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[1966]
Speeches 1966

I want to pay tribute to the farmers of this country for they have responded admirably to the request of this administration to bring stability to our farm economy and at the same time reducing the huge surpluses that were a drain on the American tax payers. As a result of this response and their support of the farm programs of the Great Society the supplies of rice, wheat and feed grain have reached manageable levels. We must and will keep a close watch on these important food stocks to assure that we will have adequate reserves to take care of our domestic needs as well as to meet our foreign commitments.

I want to assure you that the cost of meeting these foreign commitments are the responsibility of the entire nation. The farmers who produce as well as those who handle, market and ship these commodities, I know will respond to our request.

[1966]

The New Meaning of CONSERVATION

~~Soil Conservation Service~~
~~For the President~~

By HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, Jr.

Conservation of America's natural resources ^{has} ^a new and challenging meaning ^{today} for all of our citizens.

~~We must be concerned with building and renewing and developing as well~~ ^{remain vitally concerned with}

preserving and protecting the irreplaceable lands and waters upon which a great Nation depends for its sustenance and its growth. ^{But we now recognize that we also must be concerned with building and renewing and developing these lands and waters.}

This is the new conservation ^{which} assure future Americans ^{It will} a bountiful country not only in the produce of the fields but also in the majesty of great forests, the broad sweep of well-managed landscapes, ^{and} the reservations of parks and playgrounds ^{which} renourish the spirit of a dynamic people.

The new conservation assures the flow of clean waters to quench the thirst of a growing population. But it also satisfies the human longing for a quiet stream, ^{It} allows the humbling experience of standing on the banks of a great unspoiled river, ^{And it} gives the satisfaction of knowing that the lakes and waterways are a safe and proper habitat for the fish and wildlife that are a benefit and a pleasure to man.

~~For now~~ ^{We now} we realize that we must nourish not only the body but the spirit as well.

Resource conservation once meant preservation against heedless exploitation. It was a slowing-down process in order to keep more of our natural resources for a longer time. This remains a basic aim today, but we know that this is not enough. The new conservation builds and develops, drawing upon nature to give its full measure to the purpose of creation.

In the broad area of resource conservation, we have discovered the key to an abundant and purposeful and satisfying life. ~~Indeed,~~ ^We have yet to perfect our advance so that it reaches out to every American and into every corner of the land. ^But we are moving resolutely in that direction.

We may look with confidence and enthusiasm on the task that lies ahead. We see across the Nation the product of a tradition that can only be strengthened with time.

The accomplishments of our conservationists attest to the imagination and determination of agricultural leaders in the home counties; to the understanding and cooperation of thousands of land owners and operators in every part of the country; ^{and} to a far-sighted national government which over the years has promoted and supported land and water resource conservation.

Ⓐ Conservation begins on the land, on each individual acre. As a Nation, we have developed our resource conservation policies on the firm basis of essential involvement at the local level. [Ⓞ] ~~For~~ ^We are a people wedded to the concept of individual initiative and grass-roots participation in the public affairs that concern us.

But we have understood, too, that our State and Federal governments also represent the interests of the individual and the local community. And we have wisely and properly drawn upon State and Federal resources to support the local effort. We have done this in the national interest because the summation of local interest ^{is} national interest. That is how we have advanced over the past quarter of a century in the conservation and development of the Nation's lands and waters.

③ The future of these resources resides in the continued wise application of such proven Federal legislation as the ~~Small Watershed Act~~, ^{This Act} which provides for dams and land treatment measures to prevent floods and impound water for recreational, municipal, industrial, agricultural, and wildlife needs. ^{These resources also are dependent on} ~~the~~ the Great Plains Conservation Program, which is responsible for restoring to original use the vast rangelands in the Great Plains States.

The potential of our lands and waters is bound to such legislation as the Resource Conservation and Development program, the Water Pollution Control Act, ^{the} the Public Works and Economic Development Act, and ^{the} Rural Water and Sanitation Facilities Act. ^{These are some of the} ~~among many other~~ recent Acts of an interested and far-seeing Congress.

④ Thirty years ago the dust blew out of the plains that once had grown lush grasses, ^{carrying valuable} ~~and irreplaceable~~ topsoil ~~was carried~~ to the eastern States and out to sea. Today, most of ^{that} ~~the~~ great land again is rich grazing country.

The hard years of the Dust Bowl era led us to understand how to use our priceless land and water resources wisely. ^{And} ~~today~~ today the mounting pressures for clean water and useable land emphasize the need to make our basic natural resources serve their highest possible purpose for the greater benefit of all the people now and in future years.

Nature must often be guarded against itself.

Our conservationists have learned to tame the wild streams, save the irreplaceable topsoil from washing off the land, improve the woodlands for better growth and greater beauty, and build the most efficient agricultural economy ever known to man.

⑤ We have come of age in America as resource conservationists.

We are increasingly concerned ~~as a people~~ with eliminating stream pollution, increasing water supply, assuring sound land use, and conserving beauty in the landscape.

The trend to urban living has caused a revolution in land use--not only in the urban centers and in their immediate surroundings, but in the countryside that must serve the greater population more broadly and intensely than in the past. The new conservation is a town and country outlook.

The urban explosion coincides with the new technology that has brought increased efficiency to agricultural production. We have more land for purposes other than crop production, and we have learned to make the land and waters serve multiple uses.

④ We are doing all of these things in the new conservation that has been born of local initiative and cooperation, and advanced by the dedication and wise efforts of an enlightened national government.

But let us not ~~erroneously~~ assume that all is now well with the land.

There remains a serious backlog of conservation projects to be initiated and accomplished. There are dams to be built and land measures to be applied. There are studies of soil types to be made so that we may be assured of building our country on a sound footing. There are rivers and streams to be protected against siltation and cleansed of pollution. There are lakes to be established and others to be restored. There are forests to be protected against heedless destruction, and improved and made more useful for public and private benefit.

④ There remains a need for more professional conservationists to guide the Nation's conservation work. And there is need of greater financial support at all levels to extend the benefits of this effort throughout all of the land.

There are
Today, ~~with~~

rising demands upon the undeveloped acres of this Nation. ^oThe American people must support determined, concerted action to preserve the values that remain, to restore those desired values which have vanished through waste, thoughtlessness, and selfish design, and to develop for the benefit of all the people the great natural resources that have been allotted to this fortunate land.

We must work even harder to prevent the disastrous floods that still plague many of our river valleys...the tragic wash of good soil into the river beds and down to sea...the mutilation of the landscape that destroys the natural beauty that is meant for all to enjoy.

¹⁰ We must end the deep poverty that afflicts much of rural America. We must breach the urban wall that seals off countless city youth from the richness of their heritage in the open countryside.

We are committed as conservators of the great American estate to honor the blessings of a generous Providence, to respect the gifts of a bountiful nature, to provide for the future as we draw upon the resources that are available for our use and that are committed to our care.

With continued dedication to the task of conserving our vital land and water resources we will insure the future prosperity of this great Nation. To this challenging and rewarding task your national government is dedicated. Working together, we can achieve our loftiest goals.

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DRAFT

[1966]

Speech

Felt

THE IMPORTANCE OF ANIMAL
AGRICULTURE TO THE U.S. FOOD ECONOMY

(Summary Points)

1) Historically, the United States is a meat-eating country. Consumption of meat, (including poultry) exceeds 200 pounds per capita, which is among the largest of all countries.

2) This high consumption of meat is a part of both our national heritage and our economic development as an agricultural nation. Furthermore, since meat is highly appreciated - both nutritionally and for its palatability - its demand in consumer markets has expanded along with rising incomes.

3) At one time the U.S. was a meat exporting country; but, except for the war years - both World War I and World War II - when vast quantities of meat were supplied to our allies, the U.S. has switched to that of a meat importer of both pork and beef.

4) Most of our pork imports have been in the form of canned hams, chiefly from European countries anxious to obtain dollar exchange in the U.S. Our beef imports have consisted largely of processing beef for use in hamburgers, canned meats and sausage. While these imports have been large enough to be of concern to our cattle industry, this merely illustrates the importance of beef in our national diet. Also, the fact that U.S. consumers can outbid

other importing countries for a substantial part of the world's exportable surplus indicates the strength of our demand for these foods of animal origin.

5) Recently, considerable attention has been focused upon the price of meat as it relates to the consumer price index and the national concern over inflation. For example, in April the meat component of the consumer price index stood at 118 per cent of the 1957-59 average as against 112 per cent for the average of all items making up this index. Against this picture of U.S. meat consumption and demand is the economics of livestock and meat production. Annual meat production -- like many other foods, but unlike most other manufactured products -- is determined entirely by the supply of raw material (livestock) available for processing. Stated in another way, the country's livestock farmers rather than meat processors control the volume of meat produced.

6) Except for war-time regulations, the livestock and meat economy of the U.S. has been largely free of direct government controls designed either to encourage, discourage or alter the volume of the various meat animals being raised. Instead, livestock farmers have responded to weather conditions, current and prospective prices for livestock and available feed supplies as the primary factors influencing their production and marketing decisions. Government stocks of feed grains during most of the past three decades have tended to alleviate forced liquidation of livestock in some unfavorable crop years.

7) While much attention has been given to the so-called revolution of American farming in the post-war years, modifications in American agriculture that are still ahead of us also are of major proportions. Additional technology in the fields of fertilizer application, weed and insect control, and the use of mechanical equipment ~~to~~^{on} crop production promises further advances in crop yields beyond those which have already taken place.

8) In the Midwest a significant change is occurring in the direction of specialized production of feed grains and livestock. In other words, it appears that the general farmer of the past is now moving in the direction of either a grain farmer or a livestock producer. The factors contributing to this trend include the high cost and unavailability of farm labor, the discovery that pasture rotations are no longer necessary in crop farming, the high cost and increased capacity of farm machinery, opportunities for off-farm employment, and the income guaranty of certain farm programs.

9) Despite record crops of feed grains during the past year, it now appears that our 1965 harvest will only balance the total requirements for livestock feed, industrial uses and exports. This appears to mean that the nation's agriculture is on the verge of moving out of an era dominated by surpluses and into a period (given normal weather) where requirements and production may grow at about the same rate.

10) An important consideration in this equation will be the extent to which government programs shift production to non-feed crops, and to the degree that livestock farmers find it necessary to have higher prices to cover their increased costs. Imbalance in this delicate situation may threaten the American consumer with a domestic meat production that does not keep pace with expanding population and increased demand for meat products.

Feed grains tied to livestock.

11) Except under war-time conditions, history has demonstrated that a shortage of meat supplies relative to consumer demand will surely result in higher prices, even though these higher prices are not the result of inflation, as such.

12) While we fully understand and appreciate our country's role in the world food situation, we also realize that our country cannot undertake the task of feeding the world. Generally speaking, food prices in the U.S. are above those of other importing countries; and, if we are to avoid still higher prices of meat and poultry products, we must strive to maintain the balance of animal agriculture with the growing demands of our own domestic consumers. As a matter of national policy, we cannot afford to allow meat in the U.S. to become a luxury item with the resultant high prices from a short fall in the ability of our livestock economy to fulfill this demand.

13) On the basis of USDA statistics it appears that the 1964-65 downturn in hog production is now being corrected by the free market rise of hog prices in recent months. The current cattle picture is

one in which we are presently enjoying a relatively large production of beef, partly at the expense of declining herds.

The tightening of our total feed supply, these swings in livestock production, and the advancing prices of meat are warnings to us that our national agricultural policy must always be mindful of the stake which some 194 million consumers -- 204 million by 1970 -- have in the economic welfare of the nation's livestock and meat industry.

Good

(June 13, 1966)

Dave — Here is USDA draft. Ols handle. Need your draft by p.m.

Speech draft for Vice President Humphrey 5/25 or a.m. 5/26. H.H. must have on departure.

File
HHH Speake

A New World Is in the Making

[Signature] [1966]

I have approached this task today with a good deal of humility. It is no small responsibility to come before a graduating class in times like these. The day is long gone when an acceptable commencement address could be constructed around a few jokes, a half dozen platitudes, and the solemn advice to "work hard and save your money."

NOT USED

Such a talk would be totally out of place in today's world.

~~World Hungry
World Food~~

For a new world is in the making --

A world of unbelievably swift change -- in which the sum of scientific knowledge doubles in a decade.

A world of uncertainty and turmoil, pregnant with violence -- in which man's potential to achieve a better life is matched only by his capacity for self-destruction.

A world that grows smaller by the hour -- in which every nation and every person is interdependent and none of us is isolated from his neighbor -- a world in which there is no place to hide.

Because it is just such a world -- this new world in the making is also filled with OPPORTUNITY.

Every human generation inevitably stands at a crossroads -- and yours and ours are not exceptions. But what is different perhaps is that the crossroads at which we stand today and the crossroads at which you will stand tomorrow are of unparalleled importance for the future of civilization.

At this present moment we in the United States are advancing toward a Great Society made possible by an Age of Abundance. We have not yet entered that Society, as is evidenced by the substantial portion of our people who still live in poverty. But as a nation we are drawing near.

We have come at last within reach of what has been humanity's goal for all the centuries. As we look about us, we see an industrial and agricultural capacity such as men never dreamed of only a few decades earlier.

When I graduated from this University 27 years ago there were in U.S. agriculture 11 million persons working on $6\frac{1}{2}$ million farms. They produced food and fiber for 131 million Americans with a little left over for export. Today, half as many workers on half as many farms using 30 to 40 million acres less

cropland produce a far bigger and better supply of food and fiber for a population 50 percent larger -- and they have roughly one-fifth of their output left over for export.

How is this possible? Because what a farmer produced in four hours back in 1939 he produces in less than one hour today.

In terms of constant dollars the Gross National Product of the United States has roughly doubled in the past decade and a half.

Our national output this year is estimated at more than \$730 billion -- a figure beyond comprehension.

So great and so swift is our annual economic growth that it exceeds the entire economic output of most other countries in the world. Only seven other countries produce more in a year than we in the United States increase production in that same year.

At present rates of growth, a trillion dollar GNP is only seven years ahead of us.

What an exciting, thrilling age this is and how exciting and thrilling the years ahead can be!

But remember -- we stand at a crossroads.

We in the United States are on the very threshold of an Age of Abundance. Other economically developed countries are approaching Abundance. But a far larger proportion of the world's people are nowhere near it.

A typical American has been described as a fellow who drives home from an Italian movie in a German car, sits down on Danish furniture to sip a cup of Brazilian coffee out of an English china cup, while he writes a letter on Irish linen paper with a Japanese ballpoint pen.

But over much of the world a typical human being is one who struggles to exist on an income of little more than a dollar a week -- a human being who has less to spend on food, clothing, medicine, schooling, and all his other needs than the average American lays out for cigarettes.

This typical human being wants for himself the same things that you and I want and that most of us already have -- food for strength and vigor -- medicine and medical care when he is sick -- preventive measures to wipe out disease -- a job that will give him not only survival but dignity -- education for his children to prepare them for a useful future -- a decent life measured by Twentieth Century standards.

These are legitimate desires. They are the products of a revolution of rising expectations -- and they will not be denied. And as President Johnson has said: "If a peaceful revolution in these areas is impossible, a violent revolution is inevitable."

Yes, we stand at a crossroads -- a crossroads not unlike that which an earlier generation faced in the years following the first world war.

In those decades somehow the world took the wrong turning and the result was the cataclysm of World War II.

What was it that failed in that fateful period? It was not individual statesmen or groups of statesmen so much as the human spirit itself. It was humanity that failed -- not the statesmen so much as the spirit of the peoples behind them.

We must not fail. The price of failure is unbearably high.

Among the many challenges that face us, the primary immediate need of the developing nations in the new world that is in the making is the assurance of food -- not just food for survival but food of a quantity and quality and so distributed as to release the energies needed for sustained economic growth.

Indeed, the greatest single challenge the world of your generation must face is -- FOOD.

There are two major dimensions to this challenge. First, population.

At the beginning of the Twentieth Century the number of people in the world was about one billion.

Since then, largely due to disease-control, about two billion more have been added. By 1980, if current trends persist, still another billion will be added. By the turn of the new century or shortly thereafter, today's population may be doubled.

Most of the growth is now, and will continue to be, in the food-short developing countries. For example, in 1950, North America and South America were about equal in population -- roughly 170 million. By the year 2000 the population of North America is currently projected at about 300 million. But the projection for South America is almost 600 million!

Population is one dimension of the problem. Agriculture -- production of food and fiber -- is another.

Since the dawn of history people have depended primarily on grain for their life's sustenance -- they do today -- and they will tomorrow.

World-wide, people get over half of their calories by eating grain -- and, of course, indirect consumption of grain in the form of meat, milk, and eggs accounts for many more calories. In countries like communist China, as much as 80 percent of food energy comes from the direct consumption of grain products. Even in the United States where we eat so much meat, milk, eggs, fruits, and vegetables, about one-fourth of our food energy is still derived directly from what the specialists call grains, roots, and tubers.

The world grain production and export picture has greatly changed in the past quarter century.

When I came out of college North America was only one of six exporting regions. Latin America was the leader. Its food exports exceeded those of North America, Africa, and Asia combined.

Today there are only two consistent exporting regions -- North America and Oceania -- which includes Australia and New Zealand. Latin America is struggling to remain self-sufficient. Eastern Europe, which exported 5 million tons of grain a generation ago, now imports about 14 million tons each year. Asia and Africa both must import food to live.

North America -- Canada and the U.S. -- have emerged as the primary breadbasket of the world.

These two countries export over 60 million tons of grain a year and the U.S. supplies about three-fourths of the total.

Under the Food for Peace programs alone we reach and help more than a hundred million people a year in more than a hundred countries.

Since this program began in the mid-1950's we have delivered 150 million tons of food -- valued at \$15 billion -- to needy and disaster-struck nations.

We do this for both humanitarian and economic reasons. It saves lives. It improves health and vitality. It helps put developing nations on the ladder of economic growth. It strengthens the bases for freedom and world peace. It puts our agricultural abundance to good use. And it builds future markets for our products.

This is what Food for Peace and Food for Freedom is all about. It makes sense for the United States and other highly industrialized and exporting countries to share their God-given abundance with the millions who live in great want.

But even our vast resources will not be enough to meet the world's urgent need for food in the years ahead.

Studies show that by 1980 the less-developed countries may need 750 million tons of grain each year. This is 300 million tons more than they required in 1960. It equals the entire present grain production of North America and Europe combined.

Obviously, we must think in terms of helping people to produce their own food. This is the key factor in economic development -- the future ability of people to feed themselves. Agricultural development must come before industrial development. I say, most respectfully, that before a steel plant is built in developing countries by the dollars of this government, people should learn how to produce more of their own food and fiber so they can live as human beings.

This is why the President has proposed a Food for Freedom program.

The key phrase in the Food for Freedom Act is "self-help." Thus we seek not only to share our abundant production with developing nations but also to share our knowledge, our abundant know-how, our abundant technology.

No lives are destroyed by wheat, by protein or carbohydrates, by fats and oils. President Johnson wants America to be known as the "teacher" in this new

world that is in the making and not the warrior -- as the "scholar" and not merely the policeman. Let America be known in this new world for her life-giving food and know-how and technology and not merely for her military power.

I say all of this can be done. Indeed, it is being done. It is being done under great handicaps in Vietnam, where we are fighting two wars, the military war and the other war that is even more difficult, the war that will test our courage and our will for years to come, the war for social, economic, and political development.

Since 1954, South Vietnam has doubled its production of its most important crop, rice. And we have helped.

In the same period the production of pigs in Vietnam has increased 75 percent and farm production of sugarcane has almost doubled.

New crops have been introduced, as well as improved strains of traditional crops. These are great victories against the ancient enemy -- hunger.

Modern agriculture is being introduced to Vietnam, and the people benefit. The primary credit for this achievement, of course, belongs to the Vietnamese peasants and their hard work and initiative. They learn quickly. They are a

vital people. But our help has played a vital role, too.

Just this year we have expanded shipments of food to Vietnam, provided guidance on the reorganization of their agriculture, and we are presently recruiting 50 extension county agents who will go to Vietnam and do extension-type work there.

We are working very hard to help India solve its food problem. Because of drought India's food supply this year is precarious. More lives may be saved in India this year by American food than the total population of North and South Vietnam. We are currently shipping over a million tons of food grain a month to India. In addition, we are helping the Government of India develop a price incentive program for food grains, a long-range soil and water conservation program, research to develop and speed production of new legume crops, and demonstrations to show the results obtained by proper use of fertilizer and ~~use~~ of quality seeds.

We have hundreds of agricultural specialists in countries throughout the world helping to develop facilities for extension, cooperatives, credit, agricultural economics, conservation and forestry. In Brazil, Honduras, El Salvador,

and many other nations, our agricultural teams are helping people open up farming areas, improve poultry and livestock, put in conservation and irrigation, and kill off plant and tree-destroying insects.

Every year about 5,000 foreign technicians, scientists, teachers, and other agriculturally oriented people come to the United States for training -- training particularly related to their own countries.

We are aiding in agricultural research especially adapted to the developing countries. Foreign currencies given in exchange for Food for Peace commodities are used to pay for on-the-spot research projects. Improved sorghum, millet, and corn are being developed in two regional centers of East and West Africa where 55 million people get most of their calories from sorghum.

We are using the latest sterilization techniques to kill off the tsetse fly which is a major obstacle to Africa's economic progress.

We are working on improved production of protein rich legumes in the Near East, South Asia, and the Far East. In India the present per acre yield of these crops is only one-third of the yields obtained elsewhere.

Lack of protein is an especially serious problem for children, the ill or injured, and pregnant and nursing women. The brains of preschool children, for example, reach 90 percent of their full weight before they are four years old. If they don't get enough protein in that preschool period, the brain never develops properly. So our researchers are trying to convert vegetable protein into enjoyable food mixtures so that people can get their low-cost nutrition as much as possible within their normal, accustomed diets.

Students from Africa, India, and the West Indies are working closely with U.S. government and university scientists in creating protein-rich foods from soy or peanut flour which will have taste appeal to the folks back home.

I understand that it is now technically, but not yet economically, feasible to develop strains of hybrid wheat with extremely high yields. This, in itself, would go a long way to ease world food shortages.

I remind you that people do not die quietly in this troubled world. Twenty centuries ago the Roman philosopher, Seneca, observed that "a hungry people listens not to reason, nor cares for justice."

No one nation or region of the world can live in plenty, callous to the needs of others that are in grave want, without driving a nail into the coffin of peace. In such a world peace can be preserved only by the smashing of fists upon hungry mouths and the pressure of bayonets against empty stomachs.

Whether we like it or not, the Scripture lesson is true: We are our brother's keeper.

Do you young graduates want green pastures in which to test your mettle? The new world in the making is filled with them. They are in government and industry, in labor and agriculture, in teaching and in social service, in the arts and the professions.

Challenges beckon to you on every side.

I have been speaking to you of the challenge to help build the agricultures and economies of the developing nations. This world cannot rest upon a base of hungry, needy, ignorant, and despairing people without sooner or later experiencing a violent explosion.

But there are many other related challenges.

There is the challenge of presenting to children here and around the world better opportunities to develop their talents to the fullest.

There is the challenge of meeting in a better way the health needs of people here and around the world so that they may live full lives unburdened by the ravages of preventable disease.

There is a challenge to wipe out urban and rural slums here and around the world so that these areas will not go on breeding poverty and hopelessness.

There is a challenge in short to learn how to live in the Age of Abundance that is upon us. We must learn quickly, and we must all learn together.

Let us, then, who share in this miracle of American abundance work -- and I mean really work -- to give full impetus to the new world in the making. One person with belief is worth ninety-nine who have only interest. Let us have belief.

Let us remember Dante who said, "The hottest places in Hell are reserved for those who, in a period of moral crisis, maintain their neutrality."

Let the word go forth that America is a life-giving nation, not a life-taking nation; that peace is more than a wish or a hope or a treaty; that it is food and fiber; that it is health and education; that it is promise and hope; and that the building blocks of peace will be found in fertile fields and pastures, in

productive peasants and farmers, in workers, teachers, businessmen, and government servants who envision a better day and are determined that it shall come to pass.

You are about to enter the arena. You come welcomed by those who have entered before you. We do not ask you not to let us down. We ask only that you help us lift this world -- up!

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