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FARMERS NEED DEMOCRATIC VICTORY TO AVOID MORE 'BRUSH-OFFS', SENATOR HUMPHREY SAYS

Creation of "a bold, new, comprehensive and fully adequate national farm, food and fiber program" will have top priority if the Democratic Party is victorious in November, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) declared today in keynoting the Iowa State Democratic Convention at Des Moines, Iowa.

"Farmers all over our country know by now that the Democratic Party is dedicated to the fulfillment of the needs and aspirations of farm people, Senator Humphrey declared.

"Only the successful Democratic efforts in Congress during the recent session to stave off even worse disaster have prevented farm income in 1956 from falling below the depression-level lows of 1955. Yet even at best present farm legislation is but a partially effective, temporary stop-gap -- a plug in the dike until we face squarely the overall economic and social issues of more adequate farm income and more effective use of our ability to produce in abundance."

Farmers are going to be confronted with "more uncertainty, more brush-offs, more broken promises" unless they speak up in the polling places to provide both a Democratic majority in the Congress and a Democrat in the White House, Senator Humphrey declared.

"On every roll call vote during the 84th Congress, a majority of Democrats were on the side of strengthening and improving our farm program -- and a majority of Republicans were against us.

"But even a Democratic Congress faces an uphill fight in trying to develop an effective farm program against the obstruction and opposition of an unsympathetic national administration, an administration relegating farm people to the basement of our economy," Senator Humphrey said.

He called upon Iowa to "strengthen our hand in the Senate" by electing Democratic Senatorial Nominee R. M. "Spike" Evans, first administrator of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration under President Roosevelt and later a member of the Federal Reserve Board under President Truman.

Senator Humphrey told the Iowa Democrats that he was not promising any "magic wand of a one-shot panacea".

"Only a broad, soundly-conceived program of many needed parts will provide the program required to enable farm people to earn a fair share of national income, and that has been and will be our Democratic objective," he declared.

Senator Humphrey said such a comprehensive program must include:

1. Positive, permanent programs to conserve our soil, water, forestry, and human resources.
2. Programs specifically designed to protect and preserve the family type farm, including additional assistance to small farmers and young farmers such as special credit, technical aid, enlarged soil conserving allowances and liberal treatment in production adjustments.

3. Replacement of collapsible price supports with a combination of permanent, mandatory programs to help farmers obtain full parity of income, through price support loans of at least 90% of parity, direct purchases, direct payments to farmers, marketing agreements, "or any other means required to protect farm income while helping farmers adjust their production to demand."
4. A food stamp or supplemental food program to insure that no American family be denied an adequate and wholesome diet because of low income, and an expanded school lunch and special milk program to meet the dietary needs of every school child.
5. Expanded distribution of food to public institutions and organizations and qualified private charitable institutions, and a greatly expanded distribution of food and fiber to needy people in other nations through recognized charitable and religious institutions.
6. Effective means of reducing the spread between producers' prices and consumers' costs.
7. Creation of an International Food Bank to facilitate and increase the exchange of farm surpluses between nations.
8. The maintenance of adequate reserves of agricultural commodities for national security purposes and consumer protection, without the full burden for maintenance of such reserves in the public's interest falling upon farmers through depressed prices.
9. Effective programs to promote reliable and low cost rural electric and telephone service.
10. Return of the administration of farm programs to democratically-elected farmer committeemen, elimination of political patronage abuses in administration of farm programs, and return of local conservation districts to their proper functions of leadership.
11. Encouragement of cooperatives to help farmers reduce the cost-price squeeze, and protection of bonafide farmer cooperatives against punitive taxation.
12. An increased volume of farm credit at lower interest rates, particularly designed for smaller farms, and reactivation and expansion of crop insurance to maximum coverage and protection.
13. Extending the benefits of price reporting information and marketing research to timber farmers.
14. Constructive public information programs to bring about a better understanding between rural and urban people, such as wage earners and businessmen, of their common problems and interdependence.



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