

From the Office of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
1311 New Senate Office Building
Washington 25, D.C.
CApitol 4, 3121, Ext. 2424

For Release: Wednesday a.m.
September 30, 1959

SENATOR HUMPHREY OUTLINES GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPING NEW FARM PROGRAM

Farm people and city people alike "Need to do some soul searching" regarding America's neglect of agriculture, ~~Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.)~~ declared last night at a testimonial dinner for Congressman Lester Johnson at ~~Eau Claire, Wisconsin.~~

Farm Income Down, Prices Down, Debt up!

"Rather than stumble and drift along blindly because of a vacuum of sound farm policy leadership from the present Republican Administration, we all need to make some honest appraisal of what we really want -- and the alternatives we face," ~~Senator Humphrey declared.~~

"Isn't it strange that at the very time the Soviet Premier is expressing envy for the effectiveness of America's individual enterprise type of agriculture as contrasted to his experiments in collectivism, the policies in this country ~~should be directing~~ *are directing* our agriculture away from the very family farming system under which it has achieved its superiority?"

"Now, for the first time in the history of our nation, a cancer of doubt has been stirred in the public consciousness as to the merit of our family farming system -- the most efficient agricultural production system in the world."

"In the name of mass 'efficiency', we are neglecting the human values of the independent farm producer. I am against collectivism in agriculture, whether it is communistic or corporate."

"Yet domination of agriculture by centralized corporate power appeals to many as an easy way out of the farm problem; and it appeals even more strongly to those who simply do not care what happens to farm people."

"It is time we adopted better guidelines for where we want to go in agriculture, and developed a new and better farm program following such guidelines."

Doubt over Family Farm

Mass Efficiency

Corp. Ag.

Guidelines!

Human Values

Lucas

(1) "We need an agricultural stabilization program far less costly to the American taxpayers than the present inexcusable mess -- yet one that is far more effective in its protection of family farmers and their contribution to the American economy."

Party

(2) "We need an agricultural stabilization program that permits agriculture to keep pace with the rest of our expanding economy in terms of income, yet one that does not make the farmer dependent on the government for that income."

Coops

(3) "We need a program that recognizes the need for farmers to help themselves through cooperative action for bargaining power and for whatever production adjustments may be necessary to make the best use of our human, soil, and water resources."

Technol changes

(4) "We need a program tailored to the vast technological changes, yet one that does not sacrifice the human and social values of our traditional American pattern of family owner-operated farms."

Conservation

(5) "We need a program that recognizes the farmer's stewardship responsibility for conserving productivity of our land for the sake of future generations, yet recognizes too that the entire nation shares that same responsibility."

Surpluses

(6) "We need a program that really does something about surpluses -- making use of what we have, and adjusting production to keep from building up more beyond the level of possible need."

Nat Food Policy

(7) "Above all, we need a national food policy closely meshed with our foreign policy, so that we can better gear our productive resources to the needs of humanity at home and abroad -- instead of producing for government storage bins."

Senator Humphrey said he had followed these guidelines in drafting his own Family Farm Program Development Act.

Real Needs!

"This proposed legislation requires that as a firststep toward accomplishing a truly effective farm program, a determination of the real need for farm products -- overseas as well as at home -- should be made. How much food is needed by the developing countries of the world? What kinds?"

FOOD FOR

How much of the need can be supplied by our country through normal channels of trade? How much of the need should be supplied by other means -- by donation in case of famine or disaster, or by grant or loan to friendly governments struggling with grave economic problems as their people seek a better way of life?", ~~Senator Humphrey~~ asked.

FOOD FOR NEEDY!

"How much food do we really need here at home? How much is required for uses other than those supplied by the market -- for our school children, for the needy, the unemployed, the handicapped, the aged, the dependent children?"

"Only when we have determined the true needs for food and fiber, will we be in a position to make long-range plans for land use, for broader soil and water conservation programs, for an intelligent program of production adjustments that will serve our total interests."

"The Family Farm Program Development Act requires that such long range plans be made.

also The Johnson-Humphrey DAIRY Bill AR 6750 5 18 21

PROGRAM

"This proposal calls upon farmers directly for the first time to work with the Secretary of Agriculture in formulating a program adapted to the unique needs of each commodity. Whenever a commodity is in price trouble due to surplus supply, the Secretary will meet with elected farmer-committees to work out a stabilization program. The resulting program will then be presented to all of the producers of that commodity in a referendum. If the growers vote yes, if they say they want this program, then and only then will it come to Congress. If Congress finds that this program is in the public interest -- that it is fair to farmers and to consumers alike -- then it will become law without further action. The Congress will have 60 days in which to make up its mind, and if the proposal is not disapproved by resolution, the law goes into effect.

FAIR PRICES

"For the guidance of the Secretary and individual commodity groups, the bill establishes a new fair price standard geared to current economic conditions, not frozen to periods of the past. A fair price is defined as that price which

will yield returns on capital and labor, on representative family farms, comparable to nonfarm earnings, based on facts and figures collected by the Department of Agriculture.

"This proposal is a blueprint for both immediate and long-term constructive action.

"Far from regimentation, such a program offers the real freedom farmers need -- freedom from poverty, freedom for economic domination, and freedom of choice as to the alternatives they prefer in seeking to avoid the hardship of the wildly fluctating free markets over which they now have no control."

FOOD FOR PEACE

For Emergency Use

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"In the name of mass 'efficiency', we are neglecting the human values of the independent farm producer. I am against collectivism in agriculture, whether it is communistic or corporate.

"Yet domination of agriculture by centralized corporate power appeals to many as an easy way out of the farm problem; and it appeals even more strongly to those who simply do not care what happens to farm people.

"It is time we adopted better guidelines for where we want to go in agriculture, and developed a new and better farm program following such guidelines.

- (1) "We need an agricultural stabilization program far less costly to the American taxpayers than the present inexcusable mess -- yet one that is far more effective in its protection of family farmers and their contribution to the American economy.
- (2) "We need an agricultural stabilization program that permits agriculture to keep pace with the rest of our expanding economy in terms of income, yet one that does not make the farmer dependent on the government for that income.
- (3) "We need a program that recognizes the need for farmers to help themselves through cooperative action for bargaining power and for whatever production adjustments may be necessary to make the best use of our human, soil, and water resources.
- (4) "We need a program tailored to the vast technological changes, yet one that does not sacrifice the human and social values of our traditional American pattern of family owner-operated farms.
- (5) "We need a program that recognizes the farmer's stewardship responsibility for conserving productivity of our land for the sake of future generations, yet recognizes too that the entire nation shares that same responsibility.
- (6) "We need a program that really does something about surpluses -- making use of what we have, and adjusting production to keep from building up more beyond the level of possible need.
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