

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

"NEW AGRICULTURAL POLICIES NEEDED"

Pioneer Days Banquet

Crookston, Minnesota

July 5, 1974

It is a pleasure and an honor to join with you in the 14th Annual Pioneer Days celebration here in Crookston.

I wish to join in congratulating those of you who have been selected to receive awards for outstanding work in various phases of agriculture.

There is nothing more fitting than to gather together to pay tribute to American agriculture. It has been the bountiful source of food and fiber, not only for Americans, but for millions around the world. And, as we all know at bargain prices.

Many people have praised the productivity of the American farmer and pointed out that he produces enough to feed over fifty other people. In spite of the statistics and the oratory, you also know that until recently this marvel of productivity has been taken for granted.

Some of our urban citizens have failed to understand the complexities of agriculture. Farmers, according to this view, were interested in receiving special treatment from the government.

Few of our urban residents even today are aware of the long hours required of farmers, and the rather modest return on those labors.

In recent years, the agricultural field has undergone a radical transformation. Our old ideas and attitudes are no longer adequate or appropriate.

I am reminded of the observations of the historian Frederick Jackson Turner, who wrote at the end of the 19th century on the importance of the American frontier, in developing a pioneer spirit in American life and customs.

Others also suggested that the end of the frontier had a profound impact on Americans in causing them to look for new outlets and new opportunities.

It is very clear to me that a similar, total change in the situation demands a pioneer spirit in American agriculture today.

While the changes in American agriculture of the last few years may have been more subtle than the earlier passing of the frontier, the consequences are certainly as significant.

We clearly have entered a new era.

In the words of former Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, "we are in a whole new ball game."

Our agricultural products are now in demand on the world market as never before. And the level of our exports this year is expected to reach \$21 billion.

At the same time, the world is facing the prospect of food shortages. Consumer demand on the part of the developed countries has risen sharply. And the poorer countries have not been able to afford what they need.

World food reserves have declined so that today we are under 100 million tons, which translates into a mere three week supply.

Contrast this with 1972 when there was a two month world reserve. And at that time the United States had an additional reserve in the 78 million acres of land which were not in production.

Under close inspection, it becomes clear that a crop disaster in one year would have serious and world ranging consequences.

We have begun to find out that the world weather patterns also have been changing. And it is likely that these changes will make the world food production system even more precarious than at present.

The response of the American farmer under this growing scarcity has been to step up production to meet the need. Unfortunately, we have not yet developed a new set of policies or assumptions to meet the new realities.

We can no longer blithely operate on the assumption of plentiful food supplies. Nor can we act as if our agricultural decisions are strictly our own affair. As the world's chief food surplus nation, there are too many who depend on us.

What should our objectives be under these new circumstances?

First, I think that, unavoidably, we must seek increases in agricultural production. All countries now are beginning to realize the critical security which adequate food provides.

We must not only redouble our own production, but the developing nations need also to give greater priority to agriculture.

The developing world has too long neglected investments in agriculture in favor of industry. The November World Food Conference, to be held in Rome under the auspices of the United Nations, should be an appropriate occasion to deal with this issue.

In attempting to increase agricultural production, we will need to look to our research programs for possible new breakthroughs. One particularly important goal should be to find ways of increasing the per acre output of soybeans.

Fertilizer production also needs to be increased. Dr. Norman Borlaug, who has devoted almost thirty years of hard work to developing new high-yielding seeds, feels that a \$7 billion fertilizer investment program is needed. Unfortunately, on his recent tour of Asia and Africa, he found few countries really concerned about this problem.

In a program to increase agricultural production we also will need to pay greater attention to the amounts of energy utilized. Conservation of energy will need to be an integral feature of our research efforts.

A second major feature of a new agricultural policy must be to secure a fair return for our farmers.

The agriculture of today is a heavily capitalized system. The investment in land and equipment has increased several fold in the last decade.

Our farmers have been asked to make major investments to increase production. They have done so but at considerable risk. The Government should help to reduce that risk.

I have introduced legislation to increase the target and loan prices of our basic crops so that farmers do not have to face a boom or bust market. It is my strong conviction that no one, farmer or urban consumer, benefits from sharply fluctuating prices.

We do not ask any other segment of the economy to take comparable risks. And most industries have far greater control over both their output and market.

A third and major concern in developing a sound agricultural policy is to establish our agricultural export markets on as firm a footing as possible.

We need to expand our export markets, but we must remember that trade is a two way street. Just as other nations need our food, so we too will increasingly be dependent on them for our future supplies of iron, lead, tungsten and zinc.

A fourth requirement of a sound agricultural policy is an improved information system. This is needed to provide timely information on the world weather and crop trends. And it is needed at the local level so that farmers can make informed decisions on when to market crops and cattle.

We especially need to know whether the Soviet Union is likely to have adequate crops or may buy in quantity on our markets. I have urged the President to take up this subject during his visit to the Soviet Union.

With the world food supply much tighter, we will need improved information to stabilize prices and utilize production to the maximum possible extent.

A fifth and final recommendation for an agricultural policy is the establishment of a reserve program.

This program would be designed to remove price depressing surpluses in time of plenty, and utilize the same food and fiber in times of scarcity. Such a program would help do away with some of the volatility in agricultural prices.

My bill, S. 2005 would remove such reserves from the market except when needed for export or disaster requirements.

In a tight world market, a reserve program is needed to serve as a shock absorber.

A reserve program will help farmers obtain fair and reliable prices while providing adequate supplies of food and fiber for all users, including farmers themselves.

This program which I have described is do-able, and it is needed to reflect changed conditions. It will not undermine the freedoms of American farmers. But it should serve to increase their financial return which is justly deserved.

And stable markets should lead to increased agricultural production which will meet a growing world need.

The lesson we must learn is that we have increasingly become the major force in the world agricultural market. Most of any surplus on the world market comes from the United States.

This role requires that we also exercise constructive leadership, and not rely on luck or chance.

We have the opportunity to be statesmen, and produce bountiful crops while helping maintain some stability in world markets.

My friends, this challenge must be met. Responsible people are again talking about the prospects of mass starvation. And experts also are reflecting on the prospects of world depression growing out of our present economic conditions. Many of our farmers are deeply concerned and not without reason.

Let us seize this challenge while there is still time. It is not a matter of convenience, but for many a matter of life and death.

Our farmers are now floundering because of the absence of an agricultural policy. Rhetoric about the free market just will not suffice.

Today we need a new kind of pioneer and a new pioneering spirit which recognizes today's realities. Our farmers have shown that they have that spirit.

We must call upon our Government and shake it out of its lethargy so that it can help American agriculture to meet this crisis before it is too late.

# # # # #

✓ Revere Hosp. - Tom Senier  
Glenmore Clinic

⊗ Red Lake Falls  
may ~ Vaughn Thorson  
Dane Lundeen

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Phil Weiler  
Jim Hanson  
Rob Wattenstrom  
Stan Sahlstrom - 47m

"NEW AGRICULTURAL POLICIES NEEDED"

PIONEER DAYS BANQUET

CROOKSTON, MINNESOTA

Kenneth

- Bishop Powesh

JULY 5, 1974

✓ Rep. Bob Berglund

✓ Herald Amiot - Pres Pioneer Days

✓ Ed. Ross M.C.

✓ Mayor <sup>Mrs</sup> Harold Thomforde

✓ Rep. Bill Kelly

Sen. Roger MOE

✓ DON HUNT

MRS. Dickel

- She Sold over 200  
tickets to Dinner  
Tonight.

- You Met her son  
Morrie at Glenmore -  
he's on the Board  
over there.

Honored Pioneer couple  
Mr & Mrs Lawrence  
Wagner

IT IS A PLEASURE AND AN HONOR TO JOIN WITH YOU IN THE  
14TH ANNUAL PIONEER DAYS CELEBRATION HERE IN CROOKSTON.

I ~~WILL~~ JOIN IN CONGRATULATING THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE  
BEEN SELECTED TO RECEIVE AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING WORK IN VARIOUS  
are  
~~PHASES~~ OF AGRICULTURE.

THERE IS NOTHING MORE FITTING <sup>1</sup> *intodays world* THAN TO GATHER TOGETHER TO  
PAY TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN AGRICULTURE. IT HAS BEEN THE BOUNTIFUL  
SOURCE OF FOOD AND FIBER, NOT ONLY FOR AMERICANS, BUT FOR  
MILLIONS AROUND THE WORLD. AND, AS WE ALL KNOW AT BARGAIN  
PRICES.

*Walter Ross  
Sugar Act*

*Honor Ag-  
Taken it for  
granted*



MANY PEOPLE HAVE PRAISED THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THE AMERICAN  
FARMER AND POINTED OUT THAT HE PRODUCES ENOUGH TO FEED OVER  
FIFTY OTHER PEOPLE. IN SPITE OF THE STATISTICS AND THE ORATORY,  
YOU ALSO KNOW THAT UNTIL RECENTLY THIS MARVEL OF PRODUCTIVITY  
HAS BEEN TAKEN FOR GRANTED.

SOME OF OUR URBAN CITIZENS HAVE FAILED TO UNDERSTAND THE  
COMPLEXITIES OF AGRICULTURE. FARMERS, ACCORDING TO THIS VIEW,  
WERE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING SPECIAL TREATMENT FROM THE  
GOVERNMENT.

FEW OF OUR URBAN RESIDENTS EVEN TODAY ARE AWARE OF THE  
LONG HOURS REQUIRED OF FARMERS, AND THE RATHER MODEST RETURN  
ON THOSE LABORS.

IN RECENT YEARS, THE AGRICULTURAL FIELD HAS UNDERGONE A

major ~~radical~~ TRANSFORMATION. OUR OLD IDEAS AND ATTITUDES ARE NO  
LONGER ADEQUATE OR APPROPRIATE.

I AM REMINDED OF THE OBSERVATIONS OF THE HISTORIAN FREDERICK  
JACKSON TURNER, WHO WROTE AT THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY ON THE  
IMPORTANCE OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER, IN DEVELOPING A PIONEER  
SPIRIT IN AMERICAN LIFE AND CUSTOMS.

OTHERS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE END OF THE FRONTIER HAD A  
PROFOUND IMPACT ON AMERICANS IN CAUSING THEM TO LOOK FOR  
NEW OUTLETS AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES.

IT IS VERY CLEAR TO ME THAT A SIMILAR, TOTAL CHANGE IN  
THE SITUATION DEMANDS A PIONEER SPIRIT IN AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

TODAY.

"I do not believe that era of the pioneer  
~~the era of pioneering is not over~~ is over  
I only believe that  
the arena for pioneering has changed"



WHILE THE CHANGES IN AMERICAN AGRICULTURE OF THE LAST FEW  
YEARS MAY HAVE BEEN MORE SUBTLE THAN THE EARLIER PASSING OF THE  
FRONTIER, THE CONSEQUENCES ARE CERTAINLY AS SIGNIFICANT.

WE CLEARLY HAVE ENTERED A NEW ERA.

• Sunflower seeds  
• Sugar Beets  
• Livestock  
• Poultry  
Hybrid corn

L IN THE WORDS OF FORMER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE ORVILLE

FREEMAN, "WE ARE IN A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME."

L OUR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ARE NOW IN DEMAND ON THE WORLD  
MARKET AS NEVER BEFORE. L AND THE LEVEL OF OUR <sup>agricultural</sup> EXPORTS THIS  
YEAR IS EXPECTED TO REACH \$21 BILLION.

L AT THE SAME TIME, THE WORLD IS FACING THE PROSPECT OF FOOD  
SHORTAGES. L CONSUMER DEMAND ON THE PART OF THE DEVELOPED  
COUNTRIES HAS RISEN SHARPLY. AND THE POORER COUNTRIES HAVE  
NOT BEEN ABLE TO AFFORD WHAT THEY NEED.

Food Shortage

WORLD FOOD RESERVES HAVE DECLINED SO THAT TODAY WE ARE  
UNDER 100 MILLION TONS, WHICH TRANSLATES INTO A MERE THREE  
WEEK SUPPLY.

60 DAYS.  
CONTRAST THIS WITH 1972 WHEN THERE WAS A TWO MONTH WORLD  
RESERVE. AND AT THAT TIME THE UNITED STATES HAD AN ADDITIONAL  
RESERVE IN THE 78 MILLION ACRES OF LAND WHICH WERE NOT IN  
PRODUCTION.

UNDER CLOSE INSPECTION, IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT A CROP  
DISASTER IN ONE YEAR WOULD HAVE SERIOUS AND WORLD RANGING  
CONSEQUENCES.

WE HAVE BEGUN TO FIND OUT THAT THE WORLD WEATHER PATTERNS  
ALSO HAVE BEEN CHANGING. AND IT IS LIKELY THAT THESE CHANGES  
WILL MAKE THE WORLD FOOD PRODUCTION SYSTEM EVEN MORE PRECARIOUS  
THAN AT PRESENT.

THE RESPONSE OF THE AMERICAN FARMER UNDER THIS GROWING  
SCARCITY HAS BEEN TO STEP UP PRODUCTION TO MEET THE NEED.

UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE NOT YET DEVELOPED A NEW SET OF POLICIES  
OR ASSUMPTIONS TO MEET THE NEW REALITIES.

WE CAN NO LONGER BLITHELY OPERATE ON THE ASSUMPTION OF  
PLENTIFUL FOOD SUPPLIES. NOR CAN WE ACT AS IF OUR AGRICULTURAL  
DECISIONS ARE STRICTLY OUR OWN AFFAIR. AS THE WORLD'S CHIEF FOOD  
RESERVE ~~SHOULD~~ NATION, THERE ARE ~~SO~~ MANY WHO DEPEND ON US.

WHAT SHOULD OUR OBJECTIVES BE UNDER THESE NEW CIRCUMSTANCES?

① FIRST, I THINK THAT, UNAVOIDABLY, WE MUST SEEK INCREASES  
IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. ALL COUNTRIES NOW ARE BEGINNING  
TO REALIZE THE CRITICAL SECURITY WHICH ADEQUATE FOOD PROVIDES.

WE MUST NOT ONLY ~~PRODUCE~~ <sup>increase</sup> OUR OWN PRODUCTION, BUT THE

DEVELOPING NATIONS NEED ALSO TO GIVE GREATER PRIORITY TO  
AGRICULTURE.

THE DEVELOPING WORLD HAS TOO LONG NEGLECTED INVESTMENTS  
IN AGRICULTURE IN FAVOR OF INDUSTRY. THE NOVEMBER WORLD FOOD  
CONFERENCE<sup>n</sup> TO BE HELD IN ROME UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS, SHOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE OCCASION TO DEAL WITH THIS  
ISSUE.

IN ATTEMPTING TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, WE WILL  
NEED TO LOOK TO OUR RESEARCH PROGRAMS FOR POSSIBLE NEW BREAKTHROUGHS.

ONE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT GOAL SHOULD BE TO FIND WAYS OF

INCREASING THE PER ACRE OUTPUT OF SOYBEANS.

Also, increasing  
the protein content of grain sorghums -  
wheat. There is a constant battle against  
crop diseases, our research in providing  
disease resistant crops must be pressed.

✓ FERTILIZER PRODUCTION ALSO NEEDS TO BE INCREASED. DR.

NORMAN BORLAUG, WHO HAS DEVOTED ALMOST THIRTY YEARS OF HARD

WORK TO DEVELOPING NEW HIGH-YIELDING SEEDS, FEELS THAT A \$7

BILLION FERTILIZER INVESTMENT PROGRAM IS NEEDED. UNFORTUNATELY,

ON HIS RECENT TOUR OF ASIA AND AFRICA, HE FOUND FEW <sup>of these governments</sup> ~~countries~~

REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS PROBLEM.

② our Foreign Aid -  
World Bank etc

✓ IN A PROGRAM TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WE ALSO

WILL NEED TO PAY GREATER ATTENTION TO THE AMOUNTS OF ENERGY

UTILIZED. ✓ CONSERVATION OF ENERGY WILL NEED TO BE AN INTEGRAL

FEATURE OF OUR RESEARCH EFFORTS.

② A SECOND MAJOR FEATURE OF A NEW AGRICULTURAL POLICY MUST

BE TO SECURE A FAIR RETURN FOR OUR FARMERS.

L THE AGRICULTURE OF TODAY IS A HEAVILY CAPITALIZED SYSTEM.

THE INVESTMENT IN LAND AND EQUIPMENT HAS INCREASED SEVERAL FOLD  
IN THE LAST DECADE.

L OUR FARMERS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO MAKE MAJOR INVESTMENTS TO  
INCREASE PRODUCTION. THEY HAVE DONE SO BUT AT CONSIDERABLE  
RISK. THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HELP TO REDUCE THAT RISK.

L I HAVE INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO INCREASE THE TARGET AND  
LOAN PRICES OF OUR BASIC CROPS SO THAT FARMERS DO NOT HAVE TO  
FACE A BOOM OR BUST MARKET. IT IS MY STRONG CONVICTION THAT  
NO ONE, FARMER OR URBAN CONSUMER, BENEFITS FROM SHARPLY  
FLUCTUATING PRICES.

L WE DO NOT ASK ANY OTHER SEGMENT OF THE ECONOMY TO TAKE  
COMPARABLE RISKS. AND MOST INDUSTRIES HAVE FAR GREATER  
CONTROL OVER BOTH THEIR OUTPUT AND MARKET.

3  
A THIRD AND MAJOR CONCERN IN DEVELOPING A SOUND

AGRICULTURAL POLICY IS TO ESTABLISH OUR AGRICULTURAL EXPORT  
MARKETS ON AS FIRM A FOOTING AS POSSIBLE.

1  
WE NEED TO EXPAND OUR EXPORT MARKETS, BUT WE MUST  
REMEMBER THAT TRADE IS A TWO WAY STREET JUST AS OTHER NATIONS  
NEED OUR FOOD, SO WE TOO WILL INCREASINGLY BE DEPENDENT ON THEM

FOR OUR FUTURE SUPPLIES OF IRON, LEAD, TUNGSTEN AND ZINC, *Copper, Nickel etc*

4  
A FOURTH REQUIREMENT OF A SOUND AGRICULTURAL POLICY IS  
AN IMPROVED INFORMATION SYSTEM, THIS IS NEEDED TO PROVIDE

TIMELY INFORMATION ON THE WORLD WEATHER AND CROP TRENDS. *(Soviet Deal)*

AND IT IS NEEDED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL SO THAT FARMERS CAN MAKE

INFORMED DECISIONS ON WHEN TO MARKET CROPS AND CATTLE *Hogs, Poultry*

*+ Dairy*



WE ESPECIALLY NEED TO KNOW WHETHER THE SOVIET UNION IS LIKELY

TO HAVE ADEQUATE CROPS OR MAY BUY IN QUANTITY ON OUR MARKETS.

I HAVE URGED THE PRESIDENT TO TAKE UP THIS SUBJECT DURING HIS

VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION.

(China, India)

└ WITH THE WORLD FOOD SUPPLY MUCH TIGHTER, WE WILL NEED

IMPROVED INFORMATION TO STABILIZE PRICES AND UTILIZE PRODUCTION

TO THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE EXTENT.

§ A FIFTH AND FINAL RECOMMENDATION FOR AN AGRICULTURAL

POLICY IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RESERVE PROGRAM.

└ THIS PROGRAM WOULD BE DESIGNED TO REMOVE <sup>~~drastic~~</sup> PRICE DEPRESSING

SURPLUSES IN TIME OF PLENTY, AND UTILIZE THE SAME FOOD AND

FIBER IN TIMES OF SCARCITY. └ SUCH A PROGRAM WOULD HELP DO AWAY

WITH SOME OF THE <sup>~~drastic fluctuations~~</sup> VOLATILITY IN AGRICULTURAL PRICES.

My BILL, S. 2005 WOULD REMOVE SUCH RESERVES FROM THE  
MARKET EXCEPT WHEN NEEDED FOR EXPORT OR <sup>for</sup> DISASTER REQUIREMENTS.

IN A TIGHT WORLD MARKET, A RESERVE PROGRAM IS NEEDED TO  
SERVE AS A SHOCK ABSORBER.

A RESERVE PROGRAM WILL HELP FARMERS OBTAIN FAIR AND  
RELIABLE PRICES WHILE PROVIDING ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF FOOD AND  
FIBER FOR ALL USERS, <sup>+ consumers</sup> INCLUDING FARMERS THEMSELVES.

THIS PROGRAM WHICH I HAVE DESCRIBED IS DO-ABLE, ~~AND IS~~ <sup>AS IS</sup>  
NEEDED TO REFLECT CHANGED CONDITIONS. IT WILL <sup>strengthen the</sup>

<sup>market.</sup> ~~THE FREEDOMS~~ OF AMERICAN FARMERS. ~~AND~~ IT SHOULD SERVE TO  
INCREASE THEIR FINANCIAL RETURN WHICH IS JUSTLY DESERVED.

AND STABLE MARKETS SHOULD LEAD TO INCREASED AGRICULTURAL  
PRODUCTION WHICH WILL MEET A GROWING WORLD NEED.

THE LESSON WE MUST LEARN IS THAT WE HAVE INCREASINGLY  
BECOME THE MAJOR FORCE IN THE WORLD AGRICULTURAL MARKET, MOST  
OF ANY SURPLUS ON THE WORLD MARKET COMES FROM THE UNITED STATES.

THIS ROLE REQUIRES THAT WE ALSO EXERCISE CONSTRUCTIVE  
LEADERSHIP, AND NOT RELY ON LUCK OR CHANCE.

WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE STATESMEN, AND PRODUCE  
BOUNTIFUL CROPS WHILE HELPING MAINTAIN SOME STABILITY IN WORLD  
MARKETS.

MY FRIENDS, THIS CHALLENGE MUST BE MET. RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE  
ARE AGAIN TALKING ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF MASS STARVATION. AND  
EXPERTS ALSO ARE REFLECTING ON THE PROSPECTS OF WORLD DEPRESSION  
GROWING OUT OF OUR PRESENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. MANY OF OUR  
FARMERS ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED AND NOT WITHOUT REASON.

LET US SEIZE THIS CHALLENGE WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME.

IT IS NOT A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE, BUT FOR MANY A MATTER OF  
LIFE AND DEATH.

OUR FARMERS ARE NOW FLOUNDERING BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF  
AN AGRICULTURAL POLICY. RHETORIC ABOUT THE FREE MARKET JUST WILL  
NOT SUFFICE.

TODAY WE NEED A NEW KIND OF PIONEER AND A NEW PIONEERING  
SPIRIT WHICH RECOGNIZES TODAY'S REALITIES. OUR FARMERS HAVE  
SHOWN THAT THEY HAVE THAT SPIRIT.

WE MUST CALL UPON OUR GOVERNMENT AND SHAKE IT OUT OF ITS  
LETHARGY SO THAT IT CAN HELP AMERICAN AGRICULTURE TO MEET THIS  
CRISIS BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.



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