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FEBRUARY 16, 1960

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT HUMPHREY

FARMERS UNION CONVENTION BANQUET  
MADISON, WISC., FEB. 15, 1960

We are approaching another Presidential campaign -- and it's starting especially early here in Wisconsin. This campaign gives us a chance to go before the people and discuss the great and grave issues of our time. It is an opportunity to talk about the real issues -- of war and peace, of economic and social justice, not only here at home, but throughout the world.

There are lots of real issues to talk about this year -- far too many to waste time talking about a lot of fake or phony issues. There is no hesitancy on my part in talking freely and frankly with you about my record on agriculture -- because it's been a consistent one. I have never flirted with Ezra Benson or his farm programs.

I have never swerved or hesitated in my support of the REA programs, or the soil conservation or public power programs that are so vital to the American farmer. Not every political candidate can make that claim.

Take Vice President Nixon, for example. Oh, he's out on the stump now calling for some overhauling of our farm laws.

But where has he been during the past seven years? Where has he been while Ezra Benson pulled the rug out from under the American farmer?

He's been out stumping this country singing the praises of Ezra Taft Benson. Listen to Mr. Nixon's own words:

"I predict that the verdict of history will be that Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson has been one of the best Secretaries of Agriculture in our history."

Now maybe Mr. Nixon can afford to wait for the verdict of history to vindicate Mr. Benson. But you can't wait that long. We both know what's happened to the American farmer under Ezra Benson.

And you know what's happened to the Wisconsin farmer.

The figures put out by Ezra Benson's own department show that during the first six years of the Eisenhower-Nixon-Benson Administration, net farm income in this state was one billion dollars below 1952 farm income levels.

And what about the future? Is that any rosier?

The answer is no. And where does that answer come from? It doesn't come from me -- it comes directly from Benson's Department of Agriculture.

They predict that farm income next year is going to drop another 10 per cent.

Do you know what this means? It means that the farmers of this state, during the Eisenhower-Nixon-Benson Administration, have had \$160 to \$200 million less to spend every year in the towns and cities of Wisconsin.

This is not only bad for the farmer. When farmers have less to spend, it means that the storekeepers and the doctors and lawyers, carpenters and electricians have that much less volume from which to pay wages to their employees.

It means that factories have employed fewer workers, and that workers get thinner pay envelopes. It means, in short, that the total economy of this state has suffered several times the loss of income sustained by the farmers alone.

Certainly the consumer does not benefit from the deliberate Republican policy of farm deflation. For while the prices received by farmers have dropped severely -- and will drop even further if the Republican program is continued -- the price of food to the consumer has gone up sharply.

The Republicans have spent billions and billions of dollars of the taxpayers' money on their so-called farm program. What can we say of such an expensive program that benefits neither the farmer nor the consumer?

That is why anyone who has ever supported the policies of Ezra Taft Benson has done a great disservice not only to the farmers of this country, but also to the workers and the businessmen.

You had better find out how the various candidates have stood on Mr. Benson's policies -- not just this year, my friends, but in the past years too.

Now, this year, the President is trying to pull a fast one. He's trying to pass the buck on farm policies to us Democrats.

This year, instead of sending the Congress his usual detailed and specific program, he has told Congress, "You can do whatever you want --within some broad guidelines."

but we reject the guidelines.  
We Democrats accept the challenge. It is clear from these "guidelines" that Ezra Benson still holds sway.

It is clear that the GOP leadership still wants the lowest possible price supports.

It is clear that they still cling to the false belief that the way to reduce farm surpluses is to lower price supports and break the farmer's back -- in short, to plow under the American farmer.

As I say, we Democrats will be delighted to take up the challenge.

It is our hope that Congress is going to pass a farm bill this year, and that it's going to be a good one.

I hope you agree with me that the bill that ought to pass is the Humphrey Family Farm Program Development Bill. This bill, coupled with my "Food for Peace" program, points to a solution of the so-called farm problem.

No farm program is worth its salt unless it makes provision for the preservation of the family farm.

It is as essential to preserve the family farm as it is to preserve free trade unions or free competitive enterprise in the form of small and medium-sized business.

It is as bad to permit a system of corporate farming as it is to have collective farming.

As I said, we hope to have a good farm bill enacted.

Whether we get one or not may depend on the primary right here in Wisconsin.

The nation knows me as one who has carried your fight for years and is a symbol of opposition to Ezra Benson and his free-market philosophy.

This whole question will be before Congress just about the time of the Wisconsin primary. Quite frankly, a setback for me would be a setback for you and would have a serious impact on farmers all over the nation.

You know the difference in the voting records on agriculture of the candidates seeking your support. You must be the jury to make the decision. But the entire Congress will be watching the outcome. If the Wisconsin vote can be interpreted as farmer failure to repudiate support of the Nixon-Benson sliding scale, it will be a defeat for you as well as for me. If it can be interpreted as farmer insistence upon a new and better farm program, it will be a victory for both of us.

You know, it's pretty discouraging in Washington these days. We propose expanded milk programs -- but Uncle GOP says no. We propose a broader school lunch program -- but Uncle GOP says no. We propose a humanitarian "Food for Peace" program -- but Uncle GOP says no.

Everything we propose is greeted with "No, no, no!"

A moment ago I mentioned the Benson "free-market" philosophy. Do you know what a free market for agriculture would mean? Let me tell you -- and these figures are not mine. They are Ezra Taft Benson's.

Here's what would happen to farm prices by 1965 in a free farm market, compared with prices in 1958:

Milk would fall from \$4.12 per hundred weight to \$3.60.

Eggs would fall from 38¢ a dozen to 29¢/

Cattle would fall from \$22 per hundred weight to \$15.

And if you want to know where those figures come from, you'll find them in Senate Document No. 77 of the 86th Congress.

If that's the sort of result you think should be achieved for the American farmer, then you go right ahead and vote for four more years of Republican rule.

But if you want a real friend in the White House, vote for a Democrat -- and I wouldn't be too displeased if that Democrat were a good progressive mid-Westerner like yourselves.

*Jim Patton* - *Ed Christensen* (on -)  
*Gust* *Gilbert Roshde* (wisc)

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT HUMPHREY

FARMERS UNION CONVENTION BANQUET  
 MADISON, WISC. - FEB. 15, 1960

(*Bus Truppos*)

*We like you!*

We are approaching another Presidential campaign -- and

it's starting especially early here in Wisconsin.

This campaign gives us a chance to go before the people and

discuss the great and grave issues of our time. It is an

opportunity to talk about the real issues -- of war and peace, *Ague - Soc Security, Edu, Health*

of economic and social justice, not only here at home, but

throughout the world.

*America has many unmet needs!!*

There are lots of real issues to talk about this year --

far too many to waste time talking about a lot of fake or

phony issues.

*Smoke Screen*

*Lots of Issues*

There is no hesitancy on my part in talking freely and

frankly with you about my record on agriculture -- because it's

been a consistent one. I have never flirted with Ezra Benson

or his farm programs.

*No Flirting - Spinning with more ... Benson!*

*Ague*

*Record!*

*Farmer Union Record!!*

*Must in Wisconsin*

000468

I have never swerved or hesitated in my support of the

*Price Support,*

*the cooperatives,*  
the REA programs, or the soil conservation or public power programs

that are so vital to the American farmer.

*Im with you!*

*and* Not every political candidate can make that claim.

Take Vice President Nixon, for example. Oh, he's out on the stump now calling for some sort of overhauling of our farm laws.

*(Bleeding heart for Farmers until now - Golden Promise of 1952 Campaign)*

*Not where he has been!*

But where has he been during the past seven years? Where has he been while Ezra Benson pulled out the rug from under the American farmer?

He's been out stumping this country singing the praises of Ezra Taft Benson. Listen to Mr. Nixon's own words:

"I predict that the verdict of history will be that Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson has been one of the best Secretary's of Agriculture in our history."

*(In our history)*

more ...



000469

~~Now~~ Maybe Mr. Nixon can afford to wait for the verdict of history to vindicate Mr. Benson. But you can't wait that long.

We both know what's happened to the American farmer under Ezra Taft Benson. Short Run - Long Run all Dead!!

And you know what's happened to the Wisconsin farmer. Wise Farmer!

The figures put out by Ezra Benson's own department show that during the first six years of the Eisenhower-Nixon-Benson Administration, net farm income in this state was one billion dollars below 1952 farm income levels. Net Income 1 Billion

And what about the future? Is that any rosier?

The answer is no. And where does that answer come from? It doesn't come from me -- it comes directly from Benson's Department of Agriculture.

They predict that farm income next year is going to drop another 10 percent.

more...

000470

Do you know what this means? It means that the farmers of this state, during the Eisenhower-Nixon-Benson Administration, have had \$160 to \$200 million less to spend every year in the towns and cities of Wisconsin.

*Not only bad for farmers*

This is not only bad for the farmer. When farmers have less to spend, it means that the storekeepers and the doctors and lawyers, carpenters and electricians have that much less volume from which to pay wages to their employees.

It means that factories have employed fewer workers, and that workers get slimmer pay envelopes. It means, in short, that the total economy of this state has suffered several times the loss of income sustained by the farmers alone.

*Market Here!*

*(Biggest market Right Here)*

Certainly the consumer does not benefit from the deliberate Republican policy of farm deflation. For while the prices received by farmers have dropped severely -- and will drop

*17% this yr  
10% next yr*

more ...

*Farmers have  
subsidized consumer*

-5- 000471

*Share of Food Dollar*

even further if the Republican program is continued -- the

price of food to the consumer has gone up ~~sharply~~.

*Farmers share  
of Food Dollar  
38¢ only 6¢  
from Depression*

The Republicans have spent billions and billions of dollars

of the taxpayers' money on their so-called farm program. What

can we say of such an expensive program that benefits neither

the farmer nor the consumer?

*— { Fewer Farmers, Fewer Farms  
Lower Prices, Lower Income  
Higher Debt! Bigger Production*

That is why anyone who has ever supported the policies of

Ezra Taft Benson has done a great disservice not only to the

farmers of this country, but also to the workers and the

businessmen.

You had better find out how the various candidates have

stood on Mr. Benson's policies -- not just this ~~year~~, my friends,

but in the past years, too.

Now, this year, the President is trying to pull a fast one.

He's trying to pass the buck on farm policies to ~~us~~ Democrats.

*Don't talk!  
Evason!  
Trucking!*

more ...

*31 Billion*

*Cost Farmers  
now  
20 Billion  
in net  
income*

*on 1952  
standards!*



000472

This year, instead of sending the Congress his usual detailed and specific program, he has told Congress, "You can do whatever you want -- within some broad guidelines."

We Democrats accept the challenge, but we reject the guidelines.

It is clear from these "guidelines" that Ezra Benson still holds sway.

(I've been in fight for 5 farm Bills - all vetoed!)

It is clear that the GOP leadership still wants the lowest possible price supports.

It is clear that they still cling to the false belief that the way to reduce farm surpluses <sup>(production)</sup> is to lower price supports and break the farmer's back -- in short, to plow under the American farmer.

As I say, we Democrats will be delighted to take up the ~~extra~~ challenge.

more ....

It is our hope that Congress is going to pass a farm bill  
this year, and that it's going to be a good one.

*the President!  
will sign it!*

I hope you agree with me that the bill that ought to pass  
is the Humphrey Family Farm Program Development bill. This bill,  
coupled with my "Food for Peace" program, points to a solution  
of the so-called farm problem.

*Farm Price!*

*Strengthen Coops - Improve  
Rural Credit  
Expand Conservation*

No farm program is worth its salt unless it makes provision  
for the preservation of the family farm.

*- This is our  
Secret weapon!*

It is as essential to preserve the family farm as it is to  
preserve free trade unions or free competitive enterprise ~~in~~

~~the form of small and medium-sized business.~~

It is as bad to permit a system of corporate farming as it  
is to have collective farming.

*(Krusch has no  
family farm!)*

As I said, we hope to have a good farm bill enacted.

more ...

*Humphrey  
Farm  
Bill*

*The Local  
Church  
Community*

*Corporate  
Farming*

000474

Whether we get one or not may depend on the <sup>elector</sup> primary right here in Wisconsin.

<sup>the congress - your opponents</sup>  
The nation knows me as one who has carried your fight for years and is a symbol of your efforts for better income protection and the symbol of opposition to Ezra Benson and his <sup>low price</sup> ~~free-market~~ <sup>high production</sup> philosophy.

This whole question will be before Congress just about the time of the Wisconsin primary. Quite frankly, a setback for me would be a setback for you, and would have a serious impact on farmers all over the nation.

You know the difference in the voting records on agriculture of the candidates seeking your support. You must be the jury to make the decision. But the entire Congress will be watching the outcome. If the Wisconsin vote can be interpreted as <sup>a</sup> farmer failure to <sup>repudiate</sup> ~~repudiate~~ support of the Nixon-Benson sliding scale,

more ...

it will be a defeat for you as well as for me. *our Victory* ~~if it can be~~

*will be* interpreted as farmer insistence upon a new and better farm

victory  
program, it will be a ~~victory~~ for both of us.

*it*  
You know, it's pretty discouraging in Washington these days.

We propose expanded milk programs -- but Uncle GOP says no.

We propose a broader school lunch program -- but Uncle GOP

says no.

*We Propose the Johnson-Humphrey Dairy Marketing Bill*  
We propose a humanitarian "Food For Peace" program -- but *NO*

Uncle GOP says no. *(No Go Go Slow, Not Now, Veto)*

Everything we propose is greeted with "No, no, no!" *- NAYOLA!*

*Low Price Soft Market*  
A moment ago I mentioned the Benson ~~free-market~~ philosophy.

*so called*  
Do you know what a free market for agriculture would mean?

Let me tell you -- and these figures are not mine. They are

Ezra Taft Benson's.

more ...

000476

Here's what would happen to farm prices by 1965 in a free farm market, compared with prices in 1958.

Milk would fall from \$4.12 per hundred weight to \$3.60.

*Hog - to \$11.00 per lb*  
Eggs would fall from 38 cents a dozen to 29 cents.

Cattle would fall from \$22 per hundred weight to \$15. *per cwt*

*Wheat to 90¢ per Bushel*

And if you want to know where those figures come from you'll

find them in Senate Document No. 77 of the 86th Congress.

If that's the sort of result you think should be achieved

for the American farmer, then you go right ahead and vote for

four more years of Republican ~~rule~~. *low prices - low support rule*

But if you want a real friend in the White House, vote for

a Democrat -- and I wouldn't be too displeased if that Democrat

were a good progressive mid-Westerner like yourselves.

*educ - health - security !!*  
*Let's Put The Family Farmer on the*  
*Front line of Freedom -*  
*Food - our Power - Health !!*





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