

Members of Congress

David Bell

Commissioner
Andersak

NOTES

20th
annual

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HONOR AWARDS CEREMONY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

MAY 17, 1966

Mr. Freeman

Sec. Freeman

Mr. Carl Barnes

Dept. employees
Award winners

9 Distinguished Service Awards

83 - Superior Service Awards.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote that "the reward of a thing well done is to have done it."

I agree with that. (Although it sometimes helps to get some recognition -- and a salary increase -- too!)

The reward of those being honored here today -- the reward of all who carry on the good work of this Department -- lies in what you are doing and have done to improve life for all Americans.

It lies, too, in the hope and dignity American agriculture is extending to people in other parts of the world.

In setting up this Department almost a century ago Abraham Lincoln referred to Agriculture as the People's Department.

What President Lincoln meant was that the Agriculture Department was not an island . . . that agricultural policy was not an island . . . that both department and policy had to serve the interests of all our people.

∟ I say you have succeeded.

∟ You know the statistics of your success. Realized net farm income in 1965 was 21 per cent more than in 1960. And farm income this year will climb at least another 1 billion dollars higher.

∟ Net income per farm, which averaged just under 3,000 dollars in 1960, rose to over 4,000 dollars last year. This year it is expected to reach 4,600 dollars -- an increase of 55 per cent in 6 years.

∠ Per capita farm income is expected to be about 44 per cent higher this year than it was in 1960.

∠ Despite somewhat higher farm and food prices in 1966, consumers will spend again this year about the same percentage of disposable income for food as they did last year -- that is, about 18.2 per cent.

and, No people are better provided with food and fiber, at lower cost, than are the American people. !

I know that many of you sometimes have the feeling that you are being held personally responsible for both farm income and consumer prices. I say: Times are good; So take the credit. *NO nation in the world has done so well*

∠ Take credit, too, for what is being done to make the people and places in rural America full and productive participants in American life.

But if we can take pride in what we are doing at home, we must today take stock of what needs to be done abroad -- particularly in the two-thirds of the world called "developing."

↳ "Developing" often means just that. But it too often means, as well, backward, hungry, and ignorant.

↳ Seneca once observed that "a hungry people listens not to reason, nor cares for justice . . ."

↳ The free institutions we value so highly cannot flourish where men are prisoners of need and hunger.

↳ Food and fiber from American farms have saved the lives of millions of people.

↳ That is what Food for Freedom is all about.

and, It makes sense for the United States and other exporting countries to share abundance -- God-given abundance -- with millions who lack that abundance.

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

We recognize more and more that a key factor in economic development will be the future ability of people to feed themselves -- the ability to really close the world's food gap. Thus we seek not only to share our abundance

of production with developing nations, but also ~~we~~ *to share our* abundance of know-how and technology.

It can be done. Indeed, it has been done, even under great handicaps, as in Vietnam. *2 wars (1) military (2) Pol-Econ Social*

• Since 1954, South Vietnam has doubled its production of rice -- its basic crop.

• In the same period of time, the production of pigs has gone up more than 100 per cent and of sugar more than 500 per cent.

∟ · Corn production has gone up 25,000 tons in 1962 to a current rate of about 100,000 tons.

∟ · Many new crops have been introduced, and improved strains of traditional crops.

∟ The prime credit for this achievement belongs to the hard work and initiative of the Vietnamese peasants. But our help has played a vital role.

∟ As the result of Secretary Freeman's recent mission to Vietnam these efforts will be stepped up ~~for~~.

and ∟ What is being done in agriculture in South Vietnam -- and in other developing nations -- can be done in many more.

we know that
∟ Some parts of the world face critical food shortages, even the danger of famine.

∟ And the calculations of the experts show that, unless something is done now, we face an overall world shortage of food within the next two decades.

Therefore, President Johnson's new international
agricultural program places a heavy stress upon self-help
in the food-deficit nations. They can and must grow more
of their own food.

These are the lessons of today: ~~not~~ all of us in
this nation, and in this world, are interdependent --
that none of us is isolated from his neighbor. *we are our
brothers keepers*

Let us ^{those} who share in the miracle of American
agriculture, continue to work for a future in which our
energies and our productivity will be devoted to making
life happier, freer and more abundant for millions who have
known nothing but want and deprivation.

~~the~~ ^{your Dept of Agric} People's Department serves not only the
families of America, but the whole family of man.

*You are fighters for freedom
You are workers for Justice
You are the champions of opportunity*

ORIGINAL

STENOGRAPHIC TRANSCRIPT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TWENTIETH ANNUAL

HONOR AWARDS CEREMONY

Washington, D. C.

17 May 1966

ACE - FEDERAL REPORTERS, INC.

Official Reporters

415 Second Street, N. E.
Washington, D. C., 20002

Telephone:
547-6222

NATION-WIDE COVERAGE

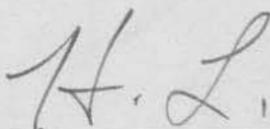
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information

5/18/66

To: Ted VanDyk , Vice President's Office

Here is the original of the transcript of the Vice President's talk yesterday at our honor awards ceremony...along with 3 zerox copies.

May we have a copy of the edited version ?
If you can have some one call me, I'll send a messenger for it.



Harold R. Lewis
Director of Information
Ext. 5247-6311

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TWENTIETH ANNUAL
HONOR AWARDS CEREMONY

Slyvan Theater,
Washington, D. C.

Tuesday, 17 May 1966

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY,
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

1 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you, Mr. Secre-
2 tary. Thank you, my good friend, Orville Freeman.

3 Members of the Department of Agriculture, my
4 fellow public servants in the Executive branch of the
5 Government, distinguished Members of Congress, and all of
6 the ninety-two award winners, the nine Distinguished Ser-
7 vice Award winners, and the eighty-three Superior Service
8 Award winners.

9 Before I proceed one further moment, I want you
10 to meet the most significant reason for the phenomenal suc-
11 cess and achievement of the Secretary of Agriculture. This
12 is a beautiful setting. It is a beautiful day, and this
13 is the time to present a beautiful woman, Mrs. Orville
14 Freeman.

15 Stand up, Jane.

16 (Applause.)

17 It just so happens that the Freemans and the
18 Humphreys are very close friends, and I always like to
19 stay on the good side of Jane Freeman, not only because I
20 like her but because she is a very influential person.
21 In case I ever have an argument with the Secretary, I need
22 an ally. And, since I know that she knows how to win
23 those arguments, I am always delighted to say a nice word
24 about a very nice lady.

25 There are so many things that cross my mind

1 today and so many words that I would like to say in behalf
2 of and in tribute to the twenty-nine public servants, who
3 today are being singled out for exemplary service on behalf
4 of their country and on behalf of this Department, and on
5 behalf of the people, not only of the United States but, indeed,
6 of the World.

7 I am very happy that Commissioner Andolsek is
8 here from the Civil Service Commission, because these are
9 civil servants that we honor. These are people who have
10 earned their way in the service of their country, in the
11 high calling of public service.

12 And I am delighted that Mr. Bell, the distinguish-
13 ed, and able, and gifted administrator of our Foreign
14 Aid Program is here, because, one of the award winners
15 today comes from the Foreign Service, indeed, as an agri-
16 cultural attache, and has demonstrated those qualities
17 that merit this particular honor that is bestowed upon
18 him.

19 Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote that, "The re-
20 ward of the thing well done is to have done it." I fully
21 agree with that, although, I must confess, at times it
22 feels pretty good to get some public recognition and even
23 a salary increase, too, in case you have done particularly
24 well.

25 The reward of those being honored here today,

1 however, the reward of all who carry on the good work of
2 this great Department, lies not in these certificates that
3 will be received but in what you are doing, what you have
4 done, to improve the life of all Americans. And, may I
5 say that, when you improve the life of all Americans, you
6 improve the life of people in many parts of the World.

7 I can't help but be reminded every time I stand
8 on these grounds of the immortal words of Abraham Lincoln,
9 who spoke of our America as the "Last best hope on Earth."
10 So, when we build excellence in American life, thinking
11 that we are doing it for ourselves, I remind you that we
12 are doing it for all of mankind.

13 America today has a responsibility to all of
14 mankind. The reward, therefore, of those being honored
15 today lies in the hope and the dignity American agriculture
16 is extending to people in other parts of the World.

17 In setting up this Department almost a century
18 ago, Abraham Lincoln referred to agriculture as, "The peo-
19 ples' department." What President Lincoln meant was that
20 the Agriculture Department was not an island; that agri-
21 culture policy was not an island; that both the Department
22 and the policy had to serve the interests of all of our
23 people, not just farmers or not just those in the Depart-
24 ment but to serve all of the people.

25 Again I say, as a public servant now of over

1 twenty years' service, there is always the tendency among
2 each and everyone of us to think of our career in public
3 service as being the most important thing, that is, that
4 the department we work for, or the office that we hold,
5 becomes important, when, in fact, what is important is for
6 us to remember that it is through this department or that
7 department, or through this particular office in which we
8 serve, that we fulfill the real obligation of public ser-
9 vice, to serve the people.

10 Never forget that this is a Government of the
11 people, and never forget that it is by the people, but,
12 above all, it is for the people. These are the three dis-
13 tinguishing characteristics of this Republic and of a free
14 nation, and of a democratic society. We do not serve each
15 other. We must serve others, those to whom we have given
16 out oath, the people.

17 I must say that those that we honor today, and
18 you of this Department, you have succeeded in serving the
19 interests of all the people. You know, thankfully, the
20 statistics of your success, and one does take advantage of
21 these platforms to recite these matters once again.

22 It appears most of the time that that which makes
23 news is bad news. Well, I was introduced as a rather happy
24 person, and I am. I like every day of my life. The best
25 day is today, and the only one that I think will be better

1 is tomorrow. Every day is a better day, if you but will it
2 that way.

3 You, in this Department, know that each day you
4 work for that better day, and the farmers of this nation
5 know it, too. Realize net farm income in 1965 was twenty
6 percent more than just five years before. Farm income
7 this year will climb at least another \$1 billion higher
8 than last year. This is what I mean by "for the people."

9 Net farm income per farm, which averaged just
10 under \$3,000 in 1960, rose to over \$4,000 last year, and
11 this year it is expected to be \$4,600 net, farm income of
12 all size farms, an increase of fifty-five percent in just
13 six years.

14 Per capita farm income is expected to be about
15 forty-four percent higher this year than it was in 1960.
16 Despite somewhat higher farm and food prices, both of which
17 have been given considerable publicity in 1966, Mr. And
18 Mrs. Consumer will spend again this year about the same
19 percentage of disposable income for food and fiber, as they
20 did last year. That is about 18,2 percent. What a bar-
21 gain!

22 When I hear people complain, let me make this
23 statement: No other people in this whole World spend such
24 a small share of their disposable income for food and fiber,
25 the necessities of life, as the American people. We ought

1 humbly to get on our knees and thank All Mighty God for the
2 abundance that is ours, not only for the abundance but the
3 quality and the variety of food and fiber that is avail-
4 able to this great nation.

5 A word of complaint from the American people
6 about their food is almost sacrèligious. No people have
7 been given so much over such a long period of time as the
8 American people.

9 No worker in any part of the World receives so
10 much in disposable income and, at the same time, pays so
11 little for health-giving food and for the protection of
12 fiber, as the American worker. We live well. My goodness,
13 the American people live in such affluence, most of us,
14 that we have almost forgotten how to be grateful.

15 I know that many of you sometimes have the feel-
16 ing that you are being held personally responsible for
17 both farm income and consumer prices. Well, if that is the
18 case, then let me make an announcement: Times are good.
19 So take the credit for it. If you have to take credit
20 for the drought, don't worry about taking a little credit
21 for the rain.

22 No nation of the World has done so well in its
23 agriculture. None. And, Mr. Secretary, when I think of
24 the difficult days that you have had to go through as the
25 Secretary of Agriculture, when people were heaping abuse

1 upon you and your Department and upon the workers here
2 for the so-called great surplus, I can't help but think
3 now of these better days.

4 And now you are even wondering and getting a
5 little criticism as to whether you have enough of the food
6 and fiber that is needed for this pained and troubled
7 World. So, take credit, my fellow public servants, for
8 what is being done to make the people and places in rural
9 America full and productive participants in American life.
10 Take some credit, if you please, today, humbly and without
11 boast, for the fact that this Department is waging a suc-
12 cessful war on poverty in the rural areas of American,
13 where there are far too many that are poor, where you are
14 helping to build whole new lives for families and bringing
15 about a new way of life in many countries.

16 But, if we can take pride in what we are doing
17 at home, then I say with equal candor, we must take stock
18 of what needs to be done abroad, particularly in the two-
19 thirds of the World that we call "developing." Developing
20 often means just that, but it also often means backward and
21 hungry and ignorant.

22 Seneca once observed that a hungry people listens
23 not to reason, nor cares for justice. Hunger is the enemy
24 of freedom, a treacherous enemy. Hunger is the implacable
25 enemy of justice and reason, and hunger, therefore, must be

1 fought and defeated, just as we defeat other enemies.

2 The free institutions that we value so highly
3 simply cannot flourish where men are prisoners of need and
4 hunger. And I submit that this Department of Agriculture
5 is as much a front-line fighter for the cause of freedom
6 as any force in American life or any department or agency
7 of this Government.

8 There is no hope for freedom in a World of the
9 poor, in a World of the hungry, in the World of the ignor-
10 ant.

11 Jefferson was right when he said, "You cannot
12 be both free and ignorant." And Seneca was right when he
13 observed that, "A hungry people listens not to reason,
14 nor cares for justice."

15 Thankfully, food and fiber from American farms
16 have saved the lives of millions of people, and, if there
17 could be any one class of people, or group, selected for
18 a Distinguished Service Award for the cause of humanity,
19 it would be the farmers, who have really saved lives, not
20 taken them.

21 No lives are destroyed by milk, by wheat, by
22 protein or carbohydrates, or fats, and oils. You see,
23 this is what Food for Freedom is all about, and it makes
24 sense for the United States and other highly industrialized
25 and exporting countries to share their abundance, God-given

1 abundance, with the millions who lack that abundance.

2 But I must say that, even with our great
3 resources, it will not be enough to meet the World's urgent
4 need for food in the years ahead. Nor should our dream be
5 merely the giving of food. We should be thinking in terms
6 of giving people a chance to produce their own food.

7 We recognize more and more that a key factor in
8 economic development will be the future ability of people
9 to feed themselves. And I say, most respectfully, long
10 before a steel plant is ever built by the dollars of this
11 Government, people should learn how to produce their food
12 and fiber, so that they can live, live as human beings.

13 Our task is to really help close the World's
14 food gap. Thus we seek not only to share our abundance of
15 production with developing nations but also to share our
16 knowledge, our abundance of know-how and technology. Let
17 America be known as the "teacher" in this World and not the
18 warrior. Let America be known as the "scholar" and not
19 merely the policeman. Let America be known in this World
20 for the life-giving food and not merely her power of mili-
21 tary.

22 I say all of this can be done. Indeed, it has
23 been done, and, even under great handicaps, as in Viet Nam,
24 where we fight two wars, the military and the other that is
25 even more difficult, the one that will really test our

1 courage and our will, the one that we will have to fight
2 for years to come, the war for social, economic, and politi-
3 cal development. Nation-building is much more difficult
4 than defeating enemies on the battlefield. And the Ameri-
5 can people are sensing that today: The turbulence, the
6 difficulty, the violence, the disorder, of a nation being
7 born.

8 How distressing and yet how challenging, and how
9 fortunate it is that the people that I see here today are
10 the ones that are the front-line fighters in helping to
11 build a nation and win the other war, the war of social
12 justice, the war of revolutionary social action.

13 Since 1954, South Viet Nam has doubled its
14 production of its most important crop, rice. And you have
15 helped. And you, Mr. Bell, and you, Mr. Freeman, you have
16 been front-line generals in that victory.

17 In the same period of time, the production of
18 pigs has gone up more than 100 percent, and of sugar, more
19 than 500 percent. Great victories against ancient enemies.

20 Corn production has gone up 25,000 tons in 1962
21 to a current rate of 100,000 tons. Many new crops have been
22 introduced, and improved strains of traditional crops.

23 Modern agriculture is being introduced to all
24 Viet Nam, to an old civilization, and the people benefit.
25 The primary credit for this achievement, of course, belongs

1 to the hard work and to the initiative of the Viet Nameese
2 peasants. They learn quickly. They are a vital people. But
3 our health has played a dual and, I should say, a vital role,
4 too.

5 As a result of Secretary Freeman's recent mission
6 to Viet Nam, these efforts will be stepped up. How impres-
7 sive it was to see our Secretary of Agriculture with some
8 of the top men of America in the field of agricultural pro-
9 duction and agricultural economics as another force in that
10 dual war, the war against the Viet Cong, the war against
11 aggression, and the war against social misery.

12 What is being done in agriculture in South Viet
13 Nam and in other developing nations can be done in many
14 more, and I think food of India, for example, where once
15 again our Government, working with a friendly nation, is
16 doing great work. More lives will be saved in India this
17 year by American agriculture than the total population of
18 North and South Viet Name. More lives, more of God's child-
19 ren, will live, because we helped avert famine out of the
20 abundance of American agriculture, than the total popula-
21 tions of North and South Viet Nam.

22 So let's accentuate the positive. Let's put our
23 eyes for a moment upon noble goals and constructive works,
24 and be humbly grateful that it has been our privilege to
25 be a part of it.

1 Some parts of our World face critical food short-
2 ages, even the danger of famine. And the calculations of
3 the experts show that, unless something is done now, we
4 face an overall World shortage of food within the next two
5 decades that could be disasterous for this World.

6 I remind you that people do not die quietly in
7 this troubled World. They need help, and, above all, what
8 they need is education.

9 Therefore, President Johnson's new international
10 agricultural program places a special stress upon self-help
11 in the food deficit nations. We come to help them help
12 themselves. We export that which we have in such abundance,
13 know-how, and technology. They can and must grow more of
14 their own food and fiber. These, then, are the lessons of
15 today.

16 All of us in this nation and this World are inter-
17 dependent. There is no place to hide. The World is smaller
18 by the hour. None of us is isolated from his neighbor.
19 Whether we like it or not, the Scripture Lesson, the eternal
20 question, which has but one answer, is true: We are our
21 brother's keeper. Try, as you will, to find another answer,
22 there is none.

23 Let us then, who share in this miracle of Ameri-
24 can agriculture, continue to work for a future in which our
25 energies and our productivity will be devoted to making life

1 happier, freer, and more abundant for the millions and mil-
2 lions who have known nothing but want and deprivation. Let
3 the wording from the hallowed ground be that America is a
4 life-giving nation, not a life-taking nation; that peace is
5 more than a wish or a hope or a treaty; that it is food and
6 fiber; that it is health and education; that it is promise
7 and hope; and that the building blocks of peace sometimes
8 are to be found in a fertile field, in a peasant and a
9 farmer, and a worker and a teacher, a business man and a
10 government servant, who envision a better day.

11 The people's Department, I salute. Your Depart-
12 ment of Agriculture, a people's Department that serves not
13 only the families of America but the whole family of man.

14 Mr. Secretary, to you and your associates, on
15 behalf of a grateful Government for service performed be-
16 yond the call of duty, I extend our thanks, the thanks of
17 the American people, and I am sure of people in many parts
18 of the World that look to this country and to you, sir, for
19 guidance and for help and for inspiration.

20 (Standing ovation.)

21 (Whereupon, at 11:20, the remarks of the Vice
22 President of the United States of America were concluded.)
23
24
25



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org