REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

NATIONAL FARMERS ORGANIZATION

ANNUAL CONVENTION

Kansas City, Missouri

December 11, 1975

It is a pleasure to participate in this National Farmers Organization "Convention of Impact."

You have a lot to talk about at this convention. The impact of the Nixon-Ford Administration on American people and the economy of this country has been devastating.

Consider that we have:

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-- Nearly eight million of our people unemployed and several million more who have given up looking for jobs;

-- A rate of inflation in a recessionary period which stands at an astounding eight per cent;

-- Interest rates of 10 to 12 per cent to consumers and small businesses;

-- New home construction at less than half the number needed;

-- Our nation's mines and factories producing at only 75 per cent of their capacity, and

-- Our farmers facing a continuing cost-price squeeze.

And the discouraging fact is that this Administration holds out little hope for improvement.

The Nixon-Ford team has done what no other Administration has been able to do. It has brought the American people tight money, inflation, high interest rates and continued high unemployment -all at the same time.

In earlier years, the Republicans at least tried to give the impression that they were good administrators. But this Administration deserves one of its own "WIN" buttons for turning the world upside down.

In spite of the rosey rhetoric which Secretary Butz offers, our farmers face major economic uncertainties.

Since August of this year soybeans have dropped \$1.35 per bushel, the price of corn is down 50 to 60 cents, and wheat is 50 to 70 cents lower. Today's prices for corn, soybeans and wheat in Minnesota are not much more than they were in 1947.

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CROP	1947 PRICES	TODAY'S PRICES		
Corn	\$2.08/bu. avg. for yr. \$2.46 in January 1947	\$2.35 - \$2.40		
Soybeans	\$3.34/bu. avg. for yr. \$4.06/bu. in January 1948	\$4.50		
Wheat	\$2.50/bu. avg. for yr. \$2.92/bu. January 1948	\$3.00 - \$3.20		

At about this time each year, the Department of Agriculture holds its Outlook Conference where we hear all about the bright prospects for the coming year in American agriculture.

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-- We are told that exports and net farm income will go up;

-- The so-called "experts" tell us that the weather for the coming year will be ideal and production will increase;

-- It is predicted that the availabilities of fertilizer and transportation will be adequate; and

-- There are glowing statements that our dairy and livestock production will flourish.

The problem with this approach is that it relies too much on luck. And it ignores the price averaging which the U.S.D.A. indulges in.

It makes a great deal of difference whether the price of wheat is \$5.00 or \$3.00 a bushel. Although an average of \$4.00 for the year may look good, it hardly gives the true picture.

Because most times farmers do not get the high price.

You have ridden the Butz boom and bust cycle, so you know what I mean. The last thing America's farmers need from this Administration are a lot of ifs, ands, and BUTZ.

You will recall that last spring, farmers and others were rightly concerned over the prospect of over-production and depressed prices.

In response, the Congress passed a modest one-year emergency farm bill. We were forced to temper what we felt was needed against what might be acceptable to the White House. But even this bill was vetoed, although grain prices then were well above the target prices in the bill.

Recently the market prices have been hovering near the levels in that legislation.

In vetoing the bill, President Ford said it would cost too much money. But he acknowledged that farm costs had gone up about 16 per cent in 1974, and that agricultural prices had dropped by about seven per cent.

And, unfortunately, in order to defeat the legislation, the Department of Agriculture resorted to furnishing highly misleading and distorted information on what the bill would cost.

The President praised the American farmer for responding to his call for all-out production. And he pledged his personal support to maintain the farmer's access to world markets.

Our farmers have learned the value of that promise. As the Soviet crop estimates plummeted -- from 215 to perhaps 137 million metric tons -- the demand for our grain escalated.

But the Administration -- in spite of its free market proclamations -- again, as in 1973 and 1974, established export controls.

We now are told that these controls were "voluntary." This is the same kind of "volunteering" that those of you who are Veterans know all about.

Increased world demand for our grains kept farm prices from dropping to bankruptcy levels. Our farmers still are without reasonable price protection while the government continutes to ask for all-out production. It is not just on the farm or in our export markets that we face uncertainty. Farmers have made tremendous investments in the development of cooperative associations to market their products. Today these farm cooperatives are under severe attack by forces within our own government who would destroy them.

Over the years, Congress has encouraged farmer cooperatives because they improve the marketing ability of farmers and serve to stimulate competition with private corporations.

But today, cooperatives and the Capper-Volstead Act are being challenged. It is clear that the Administration would like to restrict cooperatives in the name of stimulating competition.

But let us not be deceived. The talk about limiting cooperatives really is a discussion of how we can limit the farmer in the market place.

Only 28 per cent of all farm output is marketed through cooperatives. In 1973, the combined sales of all cooperatives totaled \$19 billion, while General Motors had sales of over \$28 billion.

The cooperative is a force for stability and a means to enable the producer to get a better deal. It also helps assure reliable food supplies for consumers.

Cooperatives and the farm organizations must stand together. An attack on one is an attack on all.

One way of strengthening those organizations dedicated to the well-being of America's farm producers is to support those legislative proposals which best serve farm interests. One of these is a balanced food and agricultural policy. Such a policy meets the needs of farmers and consumers alike. Remember, farmers are consumers, too.

We should not be afraid to work for greater stability in agriculture. But this must not be bought at the expense of our producers.

The Soviet Union is well aware of the significance of its poor harvest on its economy. Because of the poor harvest the Soviet Union has had to reduce its economic targets.

Yet our government seems unaware of the importance of keeping American agriculture prosperous and productive. Forcing farmers out of production -- according to some in the U.S.D.A. -- is a healthy thing.

The Rumanian Minister of Agriculture recently stated that "you have something more powerful than the atomic bomb -- soya."

Our farmers recognize their importance in terms of international diplomacy, the export market and our balance of payments. However, they do not ask for preferential treatment in developing our policies. They merely want to be treated fairly and equitably.

Farmers recognize that food and agricultural policy involves everyone. But they feel discouraged when their views are ignored, and decisions affecting their interests are made by the Department of State or Labor, not the U.S.D.A.

Farm groups need to start thinking in terms of the components of a broad gauge policy which would provide:

-- Price and income protection for producers of food and fiber;

-- Food supply stability for consumers at reasonable prices;

-- Adequate supplies of inputs and transportation for producers at reasonable prices;

-- The production of adequate supplies of dairy and livestock products for domestic and international needs; and

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-- The establishment of a reserve mechanism to provide market stability during periods of shortage and surplus, maintain the reliability of the U.S. as an exporter, and continue the provision of food assistance to needy nations.

All of this can be done without depressing farm prices.

Today we hear a lot of talk about the advantages of the free market. And we are told of the wisdom of removing the shackles of government intervention and interference from the farmer.

But at the same time we have had continued and heavy handed interference in our export markets. Our policy should be consistent, realistic, and it should meet our needs for now and the future.

The task before us requires leadership, getting on with the job ahead. Unfortunately, that commodity seems to be in short supply these days.

I pledge to continue my best efforts in that direction, and I urge you to do likewise.

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L- INTEREST RATES OF 10 TO 12 PER CENT TO CONSUMERS AND SMALL

BUSINESSES;

-- New HOME CONSTRUCTION AT LESS THAN HALF THE NUMBER NEEDED;

- OUR NATION'S MINES AND FACTORIES PRODUCING AT ONLY 75 PER CENT OF THEIR CAPACITY, AND -- OUR FARMERS FACING A CONTINUING COST-PRICE SQUEEZE. AND THE DISCOURAGING FACT IS THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION HOLDS - Will, OUT LITTLE HOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT THE NIXON-FORD TEAM HAS DONE WHAT NO OTHER ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN ABLE TO DO . IT HAS BROUGHT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TIGHT MONEY, INFLATION, HIGH INTEREST RATES AND CONTINUED HIGH in Revertore UNEMPLOYMENT -- ALL AT THE SAME TIME. IN EARLIER YEARS, WE REPUBLICANS AT LEAST TRIED TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY WERE GOOD ADMINISTRATORS. BUT THIS ADMINISTRATION DESERVES ONE OF ITS OWN "MA" BUTTONS FOR TURNING THE WORKD UPSIDE DOWN.

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FARM PRICES

The parity ratio dropped to 73 from 76 in October. In September it was 77, and a year ago 76. Here are average prices received a year ago and in October and November 1975:

COMMODITY	NOV. 1974	OCT. 1975	NOV. 1975	P NOV. a 1975	OV.15 rice s a % of Parity
Wheat (bushel) Rice (hundredweight) Corn (bushel) Oats (bushel) Barley (bushel) Sorghum (hundredweight) Soybeans (bushel) Flaxseed (bushel) Steers and heifers (hundredweight) Manufacturing Milk (hundredweight)	11.10 3.32 1.70 3.41 5.85 7.44 10.60 ht)31.70 36.80	\$ 4.02 8.86 2.62 1.41 2.68 4.43 4.92 6.66 38.30 58.00 8.72	\$ 3.58 8.45 2.33 1.40 2.43 4.05 5.60 37.50 49.00 8.94	13.30 3.10 1.48 2.58 5.20 6.96 7.47 48.80	77% 63% 75% 95% 75% 64% 75% 100%

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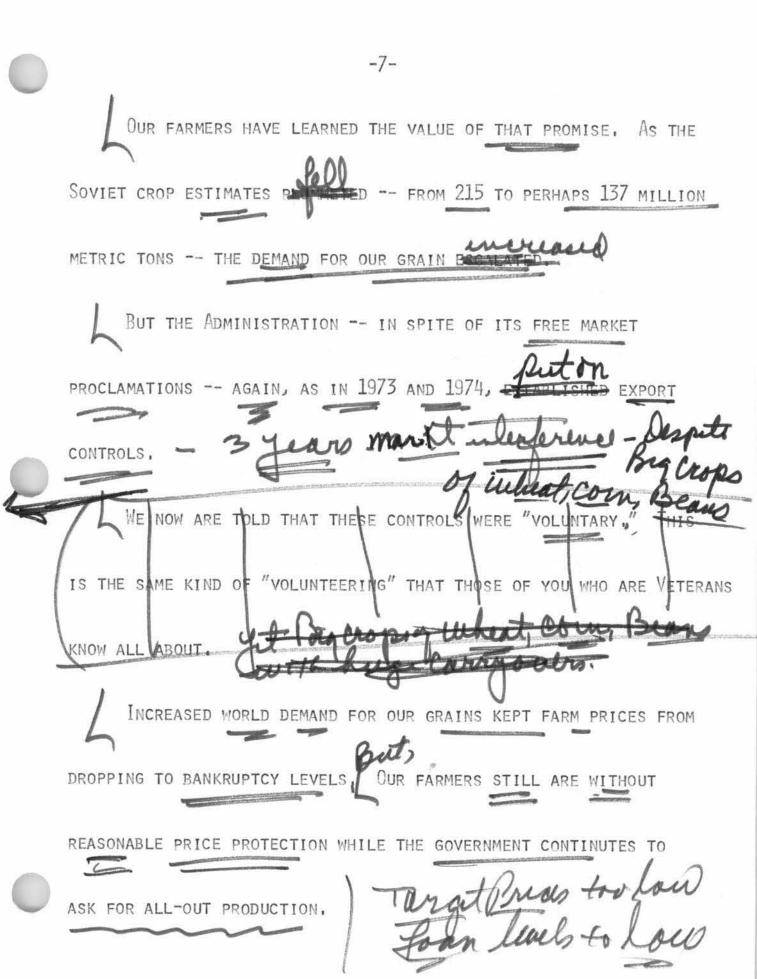
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-4-AT ABOUT THIS TIME EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HOLDS ITS OUTLOOK CONFERENCE WHERE WE HEAR ALL ABOUT THE BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR THE COMING YEAR IN AMERICAN AGRICULTURE. 5 WE ARE TOLD THAT EXPORTS AND NET FARM INCOME WILL GO UP; 4- THE SO-CALLED "EXPERTS" TELL US THAT THE WEATHER FOR THE COMING YEAR WILL BE IDEAL AND PRODUCTION WILL INCREASE; 2-- IT IS PREDICTED THAT THE AVAILABILITIES OF FERTILIZER AND TRANSPORTATION WILL BE ADEQUATE; AND L -- THERE ARE GLOWING STATEMENTS THAT OUR DAIRY AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION WILL FLOURISH, THE PROBLEM WITH THIS APPROACH IS THAT IT RELIES TOO MUCH ON LUCK, AND IGNORES THE PRICE AVERAGING WHICH THE U.S.D.A. INDULGES IN.

IT MAKES A GREAT DEAL OF DIFFERENCE WHETHER THE PRICE OF WHEAT IS \$5.00 OR \$3.00 A BUSHEL ALTHOUGH AN AVERAGE OF \$4.00 FOR THE YEAR MAY LOOK GOOD, IT HARDLY GIVES THE TRUE PICTURE. L BECAUSE MOST TIMES FARMERS DO NOT GET THE HIGH PRICE. YOU HAVE RIDDEN THE BUTZ BOOM AND BUST CYCLE, SO YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. THE LAST THING AMERICA'S FARMERS NEED FROM THIS ADMINISTRATION ARE A LOT OF IFS, ANDS, AND BUTZ. YOU WILL RECALL THAT LAST SPRING, FARMERS AND OTHERS WERE RIGHTLY CONCERNED OVER THE PROSPECT OF OVER-PRODUCTION AND DEPRESSED PRICES. IN RESPONSE, THE CONGRESS PASSED A MODEST ONE-YEAR EMERGENCY FARM BILL. WE WERE FORCED TO THE R WHAT WE FELT WAS NEEDED AGAINST WHAT MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE WHITE HOUSE, BUT EVEN THIS BILL WAS VETOED, ALTHOUGH GRAIN PRICES THEN WERE WELL ABOVE THE TARGET PRICES IN THE BILL.

-6-RECENTLY THE MARKET PRICES HAVE BEEN H IG NEAR THE LEVELS IN THAT LEGISLATION, Farmento IN VETOING THE BILL, PRESIDENT FORD SAID IT WOULD COST TOO the Know that MUCH MONEY FARM COSTS HAD GONE UP ABOUT 16 PER CENT IN 1974, AND THAT AGRICULTURAL PRICES HAD DROPPED BY ABOUT SEVEN PER CENTIN 1974 AND, UNFORTUNATELY IN ORDER TO DEFEAT THE LEDIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RESORTED TO FURVISHING HIGHLY MISLEADING AND DISTORTED INFORMATION ON WHAT THE BILL WOULD COST. THE PRESIDENT PRAISED THE AMERICAN FARMER FOR RESPONDING TO HIS CALL FOR ALL-OUT PRODUCTION . AND HE PLEDGED HIS PERSONAL SUPPORT TO MAINTAIN THE FARMER'S ACCESS TO WORLD MARKETS. no Affat controls.

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IS NOT JUST ON THE FARM OR IN OUR EXPORT MARKETS THAT WE FARMERS HAVE MADE TREMENDOUS INVESTMENTS IN THE FACE UNCERTAINTY. DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS TO MARKET THEIR PRODUCTS. TODAY THESE FARM COOPERATIVES ARE UNDER SEVERE ATTACK BY FORCES an Kr WITHIN OUR OWN GOVERNMENT WHO WOULD DESTROY THEM OVER THE YEARS, CONGRESS HAS ENCOURAGED FARMER COOPERATIVES BECAUSE THEY IMPROVE THE MARKETING ABILITY OF FARMERS AND SERVE TO STIMULATE COMPETITION WITH PRIVATE CORPORATIONS. BUT TODAY, COOPERATIVES AND THE CAPPER-VOLSTEAD ACT ARE BEING IT IS CLEAR THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD LIKE TO RESTRICT COOPERATIVES IN THE NAME OF STIMULATING COMPETITION. T BE DECEIVED THE TALK ABOUT LIMITING COOPERATIVES we can the governmend LIMIT THE FARMER IN THE MARKET

PLACE.

ONLY 28 PER CENT OF ALL FARM OUTPUT IS MARKETED THROUGH COOPERATIVES IN 1973, THE COMBINED SALES OF ALL COOPERATIVES TOTALED \$19 BILLION, WHILE GENERAL MOTORS HAD SALES OF OVER \$28 BILLION THE COOPERATIVE IS A FORCE FOR STABILITY AND A MEANS TO ENABLE THE PRODUCER TO GET A BETTER DEAL / IT ALSO HELPS ASSURE RELIABLE FOOD SUPPLIES FOR CONSUMERS. L COOPERATIVES AND THE FARM ORGANIZATIONS MUST STAND TOGETHER. LAN ATTACK ON ONE IS AN ATTACK ON ALL. Sol. DARTT. ONE WAY OF STRENGTHENING THOSE ORGANIZATIONS DEDICATED TO THE WELL-BEING OF AMERICA'S FARM PRODUCERS IS TO SUPPORT THOSE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS WHICH BEST SERVE FARM INTERESTS ONE OF THESE IS A BALANCED FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL POLICY SUCH A POLICY MEETS THE NEEDS OF FARMERS AND CONSUMERS ALIKE REMEMBER, FARMERS ARE CONSUMERS, TOO,

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AGRICULTURE, BUT THIS MUST NOT BE BOUGHT AT THE EXPENSE OF OUR

We should not be AFRAID TO WORK FOR GREATER STABILITY IN

PRODUCERS. THE SOVIET UNION IS WELL AWARE OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ITS POOR HARVEST ON ITS ECONOMY. BECAUSE OF THE POOR HARVEST THE SOVIET UNION HAS HAD TO REDUCE ITS ECONOMIC TARGETS. YET OUR GOVERNMENT SEEMS UNAWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING AMERICAN AGRICULTURE PROSPEROUS AND PRODUCTIVE, FORCING FARMERS OUT ACCORDING TO SOME IN THE U.S.D. THE RUMANIAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE RECENTLY STATED THAT HAVE SOMETHING MORE POWERFUL THAN THE ATOMIC BOMB

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OUR FARMERS RECOGNIZE THEIR IMPORTANCE IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY, THE EXPORT MARKET AND OUR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, However, THEY DO NOT ASK FOR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN DEVELOPING OUR POLICIES, THEY MERELY WANT TO BE TREATED FAIRLY AND EQUITABLY. FARMERS RECOGNIZE THAT FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL POLICY INVOLVES AND DECISIONS AFFECTING THEIR INTERESTS ARE MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT nd W. med a Sect force OF STATE OR LABOR NEED TO START THINKING IN TERMS OF THE A BROAD GAUGE POLICY WHICH WOULD PROVIDE: PRICE AND INCOME PROTECTION FOR PRODUCERS OF FOOD AND FIBER; FOOD SUPPLY STABILITY FOR CONSUMERS AT REASONABLE PRICES; -- ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF INPUTS AND TRANSPORTATION FOR PRODUCERS

-12-- THE PRODUCTION OF ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF DAIRY AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL NEEDS; AND -- THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RESERVE MECHANISM TO PROVIDE MARKET STABILITY DURING PERIODS OF SHORTAGE AND SURPLUS, MAINTAIN THE RELIABILITY OF THE U.S. AS AN EXPORTER, AND CONTINUE THE PROVISION OF FOOD ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY NATIONS. ALL OF THIS CAN BE DONE WITHOUT DEPRESSING FARM PRICES. TODAY WE HEAR A LOT OF TALK ABOUT THE ADVANTAGES OF THE AREE MARKET, AND WE ARE TOLD OF THE WISDOM OF REMOVING THE SHACKLES OF GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION AND INTERFERENCE FROM THE BARMER. AUT AT THE SAMETIME WE HAVE HAD CONTINUED AND HEAVY HANDED INTERFERENCE IN OUR EXPORT MARKETS. OUR POLICY SHOULD BE CONSISTENT, REALISTIC, AND IT SHOULD MEET OUR NEEDS FOR NOW AND THE FUTURE.

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I PLEDGE TO CONTINUE MY BEST EFFORTS IN THAT DIRECTION, AND I

URGE YOU TO DO LIKEWISE.

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