

Address of  
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
To The Annual Meeting of Members  
FARMERS UNION GRAIN TERMINAL ASSOCIATION  
Saint Paul Auditorium  
Saint Paul, Minnesota  
November 19, 1964

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Reel 1    000    HUBERT H. HUMPHREY: Thank you very much my dear and long time devoted friend, Bill Thatcher. It's very difficult for me to address you as General Manager and these titles. I prefer to think of you, not only in your capacity as a great leader in our state and nation, and a great leader of America's family farms and America's family farmers in the coop movement. I like to think of you just as my friend Bill, and that's what you've always been these many, many years. (Applause)

Well, you've had so many references to the honored guests and participants in this program that possibly it would be redundant on my part to even state the names again, and for those that I do not mention will you please forgive me because you have a big program ahead. But let me just say what a great pleasure it is to share this platform once again with the gentlemen that is making a remarkable name for himself as the Governor of this state. I like Karl Rolvaag because Karl Rolvaag is a man of character, of strength, and of decision, and of good solid community purpose; and

- 026    he's demonstrating that in every day of his public life as Governor

Reel 1 - 027 of this great state of Minnesota. (Applause) And less anybody have any doubt about it, he's a man of great independence. I've been trying to get people to understand that, Karl. I've never been able to tell him what to do, but he tells me what to do, and now he's going to tell Mondale what to do. He told him to go down to Washington and be a United States Senator, and I think it's simply wonderful that our Governor has seen fit to reach into his administration and take one of his trusted allies, one of his most important political officers, elected by the people of this state with an overwhelming vote, and to make him the Senator designate of the state of Minnesota. And I predict for you and to you that Walter Mondale will be a Senator that everybody, regardless of party, can be justly proud of, and I salute him tonight along with his fellow citizens. (Applause)

My neighbor's here, George McGovern. George, we just seem to be having one reception after another. I picked George McGovern as my advance man. Senator McGovern every place I go, there's a reception and there's McGovern. I believe he's taken on a new role, but I want to tell you that this man has made his mark in Congress. And he has already demonstrated those qualities of leadership which endear him to the nation, not only to his state of South Dakota. And I predict next election, George, that the people of South Dakota are going to see to it that you get the biggest majority that any Senator from that state ever had, and the farmers will be there to help you. (Applause)

Reel 1 - 058 Well, there are many here that we should note. My friend the Secretary has already addressed you. We've been talking agriculture on the plane all the way out here. And it was as Orville said, a rather moving and dramatic experience, at least personally, for each of us when we sat there this afternoon in the Cabinet Room at the White House with the President of the United States and discussed the problems that decept this nation and heard the reports of the Cabinet Officers that are responsible for the programs of this nation. I know for me that it was an experience that I shall always cherish. And I couldn't help but say to Orville that it was somewhat like, only much more meaningful of course, than that first time after he'd been elected Governor and we sat together at a football game. I mention this because I remember when I used to work to buy a ticket to get into the game to watch Orville Freeman occasionally play in the game. And there we were both sitting up in the Governor's box. I don't know if the tickets were free, but I got in for nothing. Possibly Orville arranged it. And today there the two of us from Minnesota were in this Cabinet Room of the greatest government in the world with the heaviest responsibility of any government in the world and with the most powerful man in public office than any country in the world, and with truly a great president, our President Lyndon B. Johnson. (Applause)

Bill Thatcher told you that I've been here for sixteen years, and he's right. Bill, I'm going to talk to you from here on out about my

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Reel 1 - 098 vacations and this program because I recall one time when

Mrs. Humphrey and I were in Moscow, that was 1958 after that long bout with Mr. Khrushchev. I'm happy to say that I've lasted a little longer than he has. (Laughter) I wasn't sure after that night, but I recall that we flew all the way home from that far away place. I recall that only two years ago that we were in Mexico City attending a meeting there, and I flew all the way back from the warm climates of Mexico City into a blizzard at Wold Chamberlin Airport. And only yesterday you may have noticed by the pictures in the paper, no doubt, that we were down in the Virgin Islands in the Caribbean and lest any of you want to feel just a little moment of refreshment, as if you're on vacation, the temperature was about 85, the breezes were soft, if any, the skies were blue, the water was warm and the fishing was great. Yesterday we came to Baltimore, the Friendship Airport, last night to our home in Washington, this morning at work. And later on this afternoon Bill Thatcher said come home, Hubert; and I come home. (Applause) Of course he had the Governor also tell me to come home, and I got my orders.

Sixteen years ago, yes I remember very well. Just sixteen years ago we discussed in this very hall the first outlines for the Food For Peace Program, and three years later it became public law. Six years ago we discussed in this hall the Peace Corps, and the possibility of utilizing the great energy and idealism and the no-how and the spirit  
- 143 of young Americans for peace in this troubled world of ours, and in 1961

Reel 1

- 144 it became law. We discussed from this platform the possibility one time of a ban on further testing on nuclear weapons. The year was 1959, and in the year 1963 it became a treaty. Many things have been talked about in these meetings. Many resolutions have been adopted just as you've adopted them today during your conference and your convention. And the thoughts and the discussions and the resolutions of people gathered together for only one purpose, to make life more abundant, more meaningful, more richer, more beautiful. Those thoughts and those ideas and those resolutions in due time, with persistence of effort and dedication to purpose, they have become reality. So it is good to get together and to think together, and to plan together and talk together. In fact, there never was a time in the history of this nation when it was more important for people to talk to one another, to express openly their views, to search for answers to ever-growing and changing problems because the answers are not in Washington, the answers are not at the United Nations, the answers are not in the foreign ministries or the chancellories or the palaces of the world. The answers to our problems are in the minds of men, people all over this world. And we who believe in the Democratic process must find those answers amongst each other. We must find them in the Democratic way, through argument, through debate, through discussion, through conventions, through resolutions, through people's actions.

- 183 So I love to come back here, if only for the purpose of just speaking

- 184 my mind, if only for the purpose of once again after these meetings of hearing you and talking to you, and when I go back to my desk of reading as I have every year that I've been in public life the resolutions and the deliberations of this great GTA. Let me say that your Annual Report has been placed on the desk of President Truman, or going back further than that, of President Roosevelt, President Truman, President Eisenhower, President Kennedy, and now President Johnson. It is almost like a state paper for the Presidents of the United States. (Applause)

Mr. Thatcher, in many ways we are celebrating an anniversary. This is your fiftieth year. Think of it friends, look at him. Fifty years of devoted service to the farm families of the United States of America, that's what Bill Thatcher represents here tonight. (Applause)

350,000 farm families represented by this great organization. I see before me the Board of Directors, and I see my old friend Emil Ioriks. Love him like a brother. We've known each other for years and years. I see Mr. Thatcher's strong right arm in this great organization Mr. Dwayne Andreas. I know that this organization has served useful purposes. It isn't just a cooperative in name. It is a cooperative in the true meaning of the word. Bringing people together to cooperate, bringing people together to make themselves better, bringing people together to make America better, and let the record be clear from this moment and from this platform. The Farmers Union GTA has on its record only one thing to say, that it has always worked for the



1 - 229 public good and the public interest and the people of the United States of America. (Applause)

I think it should be known as this organization prospers, it doesn't make the board richer. It doesn't make Mr. Thatcher richer. It doesn't make anybody in terms of individual board member or officer richer. All that it means is that the farmer who is a member of a community is just a little better off. And my friends of American business and American Labor, that means that we're all better off because if there's any one thing we've learned it is that we need each other, that we are inter-dependent, that we require one another, and that as each of us prospers, so does the other. That is the lesson of this great organization and it is a lesson that is well learned and well remembered. (Applause)

I've been through much with this organization. We've won together. We've even lost occasionally. We have common purposes, and down through the years we've worked together. I want to say to those that are here in public office that you'll never have to be ashamed of your association with the people that are represented here in this great auditorium. Never will there be a request made of special interest. Never will there be a temptation of corruption. Never will there be a demand made that isn't fair and reasonable for the public good. How good it is in this day and age of pressure and temptation to know that you can be associated with a group and organization and individuals who

- 273 ask just one thing and only one thing. Decent, wholesome, responsible,

el 1 - 274 honorable public service. That's all that we've ever been ask  
for. (Applause)

We've been dedicated for many years for a fight in the fight for  
the fulfillment of our convictions. We've never slackened in  
pressing always forward for social justice, for equality of  
economic and social opportunity or for the individual dignity.  
The fulfillment of the meaning of dignity of man and we have as  
people and as organization been unceasing, relentless in the search  
for peace and for freedom. And I want to say right now that those  
of us that have been associated together in these efforts are not  
going to slacken. We shall not waiver, nor shall we in any way  
retreat from the efforts of the past or the efforts that need to  
be made for tomorrow. (Applause)

I've been given a great privilege and a great honor. I was elected  
as the running mate of our great President to be the Vice-President  
of the United States. I want you to know that I'm evermindful of  
this responsibility, and I've even more mindful of that responsibility  
today and equally determined to fully justify the competence of the  
people, the competence of the President of the United States. Yes the  
competence of the people of this nation, urban and rural, who have by  
their votes in this recent election expressed that confidence. And to  
the utmost of my ability, I pledge here in the presence of my neighbors  
with God's help I shall not fail you in the fulfillment of those responsibilities.

- 326 (Applause)



1 1 - 327 We've just gone through a great election. One doesn't need to rehash it, but I do think it is fair to say that it represented a triumph for the processes of Democracy in a world where Democracy is on trial. I do think people found out that there are dangerous forces at work, even in America. And I do believe that we were able to demonstrate to the world that there is a unity of purpose or at least a vast majority of purpose in this American community. Above all, this election was a tremendous vote of confidence in the policies and the programs that have guided this nation throughout the years and a tremendous vote of confidence in President Lyndon Johnson and the manner he has fulfilled his constitutional responsibility to protect the national security and to promote the general welfare. (Applause)

This election was also a forceful rejection of men and women of little faith, who have cast their doubts about the ability of the American system to adapt itself to change and the changing needs of our people. But by the magnitude of its outcome, it should remove for all time any doubt about the rightful role of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people seeking to assert its constructive influence towards the fulfillment of the aspirations of the people for all of the people. (Applause) And no where was this made more evident as the Secretary of Agriculture stated so clearly than throughout rural America.

Every great farming area of this nation, ladies and gentlemen, gave a tremendous vote of confidence to President Lyndon Johnson. The rural  
- 385 people of America stood by him. (Applause) Now I don't intend to imply

- 386 that this great out-pouring of rural support was necessarily in endorsement of every policy in every program, past or present. But I do look upon it as a massive repudiation of any thought of outright abandonment of the government's rightful role of extending a helping hand towards seeking greater equality of economic opportunity in rural America, or for that matter, in any other segment of American economic life, not sharing fully in the blessings of our progress and our prosperity. And I can assure this audience tonight, after having spent better than four hours with our president today, that the President of the United States is determined that the people of rural America will share fully and equally in the great society that he envisions all of us building together. (Applause)

Listen to what our President had to say in a message to another great organization just a few days ago, and I want to read from that message. It's dated November 17. He says we seek more than parity income. We seek parity of opportunity for rural America in every aspect of our national life. As I've traveled around the country, everywhere in the Midwest and the South, in the great plains in the far West, I found rural people deeply troubled, not just about farm income but about what is happening to life in rural America, the loss of population, the out migration of young people in the search of economic opportunity, the drying up of rural communities, the vacant stores, the inadequacy of public services and facilities, and the lack of financial resources

- 435 to support them, the underemployment of the rural population, the hidden

Reel 1 - 435 pockets of rural poverty, and sometimes accompanying all of this a sense of hopelessness that anything can be done about it. And then our President went on to say this: "And these are the pledges of this administration of which I am a part and of which the Secretary is a part, and which the Senators on this platform tonight will take part in and the Congressmen." Here is our pledge in the words of the President. Let us resolve here and now that something can be done about it. We can create new jobs and new opportunity in rural America. We can attack and overcome the basic causes of rural poverty, and we can see to it that rural communities have an equal chance to have good schools, pure water, and good sanitation, and we can see to it that the federal assistance of all kinds is just as readily available to the rural people as it is to the urban people. The American people elected a Congress that will be, I think, responsive to the urgent needs of rural America. "For my own part," said President Johnson, "I shall make it my business to see that no service of the federal government stops at the city lines. If we have urban and suburban housing programs, we shall have rural housing programs that are equally effective. If urban renewal programs are essential for our cities, then a rural renewal program is just as essential for rural America. Where we have education or training or health or welfare programs they must be adapted for rural as well as urban areas. The credit that is available for urban businessmen and local governmental units must be available for rural areas as well. The disadvantage in educational opportunities which is all too prevalent in rural America must be corrected by the

- 488 combined efforts of state and local school districts, and the nation.



- 488 The President says these are only a few of the things that must be done, and when Congress convenes I shall be making specific recommendations with your help and your leadership, and your dedication to rural America and the farm families, I know the goals that we mutually share can be realized. Ladies and gentlemen that is the commitment of the President of the United States who comes from rural America, who knows of rural America, who has lived in rural America, and who appreciates the importance of rural America being the very best part of America. (Applause) I'm sure you now realize how deeply I feel about the vital importance of agriculture to our economy. And We've discussed it again and again.

The importance of our agricultural abundance as a tremendous national source of national strength, tremendous national asset, economically and strategically, and I want to say that we can and we must make greater use of that valuable asset, to better serve our national objective to peace and prosperity. As we make better use of our productive strength to assure the nation's consumers of abundance in the market place, to strengthen our balance of payments proposition, with expanded export earnings, and to achieve the foreign policy objectives of peace and freedom. The entire nation must and will recognize in turn the moral obligation of providing greater equality of economic opportunity for the minority of our population which is rural. I say this because I believe that the Congress must be brought

- 547 to know that this nation does have a vital stake in what happens in the

Reel 1 - 548 days ahead in rural America and what happens to our farm people.

I ask this audience to ponder tonight what would have been the situation in the coming years if we'd have had no reserve of food and fiber as we face one of the most serious drouths that America has faced in many sections of this nation in one hundred years. What would be the position of the free world today in a nation of over four hundred million people, such as India, if the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Freeman and the President of the United States were not able to say to that government as we have that there is an abundance of wheat, of food and fiber for your free government to withstand the temptation of Communist infiltration and Communist takeover. Mark my words, were it not for food and fiber today, India would be like Communist China.

Gone (Applause)

I say this because I am of the opinion that we take these blessings for granted. We complain of the cost. We criticize our Secretary. We criticize our farmers, and yet we never seem to realize that it was the wheat producers of this great Mid-west and this very co-operative right here, that scraped the bottom of the bins of their farms and of their warehouses at the end of World War II to keep Europe from starving to death at the end of the war in 1949. (Applause)

Why in the little community of Climax, Minnesota, if I'm not wrong, a small rural community, a great decision was arrived at to save Europe from frustration, to save it from destitution, and to save it from - 615 Communism. And let me say that a bushel of wheat did more to push back

Reel 1 - 615 Communism than all the Birchites put together for a thousand years.

(Applause)

So it is entirely proper that we celebrate or that we dedicate ourselves as a nation to freedom from hunger. Freedom from hunger. The best fed people in the world, privileged to live in the best nation in the world. A people that have been blessed by a divine providence. A soil that has been blessed by unbelievable productivity. A nation that has been blessed by science and technology. This mighty nation, my dear fellow Americans, has a spiritual and moral obligation to wage war on hunger. That's what we're here for. (Applause)

And thank goodness that our President is in the front line of this fight, and he has directed his officers, his Secretary of Agriculture and his Secretary of State and his aid administrator and our old friend here Herb Watters, and Dick Reuter of the Food For Peace administration. He has directed these stalwart soldiers of freedom to wage this war against hunger. We participate in the United Nations, food and agriculture organizations, and we give it real leadership. No nation in history has done more than our America in wiping out hunger in vast areas of the world, and it's right and proper that our farm families feel good about it, and be humbly proud. And might I say yet though we've done all of this that we've barely scratched the surface of meeting the real needs of the vast areas

- 686 of the world.



Reel 1 - 686 Orville Freeman said only recently that if this America seeks to land somebody on the moon, how many hundred thousand miles away, over three hundred thousand. And yet here is the earth with only 25,000 miles in diameter, and we are still trying to find out how to distribute food to the far away places. Any nation that thinks it can land men on the moon in a space capsule and return them to America in the same week ought to be able in the next four years to find a way to get food to hungry people. (Applause.)

Today only one-third of mankind has available and adequate diet. Almost two billion people, two-thirds of the human race, subsist on lean diet, short in proteins, fats and calories. In fact, one-third of the people eat two-thirds of everything that is produced, and I want to say as the great Holy Father, Pope John said, that in a world where there is constant want, there is no peace. Peace is more than treaty and peace is more than military power, important as it is. Peace is more than alliances, and it is more than stations or just enunciation of doctrines. Peace comes when mankind feels that he can live in harmony with his neighbor. And a hungry man is a desperate one and a sick one. And a hungry nation is likewise, desperate, intolerant and aggressive. We have at our hands, my fellow Americans, powerful tools for good. We have science and technology, and wealth and brainpower. We have machines and money. We have power itself. We have food. And above all we have a sense of justice. So

- 774 I say that we must put all of it to work. The truth is that looking only

Reel 1 - 774 five years ahead as I witnessed and examined the report of our own Department of Agriculture on the food needs of the world, that the situation may be well worse than it is today. Food shortages are mankind's problems, not food surpluses. And those food shortages will continue to mount unless we do something about them. And we are doing something about them. And we can close the food gap. If you'll get as excited about closing the food gap as we were about closing the missile gap, we'll close it and we'll do something constructive for humanity. (APPLAUSE)

We can do this as our spokesman for agriculture has said. And Orville I want to commend you for your courage in this area. He's been taking the message of this use of food all over the world. He's been fighting for you, for your exports, for your markets. He fought for you this morning. I was there. To try to see to it that American agriculture is permitted to go to work to do the job that we can do so well to produce and to get its goods into the channels of trade. To help people who want to help themselves. How can we meet this food gap? Well, quickly we can do it by a combination of the skillful use of our own food abundance. It's going to require some modifications of the Food For Peace Law. We can't just depend on accidental surplus. What kind of a military assistance program do you think we have, ladies and gentlemen? What kind of allies do you think we'd have if we just depended upon what we had left over as - 876 compared to what we really need. There wouldn't be any NATO. There

Reel 1 - 876 wouldn't be any free world today if we just depended upon the old guns that we had left over.

Reel 2 - 000 Now, we planned military production. We look ahead and rightly so. So maybe we ought to have a more skillful use of the potential abundance of this country and we ought to make available and we are doing it but we can do more of it with your help, technical knowhow we know how to do the job, this can be done but not only by government it ought not be done by government, it ought to be done by our cooperatives, it ought to be done by our free trade. I am one of these people who believes that we ought to turn loose upon the whole free world and upon the communist world, if you please. Turn loose upon them American business, American farmers and American teachers. Let our people go and bring the message of this country to the world.

I want to tell you that we have a story to tell that they don't dare listen too. Oh, what a wonderful story we could tell them, those miserable failures in Agriculture behind the Iron Curtain. What one good cooperative could do there, just one but they don't let them have it. What one good grain merchant could do to show them how to conduct some grain business. Let me say right now what is needed in agriculture, in agri business. Let us get it clear, I don't know if anyone is going to like this or not, but we simply must get our farm groups working together and you got to call a halt of the fight between the private and the cooperative, you got to get them working together.

Because you are a minority and if you don't work together, somebody is going to work you over and nobody can stop it, so join together now.



Reel 2 - 035 I conclude on this note. When we talk about closing the food gap in the free world, somebody says, "Oh, there he goes again." I know, I hear my critics, they are loud and clear. It is good that you know your critics and it is good that you hear from them because it does keep you on the line and on the beam. And I know that it cost money to operate any program and I am fully mindful of the tremendous burdens of this government. I will be evermore mindful of it them. I served 16 years in the Senate. I served on the Appropriations committee and I can tell you that the Congress of the United States was even more frugal then in the last session of Congress was then the Executive branch itself. And this year we will frugal again. We will do our very best to keep down these costs because people have to pay for them. But people have to asks themselves what does it cost not to take of something. What does it cost to lose your farm, what does it cost to lose your cooperative not what it cost to keep it. We have to ask ourselves these questions and then be reasonable in our answers. But I found out from our Department of Agriculture that the free world nutrition deficit measured in the cost of food products is estimated at about 2 billion<sup>6</sup>/hundred million dollars. Now compared to our productive capacity, this gap becomes relatively modest in its dimensions. For example, during the last fiscal year, we exported almost a record of 6 billion dollars in food commodities. The free world deficit of 1970 would be equal to less than half of our total exports. It would be possible for

- 77 American agriculture alone to meet this deficit if we just used one-

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fourth of our agriculture capacity that is now idle. Let that sink in. If the food deficit countries could raise their technical capacity this could also contribute to closing the gap. In a combined way, with the food deficit countries improving their technical efficiency and if we using some of our idle resourses, the free world gap could definitely be closed in less than 6 years. What an achievement that would be for the free world.

So ladies and gentlemen let's make the abolition of hunger the goal of democracy. It can be the crowning glory of our century. Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the Amancipation Proximation. He banished once and for all from this America, at least, by promixation second-class citizenship. It was one hundred years later that the Congress of the United States took legislation action to make the promise of Abraham Lincoln a reality. I have been proud to be the fore leader in the Senate of the United States to carry out the promise of Abraham Lincoln in the 20th century under the leadership of John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson in the civil rights act of 1964. The year 1965 can see, and I think it will, this government to declare to the world a new doctrine of amancipation, the doctrine of 1965, freedom from hunger and we don't intend to wait a 100 years to carry it out. Indeed, we can do something about it, Senator-elect Mondale and Senator McGovern, we can do something about it in 100 days in the first session of the 89th Congress. I say to those assembled here, help us. Help us, by understanding the problems that this nation faces.

Help us by talking to your Congress, about the urgent necessity of the pursued of peace. Help us by asking your Congress to give more attention, if you please, to this war on poverty. Because poverty in the land of the rich is a sin. It is not only economically wasteful it morally unjustifiable and we need to wage war on this sin of our times and hunger in the world of the 20th Century, a hunger that can be satisfied by a little more effort on our part and by a little more application of science technology, hunger and famine that curse the vast sections of human kind. That kind of hunger can not be tolerated and man kind feel that they have lived a moral life.

It seems to me instead of the preachments therefore of morality what we need is to practice human decency. Compassion, yes, charity, yes, but above all, opportunity. I think the world wants but one thing, it wants the privilege of being able to do something for itself. And we are given the privilege of helping people today, to help themselves and what greater blessing can come to a nation or to a generation than to know that we can be the teachers, to know that we can be the doers of good things, to know that we can be the peace-makers, to know that we can be the warriors in the best war that man ever fought. The war against pestilence, the war against poverty, the war against disease and the war against want. I say to this audience, we can win that war, we can win it and we can win it quickly and we can win it decisively and we can have new allies every year if we but have the will to do it. And I come to this audience tonight to tell you that your President has that will and his Vice-President has that will and we the people of America must have that will. WE ask your help. Thank you.



A.g. Budget

Strategic food reserve - 1954 + ~~1960~~

Blue Ribbon, bi-partisan commission

Nov 19  
7/1e 1964  
Speech  
SP GTH

~~speech of food~~ was  
~~parallel by~~  
Contributions we  
can build on.

I want to warn you right off that they haven't let

me make a speech in two weeks and I'm raring to go.

I want to tell you its wonderful to come home again.

Its wonderful to be face to face with so many of you and to thank you personally for that great endorsement you gave to President Johnson.

It was an unprecedented vote of confidence personally for the President.

You know, they talk about the coat-tail effect --- how the head of the ticket sometimes carries men along with him into victory. Well he did, and I'm thankful.

Every four years before the national conventions there is speculation about how to choose the vice presidential nominee --- about who might balance up the ticket ---geographically or otherwise --- and add votes.

The President has made his own statements about why he desired me as the Vice Presidential candidate. Just the same there

Thatcher, built up not only O-TA and coop movement,  
but want to pay tribute to efficiency of proprietary  
firms in the handling of ag. commodities.

was some talk in early summer that if the President chose me it would be because he wanted to carry the midwest.

I know his reasons weren't that simple or that localized, but let me confess just the same that on election night there ~~wasn't~~ anyone more interested than myself in those midwestern returns.

I had criss-crossed the midwest several times during the two months of the campaign. So I watched the election results rather eagerly --- because I certainly hoped I hadn't hurt his chances.

Now this happens to be the 13th time I am speaking at your convention. In 1952, I addressed one of your afternoon sessions and you had Senator Frank Carlson of Kansas as your dinner speaker.

In 1953, Senator Milton Young of North Dakota and I shared the honors at the dinner and I have had the privilege of coming back every year since.

Each one of these times that we have been able to break bread together at one of these GTA dinners has been a thrill to me. A few stand out more than others.



(3) ( 1953 --- this was the year I proposed the Farmers Bill of Rights.

11 1957 --- I used this very rostrum to propose the creation of an office of a PEACE FOOD ADMINISTRATOR --- which was the kind of concept we now have in the Food-for-Peace program.

1958 --- that was the year I came here directly from reporting at the White House on my conference with Mr. Krushchev.

(3) ( I might say that if Mr. K had had a little better success with his agricultural programs --- and had not had to go to the free world for wheat --- he might still be in office. But, for all the studying which the Communists did of U.S. agriculture, they have never seemed to tumble to the fact that it is the family farm system which is the key to our success.

1959 --- I proposed the family farm program development act.

11 1961--- I urged that the most important thing we could do for Latin American nations was to share our co-operative know-how with them.

But, I don't want to take more time just indulging in recollections of my own or in talking about my own views on agriculture. We understand each other well enough, I hope.

I want to talk to you tonight about TWO GREAT MEN.

The first great man I want to talk about is Bill Thatcher.

I want to do this not only because he has been such a valued friend and such a great influence in my life and career, but because he has been a great influence in American agriculture.

This is his 50th year serving co-operatives and farmers and I want to pay my tribute to what this man has stood for and what he has achieved --- not only in the development of GTA but in what he has done for agricultural<sup>e</sup> as a whole.

Bill Thatcher came to Minnesota from his native Indiana in 1909. He was an accountant by profession. One of his accounts was a flour mill at Osceola, Wisconsin. It was in financial trouble and he was asked to take over the management. He did and he put it back on a paying basis

In 1914, he was asked to audit the book<sup>P</sup> of the Equity Co-operative Exchange. In 1922, when the Equity ~~was Equity~~ was driven into

receivership, <sup>Bill</sup>~~Thatcher~~ was asked to take over the management. This he did with the understanding that it was to be an operating receivership, not a liquidating receivership.

During his years as an auditor and manager, he had some chances to make important observations about the <sup>cooperative</sup> grain marketing system and what it would take to make it successful.

He had observed with interest the campaign of the National Farmers Union in 1916 for the federal farm loan act and for federal reserve loans on the security of crops in bonded storage.

He watched the <sup>Farmers Union</sup> organization in the postwar credit crisis. He and his associates concluded that to have successful marketing co-operatives it would be necessary to have an educational organization and from what he and his associates could see among the then existing farm organizations, the Farmers Union came ~~taxxxx~~ closest to this ideal.

<sup>Mr</sup> Thatcher and his editorial side-kick <sup>A.W. Ricker</sup> ~~with~~ CHARLES BARRETT, THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT worked together in the corn-belt committee in 1925 which began to make the case for cost of production for farmers.



In 1926, the reorganized Equity Co-operative Exchange became the Farmers Union Terminal Association and it was in 1928 *that* ~~when~~ this new organization carried on the tin-can campaign which brought in samples from 50,000 <sup>wheat</sup> ~~the~~ farmers of the northwest and

launched the practice of paying premiums on wheat for protein content —  
*SOMETHING WHICH HAS MEANT MILLIONS IN ADDED INCOME FOR FARMERS.*  
Farmers Union Terminal Association in 1929 became part

of the quasi-governmental grain marketing agency, the Farmers National Grain Corporation. C.F. Huff, president of National Farmers Union, ~~XXXXXX~~ became the president and Mr. Thatcher was one of board members.

In 1932, Thatcher <sup>*Came*</sup> ~~resigned to go~~ to Washington as the *representative of* ~~lobbyist for~~ Farmers Union and the Farmers National Grain Corporation.

It was in this manner that he became involved in ~~the~~ *(President-elect)* farm organization discussions at the request of Franklin D. Roosevelt. *President Roosevelt* *--- the Farmers Union, the Grange and the AFBC.* The ~~President-elect~~ told the major farm groups that he would propose to Congress anything <sup>*it*</sup> ~~they~~ could agree on as a program.

When the joint recommendations of the farm organizations went to the President, one of the signatures on the document was that of M.W. Thatcher.

Later, ~~sitting in as the representative of~~ <sup>representing</sup> C.E. Huff

of the Farmers National Grain Corporation, Thatcher was one of the architects of H.R. 3835, the Triple-A Act of 1933.

This was the bill which created the first wheat loan program --- fashioned, by the way, after the crop storage pattern which had been developed by the Farmers Union Terminal Association in Montana and North Dakota.

Thatcher was involved in the next several years in the development and legislative strategy on many other landmark pieces of farm legislation, including such things as crop insurance and farm credit program improvements.

One of ~~the~~ <sup>his</sup> most significant achievements was the adoption, after a three-year effort, of the Commodity Exchange Act of 1937. This was the Act which regulated the exchanges and assured co-operatives the right to membership.

About that time, ~~it began to be apparent that the~~ <sup>as the</sup>

Farmers National Grain Corporation ~~was a losing cause~~ <sup>began to be phased out of operation</sup> and looking

Mr. Thatcher looked to ahead to the need ~~to retain~~ for farmers a co-operative grain

marketing system, <sup>He</sup>~~Thatcher~~ wrote his now famous memorandum to <sup>President Roosevelt</sup>~~DR~~

in which he outlined the procedures for regional grain marketing co-operatives.

President Roosevelt transmitted the Thatcher memo to Secretary Wallace with the notation "TRY TO WORK OUT" ~~and~~ <sup>It</sup> was worked out and GTA was born on June 1, 1938, the day after the Farmers National Grain Corporation ceased operation. That was a great day for agriculture and GTA grew to be the great institution that it is today.

Of course, it was more than one man's fight --- there were countless pioneers, countless thinking farmers who joined Mr. Thatcher in this crusade.

I have just mentioned a few of the highlights of the early years --- I don't want this tribute to Bill Thatcher to be just a matter of looking backwards. I have every reason to hope that some of his greatest achievements are still ahead. I am sure they are.



But it ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> certainly fitting to stop for a moment when a man has crossed the threshold into the second half of a century of service and at least to say --- well done, *g*ood and faithful servant.

I want to be sure before I go further to pay my respects to some other folks, some of whom are here tonight --- others who are not.

*Patton*

I want to single out Jim Patton, President of the National Farmers Union --- not only a great president of your national organization, but one of the great missionaries of the Food for Peace program.

Jim is not here at this banquet table tonight because he was needed at a meeting of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers being held this week in New Zealand. Jim is one of the senior statesmen among world agricultural leaders and they are going into some very sensitive questions which affect our American agriculture --- questions like the common agricultural policy of the Common Market. He is working on that difficult but

tremendously important problem of expanding the world market for our farm products.

*Ed Christianson*

I want to salute Ed Christianson, president of Minnesota Farmers Union, and the chairman of the executive committee of National Farmers Union --- a man I can always depend on to talk sense and to be of help.

*Tom Steichen*

Then let me salure the ~~xxxxxx~~ guiding genius of the Farmers Union Central Exchange, the general manager Tom Steichen.

*Freeman  
McCarthy*

I want to recognize my great colleagues of so many years --- <sup>a/</sup> truly great statesmen ~~xxxxxx~~ for whom America can be grateful --- Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman and my Senate colleague Eugene J. McCarthy.

*Mondale*

I want to say a word about the man who is going to follow ~~me~~ me in the tremendous privilege of being able to serve Minnesota as a United State Senator --- <sup>(Fitz)</sup> Walter F. Mondale.

*McGovern*

I want to acknowledge the great and growing respect in which my colleague Senator George McGovern is held. And I want to express my personal delight at the ~~xxxxxx~~ avalanche of votes which

ROLVAAG - Andreas

*Mansfield*  
*Burdick*

have sent Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana and Senator Quentin  
Burdick of North Dakota to new terms in the Senate.

The Second GREAT MAN I want to talk to you about  
tonight is President Lyndon B. Johnson.

We have just <sup>selected</sup> ~~re-elected~~ a President possessing  
those <sup>rare</sup> qualities of leadership and experience which these  
critical times so clearly demand in a leader of the U.S.

The American people know it takes a giant of a man  
to be the President of the United States. They know the presidency  
calls for unbounded strength and courage --- the kind Lyndon B. Johnson  
displayed during the tragic and agonizing days just ~~about~~ a year ago when  
our beloved John F. Kennedy was taken from us.

Lyndon Johnson comforted us, inspired us and led us through  
the crisis. He set to work with patience and determination to carry  
forward the goals of the New Frontier.

In the short time of his first year in office his work  
with Congress has resulted in new heights of accomplishment.



*Civil Rights (?)*

I look upon the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as the most important piece of legislation adopted by ~~this~~ the Congress in this century --- certainly, it is the greatest legislation with which I have had any major responsibility in my 16 years in the Senate.

~~This Congress could very well become known in history as the CIVIL RIGHTS CONGRESS.~~

*This Congress can*  
~~But, it also could be referred to as the Conservation~~

Congress of 1963-64 ---- because of the landmark laws in this field.

*can*  
It ~~could~~ be called the EDUCATION CONGRESS --- because of the achievements in ~~aid~~ to higher education and vocational education.

*can*  
It ~~could~~ deservedly be called the ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY CONGRESS because of the anti-poverty program, the tax cut and other measures.

Consider, too, the cotton and wheat bill, the Food-for-Peace extension, the food stamp bill, the housing and urban renewal act.

Truly leadership is more than words --- this is a record of a "can-do" President --- striving to secure the blessings of peace, prosperity and progress for every American family.

As farmers, you ought to be reassured that this man ~~is going to be President the next four years.~~ *your president.* No President in many years has been closer to the soil than Lyndon Johnson.

No President has understood your problems better --- no ~~back~~ President talks your kind of common sense like President Johnson.

Let me quote ~~for you~~ what he says about agriculture:

Speaking here in the Twin Cities last June 28, he said:

"WE CAN NEVER BE CONTENT WITH ANYTHING LESS THAN

PARITY OF INCOME AND FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE GREAT

SOCIETY FOR OUR FARM FAMILIES AND THEIR NEIGHBORS.

WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO GIVE THE FARMER HIS

RIGHTFUL PLACE AND HIS RIGHTFUL SHARE IN AMERICAN

SOCIETY."

Speaking at Des Moines in early October, he said:

"OUR GOAL IS PARITY OF INCOME FOR THE FARMER.

WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS TOWARDS IT AND WE WILL MAKE

MORE PROGRESS BY GOING FORWARD, LEARNING AS WE GO,

BUILDING ON WHAT WE HAVE DONE ALREADY . . . BUT

ALL OF US WISH WE HAD DONE BETTER. AND WE WILL DO

BETTER. WE WANT TO MAKE THESE PROGRAMS WORK EVEN

BETTER."

And then, just recently ~~xxx~~ in a White House  
policy statement on agriculture, the President said:

"PARITY OF INCOME IS NOT ENOUGH. OUR GOAL IS MORE

THAN THAT ---- IT IS PARITY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR

RURAL AMERICA IN THE BROADEST MEANING OF THE

TERM."

It is clear that our ~~great~~ President is deeply aware of the real challenge of our time. We must face up to the times in which we live and the world in which we live.

If our greatest challenge is the survival of freedom in the world, <sup>and it is,</sup> then farm people must turn their thinking to the way in which they can make the greatest contribution towards our entire national purpose.

There must be a re-awakening in the rest of the nation, also, to the tremendous role which American farmers have in the quest of peace and freedom.

This broader purpose must always be ours as we seek a just and lasting peace in the world and the Great Society at home.





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