

Address by
Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey
Vice President of the United States
at
American Agricultural Editors' Association
Washington, D. C.
June 22, 1966



**Introduction by James C. Thomson, President,
A.A.E.A. (Prairie Farmer, Chicago, Illinois)**

We have had a wonderful four days in Washington and this is the last of our scheduled events and a very fitting climax to a highly informative and stimulating convention.

Our speaker does this organization a great honor in appearing here today, and it is a great privilege for me to introduce him to you. But before I introduce our speaker, let me introduce you to him.

Mr. Vice President, these farm paper editors represent a combined 12,000,000 circulation. They are well known, too, and speak regularly to virtually all of the farmers of the nation. I am sure you don't remember me, but I was with you and Secretary Freeman on the trip to Honolulu. We stopped in Guam, you may remember, and went on to Saigon, and the last time I saw you, you were making a speech to the Vietnamese and I must confess that I didn't hear all of your speech because I was so fascinated watching a Japanese reporter write what you were saying, with all those flourishes and a little brush. I had never seen anything quite like that.

Well, our speaker is a man of tremendous vitality and wide interests and in the recent flurry of charge and counter-charge about farm and food prices, I don't think he ever lost sight of the importance of agriculture to this nation's economy. Gentlemen, Ladies, I am very happy to present to you the Vice President of the United States, the Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey. (Applause)



Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey
(left) with James C. Thomson

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey:

Thank you very much for your gracious introduction, Jim. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to people who talk to farmers and those in the agri-business community.

Farm people, their problems, their defeats, their triumphs, and their basic importance to our society have been the concern of President Johnson and myself for many years. We come from rural America. We've seen farm depressions, and their terrible human toll, and we never want to see another. We must not have another.

Our American farmers will enjoy one of their most prosperous years in 1966. In most commodities, we need more production. This is news, ladies and gentlemen, and it's good news.

Net income per farm and personal income per capita of farm people will be the highest on record this year. Farm prices are up. Net farm income is up. Agricultural exports are up. And farm surpluses are down.

When I first came to Washington, and indeed in the time of my service in the Senate, there was an article each day about the unbelievable tragedy of farm surpluses that was befalling this nation. Now, some of those same writers are beginning to tell us of the danger of shortages. It just proves how things do change.

Most of the credit for the achievements I have spoken of belongs to the productive energy and the competence of the American farmer. But some credit is due the Johnson-Humphrey administration, the 88th and 89th Congresses, and to policies directed to the prosperity and well being of rural America.

Parity of income and equality of opportunity for our farm producers are the stated and determined goals of this government.

Sometimes, the good news and the record of achievement are obscured by a poor choice of words, or confusing headline. So, let me make one or two things clear. If things are better today than yesterday, we nevertheless seek to make them even better tomorrow. We are a restless people, and we seek higher standards and higher goals all the time.

Fair and Stable Prices

American agriculture will be selling more of its production, and fair and stable prices are in prospect. Fair and stable prices have been a basic need of American agriculture

for many years. And fair and stable prices to the farmer imply no unfairness to the consumer.

The American consumer has benefited—sometimes without realizing who his benefactor was—from prices which, at the farm level, often have been distressingly low. One of the developments in our nation is that people have become accustomed to rather low farm prices. Occasionally a note of sympathy would be uttered to the farmer, but farm prices remained distressingly low, nevertheless.

In the last five years, the price of eleven key foods in the consumer price index has risen less than nine per cent. During the same period, the weekly earnings after taxes of a worker in industry has risen more than 20 per cent. The profits of American corporations have more than doubled and dividends have more than tripled.

Everything must be put into perspective. You cannot just look at one factor and draw judgments from that. The theory of relativity applies to economics in a society such as ours just as it does to science.

Food—America's Best Bargain

In no country, do consumers have as large a choice of nutritious foods as in this country. And the percentage of disposable income that is spent for food is lower in the United States than in any country on the face of the earth. The best bargain in the world is the food that the American people get this day, in this month of June, 1966.

Consumers can thank the American farmer for this in a very large part. Consumers reap the benefit of abundant production on our farms and, in turn, farmers benefit from full employment, or expanded employment in the rest of the economy.

By the same token, consumers do not benefit in the long run from depressed farm prices. We all need each other for a full and balanced prosperity. Here is where you come in.

Farm Editors' Vital Role

Farm editors have an opportunity and an obligation to present the facts to the entire American public. This is a story that needs to be understood by every American.

You have provided a constant flow of technical information from the laboratory to the land. In no other country are farmers as well informed as in the United States. Major credit for this should be assigned to farm publications, their editors and their reporters.

You also have helped to bring about an understanding of the social and international policies and advantages of our farm programs. I cannot overly stress the importance of American agriculture to the strength of this nation throughout the world. It is so vital!

Food for Peace Program

I particularly wish to commend you for your long-term support of the Food for Peace program.

Since 1954, we have exported over \$15 billion worth of farm products to needy people in developing nations under the Food for Peace program. Food for Peace helps millions of people every year in more than 100 countries. Some of these countries have developed with our help to the point where they now are commercial markets for our farm products. Nations whose people we were helping with food and other forms of aid ten or twenty years ago now are among our best dollar customers for farm products. And there is good reason to believe that other nations will move from the aid category to the commercial trade category in a very short time.

The Enemy of Hunger and Malnutrition

But, behind the statistics lies the full impact of our food aid. Let us think of those to whom the Food for Peace program is directed in our attack on hunger and malnutrition, still the most serious health problem of the world. Let us recognize that food deficiencies are most serious in infants, the pre-school age, and to a lesser degree in school-age children. And let us remember that malnutrition results not only in high child death rates and widespread disabling diseases, but in permanent mental and physical retardation.

One of the wonders of the world is the health of our youngsters here in America. Their good health not only is due to the great breakthroughs in the healing arts and drugs, but to nutritious food and diet.

As a result of the dietary changes in Japan, the average Japanese boy now is four inches taller than his father. Food has had a remarkable impact not only on physical health but mental health. The shortage of protein in the world is one of the great threats to the mental health of the people of the world.

The Food for Peace program is taking hold. What began as a surplus disposal program has become a major construc-

tive force. It is a basic and essential item in the programs of the President of the United States in advancing our foreign policy objectives and interests. Let no man underestimate the role of our food and technical assistance in meeting the challenge of world hunger—not only for the present, but for many years ahead.

The Lives We Save

The late beloved Pope John said that where there is hunger—constant hunger—there is no peace. We will save more lives in India this year as a result of food aid than the total population of North and South Vietnam. I wish that as much emphasis were placed on the lives that we save as is placed on the lives that are lost because of war. I wish we could have the same dramatic presentation every morning of the impact of American food on the lives of children throughout this world that we have every morning of the war in Vietnam. Every day, the papers are filled with death and destruction. This is a life-giving nation, but we seldom emphasize what we do that is constructive and wholesome and decent and good. We have a fixation on being able to portray the riots, the violence, the disease, the destruction, the despair that afflicts us. There ought to be some balance, and I appeal to you to give it that balance.

Helping Others to Help Themselves

Recently, the President called upon our nation to use our agriculture abundance and our extensive technical skills to assist the less-developed countries to strengthen their own ability to produce and to buy agricultural commodities and, more generally, to support world development. This is our policy—to help, to aid in emergency, but to offer self-help to get people to stand on their own feet. You are responding to this call.

Jim Milholland, who is here with us today, President of the Agricultural Publishers Association, will leave for Western Europe within the next few days where he will confer with government and agricultural leaders on farm problems there.

A committee of weekly newspaper publishers from the National Newspaper Association will be journeying to Japan and to East Asia this summer to talk with farm producers, governmental officials, and others.

Farm Papers for Peace

And the Agricultural Publishers, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, are launching a Farm Papers for Peace program whereby copies of well-known agricultural magazines and publications will be made available to emerging nations to make their libraries complete with the writings of our fine agricultural journalists.

Expanding Farm Exports

Let us take a good look at America's opportunities for farm exports. I meet with our business people from time to time on the matter of developing a sensitivity in this nation toward exports. Do you realize that our country exports only four per cent of its gross national product?

I met with the coal producers yesterday. We can lay down coal out of a United States coal mine at a port in Europe cheaper than a European country can mine its own coal. We have become competitive—overly competitive. The coal producers, because they were losing some of their domestic market, had to go out and get a foreign market.

I am urging that we take a good look at the development of farm exports because we have a miracle of production in this country. There is no country on the face of the earth that can even touch us in terms of agricultural efficiency. There are two areas in which we have unquestioned superiority—in the mining and the distribution and production of coal, and in the production of agricultural commodities and the distribution of those commodities. Nobody can even come close to us. It is in these areas that we ought to make our best endeavors and efforts.

In the current fiscal year, our agricultural exports are estimated to reach a new peak of \$6.7 billion. We will receive \$5 billion of this in dollars—a major, positive contribution to our balance of payments. But this contribution can be even larger if President Johnson's proposals to the Congress for the expansion of East-West trade are adopted. I ask your support of these proposals.

I ask your support for the principle that trade with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in agricultural commodities be put on the same basis as trade in other non-strategic commodities.

We ship all kinds of things to these countries. We ship all sorts of items in which we are really not very competitive. But in a product that we have in abundance, or could produce in abundance at a lower price than anybody on the face of the earth, we have imposed artificial barriers.



(Left to right) JAMES MILHOLLAND, JR., President, Home State Farm Publications, Inc.; MRS. SAM SABIN; SAM SABIN Vice President, Continental Grain Co.; VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY; JAMES C. THOMSON, Editor, Prairie Farmer; NORMAN F. REBER, Editor, Pennsylvania Farmer; ROBERT G. RUPP, Managing Editor, The Farmer.

Increasing East-West Trade

Trade routes are vital arteries of international cooperation. They can be among the most significant of the bridges of better understanding between the Free World, the Soviet Union, and the Eastern European countries. Expansion of trade between such diverse economic systems needs the development of special ground rules consistent with Free World trade practices.

I have watched with interest the continued success the Canadians have achieved in selling agricultural commodities to the Soviet Union and to other Eastern European countries. We should make a consistent effort, toward eliminating the barriers that prevent sensible, constructive expanded East-West trade. There is no reason why the American farmer should not share in hard currency markets created through trade with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. In this endeavor, the President needs the flexible authority that he has requested to grant Most Favored Nation treatment wherever he regards such steps as necessary to the achievement of our foreign policy objectives. I don't see how we can deny ourselves this opportunity.

As per capita incomes in other countries have risen, we have seen sharp increases in imports of food and feed from the United States. For too long, we have placed too little emphasis upon this export market. The market for feed and feed grains, oil seeds, protein meals and vegetable oils is highly competitive. We had better get in and compete.

In recent years, the market development activities generated by Public Law 480, foreign currencies, plus private funds, have been very helpful in sales promotion. But again, much more can be done. These commercial markets are achieved with great effort and must be filled. We must be sure that we produce sufficiently to meet these needs.

New Customers Overseas

A whole new generation of consumers abroad is basing its more nutritious food needs on agricultural commodities that are made in America. We simply have to wake up to this opportunity. At times, we have been so derelict in our promotion of foreign trade that, when the opportunity arises, we are not quite sure what to do about it. We have become so accustomed to the philosophy of plowing up every third row, that we don't quite understand what to do if we need every row.

Farm Acreage

We have developed a positive approach to the use of our productive capacity to further our international objectives and at the same time increase farm income. This is reflected in our efforts to expand soybean acreage for 1966, higher 1966 rice allotment, and the increase in the wheat allotment for 1967. Presently, we are re-examining all of our commodity programs for 1967, particularly, wheat, rice, soybeans and dairy products.

Food Reserve Needed

In our planning, we must be sure we produce enough to meet our own needs, the requirements of our commercial export markets, including those under the Food for Freedom program, and have enough remaining for adequate and needed carryover stocks—truly a strategic food reserve.

I have been looking into our food and feed supply situation, especially in terms of reserves for years ahead, and I am concerned. We have a plentiful supply of only two commodities—cotton and tobacco. But as far as other commodities are concerned, we do not have a surplus.

Too many people think that all the carryover stock of a commodity is a surplus. It would be an extremely difficult period for this nation if there were no carryovers of major crops. We need reasonable working stocks as a minimum for normal business operations. This is vital to our national security, our worldwide commitments and the needs of our consumers. A nation that has security treaties with 44 countries had better understand that it also has food requirements as a part of its national security.

This country has large international responsibilities which it cannot and must not shirk. We are committed to our friends and our allies and our food and fiber supplies must be adequate to meet all foreseeable needs. It is important that we maintain an arsenal of food and fiber, just as we maintain an arsenal of weapons. Both serve the cause of freedom and peace.

Feed Grains

Let us examine some of these commodities in detail. It is estimated that, as of October 1, this year, and again October 1 of next year, we will have a three-month supply of feed grains. We should not allow this to get any lower. This is no surplus, especially at a time when our domestic and export requirements keep going up.

Yesterday morning, I received a call from South Dakota telling me that a drouth was underway. If you ever lived in South Dakota, you understand what a drouth means. I grew up there. I was born and reared there and I lived through the dust storms. The first time you get one of those dust storms, and you haven't had rain for 45 days, all the memories of the past come up like a living fact. And if you lose your feed grain production in the Dakotas, in just those two states alone, you are in a serious situation in America.

Livestock and Poultry

Our supply of feed grains also governs our livestock and poultry supply. We must strive to maintain a balance of animal agriculture with growing consumer demands.

I speak with feeling about this because too many people in America just don't understand American agriculture. You really don't understand what it's all about until you have lived through it.

I mentioned our feed supply because I am concerned about it. I know the relationship of corn prices to hog prices because I come from a corn-hog country. And I know the relationship between poultry prices and feed prices too.

Rice Program

Because of our Southeast Asian commitments, the rice supply will be less than what I believe to be necessary for national security reserves and to meet our international responsibilities. Therefore, this year we will be re-examining our rice program for 1967.

Asians are a rice eating people. Therefore, rice is as important to our policy in Asia as it is for one of our diplomats that is stationed in Thailand, for example, to be able to speak Thai.

Your president, Jim Thomson, was a member of the Presidential agricultural mission that accompanied Secretary Freeman and myself to South Vietnam. Jim can tell you the importance of rice to the Asians and the Vietnamese. Rice is a life saver, and it is an inflation-killer.

Inflation is having a terrible toll in East Asia and rice is dampening the fires of inflation. You can write 4,000 articles on economics, and it won't dampen the inflation fires at all. But give me a few tons of rice to put in the Port of Saigon, and a means of distributing it, and the inflationary spiral will go down. Rice is as important in Southeast Asia today as five divisions of troops and 1,000 airplanes. That's why we are re-examining our program.

Wheat

Various independent estimates have been made that a carryover reserve of 600 million bushels of wheat is a minimum desirable level. Some people may think that is a bit high. Yet, on July 1 our carryover will be down to 550 million bushels, and grain experts tell me that by July 1 of next year this level could further be reduced due to weather and other factors.

Wheat acreage for 1967 now is undergoing careful re-examination. We had a billion 400 million bushels of wheat carryover in the United States five years ago. Today, there are just slightly over a billion bushels in all the exporting countries of the world.

About 300 million people have been added to the world's population in the last five years. Those mouths have to be fed. But we have 400 million bushels less of wheat in the exporting countries of the whole world today than we had in reserves in the United States five years ago.

Dairy Products

It's estimated that the production of butter and non-fat dry milk will be down this year by about 20 to 25 per cent. The number of cows is down sharply in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa, where 60 per cent of the butter is produced. They are averaging 13 dairy herd sales per day in Wisconsin. Dairy farming involves high cost, expensive equipment, long hours, hard work, and you average about 60 or 65 cents an hour.

On June 1, the Department of Agriculture informed me that we had dairy products with a milk equivalent of 4 billion 700 million pounds—the lowest since 1952. Of this, at least 4½ billion pounds are in private hands. So the stocks in government hands are far from high. They are minimal.

Certainly, the nation could use an increase in milk production of more than 2 billion pounds this year to meet expected domestic and foreign needs, and to provide a reserve in the event of an emergency. If we can get that increase in milk production, it will be the best thing that happened to the consumer.

The problem of maintaining, and in fact, increasing dairy production may prove to be the most challenging problem in American agriculture in the immediate future.

We will need to give this area very careful attention during the coming months. One of the reasons for a recent rise

in the price support on manufacturing milk was to provide an incentive for dairy farmers and the manufacturing milk producing areas to keep their cows and produce an adequate supply of milk. Your government now has under active consideration further recommendations for incentives to bring about more production of milk.

Soybeans

On September 1, the carryover of soybeans will be between 30 and 40 million bushels—about a two weeks supply—that is no carryover at all. It even could be a mistake in bookkeeping. It is less than the supplies needed for working, or “pipeline” stocks. We have taken several actions to increase the 1966 crop production of soybeans, but we will need more production of this crop each year for several years.

I’ve been talking to people in this industry and they are making plans for 10 years ahead. This is a growing America. It’s an expanding America. It’s got to be a producing America.

Strategic Food Reserves

We’ve reached the point where we must think not only about current needs, but more and more about the future and about adequate reserves. This Administration has recommended basic national policy with the objective of establishing common sense levels of reserves of certain key agricultural commodities and specific guidelines as to how and when and under what circumstances reserves will be used. In other words, how to insulate the strategic reserves from the market to keep them for the purpose of reserves.

Working stocks are essential to normal business operations. They are carried as a matter of course by private firms and individuals, and encouragement should be given to the private sector to carry its own inventories.

Those stocks required to maintain established levels of reserves over and above the stocks in private positions should be carried by the Commodity Credit Corporation in such a way that they do not adversely effect the income of the farmer. These are set aside. The conditions under which such reserves are held and the factors affecting acquisition and disposition of CCC stocks should be clearly understood by all segments of society. They should not be looked upon as normal operating stocks, but rather as reserves.

The Farmer’s Crucial Role

The American farmer with his abundance is making a lasting contribution to our health, to our national prosperity, and to peace in the world. The farmer has become the soldier of peace for this nation. And the farmer with his system of distribution—the agri-business community—has been a bulwark of strength for our country. He is entitled to, and should receive, his fair share of our prosperity. He has been one of the underprivileged far too long.

This government, of which I am a part, is determined that our farmers shall stand on equal footing with the rest of this economy—that they shall have every opportunity for reward on their investment, their time and their energy.

Parity of Income

The Johnson-Humphrey Administration is determined that parity of income and equality of opportunity shall be a fact as well as a phrase.

I ask you to bring our greetings to the people that you serve and I once again thank you for being such faithful allies of the cause of a better day for American agriculture.

Thank you.



Vice President Humphrey is congratulated by James Milholland, Jr. at the conclusion of the address.

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

FARM EDITORS CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE 22, 1966

↳ Farm people -- their problems, their defeats, their triumphs and their basic importance in our society -- have been the concern of President Johnson and Vice President Humphrey for many years.

↳ We have seen farm depressions and their terrible human toll. We never want to see another. And we must not.

↳ Our American farmers will enjoy one of their most prosperous years in 1966. In most commodities, we need more production. This is news and it is good news.

↳ Net income per-farm and personal income per-capita of farm people will be the highest on record this year.

Farm prices are up. Net farm income is up. Agricultural exports are up. Farm surpluses are down.

↳ Most of the credit for this belongs to the productive energy of the American farmer. But I believe ^{some} credit is due, also, to the Johnson-Humphrey Administration, the 88th and 89th Congresses, and to policies directed to the prosperity and well-being of rural America.

↳ Parity of income and equality of opportunity for our farm producers are the goals of this government.

↳ Sometimes, it seems that the good news and record of achievement are obscured by a poor choice of words, or confusing headlines. If you will pardon a bad joke, we seem to be hiding our light under a bushel.

↳ Yet, let me make it clear: If things are better today than yesterday, we nevertheless seek to make them even better tomorrow.

↳ Certainly American agriculture will be selling more of its production, and fair and stable prices are in prospect.

↳ Fair and stable prices have been a basic need of American agriculture for many years, And fair and stable prices to the farmer imply no unfairness to the consumer.

↳ Indeed, the American consumer has benefited -- sometimes without realizing who his benefactor was -- from prices which at the farm level often have been distressingly low.

↳ I think I should point out that, in the last five years, the price of the 11 key foods in the Consumer Price Index has risen by less than 9 per cent. During the same period the weekly earnings, after taxes, of the single worker in industry, for instance, have risen more than 20 per cent.

It is a fact that, in the past five years, the average increase in food prices has been much smaller than the increase in income, after taxes, of the vast majority of Americans.

∟ In no country do consumers have as large a choice of nutritious foods as in this country. The percentage of disposable income spent for food is lower here than in any country.

∟ And consumers can thank the American farmer for this in large part. Consumers reap the benefits of abundant production on our farms and, in turn, farmers benefit from full employment in the rest of the economy.

∟ By the same token, consumers do not benefit in the long-run from depressed farm prices. ∟ We all need each other for a full and balanced prosperity. ^{and} Farm editors have an opportunity and an obligation to present these facts and lessons to the American public.

Now to your own role in all this: You have provided a constant flow of technical information from the laboratory to the land. In no other country are farmers as well informed as in the United States. And a major credit for this should be assigned to farm publications, their editors and reporters.

But, more than this, you also have helped bring about an understanding of the social and international policy advantages of our farm programs ~~in an age which needs~~ ~~understanding.~~

I particularly wish to commend you for your support of Food for Peace.

Since 1954 we have exported 15 billion dollars worth of farm products to needy people and developing nations.

Food For Peace has helped ^{many} ~~over~~ 100 million people a year in more than 100 countries. Some of these countries have developed, with our help, to the point where they now are commercial markets for our farm products.

Indeed, nations whose people we were helping with food and other aid 10 and 20 years ago now are among our best dollar customers for farm products. And there is good reason to believe that others will move from the aid to the Commercial trade category in a short time.

But behind the statistics lies the full impact of our food aid.

Let us think of those to whom the Food for Peace program is directed in our attack on hunger and malnutrition -- still the most serious health problem of the world.

Let us recognize that food deficiencies are most serious in infants, the preschool age, and to a lesser degree school age children.

And let us remember that malnutrition results not only in high child death rates and widespread disabling diseases, but in permanent mental and physical retardation.

↳ Now, Food for Freedom, what began as a surplus disposal program, has become a major constructive force.

↳ It is a basic and essential item in the programs of the President of the United States in advancing our foreign policy interests.

↳ Let no man underestimate the role of our food and technical assistance in meeting the challenge of world hunger, not only for the present but for many years ahead.

Recently, President Johnson called upon our nation to use "our agricultural abundance and our extensive technical skills to assist the less developed countries to strengthen their ability both to produce and to buy agricultural commodities and, more generally, to support rural development."

↳ You are responding to this call.

James Milholland, President of the Agricultural Publishers Association, will leave for Western Europe within the next few days where he will confer with government and agricultural leaders on farm problems there.

↳ A committee of Weekly Newspaper Publishers from the National Newspaper Association will journey to Japan and East Asia this summer.

And the Agricultural Publishers, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, are launching a Farm Papers for Peace Program whereby copies of agricultural magazines will be made available to emerging nations.

↳ Now let us take a good look at America's opportunities for farm export.

In the current fiscal year, our agricultural exports will reach a new peak of 6.7 billion dollars. We will receive 5 billion of this in dollars -- a major positive contribution to our balance of payments. But this contribution can be even larger if President Johnson's proposals to the Congress for expansion of East-West trade are adopted. I ask your support for these proposals.

I ask your support for the principle that trade with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in agricultural commodities be put on the same basis as trade in other non-strategic commodities. ① import

As per capita incomes in other countries have risen, we have seen sharp increases in imports of food and feed from the United States.

For too long, we have placed too little emphasis upon the export market. This market -- for feed and food grains,

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Farm Editors Speech

Trade routes are vital arteries of international cooperation. They can be among the most significant of the bridges of better understanding between the free world and the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries.

Expansion of trade between such diverse economic systems needs the development of special ground rules consistent with free world trade practices.

I have watched with interest the continued success the Canadians have achieved in selling wheat to the Soviet Union and to other Eastern European countries. ~~At the same time, United States farmers have been asked to limit their production.~~

A ^{consistent} ~~total~~ effort should be made toward eliminating the barriers that prevent expanded East-West trade. There is no

reason why the American farmer should not share in the
hard currency markets created through trade with the Soviet
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In this endeavor, the President needs the flexible
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oilseeds, protein meals and vegetable oils -- is highly competitive.

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These commercial markets, achieved with great effort, must be filled, and we must be sure that we produce sufficiently to meet these needs. A whole new generation of consumers abroad is basing their more nutritious food needs on agricultural commodities with a "Made in America" label.

We have developed a positive approach to the use of our productive capacity to further our international objectives, and at the same time increase farm income.

This is reflected in our efforts to expand soybean acreage for 1966, the higher 1966 rice allotment, and the increase in

the wheat allotment for 1967. Presently we are reexamining all of our commodity programs for 1967 -- in particular wheat, rice, soybeans, and dairy products.

In our planning we must be sure that we produce enough to meet our own needs, the requirements of our export markets including those under the Food for Freedom Program, and have enough remaining for adequate and needed carryover stocks -- truly a strategic food reserve.

I've been looking into our food and feed supply situation, especially in terms of reserves for the years ahead, and I am concerned.

We have a plentiful supply of only two commodities -- cotton and tobacco. But as far as other commodities are concerned, we do not have a surplus.

Too many people think that all the carryover stock of a commodity is surplus. It would be ^{an} extremely difficult

period for this nation if there were no carryover for a major crop. We need reasonable working stocks as a minimum for normal business operations. This is vital to our national security, our world wide commitments, and the needs of our consumers.

This country has large international responsibilities which it must not shirk. We are committed to our friends and allies, and our food and fiber supplies must be adequate to meet all foreseeable needs. It is important that we maintain an arsenal of food and fiber just as we maintain an arsenal of weapons. Both serve the cause of freedom and peace.

Let us examine some commodities in detail.

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Our supply of feed grains also governs our livestock and poultry supply. We must strive to maintain a balance of animal agriculture with growing consumer demands.

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Your President, Jim Thomson, was a member of the Presidential Agricultural Mission that accompanied Secretary Freeman to South Vietnam recently. Jim can tell you the importance of rice to the Asians -- and to Vietnam. Rice is a life saver and an inflation killer.

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experts tell me that on July 1 next year, this level could be further reduced due to weather and other factors. Wheat acreage for 1967 is now undergoing a careful reexamination.

It is estimated that production of butter and non-fat dry milk will be down this year by about 20 to 25 per cent. The number of cows is down sharply in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa, where 60 per cent of the butter is produced.

On June 1, the Department of Agriculture informed me that we had dairy products with a milk equivalent of 4.7 billion pounds, the lowest since 1952. Of this, at least 4.5 billion pounds are in private hands. So the stocks in government hands are far from high.

Certainly the nation could use an increase in milk production of more than 2 billion pounds this year to meet expected domestic and foreign needs and to provide a reserve in the event of an emergency.

The problem of maintaining and, in fact, increasing dairy production, may prove to be the most challenging problem in American agriculture in the immediate future. We will need to give this area very careful attention during the coming months.

One of the reasons for the recent rise in the price support was to provide an incentive for dairy farmers in the manufacturing milk producing areas to keep their cows and to produce an adequate supply of milk.

Your government currently has under active consideration further recommendations for incentives to bring about more production of milk.

On September 1, the carryover of soybeans will be between 30 and 40 million bushels -- about a two weeks supply. This is not even a carryover. It is less than supplies needed for working, or "pipeline," stocks.

We have taken several actions to increase 1966 crop production of soybeans. But we will need more production of this crop each year for several years.

We have reached the point where we must think not only about current needs, but more and more about adequate reserves.

This Administration has recommended basic national policy with the objective of establishing common sense levels of reserves of certain key agricultural commodities and specific guidelines as to how, when, and under what circumstances reserves will be used.

Working stocks are essential to normal business operations. They are carried as a matter of course by private firms and individuals. Encouragement should be given the private sector to carry its own inventories.

Those stocks required to maintain established levels of reserves, over and above the stocks in private positions,

should be carried by the Commodity Credit Corporation in such a way that they do not adversely affect the income of the farmer. The conditions under which such reserves are held and the factors affecting acquisition and disposition of CCC stocks should be clearly understood by all segments of society.

The American farmer, with his abundance, is making a lasting contribution to our health and prosperity and to peace in the world. He is entitled to and should receive his fair share of our prosperity. The Johnson-Humphrey Administration is determined that he will.

#

*See
Guth has a
copy*

ADDRESS BY

THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

BEFORE THE

AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL EDITORS ASSN.

SHERATON-PARK HOTEL

JUNE 22, 1966

1 MR. MODERATOR:

2 I have had a wonderful four days in Washington and this is the last
3 of our scheduled events and a very fitting climax to a highly informative
4 and stimulating convention.

5 Our speaker does this organization a great honor in appearing here
6 today and it is a great privilege for me to introduce him to you. But
7 before I introduce our speaker, let me introduce you to him. Mr.
8 Vice President, these farm paper editors represent a combined 12,000,000
9 circulation. They are well known too and speak regularly to virtually
10 all of the farmers of the nation. I am sure you don't remember me but
11 I was with you and Secretary Freeman on the trip to Honolulu. We stopped
12 in Guam, you may remember, and went on to Saigon, and the last time I saw
13 you you were making a speech to the Vietnamese and I must confess that I
14 didn't hear all of your speech because I was so fascinated watching a
15 Japanese reporter write what you were saying, with all those flourishes
16 and a little brush. I had never seen anything quite like that.

17 Well, our speaker is a man of tremendous vitality and wide
18 interests and the recent flurry of charge and counter-charge about farm
19 and food prices, I don't think he ever lose sight of the importance of
20 agriculture to this nation's economy. Gentlemen, Ladies, I am very
21 happy to present to you the Vice President of the United States, the
22 Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey. (Applause)
23
24
25

1 VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY:

2 I do thank you very much for your gracious introduction and your
3 unbelievable patience here today. These are busy days on Capitol Hill --
4 and busy days in our government. And sometimes I have no way of knowing
5 just exactly what is going to happen to my day. I want you to know that
6 I have a very well planned schedule here in my pocket and my office
7 often thinks this has something to do with what I am to do during the day.
8 I don't like to disabuse them of that because the lady and the gentleman
9 who prepare this schedule are very fine people and I wouldn't want them
10 to think that I seldom have a chance to pay any attention to it. But
11 there are things that do come up and we surely had them today in our
12 legislative program and other matters which necessitated attention at the
13 moment and not something that could be put off until next week. The work
14 of the Congress goes on and the work of the government. I have had to
15 make sort of a rule in my public life that as much as I enjoy the privilege
16 of addressing a group such as this, I have to cast that aside if official
17 duties call. I think you understand. So, without any further adieu and
18 without any further of the niceties that one should indulge in, let me
19 just tell you how appreciative I am of the opportunity to be here and to
20 be here with Jim Thompson. I do recall our visit to Guam. I didn't know
21 you weren't paying attention to my speech in Vietnam. I am very pleased
22 to have the chance, and I consider it an opportunity to speak to people
23 who talk to the American farmers in the agri-business community. We have
24 something to talk about and I am going to get right at it. I have worked
25 on preparing some remarks for you because I am of the opinion that there
needs to be a clarity of the expression and no possibilities of misunder-
standings.

Farm people and their problems, their defeats, their triumphs, and

1 their basic importance to our society have been the concern of the Presi-
2 dent of the United States, Mr. Johnson, and the Vice President, Mr.
3 Humphrey, for many years. We do sort of feel that we do come from rural
4 America. We've seen farm depressions, and their terrible human toll,
5 and we never want to see another. We feel that we must not have another.
6 Our American farmers will enjoy one of their most prosperous years in
7 1966. In most commodities we need more production, and this is news,
8 Ladies and Gentlemen, and I think it's good news.

8 Net income per farm, as you go, and personal income per capita of
9 farm people will be the highest on record this year. Farm prices are up
10 Net farm income is up. Agricultural exports are up. And farm surpluses
11 are down. My, how I remember when I first came to Washington, and indeed
12 in the time of my service in the Senate, there was an article per day
13 almost on the hour about the unbelievable tragedy that was befalling this
14 nation of farm surpluses. Now those same writers, some of them, are
15 beginning to tell us of the danger of shortages. It just proves how
16 things do change. Now, most of the credit for all of these achievements
17 that I have spoken of belongs to the productive energy and the competence
18 of the American farmer, but I do believe, if you will permit just a
19 personal reference, that some credit is due to the Johnson-Humphrey
20 administration. Some of my friends say we have to include Humphrey in
21 that too in case something goes wrong.

21 The 88th and 89th Congresses, and to policies directed to the
22 prosperity and well being of rural America. Parity of income and
23 equality of opportunity for our farm producers are the stated and deter-
24 mined goal of this government. Now, sometimes it seems that the good
25 news and the record of achievement are obscured by a poor choice of
words on our part, or confusing headlines. And if you will pardon a bad

1 joke, 'we seem to be hiding our light under a bushel.' So let me make one
2 or two things clear. If things are better today than yesterday, we never-
3 theless seek to make them even better tomorrow. We are a restless people,
4 and we seek higher standards and higher goals all the time.

5 Certainly American agriculture will be selling more of its produc-
6 tion and fair and stable prices are in prospect. And fair and stable
7 prices have been a basic need of American agriculture for many years. And
8 fair and stable prices to the farmer implying no unfairness to the con-
9 sumer. Indeed, the American consumer has benefited sometimes without
10 realizing who his benefactor was from the prices, which at the farm level
11 often had been distressingly low. One of the developments in our nation
12 is that people just became accustomed to rather low farm prices. Occa-
13 sionally a note of sympathy would be uttered to the farmer, but the farm
14 prices were distressingly low, nevertheless.

15 I think that I should point out that in the last five years the
16 price of eleven key foods in the consumer price index has risen less than
17 nine per cent -- in the last five years. During the same period, the
18 weekly earnings after taxes of a worker in industry, for instance, has
19 risen more than 20 per cent. And the profits of American corporations
20 have more than doubled and dividends more than tripled. Everything must
21 be put into perspective. You cannot just look at one factor and draw
22 judgments from that. The theory of relativity applies to economics in a
23 society as ours just as it does in science. It is a fact that in the
24 last five years the increase in food prices has been much smaller than
25 the increase in income after taxes of the vast majority of Americans.
In no country do consumers have as large a choice of nutritious foods
as in this country. And the percentage of disposable income, as you
well know, that is spent for food is lower here in the United States

1 than in any country on the face of the earth. The best bargain in the
 2 world is the food bargain that the American people get this day, in this
 3 month of June, 1966. And consumers can thank the American farmer for
 4 this in a very large part. Consumers reap the benefit of abundant pro-
 5 duction on our farms and, in turn, farmers benefit from full employment,
 6 or expanded employment in the rest of the economy. By the same token,
 7 consumers do not benefit in the long run from depressed farm prices. We
 8 all need each other for a full and balanced prosperity, and here's where
 you come in.

9 Farm editors have an opportunity and an obligation to present these
 10 facts and lessons to the entire American public. This is a story that
 11 needs to be understood by every American. Now to your role in all of
 12 this. You have provided a constant flow of technical information from
 13 the laboratory to the land. In no other country are farmers as well
 14 informed as in the United States. And major credit for this should be
 15 assigned to farm publications -- to the editors and their reporters.
 16 But more than this you have also helped to bring about an understanding of
 17 the social and international policies and advantages of our farm programs.
 18 And I cannot overly stress the importance of American agriculture to the
 strength of this nation throughout the world. It is so vital!

19 I particularly wish to commend you for your long-term support of
 20 what we call 'food for peace'. Since 1954 we have exported over \$15
 21 billion worth of farm products to needy people in developing nations under
 22 the 'Food for Peace' program. Food for Peace has helped many hundreds of
 23 millions of people every year in more than 100 countries. Some of these
 24 countries have developed with our help to the point where they are now
 25 commercial markets for our farm products. Indeed, nations whose people
 we were helping with food and other forms of aid ten or twenty years ago
 now are among our best dollar customers for farm products. And there is

1 good reason to believe that other nations will move from the aid category
2 to the commercial trade category in a very short time. But behind the
3 statistics lies the full impact of our food aid. Let us think of those
4 to whom the food for peace program is directed on our attack on hunger
5 and malnutrition, still the most serious health problem of the world.
6 Let us recognize that food deficiencies are most serious in infants -- the
7 pre-school age and to a lesser degree in school-age children. And let
8 us remember that malnutrition results not only in high child death rates
9 in widespread disabling diseases, but in permanent mental and physical
10 retardation. One of the wonders of the world is the health of our
11 youngsters here in America. And the health is not only due to the great
12 breakthroughs and the healing arts and medicine and in drugs and in
13 surgery and in medical care, but to nutritious food, to diet. I read
14 here the other day, as a result of the dietary changes in Japan, the
15 average Japanese boy now is four inches taller than his father. And all
16 I can say is that apparently the food we eat a good deal of it goes to
17 our feet because most of the boys I see have shoes and feet bigger than
18 their fathers ever dreamed of having. But I gather that most of us dads
19 can look around and see our sons and see in them a healthier, stronger,
20 and a bigger person -- food has had a remarkable impact not only on
21 physical health but mental health -- and the shortage of protein in the
22 world, as you know, is one of the great threats to mental health of the
23 people of the world.

21 Now, the 'Food for Freedom' program is taking hold. What began
22 as a surplus disposal program has become a major constructive force. It
23 is a basic and essential item in the programs of the President of the
24 United States in advancing our foreign policy objectives and interests.
25 Let no man under estimate the role of our food and technical assistance
in meeting the challenge of world hunger -- not only for the present,

1 but for many years ahead.

2 The Late Beloved Pope John, the XXIII, said that where there is
3 hunger -- constant hunger -- there is no peace. And those of you who
4 have dedicated your life to the cause of peace better also think of the
5 hunger of humanity. Where there is constant want and hunger, there is
6 no peace, and I would remind you today that we will save more lives in
7 India this year as a result of the food aid to India than the total
8 population of North and South Vietnam. I only wish that as much emphasis
9 were placed on the lives that we save as compared to the lives that are
10 lost because of war. I wish that we could have the same dramatic presenta-
11 tion every morning of the impact of American food on the lives of
12 children throughout this world that we have every morning of the war in
13 Vietnam. Every morning I see it -- death, destruction -- and I want to
14 say that I'll wait a whole year until almost Christmastime before I see
15 something that says 'Look here, here is a little child that received
16 milk today, or food today, and that child lives because you, the American
17 people helped that child live'. This is a life-giving nation, my dear
18 friends, but we seldom emphasize what we do this is constructive and
19 wholesome and decent and good. We have a fixation on being able to
20 portray the riots, the violence, the disease, the destruction, the
21 despair that afflicts us. I think there ought to be some balance and I
22 appeal to you to give it that balance.

21 Recently the President called upon our nation to use our agriculture
22 abundance and our extensive technical skills to assist the less-developed
23 countries to strengthen their own ability to produce and to buy agricul-
24 tural commodities and more generally to support world development. This
25 is our policy -- to help, to aid in emergency, but to offer self-help to
get people to stand on their own feet and you are responding to this call.

1 Jim Mulholland, who is here with us today, president of the
2 Agricultural Publishers Association, will leave for Western Europe within
3 the next few days where he will confer with government and agricultural
4 leaders on farm problems there. A committee of weekly newspaper publishers
5 from the National Newspaper Association will be journeying to Japan and to
6 East Asia this summer to talk with farm producers, governmental officials,
7 and others. And the agricultural publishers in cooperation with the
8 United States Department of Agriculture are launching a farmers or a farm
9 papers for peace program whereby copies of well-known agricultural maga-
10 zines and publications will be made available to emerging nations to make
11 their libraries complete, so to speak, with the fine writings of our fine
12 agricultural writers and journalists.

12 Now, let's take a good look at America's opportunities for awhile
13 for farm exports. I have been meeting with our business people from
14 time to time on the matter of developing a sensitivity in this nation
15 towards exports. Do you realize that our country only exports four
16 per cent of its gross national products. Four per cent of its gross
17 national products. I met with the coal producers yesterday and they are
18 one of the large exporters, by the way. We can lay down coal out of a
19 United States coal mine at a port in Europe cheaper than a European
20 country can mine its own coal. We become competitive -- overly competi-
21 tive, in fact. The coal producers, because they were losing some of
22 their domestic market had to go out and get a foreign market, and I am
23 urging that we take a good look at the development of farm exports
24 because we have a miracle of production in this country. There is no
25 country on the face of the earth than can even touch us in terms of
26 agricultural efficiency. We are so far out, as I said to the coal
27 producers yesterday, there are two places in which we have unquestioned

1 superiority in the mining and the distribution and production of coal,
2 and in the production of agricultural commodities and the distribution of
3 those commodities. Nobody can even come close and it is in these areas
4 that we ought to make our best endeavors and effort. In the current
5 fiscal year our agricultural exports are estimated to reach a new peak of
6 \$6.7 billion. We will receive 5 billion of this in dollars -- a major,
7 positive contribution to our balance of payments -- and that's just
8 another word for the stability and the soundness of the dollar. But this
9 contribution can be even larger if President Johnson's proposal to the
10 Congress for the expansion of East-West trade are adopted. And I ask
11 your support of these proposals. I think some of you saw what happened
12 here just the other day where Canada made a 900 billion bushel sale of
13 wheat to the Soviet Union. I ask your support for the principle that
14 trade with Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in agricultural commodities
15 be put on the same basis as trade in other non-strategic commodities. We
16 ship all kinds of things to these countries. We ship all sorts of items
17 in which we are really not very competitive, but in a product that we have
18 in abundance, or could produce in abundance at a lower price than anybody
19 on the face of the earth, we have imposed artificial barriers. When I
20 say 'we', I mean certain pressures in this country have imposed those
21 barriers through the will of the Congress, and we have to do something
22 about it.

23 The trade routes are vital arteries of international cooperation.
24 They can be among the most significant of the bridges of better under-
25 standing between the Free World, the Soviet Union, and the Eastern
European countries. Expansion of trade between such diverse economic
systems needs the development of special ground rules consistent with
Free World trade practices. And I have just mentioned, I have watched

1 with interest, yes, great interest the continued success of the Canadians
2 that the Canadians have achieved in selling to the Soviet Union and to
3 other Eastern European countries. A consistent effort, therefore, should
4 be made by you, by me, and by others towards eliminating the barriers
5 that prevent sensible, constructive expanded East-West trade. There is
6 no reason why the American farmer should not share in hard currency
7 markets created through trade with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.
8 In this endeavor, the President needs the flexible authority that he has
9 requested to grant the most favored nation treatment wherever he regards
10 such steps as necessary to the achievement of our foreign policy
11 objectives. I really don't see how we can deny ourselves this opportunity
12 in good sense. By the way, you know, the deals that the Canadians make
13 are for hard currency. The Soviet Union pays its bills. And the
14 Eastern European countries pay their bills and they pay in advance --
15 they don't merely pay on schedule, they pay in advance. In fact, they
16 are so much in advance that they have collected interest to the selling
17 country on the advance payments that they have made for the grain.

18 Now, export trade is bound to expand if we are out after it. And
19 as per capita incomes and other countries have risen, we have seen
20 sharp increases in imports of food and feed from the United States. For
21 too long we have placed too little emphasis upon this export market.
22 This market for feed and feed grains, oil seeds, protein meals and
23 vegetable oils is highly competitive and we better get in and compete.
24 In recent years the market development activities generated by Public
25 Laws 480, foreign currencies, plus private funds has been very helpful
in sales promotion, but again, much more can be done. These commercial
markets are achieved with great effort and must be filled and we must be
sure that we produce sufficiently to meet these needs. A whole new

1 generation of consumers abroad is basing its more nutritious needs -- food
2 needs -- on agricultural commodities that are made in America. And we
3 simply have to wake up to this opportunity. It's like I have said to a
4 number of young people that for years, because of race, have been denied
5 an equal opportunity. When that opportunity comes, sometimes they don't
6 even recognize it, because they have been told for so long to get to the
7 back of the bus they don't know that they are entitled to be at the front
8 of the bus. And I think that sometimes we have been so derelict in our
9 promotion of foreign trade that when the opportunity is there, we are not
10 quite sure what to do about it. Or better yet, we became so accustomed
11 to the philosophy of plowing up every third row, that we don't quite
12 understand what to do if we need every row. There is a change in the
13 world. Population explosion and increase in income. A tremendous
14 change and I am asking that our people as well as our government get
15 with it. The young people say 'you have to get where the action is'
16 and I think maybe they are speaking more simply than some of the adults.

15 Now, we've developed a positive approach to the use of our
16 productive capacity to further our international objectives and at the
17 same time increase farm income. This is reflected in our efforts to
18 expand soybean acreage for 1966. A higher 1966 rice allotment and the
19 increase in the wheat allotment for 1967. And presently, we are
20 re-examining all of our commodity programs for 1967. In particular,
21 wheat, rice, soybeans and dairy products. In our planning we must be
22 sure we produce enough to meet our own needs, the requirements of our
23 commercial export markets, including those under the 'Food for Freedom'
24 program, and have enough remaining -- adequate and needed carryover
25 stock -- truly a strategic food reserve.

25 I have been looking into our food and feed supply situation,

1 especially in terms of reserves for years ahead and I am concerned. We
2 have a plentiful supply of only two commodities -- both of which are a
3 little difficult to eat -- cotton and tobacco. But as far as other
4 commodities are concerned, we do not have a surplus. I repeat -- we do
5 not have a surplus. There are no surpluses outside of those two commodi-
6 ties. Too many people think that all the carryover stock of a commodity
7 is a surplus. It would be an extremely difficult period for this nation
8 if there were no carryover for major crop. We need reasonable working
9 stocks as minimum for normal business operations. This is vital to our
10 national security. Our worldwide commitments and the needs of our
11 consumers. A nation that has security treaties with 44 countries better
12 understand that it also has food requirements as a part of its national
13 security. This country has large international responsibilities which
14 it cannot and must not shirk. We are committed to our friends and our
15 allies and our food and fiber supplies must be adequate to meet all
16 foreseeable needs. It is important that we maintain an arsenal of food
17 and fiber, just as we maintain an arsenal of weapons. Both serve the
18 cause of freedom and peace.

17 Now, let's examine some of these commodities in detail. It is
18 estimated that as of October 1, this year, and again October 1 next year,
19 we will have a three-month supply of feed grains -- three months. We
20 should not allow this to get any lower. This is no surplus, especially
21 at a time when our domestic and export requirements keep going up. And
22 yesterday morning I received a call from South Dakota at 7 o'clock --
23 7 o'clock their time, 9 o'clock our time -- telling me that a drouth
24 was underway. And if you ever lived in South Dakota, you understand what
25 a drouth means. I grew up there. I was born and reared there and I
lived through the dust storms. The first time you get one of those

1 dust storms, and you haven't had rain for 45 days, let me tell you all
2 the memories of the past come up like a living fact. And if you lose
3 your feed grain production in the Dakotas, in just those two states alone,
4 you are in a serious situation in America. Our supply of feed grains
5 also governs our livestock and poultry supply. We must strive to
6 maintain a balance of animal agricultural growing consumer demands.

7 You know I speak with some feeling about this because I have a
8 feeling that too many people in America just don't understand American
9 agriculture. I am sure I am not talking to those people, that's the
10 trouble. But you really don't understand what it's all about until you
11 have lived through it. I used to teach American government. I feel that
12 I owe every student a refund. I had never been in government. I read
13 books and I taught the students what I read and they seemed to like the
14 course but when I got down to Washington and spent about 15 years in
15 government, I said, 'what in the world was I teaching those youngsters'
16 because what was written in the books had no relationship to what
17 happened and obviously the person who wrote the book had never been in
18 government either. You really just don't understand what happens in
19 American agriculture until you have lived with it -- lived with it -- and
20 then you begin to understand. I don't care how smart a journalist you
21 are, you can get ten Pulitzer prizes, but unless you have lived through
22 the seasonal fluctuation, through the price gyrations, unless you have
23 gone through all the troubles a farm producer goes through, you'll never
24 understand. You can graduate from 15 universities. Now I'm not saying
25 that it doesn't help to have a university education, but it also helps
to have a little experience. It's just like having grown up around a
drugstore. I grew up around one of those too, and I'll tell you there
is a lot of difference between what somebody writes about one and what

1 really happens.

2 Now I have mentioned our feed supply because I am concerned about
3 it. I think I have some idea of the relationship of corn prices to hog
4 prices because I come from a corn-hog country. And I think I have some
5 idea of the relationship between poultry prices and feed prices too.
6 But let me go to another commodity. Because of our Southeast Asian
7 commitments, the rice supply will be less than what I believe to be
8 necessary for national security reserve and to meet our international
9 responsibility. Therefore we will be re-examining this year our rice
10 program for 1967. You cannot be involved in Asia, and we will be for
11 the foreseeable future. We'll be involved in Asia when that little girl
12 out there, that pretty little girl, is 90 years old, we will be involved
13 with the Asians, and Asians eat rice, and therefore rice is as important
14 to our policy in Asia as it is for one of our diplomats that is stationed
15 in Thailand, for example, to be able to speak Thai. Or for one of our
16 diplomats that is in the Philippines to speak Spanish. Your president,
17 Jim Thompson, as he mentioned, is a member of that presidential
18 agricultural mission that accompanied Secretary Freeman and myself to
19 South Vietnam. Jim can tell you what the importance of rice is to the
20 Asians and the Vietnamese. Rice is a life saver, and it is an inflation
21 killer. And inflation is having a terrible toll in East Asia and rice
22 is dampening the fires of inflation. You can write 4,000 articles on
23 economics and it won't dampen the inflation fires at all, but you give
24 me a few tons of rice to put in the Port of Saigon, some means of
25 distribution, and the inflationary spiral goes down. Rice is as
important in Southeast Asia today as five divisions of troops and
1,000 airplanes and maybe more so. That's why we are re-examining our
production.

1 production. Various independent estimates have been made of the carryover
2 reserve of 600 million bushels of wheat. Independent estimates have said
3 that that is a desirable reserve. Now some people may think that is a
4 bit high. Yet on July 1 our carryover will be down to 550 million
5 bushels, and grain experts tell me that by July 1 of next year this level
6 could be further reduced due to weather and other factors. And I am a
7 gun-shy fellow on weather, my friends. I just tell you that I grew up
8 in Beetle County and Sphinx County, South Dakota. Don't tell me about
9 weather. Wheat acreage for 1967 is now undergoing a careful re-examination.
10 We had a billion 400 million bushels of wheat carryover here about three
11 years ago and today in America, and I believe I am right here, that today
12 we have slightly over a billion in the whole world. The whole world!
13 Do you know how many new people have been added to the population in the
14 world the last three years? Well, about 500 million! Those mouths have
15 to be fed. So we have 400 million bushels of wheat in the whole world
16 today than we had in reserves in the United States three years ago.

17 Now it's estimated that the production of butter and non-fat
18 dry milk will be down this year by about 20 to 25 per cent. I saw an
19 article where they are averaging 13 dairy herds sales per day in
20 Wisconsin. I read it just a few moments ago. The number of cows is down
21 sharply in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa where 60 per cent of the butter
22 is produced, and by the way, in a recent issue of the U.S. News and World
23 Report, which is not the leading agricultural publication there is an
24 article about what's happening in dairying -- high cost, expensive
25 equipment, long hours, hard work, and you average out about 60 or 65
cents an hour. You really don't have to get yourself a Ph.D. to figure
out why people leave that. On June 1, the Department of Agriculture
informed me that we had dairy products with a milk equivalent of 4 billion

1 700 million pounds -- the lowest since 1952. Of this, at least $4\frac{1}{2}$
2 million pounds are in private hands. So the stocks in the government
3 hands are far from high. They are minimal. Certainly the nation could
4 use an increase in milk production of more than 2 billion pounds this
5 year to meet expected domestic and foreign needs, and to provide a reserve
6 in the event of an emergency. And if we can get that increase in milk
7 production, it'll be the best thing that happened to the consumer. The
8 problem of maintaining, and in fact, increasing dairy production may prove
9 to be the most challenging problem in American agriculture in the immediate
10 future. Dairy farming is hard work, I repeat. It's expensive work. I
11 live now out in Wright County, Minnesota, and we've got a dairy farmer on
12 every mile and they're selling their herds off one after another just like
13 that and going to town -- going to the city.

13 Now, we'll need to give this area a very careful attention during
14 the coming months, and one of the reasons for a recent rise in the price
15 support on manufacturing milk was to provide an incentive for dairy
16 farmers and the manufacturing milk producing areas to keep their cows and
17 produce an adequate supply of milk. Your government now has under active
18 consideration further recommendations for incentives to bring about more
19 production of milk. On September 1, the carryover of soybeans will be
20 between 30 and 40 million bushels -- about two weeks supply -- that is,
21 if people don't want to use too many. Now, that's no carryover at all.
22 That could even be a mistake in bookkeeping. It is less than the supplies
23 needed for a working or pipeline stocks. We have taken several actions
24 to increase the 1966 crop production of soybeans, but we will need more
25 production of this crop each year for several years hence. I've been
talking to people in this industry and they are making plans for 10 years
ahead. So this is a growing America. It's an expanding America. It's

1 got to be a producing America. We've reached the point where we must think
2 not only about current needs, but more and more about the future and about
3 adequate reserves. And this administration has recommended basic national
4 policy with the objective of establishing common sense levels of reserves
5 of certain key agricultural commodities and specific guidelines as to how
6 and when and under what circumstances reserves will be used. In other
7 words, how to insulate the reserves, the strategic reserves, from the
8 market to keep them for the purposes of reserves. Working stocks are
9 essential we know to the normal business operations. They are carried by
10 a matter of course by private firms and individuals, and encouragement
11 should be given and is being given to the private sector to carry its own
12 inventories. These stocks are required to maintain established levels
13 of reserves over and above the stock in private positions should be carried
14 by the Commodity Credit Corporation, and in such a way, as I have said,
15 that they do not adversely effect the income of the farmer. These are
16 set asides. The conditions under which such reserves are held and the
17 factors effecting acquisition and disposition of commodity credit stocks
18 should be clearly understood by all segments of the society, and they
19 should not be looked upon as normal operating stocks, but rather as
20 reserves. The American farmer with his abundance is, I submit, making a
21 lasting contribution to our health -- to yours and to mine and to our
22 national prosperity and to peace in the world. The farmer has become
23 the soldier of peace for this nation. And the farmer with his system of
24 distribution, the agri-business community has been a bulwark of strength
25 for our country. And I want to submit that on behalf of this farmer that
I have known for so long, admire so much, that he is entitled to, and he
should receive his fair share of our prosperity. He has really been one
of the underprivileged -- far too long. And this government, of which I

1 an a part is determined that this man and his family and this farm
2 producer shall stand on equal footing with the rest of this economy.
3 Have every opportunity for his family as the man in the city has and then
4 some. Have every opportunity for reward on his investment and his
5 favors just as other people do.

6 So I conclude by saying that the Johnson-Humphrey administration
7 is determined that parity of income and equality of opportunity shall be
8 more than a phrase -- it shall be a fact. I ask you to bring our
9 greetings to the people that you serve, and now I want once again to
10 thank you for being such faithful allies of the cause of a better deal
11 for American agriculture. Thank you. (Applause)

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ADDRESS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL EDITORS' ASSOCIATION
Summer Meeting, June 22, 1966
Washington, D. C.

Introduction by James C. Thomson, President, A.A.E.A.
(Prairie Farmer, Chicago, Illinois)

I have had a wonderful four days in Washington and this is the last of our scheduled events and a very fitting climax to a highly informative and stimulating convention.

Our speaker does this organization a great honor in appearing here today and it is a great privilege for me to introduce him to you. But before I introduce our speaker, let me introduce you to him. Mr. Vice President, these farm paper editors represent a combined 12,000,000 circulation. They are well known too and speak regularly to virtually all of the farmers of the nation. I am sure you don't remember me but I was with you and Secretary Freeman on the trip to Honolulu. We stopped in Guam, you may remember, and went on to Saigon, and the last time I saw you you were making a speech to the Vietnamese and I must confess that I didn't hear all of your speech because I was so fascinated watching a Japanese reporter write what you were saying, with all those flourishes and a little brush. I had never seen anything quite like that.

Well, our speaker is a man of tremendous vitality and wide interests and in the recent flurry of charge and counter-charge about farm and food prices, I don't think he ever lost sight of the importance of agriculture to this nation's economy. Gentlemen, Ladies, I am very happy to

present to you the Vice President of the United States, the Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey. (Applause)

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY:

Thank you very much for your gracious introduction, Jim. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to people who talk to farmers and those in the agri-business community.

Farm people, their problems, their defeats, their triumphs, and their basic importance to our society have been the concern of President Johnson and myself for many years. We come from rural America. We've seen farm depressions, and their terrible human toll, and we never want to see another. We must not have another.

Our American farmers will enjoy one of their most prosperous years in 1966. In most commodities we need more production. This is news, Ladies and Gentlemen, and it's good news.

Net income per farm and personal income per capita of farm people will be the highest on record this year. Farm prices are up. Net farm income is up. Agricultural exports are up. And farm surpluses are down.

When I first came to Washington, and indeed in the time of my service in the Senate, there was an article each day about the unbelievable tragedy of farm surpluses that was befalling this nation. Now some of those same writers are beginning to tell us of the danger of shortages. It just proves how things do change.

Most of the credit for the achievements I have spoken of belongs to the productive energy and the competence of the American farmer. But some credit is due the Johnson-Humphrey administration, the 88th and 89th Congresses, and to policies directed to the prosperity and well being of rural America.

Parity of income and equality of opportunity for our farm producers are the stated and determined goals of this government.

Sometimes the good news and the record of achievement are obscured by a poor choice of words, or confusing headlines. So let me make one or two things clear. If things are better today than yesterday, we nevertheless seek to make them even better tomorrow. We are a restless people, and we seek higher standards and higher goals all the time.

American agriculture will be selling more of its production and fair and stable prices are in prospect. Fair and stable prices have been a basic need of American agriculture for many years. And fair and stable prices to the farmer imply no unfairness to the consumer.

The American consumer has benefited--sometimes without realizing who his benefactor was--from prices which at the farm level often have been distressingly low. One of the developments in our nation is that people have become accustomed to rather low farm prices. Occasionally a note of sympathy would be uttered to the farmer, but farm prices remained distressingly low, nevertheless.

In the last five years the price of eleven key foods in the consumer price index has risen less than nine per cent. During the same period, the weekly earnings after taxes of a worker in industry has risen more than 20 per cent. The profits of American corporations have more than doubled and dividends have more than tripled.

Everything must be put into perspective. You cannot just look at one factor and draw judgments from that. The theory of relativity applies to economics in a society such as ours just as it does to science.

In no country do consumers have as large a choice of nutritious foods as in this country. And the percentage of disposable income that is spent for food is lower in the United States than in any country on the face of the earth. The best bargain in the world is the food that the American people get this day, in this month of June, 1966.

Consumers can thank the American farmer for this in a very large part. Consumers reap the benefit of abundant production on our farms and, in turn, farmers benefit from full employment, or expanded employment in the rest of the economy.

By the same token, consumers do not benefit in the long run from depressed farm prices. We all need each other for a full and balanced prosperity. Here is where you come in.

Farm editors have an opportunity and an obligation to present the facts to the entire American public. This is a story that needs to be understood by every American.

You have provided a constant flow of technical informa-

tion from the laboratory to the land. In no other country are farmers as well informed as in the United States. Major credit for this should be assigned to farm publications, their editors and their reporters.

You also have helped to bring about an understanding of the social and international policies and advantages of our farm programs. I cannot overly stress the importance of American agriculture to the strength of this nation throughout the world. It is so vital!

I particularly wish to commend you for your long-term support of the Food for Peace program.

Since 1954 we have exported over \$15 billion worth of farm products to needy people in developing nations under the Food for Peace program. Food for Peace helps millions of people every year in more than 100 countries. Some of these countries have developed with our help to the point where they now are commercial markets for our farm products. Nations whose people we were helping with food and other forms of aid ten or twenty years ago now are among our best dollar customers for farm products. And there is good reason to believe that other nations will move from the aid category to the commercial trade category in a very short time.

But behind the statistics lies the full impact of our food aid. Let us think of those to whom the Food for Peace program is directed in our attack on hunger and malnutrition, still the most serious health problem of the world. Let us recognize that food deficiencies are most serious in infants,

the pre-school age, and to a lesser degree in school-age children. And let us remember that malnutrition results not only in high child death rates and widespread disabling diseases, but in permanent mental and physical retardation.

One of the wonders of the world is the health of our youngsters here in America. Their good health not only is due to the great breakthroughs in the healing arts and drugs, but to nutritious food and diet.

As a result of the dietary changes in Japan, the average Japanese boy now is four inches taller than his father. Food has had a remarkable impact not only on physical health but mental health. The shortage of protein in the world is one of the great threats to the mental health of the people of the world.

The Food for Peace program is taking hold. What began as a surplus disposal program has become a major constructive force. It is a basic and essential item in the programs of the President of the United States in advancing our foreign policy objectives and interests. Let no man underestimate the role of our food and technical assistance in meeting the challenge of world hunger--not only for the present, but for many years ahead.

The late beloved Pope John said that where there is hunger--constant hunger--there is no peace. We will save more lives in India this year as a result of food aid than the total population of North and South Vietnam. I wish that as much emphasis were placed on the lives that we save as is placed on the lives that are lost because of war.

I wish we could have the same dramatic presentation every morning of the impact of American food on the lives of children throughout this world that we have every morning of the war in Vietnam. Every day the papers are filled with death and destruction. This is a life-giving nation, but we seldom emphasize what we do that is constructive and wholesome and decent and good. We have a fixation on being able to portray the riots, the violence, the disease, the destruction, the despair that afflicts us. There ought to be some balance and I appeal to you to give it that balance.

Recently the President called upon our nation to use our agriculture abundance and our extensive technical skills to assist the less-developed countries to strengthen their own ability to produce and to buy agricultural commodities and, more generally, to support world development. This is our policy--to help, to aid in emergency, but to offer self-help to get people to stand on their own feet. You are responding to this call.

Jim Milholland, who is here with us today, president of the Agricultural Publishers Association, will leave for Western Europe within the next few days where he will confer with government and agricultural leaders on farm problems there.

A committee of weekly newspaper publishers from the National Newspaper Association will be journeying to Japan and to East Asia this summer to talk with farm producers, governmental officials, and others.

And the Agricultural Publishers, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, are launching a Farm Papers for Peace program whereby copies of well-known agricultural magazines and publications will be made available to emerging nations to make their libraries complete with the writings of our fine agricultural journalists.

Let us take a good look at America's opportunities for farm exports. I meet with our business people from time to time on the matter of developing a sensitivity in this nation toward exports. Do you realize that our country exports only four per cent of its gross national product?

I met with the coal producers yesterday. We can lay down coal out of a United States coal mine at a port in Europe cheaper than a European country can mine its own coal. We have become competitive--overly competitive. The coal producers, because they were losing some of their domestic market, had to go out and get a foreign market.

I am urging that we take a good look at the development of farm exports because we have a miracle of production in this country. There is no country on the face of the earth that can even touch us in terms of agricultural efficiency. There are two areas in which we have unquestioned superiority--in the mining and the distribution and production of coal, and in the production of agricultural commodities and the distribution of those commodities. Nobody can even come close to us. It is in these areas that we ought to make our best endeavors and efforts.

In the current fiscal year our agricultural exports are estimated to reach a new peak of \$6.7 billion. We will receive \$5 billion of this in dollars--a major, positive contribution to our balance of payments. But this contribution can be even larger if President Johnson's proposals to the Congress for the expansion of East-West trade are adopted. I ask your support of these proposals.

I ask your support for the principle that trade with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in agricultural commodities be put on the same basis as trade in other non-strategic commodities.

We ship all kinds of things to these countries. We ship all sorts of items in which we are really not very competitive. But in a product that we have in abundance, or could produce in abundance at a lower price than anybody on the face of the earth, we have imposed artificial barriers.

Trade routes are vital arteries of international cooperation. They can be among the most significant of the bridges of better understanding between the Free World, the Soviet Union, and the Eastern European countries. Expansion of trade between such diverse economic systems needs the development of special ground rules consistent with Free World trade practices.

I have watched with interest the continued success the Canadians have achieved in selling agricultural commodities to the Soviet Union and to other Eastern European countries. We should make a consistent effort,

toward eliminating the barriers that prevent sensible, constructive expanded East-West trade. There is no reason why the American farmer should not share in hard currency markets created through trade with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. In this endeavor, the President needs the flexible authority that he has requested to grant Most Favored Nation treatment wherever he regards such steps as necessary to the achievement of our foreign policy objectives. I don't see how we can deny ourselves this opportunity.

As per capita incomes in other countries have risen, we have seen sharp increases in imports of food and feed from the United States. For too long we have placed too little emphasis upon this export market. The market for feed and feed grains, oil seeds, protein meals and vegetable oils is highly competitive. We had better get in and compete.

In recent years the market development activities generated by Public Law 480, foreign currencies, plus private funds, has been very helpful in sales promotion. But again, much more can be done. These commercial markets are achieved with great effort and must be filled. We must be sure that we produce sufficiently to meet these needs.

A whole new generation of consumers abroad is basing its more nutritious food needs on agricultural commodities that are made in America. We simply have to wake up to this

opportunity. At times we have been so derelict in our promotion of foreign trade that when the opportunity arises we are not quite sure what to do about it. We have become so accustomed to the philosophy of plowing up every third row, that we don't quite understand what to do if we need every row.

We have developed a positive approach to the use of our productive capacity to further our international objectives and at the same time increase farm income. This is reflected in our efforts to expand soybean acreage for 1966, higher 1966 rice allotment, and the increase in the wheat allotment for 1967. Presently, we are re-examining all of our commodity programs for 1967, particularly, wheat, rice, soybeans and dairy products.

In our planning we must be sure we produce enough to meet our own needs, the requirements of our commercial export markets including those under the Food for Freedom program, and have enough remaining for adequate and needed carryover stocks -- truly a strategic food reserve.

I have been looking into our food and feed supply situation, especially in terms of reserves for years ahead, and I am concerned. We have a plentiful supply of only two commodities -- cotton and tobacco. But as far as other commodities are concerned, we do not have a surplus.

Too many people think that all the carryover stock of a commodity is a surplus. It would be an extremely difficult period for this nation if there were no carryovers of

major crops. We need reasonable working stocks as a minimum for normal business operations. This is vital to our national security, our worldwide commitments and the needs of our consumers. A nation that has security treaties with 44 countries had better understand that it also has food requirements as a part of its national security.

This country has large international responsibilities which it cannot and must not shirk. We are committed to our friends and our allies and our food and fiber supplies must be adequate to meet all foreseeable needs. It is important that we maintain an arsenal of food and fiber, just as we maintain an arsenal of weapons. Both serve the cause of freedom and peace.

Let us examine some of these commodities in detail. It is estimated that as of October 1, this year, and again October 1 of next year, we will have a three-month supply of feed grains. We should not allow this to get any lower. This is no surplus, especially at a time when our domestic and export requirements keep going up.

Yesterday morning I received a call from South Dakota telling me that a drouth was underway. If you ever lived in South Dakota, you understand what a drouth means. I grew up there. I was born and reared there and I lived through the dust storms. The first time you get one of those dust storms, and you haven't had rain for 45 days, all the memories of the past come up like a living fact. And if you lose your feed grain production in the Dakotas, in just those two states alone, you are in a serious situation

in America.

Our supply of feed grains also governs our livestock and poultry supply. We must strive to maintain a balance of animal agriculture with growing consumer demands.

I speak with feeling about this because too many people in America just don't understand American agriculture. You really don't understand what it's all about until you have lived through it.

I mentioned our feed supply because I am concerned about it. I know the relationship of corn prices to hog prices because I come from a corn-hog country. And I know the relationship between poultry prices and feed prices too.

Because of our Southeast Asian commitments, the rice supply will be less than what I believe to be necessary for national security reserves and to meet our international responsibilities. Therefore this year we will be re-examining our rice program for 1967.

Asians are a rice eating people. Therefore, rice is as important to our policy in Asia as it is for one of our diplomats that is stationed in Thailand, for example, to be able to speak Thai.

Your president, Jim Thompson, was a member of the presidential agricultural mission that accompanied Secretary Freeman and myself to South Vietnam. Jim can tell you the importance of rice to the Asians and the Vietnamese. Rice is a life saver, and it is an inflation killer.

Inflation is having a terrible toll in East Asia and rice is dampening the fires of inflation. You can write 4,000 articles on economics and it won't dampen the inflation fires at all. But give me a few tons of rice to put in the Port of Saigon, and a means of distributing it, and the inflationary spiral will go down. Rice is as important in Southeast Asia today as five divisions of troops and 1,000 airplanes. That's why we are re-examining our program.

Various independent estimates have been made that a carryover reserve of 600 million bushels of wheat is a minimum desirable level. Some people may think that is a bit high. Yet on July 1 our carryover will be down to 550 million bushels, and grain experts tell me that by July 1 of next year this level could further be reduced due to weather and other factors.

Wheat acreage for 1967 now is undergoing careful re-examination. We had a billion 400 million bushels of wheat carryover in the United States five years ago. Today there are just slightly over a billion bushels in all the exporting countries of the world.

About 300 million people have been added to the world's population in the last five years. Those mouths have to be fed. But we have 400 million bushels less of wheat in the exporting countries of the whole world today than we had in reserves in the United States five years ago.

It's estimated that the production of butter and non-fat dry milk will be down this year by about 20 to 25 per

cent. The number of cows is down sharply in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa, where 60 per cent of the butter is produced. They are averaging 13 dairy herdsales per day in Wisconsin. Dairy farming involves high cost, expensive equipment, long hours, hard work, and you average about 60 or 65 cents an hour.

On June 1, the Department of Agriculture informed me that we had dairy products with a milk equivalent of 4 billion 700 million pounds -- the lowest since 1952. Of this, at least $4\frac{1}{2}$ billion pounds are in private hands. So the stocks in government hands are far from high. They are minimal.

Certainly the nation could use an increase in milk production of more than 2 billion pounds this year to meet expected domestic and foreign needs, and to provide a reserve in the event of an emergency. If we can get that increase in milk production, it will be the best thing that happened to the consumer.

The problem of maintaining, and in fact, increasing dairy production may prove to be the most challenging problem in American agriculture in the immediate future.

We will need to give this area very careful attention during the coming months. One of the reasons for a recent rise in the price support on manufacturing milk was to provide an incentive for dairy farmers and the manufacturing milk producing areas to keep their cows and produce an adequate supply of milk. Your government now has under active consideration further recommendations for incentives

to bring about more production of milk.

On September 1, the carryover of soybeans will be between 30 and 40 million bushels -- about a two weeks supply -- that is no carryover at all. It even could be a mistake in bookkeeping. It is less than the supplies needed for working, or "pipeline" stocks. We have taken several actions to increase the 1966 crop production of soybeans, but we will need more production of this crop each year for several years.

I've been talking to people in this industry and they are making plans for 10 years ahead. This is a growing America. It's an expanding America. It's got to be a producing America.

We've reached the point where we must think not only about current needs, but more and more about the future and about adequate reserves. This administration has recommended basic national policy with the objective of establishing common sense levels of reserves of certain key agricultural commodities and specific guidelines as to how and when and under what circumstances reserves will be used. In other words, how to insulate the strategic reserves from the market to keep them for the purpose of reserves.

Working stocks are essential to normal business operations. They are carried as a matter of course by private firms and individuals, and encouragement should be given to the private sector to carry its own inventories.

Those stocks required to maintain established levels of reserves over and above the stocks in private positions

should be carried by the Commodity Credit Corporation in such a way that they do not adversely effect the income of the farmer. These are set aside. The conditions under which such reserves are held and the factors affecting acquisition and disposition of CCC stocks should be clearly understood by all segments of society. They should not be looked upon as normal operating stocks, but rather as reserves.

The American farmer with his abundance is making a lasting contribution to our health, to our national prosperity, and to peace in the world. The farmer has become the soldier of peace for this nation. And the farmer with his system of distribution -- the agri-business community -- has been a bulwark of strength for our country. He is entitled to, and should receive, his fair share of our prosperity. He has been one of the underprivileged far too long.

This government, of which I am a part, is determined that our farmers shall stand on equal footing with the rest of this economy -- that they shall have every opportunity for reward on their investment, their time and their energy.

The Johnson-Humphrey Administration is determined that parity of income and equality of opportunity shall be a fact as well as a phrase. I ask you to bring our greetings to the people that you serve and I once again thank you for being such faithful allies of the cause of a better day for American agriculture. Thank you.



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