson's Message to the Congress on agriculture "a Declaration of Parity for rural America."

Addressing a conference of Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service committeemen in Raleigh, North Carolina, the Vice President said: " President Johnson's farm message is nothing less than a Declaration of parity for rural America.

"-- 100 per cent parity in income;

"-- 100 per cent parity in opportunity;

"-- 100 per cent parity in good living;

"-- 100 per cent parity in community life and citizenship.

The Vice President said, "Rural America has a friend in the White House ... a man who knows farmers ... a man who understands agriculture ... a man whose vision of a better America extends beyond the skyscrapers and the smokestacks to the green fields and the farm families who are the fundamental source of America's strength."

The Vice President observed that inadequate employment, schools, and hospitals, as well as a shortage of "decent opportunity" in rural America contributed to today's urban crisis.

"Rural trouble means urban trouble," he said, "and until rural America -- all of it -- becomes a rewarding and inviting place to live ... until we can make rural America worthy of America ... we will be that much farther from stopping the costly human and material waste in our cities today."

The Vice President praised the Johnson-Humphrey Administration's commodity program as "better than any farm program this country has had before." But he also warmly supported President Johnson's new proposals to enhance the bargaining power of farmers in the marketplace.

"Farmers," he said, "are the only businessmen left in America who are still forced to sell their products at wholesale prices, also set by somebody else." *and to buy their production supplies at retail prices also set by somebody else.*

The protection of farm programs alone "is not enough to guarantee the American farmer a fair price in the marketplace," said Humphrey. "Our farmers are going to have to bargain for equity."

Sen Ervin
Sen Jordan

Gov. Moore
Horace Godfrey
Mr Hawkins
Chr Braswell

Fellow Tar Heels

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE

STATE CONFERENCE

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

MARCH 28, 1968

✓ Margaret Powell

✓ Betty Wardenburg

✓ Martha Shepard

✓ There is a poem that describes North Carolina as a place "where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great."

✓ There is a ring of truth to those words. ✓ North Carolina is a land of promise, and you don't have to look far to find an example of it.

↳ We're meeting today in one corner of your dynamic
Research Triangle, one of the truly great experiments in
economic development underway in this country today. ↳ The
Research Triangle is succeeding because it has fused the
energy of three fine universities to provide industry with
the research and technology it needs.

Partnership
Growth
Industry
University

↳ But there is another, deeper reason. ↳ You are providing
the kind of human climate in which industry and agriculture
can thrive side by side...where people can freely choose
to live in cities, in towns, or on the farm, and have an
equal chance to share in American prosperity.

↳ The headlines tell us daily that America faces
an urban crisis. But it is a rural crisis too.

The slums in our cities are filled with people, or the children of people, who packed up and left farms and small towns because they couldn't find decent jobs, decent schools, decent hospitals...decent opportunity. That migration is continuing today.

Rural trouble means city trouble.

And until rural America -- all of it -- becomes a rewarding and inviting place to live...until we can make rural America worthy of America -- we will be that much farther from stopping the costly human and material waste in our cities today.

Now that means one thing above all else -- 'prosperous agriculture.' And the health and well-being of American agriculture depends heavily on the job you county committeemen and community committeemen and county office managers and clerks do.

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∟ They are pragmatic.

∟ They are imaginative.

∟ They are sensitive to the needs of their neighbors.

∟ They are public servants in the highest sense.

∟ We are able to respond quickly and flexibly to the needs of this nation's farm population because of what you do, and I want you to know I appreciate it.

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∟ But what are our needs, and how shall we respond?

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∟ You and I know that the programs of the 1960's have been a tremendous improvement over those of the 1950's -- despite what the critics may say. ∟ Although 1967 was not as good a year as 1966, realized net farm income for the nation was still 25 per cent higher than in 1960.

∟ Here in North Carolina, realized net income per farm was 35 per cent higher in 1967 than 1960.

∟ Indeed our present farm programs achieved more acceptance -- and better results -- in North Carolina than almost anywhere else in this nation.

∟ The feedgrain signup is a good example. North Carolina ranks near the top in the nation in percentage of participation. *Compliment to ASCS*

∟ I am pleased to see that almost a million and half American farms have been signed up to participate in the 1968 feedgrains program nationwide. ∟ It now appears that over 34 million acres will be diverted from the production of corn and grain sorghum in 1968.

That will mean a lot to farmers all over the United States, but especially here, where almost 4 out of every 10 dollars in farm income comes from the sale of livestock products. For it's an economic fact of life that cheap feed means cheap livestock.

↳ We also need good dairy prices to insure adequate supplies of milk for the year ahead. — *Dairy cow Popul down!*

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} *forecasts*

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But there is more than the humanitarian justification.

Food aid has meant economic development which in turn has created new markets for American agricultural products.

Japan, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Spain and many countries which have received assistance under U.S. food aid

programs are now among our best dollar customers for farm exports.

North Carolina's share of the export market for Agricultural Commodities has been running at 300 million a year

Food aid is more than good-neighborliness. It is good business.

And in a hungry world, strong, productive, independent American family farms amount to no less than a massive defense system in the cause of peace. No other nation can equal it.

Peace

Food power -- and the food aid programs ^{for} which we have fought so hard ~~for~~ over the years -- are America's exclusive tool for building a safer, freer world.

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skyscrapers and the smokestacks to the green fields and the
farm families who are ~~the~~ fundamental source of America's
strength.

 L His farm programs have already meant new prosperity
for the American farmer.

 L His new programs will mean more in the future -- more
income...more security...more protection for the productive people
who stand for that which is best in America. ~~---~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE CONFERENCE
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

REMARKS

BY THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY,
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 28, 1968

REPORTED BY:
ELIZABETH OVERBY, REPORTER
POST OFFICE BOX 17633
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27609

(The Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey, Vice President of the United States, was introduced to the State Conference by the Honorable Dan K. Moore, Governor of North Carolina).

MR. HUMPHREY:

Thank you very much, Governor Dan Moore, the Governor of this great State of North Carolina; Governor, every time you greet me at the airport, every time that you've been gracious enough and kind enough, you and Mrs. Moore, to receive me into your great state, I feel like I'm a full-fledged "tar heel" and I just want to thank you very much for your courtesy and your welcome.

And Horace Godfrey; I said awhile ago, "Well, Horace, I see this is your home-coming." He's a very popular man down around these parts and in many other parts of the country. And permit me now for the first time to salute Horace Godfrey for his great service to American agriculture; Horace, we're very, very proud of you.

I know that all of you are as unhappy as I am that members of the congressional delegation cannot be with you today; Senator Ervin and Senator Jordan had hoped to journey with us to this meeting but the two senators are busy in the Senate of the United States on roll call

votes. My hope and my prayer is that there's not a tie vote. Because that's the one time that the Vice President can vote. And I never know what the boys will do to me up there; sometimes when I'm out of town, why, a few of my best friends decide to play some games and tie it up, so if you see me leaving the platform in a hurry, it'll most likely be because there's a tie vote.

These two senators of yours have served you very faithfully; they're highly respected members of the United States Senate, and I know that both of them would want me to bring to you their warm personal greetings and more than that, the pledge of their continued support because they are both great friends, working friends, trusted friends of agriculture and they give of themselves to the good of this state and this nation, and I take the privilege as the President of the United States Senate and Vice President of the United States to commend both Senator Ervin and Senator Jordan for their fine service in behalf of their state and their country.

Now, I want to tell this audience that the Office of the Vice President has been doing better right along. We have more and more North Carolinians in our staff. I brought a couple of them along with me; I don't know for

the life of me why we left one of the other pretty ones back there, I'll have to check that out. But I have, first of all, one of my fine secretaries who works long hours and very faithfully and very efficiently with me and she's from Wrightsville, North Carolina, and her name is Marsha Shepherd. Marsha, where are you? You'd better stand up and let the folks see you.

You do raise pretty girls down here. And then I have Miss Raleigh who use to attend Meredith College and is just one of the loveliest, most beautiful young ladies that you'll ever lay your eyes upon and that's Kitty Hardenburg. Kitty, where are you?

And for some reason or another we didn't get Margaret Powell along with us, but she also is a Carolinian and when she answers that telephone, fellows, and starts giving them a little of that Carolina accent, you'd be surprised how many votes the Vice President winds up with right away - it's really good!

I came here to talk to a group of men and women that have long been very close to my heart. I think most of you know that my background is from the State of South Dakota and Minnesota - rural area, I live in a small community now in Minnesota of about four hundred people, Waverly, Minnesota, in the farm area of our state. I served for twelve years on the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry in the United States Senate. I had a hand as one legislator in much of the legislation that today is on the statute books of our country relating to agriculture. It was my privilege as the majority whip of the United States Senate to help pass the Agricultural Act, to help get through the Agricultural Act of 1965 which is the basic law of American agriculture today. The Food for Peace program and the Food for Freedom program, our Public Law 480 - these were items of legislation into which I threw myself with all of the vigor and enthusiasm that one could muster. Farmers and farm families in rural America - very, very important to all of us, and today I want to talk to you about that part of America. It isn't as if we're separate because urban America and rural America are one and inseparable. There is no way that we can divide nor should we. And what I have to say will be about our country and in part

also the relationship of rural America to this nation.

There is a poem that describes North Carolina as a place ". . . where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great." What a wonderful description of this state. It's really a story of America. Because the story of this land of ours is a story of plain people becoming great people; of the common people taking on the great burdens; it's the story of what somebody would call on modern television "mission impossible," only we made it possible. That's the mark of greatness. Anybody can do what is ordinarily possible. It takes a great people and a great nation to do what people think or have said was impossible. So North Carolina, where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great, I love the spirit of this state. It represents such great social, economic progress. How good it is to be in this area of higher education with these great universities and colleges. It tells something about the quality of the people. Because truly you judge a nation not by the goods that it produces but by the kind of people that it produces.

Now, the poem of North Carolina has a great ring of truth in it because this land, this state is a land of promise and you don't have to look far to find many examples of it.

We're meeting here today in one corner of your dynamic Research Triangle. I've been long familiar with this development; it's one of the truly great experiments of economic development underway in our nation. The Research Triangle is succeeding because it has fused the energy of three fine universities with private industry and government with the research and technology that it needs.

But there is another, deeper reason. You are providing the kind of human climate in which industry and agriculture can thrive side by side - where people can freely choose, make a real choice as to whether they want to live in the cities, in the towns or on the farm and still have an equal chance to share in American prosperity. And the keystone to democracy is freedom of choice. Not a choice that is meaningless but a genuine, real choice where there are real alternatives. And I believe that North Carolina offers that.

The headlines tell us daily that America faces an urban crisis. And that is true. But it is a rural crisis as well. The slums in our cities are filled with people or the children of people who packed up and left farms and small towns, primarily because they couldn't find decent jobs, or had inadequate income, couldn't

find decent schools or decent hospitals or decent opportunity. I regret to say that this is in part the picture of some areas of rural America. And that migration is continuing today. People by the hundreds of thousands pouring out of rural America into the great mass of the metropolitan city - where the relationships are impersonal, where the environment is foreign, where the reception at best is cold. You see, rural trouble means city trouble and a sure way to attack the urban crisis is to attack it at its root causes - to be right back at the rural areas of America. And until rural America - all of it - becomes a rewarding and inviting place to live, until we can make rural America worthy of the promise of America, we will be that much farther from stopping the costly and material waste that goes on relentlessly in our cities today. We literally have millions of people in our cities today that are foreigners; they have had no experience in industrialization or urban living; they did not leave rural America by free choice; many of them left because they had no other choice. Now this means one thing above all else: it means that prosperous agriculture must be the key and must be the objective of our country. And the health and wellbeing of American agriculture depends very heavily on the job that you county

committeemen and you community committeemen and your state committeemen and your county office managers and clerks do; this committee system of which I'm so familiar, with which I've worked so closely in my home state of Minnesota, this committee system is the backbone of farm program administration. It is one of the unique developments of our government and our society. No other government in the world has this kind of decentralized, locally oriented committee system to administer a vast federal program of economic development and economic improvement for a world society. The vast majority of the men and women who are part of this system have a firm understanding of the programs that they administer. How wonderful it is, those who are the county committeemen and the community committeemen and the others - they're very pragmatic, not filled with doctrine or dogma but they are the practical people who seek to find answers by trying, experimentation. And they are imaginative. They are sensitive to the needs of their neighbors. They personalize and humanize big government. They are public servants in the highest and finest sense and we are able to respond quickly and flexibly to the needs of this nation's farm population because of what you do, what you committeemen, community and

county and state committeemen and county office managers and the clerks, what you do, and I want every one of you to know that your President, your Vice President and indeed the entire citizenry of this country is indebted to you and appreciates your fine service.

Now, what are our needs and how shall we respond? There's always something to do. America is a restless country; we set our own standards; we are never content with the achievements of yesterday or should we be. I've always believed that each generation should make its own history and not be content with reading the history of its predecessors. And you are making history. You are shaping this economy; you're helping to develop an entire new society. So, how shall we respond to these challenges?

Not long ago President Johnson sent his new farm message to the Congress. I think it's the best farm message that's ever gone up to the Congress. It's a great message of possible achievement, of accomplish if we but will it and put ourselves to it. Now, that message included these words:

" . . . The American farmer, who helped to build America's prosperity," and you have, " still does not fully or fairly share in it. While retail

"food prices have risen in recent years, the prices the farmer receives have actually declined nine percent in the past two decades." Said the President, "too many rural communities have been bypassed in the climb to abundance, the poverty of their people standing in stark contrast to the wealth of the land."

In those few words the President synthesized, summarized, the challenge and the problem. He told us then too, why it is that the young, so many leave the land. He told us in those words why it is that rural America today is the beginning of the urban crisis in urban America.

President Johnson then went on to outline his program for fiscal 1969, for this coming year, with the Congress. The first thing that he did was to call for prompt and permanent renewal of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1965. This is important business. He asked Congress to renew this legislation in 1968, one full year before it expires, because the 1969 programs will have been announced for commodities covered by this Act before the Congress meets next year. The President thought and I think that it was best to get this job

done before the heat of politics beclouded all of the values of the legislation. In other words, to do it now. And why? Because farmers, like prudent businessmen, ought to be able to plan in advance. They ought to know what the tomorrow is going to offer insofar as legislation and program is concerned. They ought not to be left to the wild and tempestuous winds of politics in the elections of 1968 which can deny them the chance to plan their crop year and their production for 1969. I think the nation owes it to the farmer to tell him what the rules of the game will be for the next year.

Our present legislation works - and it works better than any farm program this country has had before. I don't say it works perfectly. No man has been more forthright and frank about the limitations of our present effort than the Secretary of Agriculture. By the way, the Secretary wanted me to bring you his warm regards today. The Secretary is a remarkable man. He is a life-long friend of mine, he's a very devoted, hard-working public servant but the best thing about the Secretary is his wife - she was born in North Carolina and she's bright and pretty. I hope you're getting the message - you folks are kind of wired into this government!

You have Horace Godfrey, Mrs. Freeman, three secretaries in the Vice President's office, I don't know what more you really want; however, I'm not sure, there are so many candidates these days you may want one of those, I'm not sure at all!

You and I know that the programs of the 1960's have been a tremendous improvement over those of the 1950's despite what our urban critics have to say. You know some of the most volatile criticism of farm programs comes from people who live on pavement, in penthouses and row houses. I don't say they don't know about the legislation but I don't think you really much understand what goes on in rural America until you live there, until you feel it, until you're there with the people and sense what they have to do, what their problems are, what their hopes and aspirations are. But I don't think I'll be contradicted by many voices if I were to say that with all of the imperfections that the programs of the 1960's, starting with John Kennedy and now with Lyndon Johnson, are a tremendous improvement over those of the 1950's under none other than that former Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Benson. Although 1967 wasn't as good as we would have liked, in fact it wasn't as good a year as 1966, realized net farm income

adjusted for inflation and price, realized net farm income - that's the purchasing power income - for this nation, was still twenty-five percent higher in 1967 than in 1960. We think that at least represents a bench mark that's worth holding to, and not receding from it. Here in North Carolina realized net farm income per farm was thirty-five percent higher in 1967 than in 1960. You did a little better. Of course, we expect you to do so.

Indeed, our present farm programs achieved more acceptance and better results in North Carolina than almost anywhere in this nation, and I think one of the reasons is the group that I'm looking at right out here in front of me, because you do the job.

Let's take a look now at a program that's very important out in the midwest and of course it's important here. It's called the feed grain program. The feed grain sign up is a good example and that's where you have to go to work. And that's where the farmer makes his voluntary choice.

North Carolina ranks near the top in the nation in the percentage of participation. You're good salesmen, but I might add you had a good commodity.

I am pleased to see that almost a million and a half

American farms have been signed up to participate in the 1968 feed grain program nationwide. Now, that's the best public opinion poll that you can get on a program. Not how you answer some fellow that comes knocking at your door and says, "how do you feel about this?" Most people are so independent they wouldn't give an honest answer that way, they kind of like to just louse up the questionnaire. Just sort of trip him and trick him - at least, that's the reaction that some of my friends have and I've had a little of it myself. But when you really sign the program - put your name on the contract - you begin to find out whether a person likes it or doesn't like it. And one and a half million American farms have signed to participate in the 1968 feed grain program. It now appears that over thirty-four million acres will be diverted from production of corn and grain sorghum in 1968 - acres that will be conserved, acres that are there when they are needed, acres that are not needed today. And that's going to mean a lot to the farmers all over the United States but especially here in your state where almost four out of every ten dollars in farm income comes from the sale of livestock products. For it's an economic fact, a fact of life, that cheap feed means

cheap livestock. You don't have to get a bachelor of science or arts degree or a master of science degree to learn that - you just have to spend one year on a farm where you have cheap feed and find out what happens to the price of pork and beef and other livestock. They go up and down together. So when a feed grain program works and the price of feed grain is reasonably good you have some assurance that the price of livestock will be reasonably good.

Now, we also need good dairy prices to insure adequate supplies of milk and dairy products for the year ahead. Our dairy herds are diminishing. Dairy farming is hard work. It's costly. How I wish I could get some people to understand this. I don't know of any more difficult and burdensome job than to run a dairy farm, to be a dairy farmer, to have to live up to the federal and state and local regulations, to put in that expensive equipment, to have to go through all of the uncertainties that's in that business, to get up as early as you have to get up and to go to bed as late as you have to go to bed and to get as little reward as you get. The dairy farmer is one American who still does not earn the minimum wage. And your government is trying to take remedial steps as best we can.

Just last week, Secretary Freeman announced an increase in the dairy price support level to the highest legally permissible level - ninety percent of parity for the marketing year beginning April 1. That's not going to give an exorbitant price, it's not going to hurt the consumer, it may have the effect of at least giving some ray of hope and stability to the dairy farmers of this nation and, believe me, they deserve it. A good dairy agriculture means good conservation. And conservation is really investing in the future of America. And the dairy farms of America are the pioneers in conservation. Maybe I have a little parochial interest because out my way we've had thousands and thousands of dairy farmers and all too many of them are facing rising costs and slumping prices and they have become the casualties - the casualties of our economy. We want to prevent that if we can and we need understanding in metropolitan areas as well as rural areas. The American farmer needs to have a public that appreciates his work, appreciates his role in it, the American farmer is a minority and if any man and woman believes in minority rights then he better start standing up for the rights of the producers of food and fibre in this republic.

Our present farm programs are designed to protect farmers. But protection is not enough to guarantee the American farmer a fair price in the marketplace. These programs are minimum protections. They are the best that we can get through a Congress that is essentially urban oriented. Our farmers are going to have to bargain for equity just like other people do. And they want to bargain. And they want to do it legitimately. They want to do it peacefully. And the President in his agriculture message, for the first time, has asked the Congress to look into the ways and the means of strengthening farm bargaining power - to give Mr. Farmer some control over the price of his product - something to say in that marketplace. Farmers are the only businessmen left in America who are still forced to sell their products at wholesale prices set by somebody else and to buy their production supplies at retail prices and prices set by somebody else. You can't win that way. It's heads, I win; tails, I lose. You're just out of business. Farmers are especially vulnerable when it comes to commodities not covered by the present farm programs; livestock, poultry, fruits, vegetables, which supply almost sixty percent of all the gross farm income of this nation.

The farmer who produces these items sells them not necessarily for a fair price or for what a support price would guarantee, but he sells them for what he can get. Now, when you go in to buy anything else they charge you so much - there's a price ticket on it. You didn't have anything really to say about it, it's on there, it's called "list price."

I was born above a drug store, raised inside of one, and we put a price on a tube of Mentholatum, there's a price on a bottle of aspirin tablets; we put the price on - "we charge you so much," your doctor, your lawyer charges you so much. But Mr. Farmer can't charge anybody anything. Somebody says, "well, we'll give you so much; you'll get so much." Well, when you're on the giving end and the getting end and the other fellow's on the charging end, you've had it, and Mr. Farmer knows it!

Your government and your officers of government are very aware of this. We need and with the need for bargaining power in mind, we recently made a fundamental change, for example, in price support loan policy, to enable more farmers to maintain control of their products, of their grain, in particular, until they decided to sell it. When crop loans expired

under the old regulations, the government took over the stored grain, and at some point, it simply had to sell it because the Congress has ordered the Department to dispose of the surplus. There was no way that the government could get this grain off its hands without some way influencing the market and it meant depressing the market. The new policy set by the President, President Johnson and Secretary Freeman returns this marketing decision to the producers, allowing the producers to retain the title while extending the loan under a resale program. The resale privilege applies whether the grain is in private or public storage. Now, this approach makes sense, and it creates bargaining power for farmers. And we hope they use it to improve their prices.

You see, what I'm saying is, repeated, farmers need bargaining power. Why? Everybody else has it. Business has it, labor has it, teachers have it, doctors have it, lawyers have it; and my good friends, do you think you can go downtown to the local newspaper and bargain with them on advertising rates? They charge you so much. Do you think you can go to the doctor and bargain or to the lawyer? He has a fee, and he rightly should - I'm not complaining. Farmers need

to get into the same action - they want it and they should have the right and the opportunity to use it to better control their economic destiny.

Now, let me make these points about successful bargaining: when you reduce the supply under the tobacco program 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 government-held stocks of wheat and feed grains, farm bargaining power was increased. When you improve nutrition under the school milk and school lunch program, the food stamp and the domestic donation programs, farm bargaining power is increased. When you increase the number of people with the ability to buy food and to pay for it as this administration has done in reducing unemployment and fighting poverty, farm bargaining power is increased. When you have the ability to maintain a reasonable supply-demand balance, farm bargaining power is increased, and that's what we've been trying to do - to increase the power of that farm producer, to have control over his own economic destiny. And today we have farm programs that are critically important to preserving that supply-demand balance. They deserve to be defended, by you, because believe me, they have their enemies and they

need to be defended. Those farm programs are under attack right now.

More than twenty bills were introduced in this Congress just this past year that would for all practical purposes terminate, do away with, all existing farm programs - twenty of them. And we know that if those programs were terminated, farm income would drop at a minimum one-third - one-third. That would be a major economic catastrophe to America. It would make our balance of payments problem look insignificant. It would make the run on the gold look less important than it is. You can't afford it to happen. Yet, we have people today who would have it to happen. And the only way to protect it is by a better understanding of the people and the people speaking to their Congress.

Now, we got a preview of what can happen when a bill to establish a strategic grain reserve was killed last year in sub-committee in the House of Representatives. And I can tell you how it got killed. Five members of that sub-committee that served in the Eighty-Ninth Congress were defeated in the elections of 1966. Five new members were put on and the new members as a result of those elections were not friends of agriculture and they stuck the pitchfork in the back of that farm program

and that means in the back of that farmer.

So we're holding the line. We're putting up a last ditch battle in the Congress of the United States. We need your understanding. You have an obligation to the farm people that you represent. You have an obligation if you believe that these programs are meritorious to fight for them; you're a citizen, you're not denied the right to speak up, there is no law on the book that says you can't speak your mind - there are laws on the books that say if you're a federal official under civil service, you cannot participate in partisan party activities, political activity; never mind the partisanship; if you find a Democrat that isn't helping you, get rid of him! If you find a Republican that isn't helping you, get rid of him! And that's just about as bi-partisan as you can get.

A third ingredient in President Johnson's message on agriculture is the establishment of this national food bank to which I have referred - a security commodity reserve. It has been evident for some time that there is a limit to the amount of grains the commercial trade will carry without forcing prices down. Millers and exporters are naturally reluctant to buy and hold grain when bumper crops might lead to

lower prices. They're businessmen. If they can get lower prices because of bumper crops they will most likely want to take advantage of it.

But it is equally evident that there are limits to what the present farm program can do in tightening down on over supplies, because of recent price slumps. The reason that wheat prices went down this year and feed grain prices, is because world-wide there were the greatest crops that we've known for fifty years. And the world market today has an effect upon domestic markets. This world of ours shrinks in size and where some years past we could isolate our feed grains like you could a lake, today the feed grain and wheat supply is like one mighty ocean. And when the levels rise we are all flooded. When the levels go down we are all safe. No system of production estimates, no matter how clever that forecaster and that weather prophet; however carefully developed, can be entirely accurate.

In fact, our weathermen are really hedgy in these days. They use to tell you ten years ago that it would rain or it wouldn't rain and the sun would shine; and it would be cloudy and it would be cold. Today they have it like this: it's a twenty percent chance to rain, or a seventy percent chance to rain. Boy, how

I wish we could get by with that in politics. It would surely be nice if we could just have that leeway. When you're in the Senate of the United States, you have to vote "yes" or "no." I used to say to myself, if only I could vote "maybe," how happy!

Well, we've seen the droughts and the floods and the searing winds and we know what they can do to production. We've seen extreme wet weather and disease cut production and we've seen unusually high production, abroad and at home, adversely affect prices. And our needs will fluctuate in this world scene, particularly as we continue to make what the President has called our humane response to the hardship and hunger that may strike other nations. This nation has poured out billions of dollars in food and fibre supplies to the needy people of the world - billions of dollars - the greatest single act of compassion and a peace-making that any nation has ever undertaken. This is a tremendous thing for our people. With the national food bank we would make deposits when production is high and we would make withdrawals or sales under carefully guided restricted conditions when production is short. That's the purpose of the food bank. The Secretary of Agriculture would have authority to purchase additional reserves in the

open market, before prices drop to support levels, and these stocks would be insulated from the commercial market and would not be sold at less than parity adjusted for government payments. Now, the President has said, "A national food bank can provide important protection for all Americans." Not just farmers, all Americans. ". . . The farmer will not have to bear the burden of depressed prices when production exceeds current needs. . . . The consumer will be protected from unanticipated food scarcity. . . . The government will have a reserve stock 'cushion' in making acreage allotment decisions, and in responding to international emergencies."

This past year your government on four occasions was called upon in international emergencies to prevent starvation, and we responded. I think it is fair to say that had it not been for the Government of the United States that from forty-five to fifty million people in India and Pakistan alone this past year would have died of malnutrition and starvation. I think it's about time that we recognize that food is a tremendous source for good. The late Pope John XXIII said:

"Where there is constant want there is no peace."

And let me say from this platform, the scriptures are right: "Blessed are the peace-makers. ." - Not the talkers, the walkers, the paraders or the sign-carriers, but the people that build the sinews of peace!

I would like to visit with you just briefly about this Food for Freedom program - food for peace.

The President has proposed that this Act be extended for three years. Last year the American farmers kept, as I said, literally millions of people around the world from starvation and they improved the diet of millions more - a hundred and fifty million boys and girls in Latin America and Africa alone are today getting decent food for the first time in their lives, because of American agriculture and the policy of the Government of the United States.

School lunch programs that mean the difference between starvation and health, that mean the difference between ignorance and education - the child follows the lunch, and when that school lunch from American food that is given and granted by this government comes to those countries, the children come to the school, gain an education; when that lunch is reduced or cut off the children do not come to the school - they're too tired, too sick, too weary. How many in this room know

that protein deficiency literally wrecks havoc on the intellectual ability of a child. The deficiency of protein causes mental disability and when we are able to provide protein as we have we not only save a body, we save a mind, and when we save a body and save a mind we save a life and I know of no program that has done more to save lives which is what America wants to do, than the program of Food for Freedom and Food for Peace which has come from the farm people of America through a government that understood its moral responsibility in this world.

But there is more than a humanitarian justification. Good enough as that is. Food aid has also meant economic development which in turn has created new markets for American agricultural products. I saw food aid, my dear friends, in Indonesia. Corn meal being used by Indonesians as payment for work in cleaning out their irrigation ditches, in doing soil erosion control - Indonesia that only in the last three years has purged itself of complete communist control - Indonesia that stood in 1965 with the dagger of communism in its throat - until America took her stand in Southeast Asia, defending first of all the cause of freedom in that part of the world and secondly, offering to the people of Indonesia some economic assistance and primarily food

assistance so that their young people could live.

Death and starvation stalked the land.

I went into Central Java as your Vice President in the month of October, last year, and I went there into what they called a dangerous area, the center of the Communist Party of Indonesia. I landed on an airstrip that hadn't been used for years. I got into a little Chevrolet car and went down dusty roads, and I saw thousands and in one group, twenty thousand young men and women working cleaning out irrigation ditches and cleaning up the land, being paid by corn meal on an incentive plan - the longer they worked, the more they worked - the more corn they received. And they were literally months ahead of schedule, far beyond what anybody had dreamed. And my fellow Americans, you would be interested to know that there had been no advance notice of this journey because of what they thought were security hazards. When I came back at about four o'clock in the afternoon, that was about eight in the morning when I went there, when I came back at four o'clock in the afternoon, for forty kilometers, there were literally a million and a half people standing alongside of the road, singing out, "Merdeka! Merdecka! America!" which means "Freedom! Freedom! America! Thank you, thank you!" And

they had little home-made signs that didn't say nasty things, but said "Thank you, America! Thank you, America!"

I saw the same thing in Tunisia just this month and a half ago on my trip to Africa. Oh, it makes you feel good, makes you know that something good is happening. But it's economic development.

Let me show you Japan, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Spain and many other countries, which only a few years ago were receiving assistance under U. S. Food Aid, are now the best dollar customers for our farm exports and without our farm exports, my dear friends, our balance of trade would not be in balance. The difference, the margin of safety for the American dollar today, the margin of safety for the American dollar are the agricultural exports from America and from American farms - that's the difference right there!

And by the way, Horace, I believe I'm right, North Carolina exports and has been I believe on the average of about three hundred million dollars a year or better than that. Well, I thought it'd be a little better if I'd ask Horace! He does exaggerate a little bit.

It's so important to understand this. You see, food aid then is economic development, it is more than good-neighborliness - it's good business.

And in a hungry world, strong, productive, independent American family farms amount to no less than a massive defense system in the cause of peace. A massive defense system in the cause of peace. Just remember that. I wish there'd be a flag on every farm in America. I wish that somehow or another we could have that as a symbol to show that this is really our security reserve. Because without this production, without this family farm system there is no security for America. We would be a helpless people in this world today - who would feed us? Who could we look to? We have to depend upon ourselves and at the same time help others.

So maybe one day we'll be able to drive down the road and see on every farm in America an American flag just as you see it in a military installation, but the flag of peace which says that we are a part of the great defense system in the cause of peace - the American farmer. No nation on the face of this earth can equal it or even come close to it. Food power and the food aid programs for which we have fought so hard for the years, are America's exclusive tool for building a safer, more peaceful, and freer world. I have had a hand in this and I'm proud to say it; my life in the Congress has been dedicated to what I think is the cause of peace.

I've had the privilege of authoring the Peace Corps, as a co-author of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and now as your Vice President as one of the negotiators of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty. I am one of the co-sponsors of the Food for Peace program, the author of the Disarmament Agency, and when I see some people accuse us of not wanting peace, I say "Lord, God, forgive them for they know not what they do" - indeed, we want it!

And we've placed a new emphasis on our Food for Freedom program. That new emphasis is that we're exchanging commodities for commitments. Not political commitments which cannot be bought from any respectable sovereign nation - but commitments to build farm-to-market roads, to adopt incentive price policies, to build fertilizer plants, to feed the children, to save the people. Every single contract under Food for Freedom is a negotiated contract under Title I and under Title IV. And Horace Godfrey can tell you that we spend months negotiating contracts with recipient nations to see that that food which they get which they may purchase even for their currency under Title I - that that money which is loaned back to them will go into fertilizer and go into schools and go into roads and go into rural electric cooperatives - go into the building of farm cooperatives.

You see, that's the kind of commitments that we're making. So few people seem to know it. But this is the peace-making in this world. And it's nation building, nation building.

Let me conclude with you. I have spoken today of a better deal for the American farmer. This is my life's work. I have been interested in people who have never had quite a fair break in life. That's the only reason that a man ought to be in politics.

Franklin Roosevelt once said that it was not the duty of government to see that those who already had too much got more but rather that those who had too little were able to gain enough.

We're trying to open up the gates of opportunity. We're not trying to build a society based upon handouts and relief and welfare. We're trying to build not a welfare state but a state of opportunity throughout this land. Every man his chance, every person, regardless of race, creed or color - regardless of his ethnic origin, regardless of his birth or how he spells his name - everybody - a chance to live and to work and to make of himself whatever his manhood and his vision can combine to make of him - that is the promise of America. And it is, ladies and gentlemen, that's what America

means. It means hope - it means being somebody - it means self-respect; it means dignity. And it means that we care for people.

I told a group the other day in Washington; it was a religious group that met there and I was asked to come over and I don't parade around my religion. I think that's a rather personal business. But I recall listening to a minister in a church back home. One Sunday morning he gave a sermon and it was a wonderful message. And the theme of it was and he had it on the program as they always print the title - "The way you treat people is the way you treat God." I guess that's about as direct as you can get.

And Thomas Jefferson said, "The only legitimate objective and purpose of government," the only one, "is the health, the happiness and the wellbeing of the people."

And the Constitution of the United States lays down but two requirements, just two. You can read all the rest of it, and I've read it a thousand times and am a former teacher of American Government; there are just two requirements under the Constitution that you have to do: To provide for the common defense and to promote the general welfare. The rest of it

is optional. But those two things you are required to do when you take the oath of office - when you swear to uphold that Constitution - to provide for the common defense, not to tear it down, not to ignore it; and to promote the general welfare, and that means for all of the people.

Well, this is what I mean by a little better deal for those who have been left out, for those who have been left behind, whether it's in the cities, in the slums or whether it's in rural America. But we know that this is more than just a subject of dollars and cents. There are all kinds of poverty. The easiest poverty to cure is the poverty in the purse - just write out a check. For a rich country that's the easiest way and some people feel we ought to do it. But the poverty that's crippling this nation is not the poverty of the purse, it's the poverty of the spirit - the poverty of helplessness, of inadequacy, of ignorance, of illiteracy, of despair; whatever may be the causes, those are the things that gnaw at people and men literally have to be re-born these days as we try to rescue them from lack of any feeling of concern and care. What we're really talking about then is the quality of life. And I've been trying to talk to you a little bit about

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 and most of us have it. We're talking better schools and better hospitals and we're talking about communities that can afford the public services which will attract new industries, new job opportunities and new income. And Governor Moore and this state is doing just that. In this state where there are new opportunities and new industries, new jobs, new technology, new universities, new schools, new income, this is what we mean by building America. And we're talking about making it possible for rural youngsters to stay on the farm, stay in their home towns and still be able to look forward to a full and rewarding life - to see as much there as they see on the television in some place far away.

Today for every hundred and seventy-five rural youngsters who reach working age, there are fewer than one hundred jobs in their area. This year, two hundred thousand of these 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 loved ones, friends and family but weaken the world communities, weaken them spiritually

as well as economically.

Now, I'm for giving these youngsters and every other American a choice, 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, those cities should be clean, wholesome and safe. And let me underline all three. Today, often they are not. If they want to live in a small town or in or near a small farm they should be able to do so and enjoy a maximum standard of living in every way. Today they often cannot. The key to a fully developed America, and one of the most important keys to the dilemma of urban blight, the urban crisis which confronts us today, is economic and social equity: economic and social equality for the American farmer. Today too often they do not have it and the young leave the farm and the old live out their lives. Modern America must not only be in the city. A hundred million more Americans will be in this nation in the next thirty years. Where are they going to live? Are we going to jam them into the metropolitan areas already overcrowded, already with almost insurmountable problems, or are we going to find living space? Seventy percent of the population of America now lives on

one percent of its land. You would think that we just didn't want to ever get away from each other at all. Somehow, some way, we must make the great America that is rural between the great metropolitan centers more inviting. I think it can be done. And that's what we are talking about.

President Johnson's farm program is more than prices. It is a message that is nothing less than a declaration of parity for rural America. It's just his message though, his promise, his hope, his dream, and it requires action by Congress and by people. That message, a declaration of parity, asks full parity in income or as they say out my way - a hundred percent parity in income; full parity in opportunity - a hundred percent parity in opportunity; full parity in good living - a hundred percent parity in good living; and full parity in community life and citizenship - a hundred percent parity there, too. To have less is to fail to meet the need. Rural America has a friend in the White House. A man who knows farmers, lives with them; a man who understands agriculture, who all of his legislative life never once failed his rural constituents, never once let the American farmer down; from the

beginning of REA up through the programs of price supports and crop loans, to the very day that he sits at the helm of this government, the President of the United States has an unmistakable full record of unflinching support to the best interests of American agriculture. He's a man whose vision of a better America extends beyond the skyscrapers and the smokestacks, to the green fields and the farm families who are a fundamental source of America's strength. His farm programs have already meant new opportunity, new prosperity for thousands of American farmers; indeed, for many, many thousands. And his new programs will mean in the future better income, more income, more security, more protection, for the productive people who stand for that which is best for America.

You know, Thomas Jefferson left us with some words that I leave with you. He wrote, "Those who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God, if ever he had a chosen people."

I sometimes think that in the hurley-burley of modern living we've sort of forgotten it. If ever there was a chosen farmer, it is the American farmer, and I submit that it is time that we started honoring him accordingly. By fact, by deed, by word, by action,

and I salute today the representatives of those farmers. I ask you to go back to your areas, to your counties, to your communities; I ask you to take at least this message, this message of commitment, this message of desire to be of help; I ask you to tell us what more you think we can do or ought to do; I ask you to join the partnership of equality of opportunity - the partnership of parity and progress for all Americans. And indeed, for rural Americans. And if we can work together, my fellow Americans, there's no power on the face of this earth that can stop our success.

So let's get on with the job. Thank you very much.

I came here to talk to a group of men and women that have long been very close to my heart. I think most of you know that my background is from the State of South Dakota and Minnesota - rural area, I live in a small community now in Minnesota of about four hundred people, Waverly, Minnesota, in the farm area of our State. I served for twelve years on the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry in the United States Senate. I had a hand as one legislator in much of the legislation that today is on the statute books of our country relating to agriculture. It was my privilege as the majority whip of the United States Senate to help pass the Agricultural Act, to help get through the Agricultural Act of 1965 which is the basic law of American agriculture today. The Food for Peace program and the Food for Freedom program, our Public Law 480, these were items of legislation into which I threw myself with all of the vigor and enthusiasm that one could muster. Farmers and farm families in rural America - very, very important to all of us, and today I want to talk to you about that part of America. It isn't as if we're separate because urban America and rural America are one and inseparable. There is no way that we can divide nor should we. And what I have to say will be about our country and in part also the relationship of rural America to this nation.

Dale 534-6294

There is a poem that describes North Carolina as a place ". . . where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great". What a wonderful description of this State. It's really a story of America. Because the story of this land of ours is a story of plain people becoming great people; of the common people taking on the great burdens;

Remarks by the Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey, Vice President of the United States, at the North Carolina ASCS State Conference, Raleigh, North Carolina, Thursday, March 28, 1968.

it's the story of what somebody would call on modern television "mission impossible," only we made it possible. That's the mark of greatness. Anybody can do what is ordinarily possible. It takes a great people and a great nation to do what people think or have said was impossible. So North Carolina, where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great, I love the spirit of this State. It represents such great social, economic progress. How good it is to be in this area of higher education with these great universities and colleges. It tells something about the quality of the people. Because truly you judge a nation not by the goods that it produces but by the kind of people that it produces.

Now, the poem of North Carolina has a great ring of truth in it because this land, this State is a land of promise and you don't have to look far to find many examples of it.

We're meeting here today in one corner of your dynamic Research Triangle. I've long been familiar with this development; it's one of the truly great experiments of economic development underway in our nation. The Research Triangle is succeeding because it has fused the energy of three fine universities with private industry and government with the research and technology that it needs.

But there is another, deeper reason. You are providing the kind of human climate in which industry and agriculture can thrive side by side - where people can freely choose, make a real choice as to whether they want to live in the cities, in the towns or on the farm, and still have an equal chance to share in American prosperity. And the keystone to democracy is freedom of choice. Not a choice that is meaningless but a genuine, real choice where there are real alternatives. And I believe that North Carolina offers that.

The headlines tell us daily that America faces an urban crisis. And that is true. But it is a rural crisis as well. The slums in our cities are filled with people or the children of people who packed and left farms and small towns, primarily because they couldn't find decent jobs, or had inadequate income, and couldn't find decent schools or decent hospitals or decent opportunity. I regret to say that this is in part the picture of some areas of rural America. And that migration is continuing today. People by the hundreds of thousands pouring out of rural America into the great mass of the metropolitan city - where the relationships are impersonal, where the environment is foreign, where the reception at best is cold. You see, rural trouble means city trouble and a sure way to attack the urban crisis is to attack it at its root causes - to be right back at the rural areas of America. And until rural America - all of it - becomes a rewarding and inviting place to live, until we can make rural America worthy of the promise of America, we will be that much farther from stopping the costly and material waste that goes on relentlessly in our cities today. We literally have millions of people in our cities today that are foreigners; they have had no experience in industrialization or urban living; they did not leave rural America by free choice; many of them left because they had no other choice. Now this means one thing above all else: it means that prosperous agriculture must be the key and must be the objective of our country. And the health and wellbeing of American agriculture depends very heavily on the job that you county committeemen and you community committeemen and your State committeemen and your county office managers and clerks do; this committee system of which I'm so familiar, with which I've worked so closely in my home State of Minnesota, this committee system

is the backbone of farm program administration. It is one of the unique developments of our government and our society. No other government in the world has this kind of decentralized, locally oriented committee system to administer a vast federal program of economic development and economic improvement for a world society. The vast majority of the men and women who are part of this system have a firm understanding of the programs that they administer. How wonderful it is, those who are the county committeemen and the community committeemen and the others - they're very pragmatic, not filled with doctrine or dogma but they are the practical people who seek to find answers by trying, experimentation. And they are imaginative. They are sensitive to the needs of their neighbors. They personalize and humanize big government. They are public servants in the highest and finest sense and we are able to respond quickly and flexibly to the needs of this nation's farm population because of what you do, what you committeemen, community and county and State committeemen and county office managers and the clerks, what you do, and I want every one of you to know that your President, your Vice President and indeed the entire citizenry of this country is indebted to you and appreciates your fine service.

Now, what are our needs and how shall we respond? There's always something to do. America is a restless country; we set our own standards; we are never content with the achievements of yesterday or should we be. I've always believed that each generation should make its own history and not be content with reading the history of its predecessors. And you are making history. You are shaping this economy; you're helping to develop an entire new society. So, how shall we respond to

these challenges?

Not long ago President Johnson sent his new farm message to the Congress. I think it's the best farm message that's ever gone up to the Congress. It's a great message of possible achievement, of accomplishment if we but will it and put ourselves to it. Now, that message included these words:

". . . The American farmer, who helped to build America's prosperity," and you have, "still does not fully or fairly share in it. While retail food prices have risen in recent years, the prices the farmer receives have actually declined nine percent in the past two decades." Said the President, "too many rural communities have been bypassed in the climb to abundance, the poverty of their people standing in stark contrast to the wealth of the land."

In those few words the President synthesized, summarized, the challenge and the problem. He told us then too, why it is that the young, so many leave the land. He told us in those words why it is that rural America today is the beginning of the urban crisis in urban America.

President Johnson then went on to outline his program for fiscal 1969, for this coming year, with the Congress. The first thing that he did was to call for prompt and permanent renewal of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1965. This is important business. He asked Congress to renew this legislation in 1968, one full year before it expires, because the 1969 programs will have been announced for commodities covered by this Act before the Congress meets next year. The President thought and I think that it was best to get this job done before the heat of politics beclouded all

of the values of the legislation. In other words, to do it now. And why? Because farmers, like prudent businessmen, ought to be able to plan in advance. They ought to know what the tomorrow is going to offer insofar as legislation and program is concerned. They ought not to be left to the wild and tempestuous winds of politics in the elections of 1968 which can deny them the chance to plan their crop year and their production for 1969. I think the nation owes it to the farmer to tell him what the rules of the game will be for the next year.

Our present legislation works - and it works better than any farm program this country has had before. I don't say it works perfectly. No man has been more forthright and frank about the limitations of our present effort than the Secretary of Agriculture. By the way, the Secretary wanted me to bring you his warm regards today. The Secretary is a remarkable man. He is a life-long friend of mine, he's a very devoted, hard-working public servant but the best thing about the Secretary is his wife - she was born in North Carolina and she's bright and pretty. I hope you're getting the message - you folks are kind of wired in to this government! You have Horace Godfrey, Mrs. Freeman, three secretaries in the Vice President's office, I don't know what more you really want; however, I'm not sure, there are so many candidates these days you may want one of those, I'm not sure at all!

You and I know that the programs of the 1960's have been a tremendous improvement over those of the 1950's despite what our urban critics have to say. You know some of the most volatile criticism of farm programs comes from people who live on pavement, in penthouses and row houses. I don't say that they don't know about the legislation

but I don't think you really much understand what goes on in rural America until you live there, until you feel it, until you're there with the people and sense what they have to do, what their problems are, what their hopes and aspirations are. But I don't think I'll be contradicted by many voices if I were to say that with all of the imperfections that the programs of the 1960's, starting with John Kennedy and now with Lyndon Johnson, are a tremendous improvement over those of the 1950's under none other than that former Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Benson. Although 1967 wasn't as good as we would have liked, in fact it wasn't as good a year as 1966, realized new farm income adjusted for inflation and price, realized net farm income - that's the purchasing power income - for this nation, was still twenty-five percent higher in 1967 than in 1960. We think that at least represents a bench mark that's worth holding to, and not receding from it. Here in North Carolina realized net farm income per farm was thirty-five percent higher in 1967 than in 1960. You did a little better. Of course, we expect you to do so.

Indeed, our present farm programs achieved more acceptance and better results in North Carolina than almost anywhere in this nation, and I think one of the reasons is the group that I'm looking at right out here in front of me, because you do the job.

Let's take a look now at a program that's very important out in the midwest and of course it's important here. It's called the feed grain program. The feed grain sign up is a good example and that's where you have to go to work. And that's where the farmer makes his voluntary choice.

North Carolina ranks near the top in the nation in the percentage of participation. You're good salesmen, but I might add you had a good commodity.

I am pleased to see that almost a million and a half American farms have been signed up to participate in the 1968 feed grain program nationwide. Now, that's the best public opinion poll that you can get on a program. Not how you answer some fellow that comes knocking at your door and says, "how do you feel about this?" Most people are so independent they wouldn't give an honest answer that way, they kind of like to just louse up the questionnaire. Just sort of trip him and trick him - at least, that's the reaction that some of my friends have and I've had a little of it myself. But when you really sign the program - put your name on the contract - you begin to find out whether a person likes it or doesn't like it. And one and a half million American farms have signed to participate in the 1968 feed grain program. It now appears that over thirty-four million acres will be diverted from production of corn and grain sorghum in 1968 - acres that will be conserved, acres that are there when they are needed, acres that are not needed today. And that's going to mean a lot to the farmers all over the United States but especially here in your State where almost four out of every ten dollars in farm income comes from the sale of livestock products. For it's an economic fact, a fact of life, that cheap feed means cheap livestock. You don't have to get a bachelor of science or arts degree or a master of science degree to learn that - you just have to spend one year on a farm where you have cheap feed and find out what happens to the price of pork and beef and other livestock. They go up and down together. So when a

feed grain program works and the price of feed grain is reasonably good you have some assurance that the price of livestock will be reasonably good.

Now, we also need good dairy prices to insure adequate supplies of milk and dairy products for the year ahead. Our dairy herds are diminishing. Dairy farming is hard work. It's costly. How I wish I could get some people to understand this. I don't know of any more difficult and burdensome job than to run a dairy farm, to be a dairy farmer, to have to live up to the federal and state and local regulations, to put in that expensive equipment, to have to go through all of the uncertainties that's in that business, to get up as early as you have to get up and to go to bed as late as you have to go to bed and to get as little reward as you get. The dairy farmer is one American who still does not earn the minimum wage. And your government is trying to take remedial steps as best we can.

Just last week, Secretary Freeman announced an increase in the dairy price support level to the highest legally permissible level - ninety percent of parity for the marketing year beginning April 1. That's not going to give an exorbitant price, it's not going to hurt the consumer, it may have the effect of at least giving some ray of hope and stability to the dairy farmers of this nation and, believe me, they deserve it. A good dairy agriculture means good conservation. And conservation is really investing in the future of America. And the dairy farms of America are the pioneers in conservation. Maybe I have a little parochial interest because out my way we've had thousands and thousands of dairy farmers and all too many of them are facing rising costs and slumping prices and they have become the casualties - the

casualties of our economy. We want to prevent that if we can and we need understanding in metropolitan areas as well as rural areas. The American farmer needs to have a public that appreciates his work, appreciates his role in it, the American farmer is a minority and if any man and woman believes in minority rights then he better start standing up for the rights of the producers of food and fibre in this republic.

Our present farm programs are designed to protect farmers. But protection is not enough to guarantee the American farmer a fair price in the marketplace. These programs are minimum protections. They are the best that we can get through a Congress that is essentially urban oriented. Our farmers are going to have to bargain for equity just like other people do. And they want to bargain. And they want to do it legitimately. They want to do it peacefully. And the President in his agriculture message, for the first time, has asked the Congress to look into the ways and the means of strengthening farm bargaining power - to give Mr. Farmer some control over the price of his product - something to say in that marketplace. Farmers are the only businessmen left in America who are still forced to sell their products at wholesale prices set by somebody else and to buy their production supplies at retail prices and the prices set by somebody else. You can't win that way. It's heads, I win; tails, I lose. You're just out of business. Farmers are especially vulnerable when it comes to commodities not covered by the present farm programs, livestock, poultry, fruits, vegetables, which supply almost sixty percent of all the gross farm income of this nation. The farmer who produces these items sells them not necessarily for a fair price or for what a support price would guarantee, but he sells them for what he can get. Now, when you go in to buy anything else they

charge you so much - there's a price ticket on it. You didn't have anything really to say about it, it's on there, it's called "list price".

I was born above a drug store, raised inside of one, and we put a price on a tube of Mentholatum, there's a price on a bottle of aspirin tablets; we put the price on - "we charge you so much," your doctor, your lawyer charges you so much. But Mr. Farmer can't charge anybody anything. Somebody says, "well, we'll give you so much; you'll get so much." Well, when you're on the giving end and the getting end and the other fellow's on the charging end, you've had it, and Mr. Farmer knows it!

Your government and your officers of government are very aware of this. We need and with the need for bargaining power in mind, we recently made a fundamental change, for example, in price support loan policy, to enable more farmers to maintain control of their products, of their grain, in particular, until they decided to sell it. When crop loans expired under the old regulations, the government took over the stored grain, and at some point, it simply had to sell it because the Congress has ordered the Department to dispose of the surplus. There was no way that the government could get this grain off its hands without some way influencing the market and it meant depressing the market. The new policy set by the President, President Johnson and Secretary Freeman returns this marketing decision to the producers, allowing the producers to retain the title while extending the loan under a resale program. The resale privilege applies whether the grain is in private or public storage. Now, this approach makes sense, and it creates bargaining power for farmers. And we hope they use it to improve their prices.

You see, what I'm saying is, repeated, farmers need bargaining power. Why? Everybody else has it. Business has it, labor has it, teachers have it, doctors have it, lawyers have it; and my good friends, do you think you can go downtown to the local newspaper and bargain with them on advertising rates? They charge you so much. Do you think you can go to the doctor and bargain or to the lawyer? He has a fee, and he rightly should - I'm not complaining. Farmers need to get into the same action - they want it and they should have the right and the opportunity to use it to better control their economic destiny.

Now, let me make these points about successful bargaining: when you reduce the supply under the tobacco program 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 government-held stocks of wheat and feed grains, farm bargaining power was increased. When you improve nutrition under the school milk and school lunch program, the food stamp and the domestic donation programs, farm bargaining power is increased. When you increase the number of people with the ability to buy food and to pay for it as this administration has done in reducing unemployment and fighting poverty, farm bargaining power is increased. When you have the ability to maintain a reasonable supply-demand balance, farm bargaining power is increased, and that's what we've been trying to do - to increase the power of that farm producer, to have control over his own economic destiny. And today we have farm programs that are critically important to preserving that supply-demand balance. They deserve to be defended, by you, because believe me, they have their enemies and they need to be defended. Those farm programs are under attack right now.

More than twenty bills were introduced in this Congress just this past year that would for all practical purposes terminate, do away with, all existing farm programs - twenty of them. And we know that if those programs were terminated, farm income would drop at a minimum one-third, one-third. That would be a major economic catastrophe to America. It would make our balance of payments problem look insignificant. It would make the run of the gold look less important than it is. You can't afford it to happen. Yet, we have people today who would have it to happen. And the only way to protect it is by a better understanding of the people and the people speaking to their Congress.

Now, we got a preview of what can happen when a bill to establish a strategic grain reserve was killed last year in sub-committee in the House of Representatives. And I can tell you how it got killed. Five members of that sub-committee that served in the Eighty-Ninth Congress were defeated in the elections of 1966. Five new members were put on and the new members as a result of those elections were not friends of agriculture and they stuck the pitchfork in the back of that farm program and that means in the back of that farmer.

So we're holding the line. We're putting up a last ditch battle in the Congress of the United States. We need your understanding. You have an obligation to the farm people that you represent. You have an obligation if you believe that these programs are meritorious to fight for them; you're a citizen, you're not denied the right to speak up, there is no law on the book that says you can't speak your mind - there are laws on the books that say if you're a federal official under civil service, you cannot participate in partisan party activities, political

activity, never mind the partisanship; if you find a Democrat that isn't helping you, get rid of him! If you find a Republican that isn't helping you, get rid of him! And that's just about as bi-partisan as you can get.

A third ingredient in President Johnson's message on agriculture is the establishment of this national food bank to which I have referred - a security commodity reserve. It has been evident for some time that there is a limit to the amount of grains the commercial trade will carry without forcing prices down. Millers and exporters are naturally reluctant to buy and hold grain when bumper crops might lead to lower prices. They're businessmen. If they can get lower prices because of bumper crops they will most likely want to take advantage of it.

But it is equally evident that there are limits to what the present farm program can do in tightening down on over supplies, because of recent price slumps. The reason that wheat prices went down this year and feed grain prices, is because world-wide there were the greatest crops that we've known for fifty years. And the world market today has an effect upon domestic markets. This world of ours shrinks in size and where some years past we could isolate our feed grains like you could a lake, today the feed grain and wheat supply is like one mighty ocean. And when the levels rise we are all flooded. When the levels go down we are all safe. No system of production estimates, no matter how clever that forecaster and that weather prophet; however carefully developed, can be entirely accurate.

In fact, our weathermen are really hedgy in these days. They use to tell you ten years ago that it would rain or it wouldn't rain and the sun would shine; and it would be cloudy and it would be cold. Today

they have it like this: it's a twenty percent chance to rain, or a seventy percent chance to rain. Boy, how I wish I could get by with that in politics. It would surely be nice if we could just have that leeway. When you're in the Senate of the United States, you have to vote "yes" or "no". I used to say to myself, if only I could vote "maybe," how happy!

Well, we've seen the droughts and the floods and the searing winds and we know what they can do to production. We've seen extreme wet weather and disease cut production and we've seen unusually high production, abroad and at home, adversely affect prices. And our needs will fluctuate in this world scene, particularly as we continue to make what the President has called our humane response to the hardship and hunger that may strike other nations. This nation has poured out billions of dollars in food and fibre and supplies to the needy people of the world - billions of dollars - the greatest single act of compassion and a peace-making that any nation has ever undertaken. This is a tremendous thing for our people. With the national food bank we would make deposits when production is high and we would make withdrawals or sales under carefully guided restricted conditions when production is short. That's the purpose of the food bank. The Secretary of Agriculture would have authority to purchase additional reserves in the open market, before prices drop to support levels, and these stocks would be insulated from the commercial market and would not be sold at less than parity adjusted for government payments. Now, the President has said, "A national food bank can provide important protection for all Americans." Not just farmers, all Americans. ". . . The farmer will not have to bear the

burden of depressed prices when production exceeds current needs
The consumer will be protected from unanticipated food scarcity. . . .
The government will have a reserve stock 'cushion' in making acreage
allotment decisions, and in responding to international emergencies."

This past year your government on four occasions was called
upon in international emergencies to prevent starvation, and we responded.
I think it is fair to say that had it not been for the Government of the
United States that from forty-five to fifty million people in India and
Pakistan alone this past year would have died of malnutrition and starva-
tion. I think it's about time that we recognize that food is a tremendous
source for good. The late Pope John XXIII said:

"Where there is constant want there is no peace."

And let me say from this platform, the scriptures are right:
"Blessed are the peace-makers. ." - Not the talkers, the walkers, the
paraders or the sign-carriers, but the people that build the sinews of
peace!

I would like to visit with you just briefly about this Food
for Freedom program - food for peace.

The President has proposed that this Act be extended for three
years. Last year the American farmers kept, as I said, literally millions
of people around the world from starvation and they improved the diet of
millions more - a hundred and fifty million boys and girls in Latin America
and Africa alone are today getting decent food for the first time in their
lives, because of American agriculture and the policy of the Government
of the United States.

School lunch programs that mean the difference between starvation

and health, that mean the difference between ignorance and education - the child follows the lunch, and when that school lunch from American food that is given and granted by this government comes to those countries, the children come to the school, gain an education; when that lunch is reduced or cut off the children do not come to the school - they're too tired, too sick, too weary. How many in this room know that protein deficiency literally wreaks havoc on the intellectual ability of a child. The deficiency of protein causes mental disability and when we are able to provide protein as we have we not only save a body, we save a mind, and when we save a body and save a mind we save a life and I know of no program that has done more to save lives which is what America wants to do, than the program of Food for Freedom and Food for Peace which has come from the farm people of America through a government that understood its moral responsibility in this world.

But there is more than a humanitarian justification. Good enough as that is. Food aid has also meant economic development which in turn has created new markets for American agricultural products. I saw food aid, my dear friends, in Indonesia. Corn meal being used by Indonesians as payment for work in cleaning out their irrigation ditches, in doing soil erosion control - Indonesia that only in the last three years has purged itself of complete communist control - Indonesia that stood in 1965 with the dagger of communism in its throat - until America took her stand in Southeast Asia, defending first of all the cause of freedom in that part of the world and secondly, offering to the people of Indonesia some economic assistance and primarily food assistance so that their young people could live. Death and starvation stalked the land.

I went into Central Java as your Vice President in the month of October, last year, and I went there into what they called a dangerous area, the center of the Communist Party of Indonesia. I landed on an airstrip that hadn't been used for years. I got into a little Chevrolet car and went down dusty roads, and I saw thousands and in one group, twenty thousand young men and women working cleaning out irrigation ditches and cleaning up the land, being paid by corn meal on an incentive plan - the longer they worked, the more they worked - the more corn they received. And they were literally months ahead of schedule, far beyond what anybody had dreamed. And my fellow Americans, you would be interested to know that there had been no advance notice of this journey because of what they thought were security hazards. When I came back at about four o'clock in the afternoon, that was about eight in the morning when I went there, when I came back at four o'clock in the afternoon, for forty kilometers, there were literally a million and a half people standing alongside of the road, singing out "Merdecka! America!" which means "Freedom! Freedom! America! Thank you, thank you!" And they had little home-made signs that didn't say nasty things, but said "Thank you, America! Thank you, America!"

I saw the same thing in Tunisia just this month and a half ago on my trip to Africa. Oh, it makes you feel good, makes you know that something good is happening. But it's economic development.

Let me show you Japan, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Spain and many other countries, which only a few years ago were receiving assistance under U. S. Food Aid, are now the best dollar customers for our farm exports and without our farm exports, my dear friends, our balance of

trade would not be in balance. The difference, the margin of safety for the American dollar today, the margin of safety for the American dollar are the agricultural exports from America and from American farms - that's the difference right there!

And by the way, Horace, I believe I'm right, North Carolina exports and has been I believe on the average of about three hundred million dollars a year or better than that. Well, I thought it'd be a little better if I'd ask Horace! He does exaggerate a little bit.

It's so important to understand this. You see, food aid then is economic development, it is more than good-neighborliness - it's good business.

And in a hungry world, strong, productive, independent American family farms amount to no less than a massive defense system in the cause of peace. A massive defense system in the cause of peace. Just remember that. I wish there'd be a flag on every farm in America. I wish that somehow or another we could have that as a symbol to show that this is really our security reserve. Because without this production, without this family farm system there is no security for America. We would be a helpless people in this world today - who would feed us? Who could we look to? We have to depend upon ourselves and at the same time help others.

So maybe one day we'll be able to drive down the road and see on every farm in America an American flag just as you see it in a military installation, but the flag of peace which says that we are a part of the great defense system in the cause of peace - the American farmer. No nation on the face of this earth can equal it or even come close to it. Food power and the food aid programs for which we have fought so hard for

the years, are America's exclusive tool for building a safer, more peaceful, and freer world. I have had a hand in this and I'm proud to say it; my life in the Congress has been dedicated to what I think is the cause of peace. I've had the privilege of authoring the Peace Corps, as a co-author of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and now, as your Vice President, as one of the negotiators of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty. I am one of the co-sponsors of the Food for Peace program, the author of the Disarmament Agency, and when I see some people accuse us of not wanting peace, I say "Lord, God, forgive them for they know not what they do" - indeed, we want it!

And we've placed a new emphasis on our Food for Freedom program. That new emphasis is that we're exchanging commodities for commitments. Not political commitments which cannot be bought from any respectable sovereign nation - but commitments to build farm-to-market roads, to adopt incentive price policies, to build fertilizer plants, to feed the children, to save the people. Every single contract under Food for Freedom is a negotiated contract under Title I and under Title IV. And Horace Godfrey can tell you that we spend months negotiating contracts with recipient nations to see that that food which they get which they may purchase even for their currency under Title I - that that money which is loaned back to them will go into fertilizer and go into schools and go into roads and go into rural electric cooperatives - go into the building of farm cooperatives.

You see, that's the kind of commitments that we're making. So few people seem to know it. But this is the peace-making in this world. And it's nation building, nation building.

Let me conclude with you. I have spoken today of a better deal for the American farmer. This is my life's work. I have been interested in people who have never had quite a fair break in life. That's the only reason that a man ought to be in politics.

Franklin Roosevelt once said that it was not the duty of government to see that those who already had too much got more but rather that those who had too little were able to gain enough.

We're trying to open up the gates of opportunity. We're not trying to build a society based upon handouts and relief and welfare. We're trying to build not a welfare state but a state of opportunity throughout this land. Every man his chance, every person, regardless of race, creed or color - regardless of his ethnic origin, regardless of his birth or how he spells his name - everybody - a chance to live and to work and to make of himself whatever his manhood and his vision can combine to make of him - that is the promise of America. And it is, ladies and gentlemen, that's what America means. It means hope - it means being somebody - it means self-respect; it means dignity. And it means that we care for people.

I told a group the other day in Washington; it was a religious group that met there and I was asked to come over and I don't parade around my religion. I think that's a rather personal business. But I recall listening to a minister in a church back home. One Sunday morning he gave a sermon and it was a wonderful message. And the theme of it was and he had it on the program as they always print the title..."The way you treat people is the way you treat God." I guess that's about as direct as you can get.

And Thomas Jefferson said, "The only legitimate objective and purpose of government," the only one, "is the health, the happiness, and the wellbeing of the people."

And the Constitution of the United States lays down but two requirements, just two. You can read all the rest of it, and I've read it a thousand times and am a former teacher of American Government; there are just two requirements under the Constitution that you have to do: To provide for the common defense and to promote the general welfare. The rest of it is optional. But those two things you are required to do when you take the oath of office - when you swear to uphold that Constitution - to provide for the common defense, not to tear it down, not to ignore it; and to promote the general welfare, and that means for all of the people.

Well, this is what I mean by a little better deal for those who have been left out, for those who have been left behind, whether it's in the cities, in the slums or whether it's in rural America. But we know that this is more than just a subject of dollars and cents. There are all kinds of poverty. The easiest poverty to cure is the poverty in the purse - just write out a check. For a rich country that's the easiest way and some people feel we ought to do it. But the poverty that's crippling this nation is not the poverty of the purse, it's the poverty of the spirit - the poverty of helplessness, of inadequacy, of ignorance, of illiteracy, of despair; whatever may be the causes, those are the things that gnaw at people and men literally have to be re-born these days as we try to rescue them from lack of any feeling of concern and care. What we're really talking about then is the quality of life. And I've been

trying to talk to you a little bit about 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 and most of us have it. We're talking better schools and better hospitals and we're talking about communities that can afford the public services which will attract new industries, new job opportunities and new income. And Governor Moore and this State is doing just that. In this State where there are new opportunities and new industries, new jobs, new technology, new universities, new schools, new income, this is what we mean by building America. And we're talking about making it possible for rural youngsters to stay on the farm, stay in their home towns and still be able to look forward to a full and rewarding life - to see as much there as they see on the television in some place far away.

Today for every hundred and seventy-five rural youngsters who reach working age, there are fewer than one hundred jobs in their area. This year, two hundred thousand of these 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 loved ones, friends and family but weaken the world communities, weaken them spiritually as well as economically.

Now, I'm for giving these youngsters and every other American a choice, 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, those cities should be clean, wholesome and safe. And let me underline all three. Today, often they are not. If they want to live in a small town or in or near a small farm they should be able to do so and enjoy a

maximum standard of living in every way. Today they often cannot. The key to a fully developed America, and one of the most important keys to the dilemma of urban blight, the urban crisis which confronts us today, is economic and social equity; economic and social equality for the American farmer. Today too often they do not have it and the young leave the farm and the old live out their lives. Modern America must not only be in the city. A hundred million more Americans will be in this nation in the next thirty years. Where are they going to live? Are we going to jam them into the metropolitan areas already overcrowded, already with almost insurmountable problems, or are we going to find living space? Seventy percent of the population of America now lives on one percent of its land. You would think that we just didn't want to ever get away from each other at all. Somehow, some way, we must make the great America that is rural between the great metropolitan centers more inviting. I think it can be done. And that's what we are talking about.

President Johnson's farm program is more than prices. It is a message that is nothing less than a declaration of parity for rural America. It's just his message though, his promise, his hope, his dream, and it requires action by Congress and by people. That message, a declaration of parity, asks full parity in income or as they say out my way - a hundred percent parity in income; full parity in opportunity - a hundred percent parity in opportunity; full parity in good living - a hundred percent parity in good living; and full parity in community life and citizenship - a hundred percent parity there, too. To have less is to fail to meet the need. Rural America has a friend in the

White House. A man who knows farmers, lives with them; a man who understands agriculture, who all of his legislative life never once failed his rural constituents, never once let the American farmer down; from the beginning of REA up through the programs of price supports and crop loans, to the very day that he sits at the helm of this government, the President of the United States has an unmistakable full record of unflinching support to the best interests of American agriculture. He's a man whose vision of a better America extends beyond the skyscrapers and the smokestacks, to the green fields and the farm families who are a fundamental source of America's strength. His farm programs have already meant new opportunity, new prosperity for thousands of American farmers; indeed, for many, many thousands. And his new programs will mean in the future better income, more income, more security, more protection, for the productive people who stand for that which is best for America.

You know, Thomas Jefferson left us with some words that I leave with you. He wrote, "Those who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God, if ever he had a chosen people."

I sometimes think that in the hurley-burley of modern living we've sort of forgotten it. If ever there was a chosen farmer, it is the American farmer, and I submit that it is time that we started honoring him accordingly. By fact, by deed, by word, by action, and I salute today the representatives of those farmers. I ask you to go back to your areas, to your counties, to your communities; I ask you to take at least this message, this message of commitment, this message of desire to be of help; I ask you to tell us what more you think we can do or ought to do;

I ask you to join the partnership of equality of opportunity - the partnership of parity and progress for all Americans. And indeed, for rural Americans. And if we can work together, my fellow Americans, there's no power on the face of this earth that can stop our success.

So let's get on with the job. Thank you very much.



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