

SERVING THE NATIONAL INTEREST

Excerpts of Remarks by
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

at

The National Farm Institute

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*Delivered by special
telephone hookup due
to bad weather.*

I welcome this opportunity to be with you, for
we share a common concern. It is concern for American
agriculture, and concern for all rural America.

With that concern, we also share a common
determination. It is a determination to face squarely
the problems of the present, and together seek better
answers for a brighter future.

Ever since 1937, this Institute has been a significant national forum for a review of agricultural progress, and an effective sounding board for searching examination of national agricultural policies.

That covers a span of 29 years. All of us have witnessed tremendous changes during those three decades, in all aspects of our national life. But perhaps nowhere has there been more marked change than in agriculture.

↳ It is highly appropriate that the theme for this year's institute is "Exports, Imports, and Farm Prosperity."

↳ This reflects the greatest challenge of change facing American agriculture today. ^{and,} It's brightest hope

for the future rests in the potential expansion of exports throughout the world.

↳ No longer is the farmer's market only his neighboring cities, and his neighboring states. No longer is he only affected by the level of consumption and prosperity in his own country. Today, his market extends to all corners of the earth, and what happens anywhere in the world can affect his market.

↳ President Johnson emphasized in his Inaugural Address about a month ago that ^{the} chief characteristic of our world is change. The sometimes breathtaking changes distinguish our age from all those which have preceded us. This means not only new challenges, but also new opportunities to the American farmer and to

all of agri-business.

So this administration recognizes that change is inevitable. It recognizes that great changes have occurred within agriculture, and that great changes are taking place in the world. That is why President Johnson emphasized, in his farm message to the Congress just a week ago, that our farm programs must always be adapted to the requirements of the future. We know we must gear our agricultural policies to the realities of the world today rather than to the past.

The challenge, however, is to turn change to the benefit of agricultural and rural America--not against it.

In a real sense what we need to understand is that agriculture is in the forefront of the struggle for a

better world. It's not a laggard; it's not a burden; it is not holding America back. It is what's putting America ahead. And you are helping to make this possible.

President Johnson has made
~~Now let me make~~ one thing ^{very} clear. There will be no lessening of concern in this Administration for agriculture--and all of Rural America. Any unfounded doubts on that score should have been well laid to rest by the President's message on agriculture--one of the greatest ever sent to Congress by any President. It was a message of hope, of determination--and of reality.

The President helped greatly to clarify the public's understanding of agriculture by emphasizing the need to separate the social problems of rural America from the economic problems of commercial agriculture.

"We need to be concerned about both," the President told the nation, "but the answers to each may well be different."

And he made it clear that the entire nation has a vital stake in what we do about each.

As a nation, the President said, "we are increasingly recognizing that food and agricultural policies affect our entire economy. We need to keep reminding ourselves that farm policy is part of an over-all effort to serve our national interest."

Your participation in this Institute shows that you want to join this effort.

You can do this by supporting development of agricultural policies, and agricultural production patterns, that encourage and permit maximum fulfillment

of world trade opportunities, as well as make our greatest possible contribution to closing the world's food gap.

Expanded export markets offer the greatest area of hope for growing American agricultural production and increasing farm income--despite the fact that U.S. agricultural exports are already at an all-time high.

Exports account for the output of 1 out of 4 acres of farmland--and they are the source of about 15 per cent of the income of farmers. This is why since 1960 we have moved vigorously to expand farm exports--and have raised them from \$4.8 billion to over \$6 billion a year. In the last fiscal year, Iowa's share of the export level amounted to \$330 million--a tremendous achievement.

There is a fundamental linkage between our productive agriculture and our foreign economic policy.

Without this great asset, we could not ~~help~~ ^{have helped} the balance

of payments ^{in 1964 to the time of} ~~with dollar exports of~~ over \$4 billion ⁱⁿ ~~in~~

(farm exports for hard currency.)

~~1964~~. Without this asset we could not have moved

tremendous quantities of food and fiber under the Food

for Peace program to help the economies of many less

developed nations. Without this asset we could not

provide nourishment to millions of children in foreign

school lunch and other feeding programs. Let no one

downgrade the contribution of agriculture to our national

strength and ability to implement policy decisions.

The versatility and flexibility of the American farmer also is vitally important to the integrity of the

dollar. In order to maintain soundness of the dollar, we must maintain our balance of payments. And the most effective way of doing this is to increase dollar-earning exports. Agriculture is our biggest dollar-earner in the export markets today, and can make a still greater contribution in the years ahead as we encourage production shifts to commodities for which there is a more readily available dollar market.

We are not content with the gains we have made in world markets. President Johnson told the Congress in his message on agriculture that we expect to make additional gains by improving the means by which we can be competitive in price, in quality, and in service to our customers. He said we will merchandise our products actively, but with full regard to rules of

commercial conduct between nations.

A trade development project was initiated personally by President Johnson last year when he sent a mission of cattlemen and feeders to Europe to explore the possibilities of developing markets for beef.

Based on the report of this mission, we now are engaged in a beef and livestock trade development project in Western Europe. Both government and private funds have been melded into an effective trade development and promotion effort for beef and other meats in this potentially tremendous market of Western Europe, ~~for beef and other meats.~~

For the first time in history, ^{the United States is} ~~Europeans are being~~ actively promoting the sale of ~~given an opportunity to buy~~ beef and other livestock products ^{in Europe.} ~~from the United States.~~

The first of next month in the Ideal Homes Show in London, which draws thousands of people from all over the United Kingdom and Western Europe, American roast beef and hamburger will be sold in our exhibit. The major part of the 30,000 pounds of beef steaks, roasts and hamburger that will be served at this great exhibition comes from the state of Iowa. It will be excellent product that we hope will further generate interest in our American beef and variety meats.

There is another vast area of making better use of our great productive capacity and productive ability to serve the nation's interest. This is our Food for Peace program. It is more than just a farm program. It is a truly national program, to support national foreign policy objectives.

The Food for Peace program is a 20th Century form of alchemy. Food for Peace has provided the means for converting America's agricultural productivity and abundance into schools and textbooks, hospitals, bridges, and roads, the vital ingredients of economic and social growth in the developing nations of the world. This ingenuity of using food as a resource for development has been termed one of the most imaginative instruments ever created for the purpose of sharing agricultural abundance with under nourished people and emerging nations.

Food for Peace is reaching nearly 100 million people in the world. In 85 countries, it is contributing to the health and nutrition of 40 million children through school lunch and pre-school child feeding programs. In

Latin America alone, U.S. donated food is going to 1 out of 4 children of school age. We expect these school lunch programs in South America to be reaching 1 out of 3.

This program, President Johnson told the Congress, has strengthened growing economies, contributed to rising standards of living, promoted international stability, and literally saved lives in many less developed countries. He said our agricultural resources are making a significant contribution to the prospects for peace in the world.

I feel very deeply about this program. I have devoted a great deal of my time and efforts in public life to getting it under way, and making it work

effectively. I know it is morally right--and that it makes good sense. I have witnessed at first hand what it means to hungry people of the world.

Our great agricultural know-how, our great potential to produce in abundance, is a vitally important national asset of strength. We must make fuller use of that asset in achieving our nation's international objectives. My conscience--your conscience--will permit no less.

Food production is not keeping pace with food requirements on a world-wide basis. The demands for food by exploding population growth are increasingly outstripping the supply availability in the world.

Let me tell you what is happening to the world's

population. It may not mean much to you to hear that population is increasing at the rate of 1.80^{per cent}/a year. But it may be more meaningful when expressed in absolute terms. There are 54 million more people in the world every year--nearly 148,000 new mouths to feed every day.

Population in 40 years is expected to exceed six billion people--double what it is today.

Hunger is as old as man himself. The tombs of ancient Pharaohs yield indelible testimony to its ravages centuries ago. Hunger is in the pages of the Bible--in Genesis and Exodus. The spectre of hunger dominated the middle ages and was a principal cause of the French revolution. World War II added additional

millions to hunger's devastation.

Even today, the satisfaction of hunger is a major preoccupation for more than a billion inhabitants of the globe.

Throughout the world, more and more international economists are recognizing that the real limiting factor to progress in economic development is the future ability of people to feed themselves--the ability to really close the world's food gap.

We must face the facts that exist. The countries with great mass populations and the greatest need for food are today the least able to pay for it.

Against this background, our Food for Peace program assumes new prominence as one of the most versatile weapons in our foreign aid arsenal.

We must find markets where the most consumers exist; and the most consumers in the world today live in countries struggling to reach the status of sustained economic growth.

Our experience shows that such economic growth can be achieved, and is being achieved partly as a result of our Food for Peace program. And wherever that happens, our agricultural exports are increasing--for dollars.

Based on the experience of the years since you started these Institutes--based on what our country is now doing to further stimulate economic growth in these less-developed countries through our Food for Peace program--and based on the known food gap threatened by the world's soaring population, a tremendous, long-range

export market potential is building up in a world needing more food.

From this review we arrive at these general conclusions:

Expanded export markets offer the greatest area of hope for increasing farm income--and they serve the nation's interest by earning dollars.

Farm policies, and farm production, must be continually guided toward serving that national interest, by encouraging whatever shifts in production may be necessary to maximize export earnings.

There is a vast potential for expanding export markets, in view of the world's increasing food requirements.

Food for Peace and Foreign Aid are helping--and have helped in the past--to build future export markets

If the income of all low-income families were brought up to the \$3,000 annual level, per capita consumption of all food would rise by 2 per cent. Meat consumption among these low-income families would rise by 15 to 20 per cent; poultry by 10 to 15 per cent; milk products by about 7 per cent and fresh fruits and vegetables by 15 to 20 per cent.

for American farm products--by increasing living standards and purchasing power of the great mass populations in less-developed areas of the world.

It is no longer enough for us to be concerned about domestic farm problems alone, nor be willing to have farm programs designed for domestic farm purposes alone.

You need to take the broader look, in the national interest.

You need to encourage everything your government is doing to expand consumption, at home and abroad.

You need to be aware of what the anti-poverty campaign can mean for increased domestic consumption.

← Insert

You need to support maintaining a full-employment economy,

to keep domestic purchasing power at high levels.

But most of all, you need to understand the vast potential of new markets in developing areas of the world--and you need to understand what a direct stake you have in our foreign aid efforts--the efforts to improve the economies of these countries so they can be greater cash customers in the future.

You should be vigorously supporting our Food for Peace efforts--in their own interest, as well as in the national interest.

It is in this spirit that we ask your support in building new and expanding markets for American farm products--the best road to achieving the life of quality and dignity in rural as well as in urban America.

Today each of you will take ~~about~~ as much
nourishment as is eaten in two days by ^{individuals} ~~more than 50~~
~~per cent of the people of the world.~~ *(making up more than half of the world's population.)* This would mean

that if the tables were turned so that suddenly we were
forced to join that half of the human race, tomorrow
would be a day of fasting. Not only would there be
this delay between meals, but we probably would be
consuming a small bowl of grain and possibly a piece
of fish of rather minute dimensions.

Fortunately, we do not face that alternative.

It is essential, however, that we think in realistic
terms of the food problems of the world and America's
great potential in contributing to their ultimate
solution.

That great Indian leader, Mahatma Gandhi, once said, "To the millions who have to go without two meals a day, the only acceptable form in which God dare appear is food." Although Gandhi died some years ago, the hunger that he wrote about so feelingly is still a grim fact of life, not only in India, but also in many other parts of the world.



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