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FOR RELEASE  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1954

SENATOR HUMPHREY PROTESTS GOP ATTACK ON AMERICA'S TRADITIONAL FAMILY FARMING

Attempts of the Republican Administration to "redesign America's pattern of family farming into the mold of Republican Big Business" was sharply criticized by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey last night in a major radio address described as his final "farm message" of the current campaign.

"Farming in America is a way of life", Senator Humphrey said. "We are not going to let the experts of big business redesign our agriculture into mass production like a huge factory".

Senator Humphrey called attention to recent remarks of Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butts saying, as quoted in the Minnesota Tribune:

"American agriculture has come of age. It is now big business. If you can't farm, you better do something else."

Senator Humphrey also quoted the GOP cabinet aide as adding that "a modest decline in the farmers' share of the national income would not necessarily be bad".

"What kind of a philosophy is this?" Senator Humphrey asked. "Are we being told that our nation doesn't want farmers? Was the Republican leadership in Washington telling us that we are not to be concerned with a drop in farm income, and with the farmer receiving an even smaller share of the national income in years ahead?"

"This story from the Republican Department of Agriculture tells you that the family farm, which has been a tradition in American society, is now to be sacrificed on the altar of so-called Republican efficiency.

"People apparently aren't important to these Republican business-like experts. But I tell you that people ARE important, and I say that family farms are the backbone of American economic and political life. It is the family farm which has given us political and economic stability. It is the family farm which makes possible rural communities and supports our churches, our schools and our trade centers in rural areas.

"America isn't just efficiency and bigness. America is people -- people with needs and wants. People with hope and aspirations. American agriculture is not just efficient production. It is family living. It is church on Sunday. It is the family picnic and the rural school.

"The moral level of American social and political institutions is due in no small part to the wholesome atmosphere created by men and women and their families who live on our family farms. Yet we are now being told that we will have to look forward to fewer of such farms, and to bigger and bigger farms. Yes, agriculture is to become Republican Big Business".

Senator Humphrey called the publicly admitted Republican policy a "shocking repudiation of the American tradition and one of the great basic economic institutions of American life -- the rural family, owning its own farm, living its own life and contributing to the moral and economic values of American society."

"What are we going to do with these people pushed off the farms, to make way for the ruthless hand of big business efficiency and mass production?" Senator Humphrey asked. "Are we going to add them to unemployment rolls in the cities? Or are they just supposed to become hired hands on what once was their own farms, after they have been taken over and combined into a heartless mass operation by some absentee-landlord or corporation?"



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