

(Bill) M.W. Thatcher - President Emil Lorick - Colenn Talbot

Excerpts from address by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) before annual banquet of Farmers Union Grain Terminal Association, Saint Paul, Minnesota, Tuesday night, December 15, 1959

Gov. Freeman - Mayor Dillon - Cong. Keith

It is a great thrill to be back with you again.

*The  
Time!*

This is ~~the~~, the seventh successive December, that I have ~~stood before thousands of you in this auditorium and~~ *been here and* talked with the great GTA family about the rights and goals of family farmers and the ways and means of achieving them.

For me, there could be no greater honor than to have you want me back, again and again. You are my kind of people. *I feel like a member of the family* from the great heartland of America in which I am proud to have *The GTA - Farmers Union Family!* been born and reared. You are deeply concerned about social and economic justice, not only for yourselves but for all people, just as I am *now* ~~and~~ *and* always have been ~~and~~ always shall be.

By now, you know where I stand and how I feel.

For the seventh year, I wish to reaffirm my belief in

000172

the basic concept of <sup>full</sup> parity income for America's farm families.

Farmers have a just claim to a full, fair share in our national progress and prosperity.

*and Bill Hatcher has given eloquent support*

~~They should not be, and must not be, treated as~~

~~neglected, second class citizens.~~

*to this plea for  
Lesson Justice*

*Oh how I wish  
Bill Hatcher  
had been set  
ago*

I have always talked frankly with you, and from my

heart.

I have never changed, and never wavered in my convictions.

*and* I have no regret for anything I ever told you, ~~by hindsight, any reason to wish I had said otherwise.~~ History

records that my discussions with you have been rather accurate forecasts of things to come.

I have only pride, not apology, for my continuing fight in behalf of America's farm people, however frustrating it has been because we have been right, all of us in this vast

*Now* ~~auditorium~~ I am no Johnny-come-lately in this great struggle,

no fair weather, election-year patriot, suddenly awakening to a

related interest in agriculture.

↳ You are going to see such people in the year ahead.

It is understandable if you look them all over with justifiable suspicion. — *We've been fooled before!*

↳ Minnesota has just had a distinguished urban visitor from the east, out here to tell the <sup>mpls</sup> Junior Chamber of Commerce what should be done about you farmers *and farming!*

We're pleased he came. I only regret that he didn't have a chance to mix with real, live farmers such as we have gathered here. It would have been an enlightening experience for him, I'm sure.

↳ It's always good to have our 'eastern urban friends' get out here to talk things over with us in the midwest, ~~even if they come with the advance notion they have pat answers to all our problems.~~

↳ Sometimes they go away wiser than when they came.

For example, I suspect that even Governor Rockefeller now knows that if you want farmers to give serious consideration to your ideas, you don't start off by saying you'd keep Ezra Benson as Secretary of Agriculture.

↳ Let me say this, however, I welcomed Nelson Rockefeller's frank

admission that the present Republican farm program is a hopeless failure.

What leaves me confused is how he rationalizes his defense of Ezra Benson while confessing seven years of utter Republican failure in cop[ing] with the farm problem.

*seem*  
~~quarrel~~ *quarrel* with Governor Rockefeller's generalities, nor

his professed sharing of many of our common objectives. Most of what

he had to say has been said time and time again. When you and I say America's

farmers are entitled to a better break, we're <sup>often</sup> pooh-poohed by <sup>some of</sup> the

sophisticate eastern press. When Nelson Rockefeller says it, however, it

suddenly becomes dramatic news.

*OK* You see, when you are regarded as "safe" by the Wall Street powers-that-be, <sup>Benson</sup> when you say you'll be willing to keep Ezra, then you can promise farmers anything -- and be hailed as an agricultural statesman!

But if you're really trying to do something effective about America's farm plight, and if you have the courage to say bluntly that rural America would be better off without Benson heading the Department of Agriculture, you suddenly become a dangerous radical.

*L* I know! Just read what the Wall Street Journal has to say about

me, from time to time, and you'll know what I mean.

*Richard Nixon*

If an approaching election compels the Nelson Rockefeller and the Republican party generally to at long last take a more honest look at what is happening to agriculture, and what needs to be done for agriculture -- well and good. ~~(aggressive demands made on duty of)~~

But you can't blame farmers for being skeptical.

Midwest farmers are not going to be easily beguiled again. *+ fooled*

They still remember <sup>1952</sup> Kasser and the now tarnished "Golden Promise" *of 1952*

Deeds are more significant than speeches.

If Nelson Rockefeller, Richard Nixon, or any other Republican

Presidential hopeful -- if they have any -- really expects to get any consideration from America's farm belt next November, let them have the courage to stand up and break openly, now, with the farm policies of Secretary Benson and ~~President Eisenhower~~ *The Republican Party*; let them show they are willing to join the fight now, by insisting that the President accept, rather than reject by veto, the will of the Congress; let them show how many Republican votes they can deliver in behalf of the farmer, instead of against him, during the coming Congress.

↳ That will be the test.

Just to be helpful, I'm sure ~~the Chairman~~ <sup>T</sup> of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, of which I am a member, would be willing to have either Mr. Rockefeller or Vice President Nixon come before our Committee in open hearing and testify on specific farm legislation during the next few months -- <sup>yes, testify on the</sup> ~~both of~~ Eisenhower Benson proposals, and

proposals offered by others of us ~~desperately trying to protect America's~~ <sup>would welcome this views on the Humphrey</sup> ~~family farmers.~~ <sup>Program</sup> Family Farm Development Act.

~~It might be an interesting and useful experiment. At least we'll know better where they really stand, when the chips are down.~~

Pause

↳ When I came before you last December, I had just returned from extensive travels in Europe and a visit with Chairman Khrushchev in Moscow <sup>the Soviet Union.</sup>

This year, since the end of the first half of the present Congress, I have travelled extensively in our own country, visiting in some 24 states, north and south, east and west, plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

↳ ~~I can tell you honestly tonight that~~ <sup>H</sup> ~~there is a smouldering~~ <sup>T</sup> unrest and wave of dissatisfaction in vast segments

of the American people and nowhere is it more evident than in the great farming areas of our country. ( *Luckman N.D. S.D., Kans nebr. Texas Kansas Colo* )

↳ Farmers are patient people, but there is only so much they can take. Another "green revolt" is in the making, like we witnessed in 1948. It is showing up in every rural area of America and no wonder! { *Farmers Remember - 12-20-7-7 years, months, weeks - Days* }

↳ Each of the last seven years, you have stood up bravely to new challenges and new problems. — *See him in the battle for 5 Farm Bills + 5 Veterans!*

↳ Yet we now find that the economic position of family farms is approaching a 20-year low.

Low prices and low income have reduced your purchasing power, your ability to maintain an American standard of living, back to pre-World War II levels.

*and* This year, according to the Republican *National Committee* we're supposed to be in a boom. They must be looking at the New York Stock Market not the Saint Paul hog market.

Sure, during the first nine months of this year, the income of the American people as a whole went up nine billion dollars.

But what happened to farm income?

~~You know it went down by more than 2 billion dollars.~~

Net farm income, during this so-called "boom" year, has gone down nearly 24 percent. - \$2 Billion

In terms of dollars with the same buying power, the net income of agriculture this year is the lowest in 19 years.

The parity ratio is lower today than at any time since 1940.

*Farmers Share of Food Dollars 38¢*  
*Tight money - Interest Pd by farmers to Creditors up - 154%*

I wish I could honestly tell you tonight that the

prospects for next year were brighter. I cannot! ~~They are not.~~

~~Things are going to be worse, not better.~~

Don't just take my word for it; the Department of Agriculture says so. The Department of ~~Agriculture~~ economists,

gazing into their crystal ball last month, came up with the reluctant but honest conclusion that farm prices and farm income were going to be lower next year than this year.

That's not a very heartening Christmas present for America's farmers.

Some years ago, Franklin D. Roosevelt made famous the phrase, "the forgotten man."

Today, there is definitely a "forgotten man" in the eyes of the present Republican administration--the American farmer.

~~I don't need to remind any of you that the entire American economy has had its ups and downs since this Republican crowd took office. But it has always worked out so that the farmer shared in all the "downs," but was left out in the cold during the "ups."~~

< It may be that some of you feel faint-hearted as you look into the future. It may seem that the forces that have *But I doubt it*

000180

~~worked against you are too strong to resist.~~

*You* ~~you~~ are gathered ~~here~~ are hardened veterans in

the struggle for economic justice. It wasn't easy building this

this great Cooperative  
fine marketing institution, the Grain Terminal Association.

*to be very proud*  
You have reason ~~for great pride~~. You have banded

together and built a great cooperative in the GTA, which has

been a source of strength to farmers throughout the entire

midwest, in good times and bad. I'd hate to think how the

situation would be today if you didn't have it.

You too have been the builders of the rural

electrification cooperatives that brought rural America out of

the 19th century and into the mainstream of American life, *you*

have extended your understanding of cooperative effort to creation

of effective supply cooperatives.

And you have fought off the unfair, unreasonable

attacks that have been launched by those groups which seek to

weaken and destroy your cooperatives.

Let me warn you tonight this is a continuing struggle.

The same forces that have been and still are undermining<sup>h</sup> governmental

efforts<sup>h</sup> to aid the individual farmer are just as eager to undermine

cooperative efforts<sup>h</sup> in the farmers' behalf. ~~Your adversaries~~

~~have again sharpened their weapons, and are trying to bring the~~

~~pressure of public opinion and punitive legislation against you.~~

I don't think they can succeed, but ~~there is no place~~ *we dare not*

*relax* ~~for faint heartedness.~~ You must continue the struggle, day in

day out *and* You won't be fighting alone. Along with many others

who believe deeply in the cooperative movement as a legitimate

extension of the free enterprise system, I shall always be

fighting at your side.

Your strength, and your public acceptance, rests in the

fact that ~~this~~ *cooperative* type of economic structure has its roots firmly

imbedded in the principle of democratic action. It represents

↳ the ability and the willingness of people to turn from a  
 " dog-eat-dog philosophy " to one of cooperation and Christian support  
for each other.

*of your cooperatives*  
 ↳ ~~Your cooperative organizations~~ *you* ~~The~~ managers and directors  
 have supplied ~~the~~ partnership with better facilities and faster  
 and more modern services, *This is good,* ~~all of the many, many essentials to~~  
~~keeping pace business-wise in this fast-moving world.~~

↳ But a cooperative is and must always be more than a  
 hard-headed business ~~bureaucratic~~ management service. It must be an  
 expression of the ideal of cooperation, not just in business,  
 but in all levels of living. When a cooperative forgets or  
 ignores this obligation to its members, it opens itself to  
 justifiable criticism. I can voice this note of caution tonight  
 because your organization and its leadership are effective  
 examples of all that is good about the cooperative movement.

↳ Through unity of purpose, individuals have come together

*CTA + central exchange*

in cooperatives such as yous to work toward the goal of a  
 better life for all, not just for financial gains. Through their  
 cooperatives, members contribute to the strength of their  
 communities. They support churches, work for better schools, for  
 better health facilities, for improved community services of  
 all kinds.

*Central Exchange - Coop.  
 Mutual Farmers Union*

The spirit of cooperation has led this cooperative,  
 and others, to carry democracy around the world through helping  
 other cooperatives to get established in foreign lands. Most  
 governments in the <sup>new</sup> emerging nations recognize that cooperatives  
 are a main force in raising the living standards of their people,  
 in providing more and better use of natural resources, and in  
 strengthening government of the people, by the people, and for the

people. *The Cooperative movement is a strong ally of Freedom.*

Yes, cooperatives stand for more than just good business management. They stand for the spirit of freedom, the spirit

000184

of sharing, the spirit of working together, the spirit of love.

We need more of such spirit in the world today. ~~and this is why~~

~~cooperatives have friends. This is why they have the strength~~

~~to resist all weakening attacks. This is why cooperatives have~~

~~made such a great contribution to the nation, and to the world.~~

↳ This same cooperative spirit can lead family farmers

~~to forming a more united front to the perils of the year immediately~~

*to - a greater unity in the designing and support of farm legislation - oh how this is needed.*

*Unity*

I have been greatly encouraged in recent months by

definite signs that farm organizations are coming together with

major commodity groups in an effort to combine their forces in

support of purposeful legislative action.

↳ The political climate in these past seven years has

not been favorable for effective farm legislative action. I

do not know that it will be any better in the session to come,

but I do know that your friends in Congress will try again to

000185

re-establish a national farm policy that makes better sense.

It is only fair to warn you that Congress is working under extremely serious and inescapable limitations. Congress

can accomplish little ~~until we get a President who will not~~ *if the President vetoes*  
~~vote any bill which will do anything substantial to raise farm~~ *our efforts to improve farm*  
~~income and~~ *prices.*

Yet we can and must fight to hold the line. Much

legislative time and energy will be spent in the coming session to prevent Secretary Benson from imposing on wheat the same kind of unlimited production-low price program that he rigged for corn.

*Wheat!*

~~and we will stop him!~~

~~It is the duty of Congress to seek to reaffirm, through legislation, the long-held national policy of protection for the family farm pattern of agriculture that has made America great. It is the duty of Congress to hold out hope to the family farmers of our country, by supporting the kind of national farm policy which offers America's farmers the opportunity to achieve economic~~

equality with other segments of our economy whatever the President or his Secretary of Agriculture may do.

I have never been satisfied to be just a critic.

Throughout the years I have continually sought to bring forth ideas and suggestions of my own as constructive approaches to the problems you face, and pending before Congress when it convenes will be my own Family Farm Program Development Act.

L In my opinion, this can be a "Charter of Hope" for farmers, with four major goals:

1. To improve farm prices and family farm income;
2. To assure ample supplies of food and fiber for all domestic needs, for commercial exports, for a national safety reserve, and for use by our government in building world peace.
3. To reduce the tax burden through reducing present excessive farm program costs;
4. To protect the well-being of our future generations

by conserving soil and water resources now wasted on unneeded production.

Humphrey Family Farm Development

The bill would establish the principles that our family farmers must produce an abundance of food for use, but must not be pushed into unneeded, wasteful production by low prices.

It would establish a new concept of parity--a concept of a fair price based upon making farm earnings comparable to the current earnings of people in other walks of life. This parity price would change every year with shifts in the general economy, rather than being tied to a set time period of the past.

Under ~~this~~ <sup>my</sup> bill, farm producers for the first time would be permitted the major voice in choosing the most suitable program method for balancing market supply with actual food needs.

The Family Farm Program Development Act recognizes that the goals cannot possibly be achieved by one single line of action,

and therefore seeks to embrace a multiple approach.

↳ It proposes a positive domestic food and nutrition program,  
 aimed at providing more adequate diets through expanding the  
national school lunch and special milk for children programs and  
FOOD STAMP  
 establishing a food allotment program for the needy in our midsts.

Why  
NOT

↳ It would set up a national security reserve of food  
 and fiber products to protect us against possible emergency  
 shortages. - (Inventory of Strategic Materials  
9 Billions - NO Co. or plant.)

↳ It would encourage a long-term international food and  
fiber program to make better use of American abundance as an  
instrument of our foreign policy to build world peace, and to  
encourage the development of the emerging nations of the free  
 world.

↳ It would provide for income stabilization programs for  
 individual commodities, of the kind that producers themselves  
 find best adapted to their needs. - When 2/3 of  
Producer vote yes!

It would also provide for a long-term, expanded agricultural resources conservation program, with incentives for land-use adjustments and temporary retirement of land not currently needed for production and afford special attention to the low production and low income family farmers where special assistance is needed.

It is not a panacea. It is an honest attempt to provide a statutory framework for continuing, constructive action toward restoring equity in agriculture.

The result of the current farm policy has been a great deal of unnecessary hardship and suffering. Farmers have suffered, consumers have suffered, taxpayers have suffered, business has suffered, but there's another group of people who have suffered to.

I'm talking about the millions of people who go to bed hungry every night, simply because they can't get the food to

000190

feed themselves or their families.

↳ Many of these people are right here in the United States.

↳ Millions more are abroad.

How shameful that America's granaries should be bulging at their seams while there remains a mouth unfed.

↳ How shameful that the American taxpayer should be paying a million dollars a day to store our mounting surpluses instead of devoting that money to help feed the hungry and clothe the needy.

↳ I am not talking about dumping our products abroad and destroying world markets.

↳ I am talking about reaching out with a humane, helping hand to nations who cannot buy foodstuffs in the world market, but who need our help desperately.

When are we going to start practicing what we preach?

When are we going to start giving meaning to the words the Master of Galilee taught all to pray, "Give us this Day, our Daily Bread"?

Fortunately, the President of the United States has now given his blessing to the fight many of us have waged for years, to enlist the resources of the United States in a great "War against Hunger" all over the world.

We heartily cheer his pledge to the struggling country of India and earnestly pray that deeds will follow the words, to show the world <sup>that</sup> America regards its abundance as a blessing to be shared with all mankind.

But let us hope too, in this long-overdue war against hunger, the commander-in-chief doesn't forget "pay" for his troops, the farm producers of America who make it possible for us to assert world leadership in wiping out famine.

Peace - Food - Health - Educ.  
Merry Xmas - Happy New Year

Minnesota has just had a distinguished urban visitor from the east, out here to tell the Junior Chamber of Commerce what should be done about you farmers.

We're pleased he came. I only regret that he didn't have a chance to mix with real, live farmers such as we have gathered here. It would have been an enlightening experience for him, I'm sure.

It's always good to have our eastern urban friends get out here to talk things over with us in the midwest, even if they come with the advance notion they have pat answers to all our problems.

Sometimes they go away wiser than when they came.

For example, I suspect that even Governor Rockefeller now knows that if you want farmers to give serious consideration to your ideas, you don't start off by saying you'd keep Ezra Benson as Secretary of Agriculture.

Let me say this, however, I welcomed Nelson Rockfellers' frank admission that the present Republican farm program is a hopeless failure.

What leaves me confused is how he rationalizes his defense of Ezra Benson while confessing seven years of utter Republican failure in coping with the farm problem.

I'll not quarrel with Governor Rockefeller's generalities, now his professed sharing of many of our common objectives. Most of what he had to say has been said time and time again. When you and I say America's farmers are entitled to a better break, we're pooh-poohed by all the sophisticate eastern press. When Nelson Rockefeller says it, however, it suddenly becomes dramatic news.

You see, when you are regarded as "safe" by the Wall Street powers-that-be, when you say you'll be willing to keep Ezra, then you can promise farmers anything--and be hailed as an agricultural statesman.

But if you're really trying to do something effective about America's farm plight, and if you have the courage to say bluntly that rural America would be better off

000193

without Ezra Benson heading the Department of Agriculture, you suddenly become a dangerous radical.

I know. Just read what the Wall Street Journal has to say about me, from time to time, and you'll know what I mean.

If an approaching election compels the Nelson Rockfellers and the Republican party generally to at long last take a more honest look at what is happening to agriculture, and what needs to be done for agriculture--well and good.

But you can't blame farmers for being skeptical.

Midwest farmers are not going to be easily beguiled again. They still remember Kasson, and the now tarnished "Golden Promise".

Deeds are more significant than speeches.

If Nelson Rockefeller, Richard Nixon, or any other Republican Presidential hopeful--if they have any--really expects to get any consideration from America's farm belt next November, let them have the courage to stand up and break openly, now, with the farm policies of Secretary Benson and President Eisenhower; let them show they are willing to join the fight now, by insisting that the President accept, rather than reject by veto, the will of the Congress; let them show how many Republican votes they can deliver in behalf of the farmer, instead of against him, during the coming Congress.

That will be the test.

Just to be helpful, I'm sure the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, of which I am a member, would be willing to have either Mr. Rockefeller or Vice President Nixon come before our Committee in open hearing and testify on specific farm legislation during the next few months--both on Eisenhower. Benson proposals, and proposals offered by others of us desparately trying to protect America's family farmers.

It might be an interesting--and useful--experiment. At least we'll know better where they really stand, when the chips are down.

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000196 12-9-20 - 7 - deception, double cross, and

years-months <sup>with</sup> Days - Thunato over!

Excerpts from address by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.)  
before annual banquet of Farmers Union Grain Terminal Association,  
St. Paul, Minnesota, Tuesday night, December 15, 1959.

COOPTOP

It is a great thrill to be back with you again.

This is the seventh year, the seventh successive December, that I have stood before thousands of you in this auditorium and talked with the great GTA family about the rights and goals of family farmers--and the ways and means of achieving them.

For me, there could be no greater honor than to have you want me back, again and again. You are my kind of people, from the great heartland of America in which I am proud to have been born and reared. You are deeply concerned about social and economic justice, not only for yourselves--but for all people, just as I am, just as I always have been--and just as I always shall be.

Inventory of Strategic materials

By now, you know where I stand--and how I feel.

For the seventh year, I wish to reaffirm my belief in the basic concept of parity income for America's farm families.

Farmers have a just claim to a full, fair share in our national progress and prosperity.

They should not be, and must not be, treated as neglected, second-class citizens.

I have always talked frankly with you, and from my heart.

I have never changed, and never wavered in my convictions. I have no regret for anything I ever told you--nor, by hindsight, any reason to wish I had said otherwise. History records that my discussions with you have been rather accurate forecasts of things to come.

I have only pride, not apology, for my continuing fight in behalf of America's farm people, however, frustrating it has been--because we have been right, all of us in this vast auditorium. I am no Johnny-come-lately in this great struggle, no fair weather, election-year patriot, suddenly awakening to a belated interest in agriculture.

You are going to see such people, in the year ahead.

It is understandable if you look them all over with justifiable suspicion. Midwest farmers are not going to be easily beguiled again. They still remember Kasson, and the now tarnished "Golden Promise."

When I came before you last December, I had just returned from extensive travels Europe--and a visit with Chairman Khrushchev in Moscow. 000197

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Farmers are patient people, but there is only so much they can take. Another "green revolt" is in the making, like we witnessed in 1948. It is showing up in every rural area of America--and no wonder!

Each of the last seven years, you have stood up bravely to new challenges and new problems.

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It may be that some of you feel faint-hearted as you look into the future. It may seem that the forces that have worked against you are too strong to resist.

You who are gathered here are hardened veterans in the struggle for economic justice. It wasn't easy building this fine marketing institution, the Grain Terminal Association.

You have reason for great pride. You have banded together and built a great cooperative in the GTA, which has been a source of strength to farmers throughout the entire Midwest, in good times and bad. I'd hate to think how the situation would be today if you didn't have it.

You, too, have been the builders of the rural electrification cooperatives that brought rural America out of the 19th century and into the mainstream of American life, and have extended your understanding of cooperative effort to creation of effective supply cooperatives.

And you have fought off the unfair, unreasonable attacks that have been launched those groups which seek to weaken and destroy your cooperatives.

Let me warn you tonight--this is a continuing struggle. The same forces that have been and still are undermining governmental efforts to aid the individual farmer are just as

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eager to undermine cooperative efforts in the farmers' behalf. Your adversaries have again sharpened their weapons, and are trying to bring the pressure of public opinion and punitive legislation against you.

I don't think they can succeed, but there is no place for faint-heartedness. You must continue the struggle, day in and day out. You won't be fighting alone. Along with many others who believe deeply in the cooperative movement as a legitimate extension of the free enterprise system, I shall always be fighting at your side.

Your strength, and your public acceptance, rests in the fact that this type of economic structure has its roots firmly imbedded in the principle of democratic action. It represents the ability and the willingness of people to turn from a dog-eat-dog philosophy to one of cooperation and Christian support for each other.

Your cooperative organizations' managers and directors have supplied the membership with better facilities and faster and more modern services, all of the many, many new essentials to keeping pace business-wise in this fast-moving world.

But a cooperative is and must always be more than a hard-headed bureaucratic management service. It must be an expression of the ideal of cooperation, not just in business, but in all levels of living. When a cooperative forgets or ignores this obligation to its members, it opens itself to justifiable criticism. I can voice this note of caution tonight because your organization and its leadership are effective examples of all that is good about the cooperative movement.

Through unity of purpose, individuals have come together in cooperatives such as yours to work toward the goal of a better life for all, not just for financial gains. Through their cooperatives, members contribute to the strength of their communities. They support churches, work for better schools, for better health facilities, for improved community services of all kinds.

The spirit of cooperation has led this cooperative, and others, to carry democracy around the world through helping other cooperatives to get established in foreign lands. Most governments in the emerging nations recognize that cooperatives are a main force in raising the living standards of their people, in providing more and better use of natural resources, and in bolstering government of the people, by the people and for

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the people.

Yes, cooperatives stand for more than just good business management. They stand for the spirit of freedom, the spirit of sharing, the spirit of working together, the spirit of love. We need more of such spirit in the world today. And this is why cooperatives have friends. This is why they have the strength to resist all weakening attacks. This is why cooperatives have made such a great contribution to the nation, and to the world.

This same cooperative spirit can lead to family farmers offering a more united front to the perils of the year immediately ahead.

I have been greatly encouraged in recent months by definite signs that farm organizations are coming together with major commodity groups in an effort to combine their forces in support of purposeful legislative action.

The political climate in these past seven years has not been favorable for effective farm legislative action. I do not know that it will be any better in the session to come, but I do know that your friends in Congress will try again to re-establish a national farm policy that makes better sense.

It is only fair to warn you that Congress is working under extremely serious and inescapable limitations. Congress can accomplish little until we get a President who will not veto any bill which will do anything substantial to raise farm prices.

Yet we can and must fight to hold the line. Much legislative time and energy will be spent in the coming session to prevent Secretary Benson from imposing on wheat the same kind of unlimited production-low price program that he rigged for corn.

It is the duty of Congress to seek to reaffirm, through legislation, the long-held national policy of protection for the family farm pattern of agriculture that has made America great. It is the duty of Congress to hold out hope to the family farmers of our country, by supporting the kind of national farm policy which offers America's farmers the opportunity to achieve economic equality with other segments of our economy-- whatever the President or his Secretary of Agriculture may do.

I have never been satisfied to be just a critic. Throughout the years I have

continually sought to bring forth ideas and suggestions of my own as constructive approaches to the problems you face, and pending before Congress when it convenes will be my own Family Farm Program Development Act.

In my opinion, this can be a Charter of Hope for farmers, with four major goals:

1. To improve farm prices and family farm income;
2. To assure ample supplies of food and fiber for all domestic needs, for commercial exports, for a national safety reserve, and for use by our government in building world peace.
3. To reduce the tax burden through reducing present excessive farm program costs;
4. To protect the well-being of our future generations by conserving soil and water resources now wasted on unneeded production.

The bill would establish the principles that our family farmers must produce an abundance of food for use, but must not be pushed into unneeded, wasteful production by low prices.

It would establish a new concept of parity--a concept of a fair price--based upon making farm earnings comparable to the current earnings of people in other walks of life. This parity price would change every year with shifts in the general economy, rather than being tied to a set time period of the past.

Under this bill, farm producers for the first time would be permitted the major voice in choosing the most suitable program method for balancing market supply with actual food needs.

The Family Farm Program Development Act recognizes that the goals cannot possibly be achieved by one single line of action, and therefore seeks to embrace a multiple approach.

It proposes a positive domestic food and nutrition program, aimed at providing more adequate diets through expanding the national school lunch and special milk for children programs and establishing a food allotment program for the needy in our midst.

It would set up a national security reserve of food and fiber products to protect us against possible emergency shortages.

It would encourage a long-term international food and fiber program to make better use of American abundance as an instrument of our foreign policy to build world peace, and to encourage the development of the emerging nations of the free world.

It would provide for income stabilization programs for individual commodities, of the kind that producers themselves find best adapted to their needs.

It would also provide for a long-term, expanded agricultural resources conservation program, with incentives for land-use adjustments and temporary retirement of land not currently needed for production--and afford special attention to the low production and low income family farmers where special assistance is needed.

It is not a panacea. It is an honest attempt to provide a statutory framework for continuing, constructive action toward restoring equity in agriculture.

The result of the current farm policy has been a great deal of unnecessary hardship and suffering. Farmers have suffered, consumers have suffered, taxpayers have suffered, business has suffered--but there's another group of people who have suffered, too.

I'm talking about the millions of people who go to bed hungry every night, simply because they can't get the food to feed themselves or their families.

Many of these people are right here in the United States.

Millions more are abroad.

How shameful that America's granaries should be bulging at their seams while there remains a mouth unfed.

How shameful that the American taxpayer should be paying a million dollars a day to store our mounting surpluses--instead of devoting that money to help feed the hungry and clothe the needy.

I am talking about dumping our products abroad and destroying world markets.

I am talking about reaching out with a humane, helping hand to nations who cannot buy foodstuffs in the world market, but who need our help desperately.

When are we going to start practicing what we preach?

When are we going to start giving meaning to the words the Master of Galilee taught all to pray, "Give us this Day, our Daily Bread?"

Fortunately, the President of the United States has now given his blessing to the fight many of us have waged for years, to enlist the resources of the United States in a great "War against Hunger" all over the world.

We heartily cheer his pledge to the struggling country of India--and earnestly pray that deeds will follow the words, to show the world America regards its abundance as a blessing to be shared with all mankind.

But let us hope, too, in this long-overdue war against hunger, the commander-in-chief doesn't forget pay for his troops--the farm producers of America who make it possible for us to assert world leadership in wiping out famine.



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