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Ted Larson  
Knees Shake  
Dust in Mouth

REMARKS  
OF

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

STATE PLOWING MATCH

st. PETER, MINNESOTA  
AUGUST 22, 1970

Timor

↳ The quality of American life will not be determined only by what happens in the cities, but even more significantly by what happens throughout the broad lands of rural America.

↳ It is in rural America where there is a shocking lack of adequate housing, the ugly face of poverty is all too visible, far too many of our young people are leaving, far too many of our communities are in trouble. A better America requires a national program and policies for the economic development and the social enrichment of our rural areas.

(I want to talk some Common Sense!)

↳ I want to outline for you today some of the things that we can do, we must do in the months and years ahead to assure our farm families of a better break, of better prices,

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better income and positive improvement in the quality of rural life and opportunity.

✓  
✓  
L And make no mistake about it, the future of the small towns and the smaller cities like those we have here in rural Minnesota depends first of all upon the condition of the agricultural economy.

Small Towns  
+  
Condition  
of  
Rural Economy

L If farm income is up, if the farmer is able to get a <sup>fair</sup> return on his investments and on his labor, if he gets a fair return from the products of his land, then the smaller communities -- the villages, the towns and the smaller cities -- <sup>grow +</sup> will prosper.

L But if rural America, if the family farm, is squeezed out by low prices and high costs, by high interest rates and tight money, there will be little or no hope. The development and progress of our smaller towns and cities will be dimmed or destroyed.

Low Prices  
High costs  
High interest  
Tight money  
No hope

The Role of Government

L What the farmer needs from government programs and policies is the opportunity to earn a decent living, to earn

Govt Role

a fair wage for his labor, to receive a just return on his investment. He needs <sup>acceptance & protection of</sup> understanding of his right to bargain collectively, his right to join together with other producers in order to make contracts with the buyers. Farm programs provide a base, a minimum, a floor. They should not be used to provide a ceiling.

1

First, the farm programs we have today under the Agricultural Act of 1965 should be strengthened and expanded as recommended by the 24 major general farm and commodity organization.

2

Second, the farmer must have the right to bargain in the market place for the price and terms of delivery of his product. He must be able to strengthen and expand his marketing cooperatives and other economic instruments.

This bargaining power must be protected by law rather than restricted. The farmer must be enabled to develop bargaining

power in the marketing place, market power in the economy

↳ The farm bill which passed the U. S. House of Representatives recently reduces the opportunity to earn a decent living, it fails to assure a fair price, it fails to meet the standards of effective supply management, and it weakens farmers' bargaining power.

House bill

Here's the Problem -

↳ Farmers are not now in a position to put price tags on their products. ↳ Look at the language of commerce: We say the hardware store charges 39 cents a pound for nails; we say General Motors charges ~~three~~ <sup>seven</sup> thousand dollars for a car.

↳ But the farmer, who also produces and sells things, gets five dollars and 20 cents, blend price, for his milk; or gets 26 dollars for his feed cattle.

↳ The farmer deserves the right to charge for his products instead of getting what the buyer decides he can have. ↳ And to be able to charge a fair price and get it means you must have the right and the organization to engage in bargaining for fair price and delivery.

Progress toward economic equity for farm people is going to depend primarily on what they are able to do for themselves.

Labor is organized, business is organized, finance is concentrated and organized, teachers and doctors and lawyers are organized. Yes, even football players are organized and they bargain for salary and benefits.

*organized*

They all bargain for a share of the national income. They all, in effect, bargain collectively in the market place. Farmers alone have found themselves at the mercy of the market. They simply are not yet in a position to decide the prices that they will charge for their products.

*Now have to strengthen Bargaining*

But let me make these points about successful bargaining:

\* When you reduce the supply under the wheat and feed grains program, farm bargaining power is increased.

\* When CCC refrains from selling government-held stocks of wheat and feed grains at harvest time, farm bargaining power is increased.

↳ \* When exports are increased under the Food for Freedom act, farm bargaining power is increased.

\* When we increase the number of people with the ability to pay for food, when we reduce unemployment and fight poverty, farm bargaining power is increased.

↳ \* When we provide an adequate diet for our needy, school lunches and wholesome milk for our children, farm bargaining power is increased.

↳ \* When marketing orders bring stability into the marketing of a commodity, farm bargaining power is increased.

↳ \* When there is plenty of farm credit available at reasonable rates of interest, farm bargaining power is increased.

\* When you protect American farm products like beef, pork and dairy products from cut throat foreign competition,

↳ farm bargaining power is increased

All of these things I have worked for and will continue to

work for. *All ~~at~~ strengthen the farmers bargaining power in the marketplace*

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But

And when unemployment figures go up and the purchasing power of the dollar goes down, then farm bargaining power is weakened.

↳ When interest rates go up, when credit is tight, and farmers have to sell on a depressed market, farm bargaining power is weakened.

↳ When we do not use the full authority of the Food for Peace program to distribute food to needy nations, farm bargaining power is weakened.

↳ And when the farm programs <sup>like</sup> ~~the~~ Agricultural Act of 1965 that farmers struggled to achieve are abandoned, farm bargaining power is weakened. yes -

↳ The farm bill that recently passed the House would mean lower prices and lower income to feed grain farmers.

↳ It would abandon the concept of parity, and move us down the road toward the abandonment of all farm programs, to the harsh economic forces of the so-called "free market."

↳ The facts are, as one study after another shows, that net farm income would fall by one-third if present programs were dropped.

↳ Individual farm families would not be the only victims to suffer the consequences of such action.

↳ Our economy is interdependent, each part relying on the other. When there is unemployment in the cities, there is trouble in rural America.

↳ When farm prices are down, there is trouble in our factories.

↳ When farm people are pushed off the land, there is mounting trouble in the cities.

*But* The extension and strengthening of the present farm laws, with needed improvements, is only one of the actions needed,

↳ We need a food stamp plan that is not only authorized by Congress, but is funded and administered so that there is no malnutrition *-no hunger* in America. Hunger in America is intolerable.

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↳ We need a greatly expanded school lunch program, that reaches all of the school children.

↳ And there should be free lunches for the children from families too poor to pay for the regular school lunch.

↳ The special school milk program should be continued.

↳ Congress knows this and has acted, Congress has authorized a school milk program at the level of 120 million dollars. This bill became law without the President's signature, but no money has been released to the schools. Here we are, just two weeks before school opens, and school authorities have no way to plan on having a school milk program.

School milk  
See this.

↳ We need a national program to encourage agricultural exports, to enable American farmers to compete with foreign competition, even if it requires export subsidies.

↳ Our Food for Peace program should be strengthened. Congress has appropriated the funds but this Republican administration will not use them.

MILLERS FALLS  
ERASE  
CONTENT

It is false economy to fail to use this food program to help develop other countries as a part of America's peace effort and as an expression of America's moral concern for the plight of other peoples.

The Farmers Home Administration must have <sup>adequate</sup> funds and exercise its authority to make loans for young farmers.

Farmer cooperatives must be strengthened and there must be protection in the law for cooperatives to <sup>merge</sup> in order to give strength to the farmer in the market place.

The Capper-Volstead Act was designed to give the farmer the chance to organize his co-ops, yet the Justice Department has from time to time moved to prevent cooperative mergers even though there is no monopoly nor evidence of monopoly. ~~Nevertheless, the anti-trust laws are frequently brought to bear despite the Capper-Volstead Act.~~

corn blight

↳ This country needs strategic reserves of major farm commodities. The threat of destruction of a major part of this year's corn crop by a newly discovered corn blight underscores the need of such a reserve, ready to come into the market when needed. Prices sky-rocket when a crop fails, and speculators have a field day, and prices of other commodities soar, but a farmer without a crop to sell does not benefit. ↳ A strategic reserve would bring stability to the markets, protecting both farmers and consumers. ↳ Such reserve would be maintained at common-sense, clearly-defined levels. ↳ The method and timing of the release of the reserved commodities would be spelled out to insure that the market would neither be driven up or down. ↳ And producers themselves should have a responsibility in the holding and the management of these reserves.

↳ With such a strategic reserve, farm bargaining power would be increased.

Farmers also need ready access to reasonably priced credit. Credit is the life-blood of our system of farming.

Main Street bankers, who provide most of the funds to farmers, feel the pinch of tight money and high interest rates just as their clients do -- their needs and welfare are identical

Fine young men, trained in agriculture, simply cannot find the money <sup>required for high</sup> ~~for high~~ priced land and expensive machinery.

The Federal Farm Credit System should establish a special lending program <sup>for</sup> ~~that is~~ ~~organized and controlled~~ ~~approach~~ to financing young farmers. Because beginning farmers lack individual financial equity, the Farm Credit Banks and Production Credit Associations should develop such methods as special reserves, guarantees, joint loans, and partnership ventures. And experienced financial counsel should be offered

to young farmer borrowers when they face major business decisions.

*+ what else can you do.*

↳ The Federal Reserve Board should and must have one or more agricultural representatives. The policies and actions of the Federal Reserve Board are felt by farmers as much as by any other business or industry. In fairness, there ought to be one or more members from rural America on the Federal Reserve Board, but there aren't any today.

*1 Fed Reserve*

↳ The President's Council of Economic Advisors should have at least one member who is an agricultural economist, one who knows and sympathizes with rural life and the problems found there.

*Council of Econ. Advisors*

↳ The Budget Bureau, the Tariff Commission, the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Department of Transportation all should have farmer representation in their councils.

↳ Such appointments should be made as a recognition of the importance of agriculture to our national life.

Few people realize that agriculture's assets total 307 billion  
dollars, equal to about two-thirds of the value of current  
assets of all the vast corporations in the United States; or  
about one-half the market value of all corporation stocks  
 on the New York Stock Exchange.

*agric  
Assets*

Even though the number of people living on farms has  
 declined a third in the last 10 years, three out of every 10  
jobs in private employment in our country today are related  
to agriculture.

*Jobs*

I have spoken today about a better deal for the American  
farmer -- and this means a better America. But we all know  
 there is more to this subject than just dollars and cents.

What we are really talking about is the quality of life in  
rural America -- the opportunities you and your children have  
to take advantage of the unprecendented standard of living  
that America offers today.

*Quality  
7  
life*

↳ We are talking about better schools, better hospitals,  
and health care. ↳ We are talking about communities that can  
afford the public services which will attract new industries and  
provide new job opportunities, and new income.

↳ We are talking about making it possible for rural youngsters *people*  
to stay on the farm, stay in their home towns, and still look  
forward to a full and rewarding life. ↳ Today, for every 175  
rural youngsters who reach working age there are fewer than  
100 jobs. ↳ This year about 200 thousand of those young Americans  
will leave home and go into the city.

↳ Their departure will make rural America a poorer place.  
↳ Their leaving will not only separate them from their families  
but will weaken our rural communities -- weaken them spiritually  
as well as economically.

↳ I am for giving those youngsters *young people* -- and every other American --  
a real choice about where to live, where to work, where to  
raise their families.

If they wish to live in rural America,  
then rural America must provide  
opportunities and modern living. 56

If they wish to live in the cities, those cities should be  
clean, wholesome and safe. Today, too often, they are not

We must develop the rural areas, the countryside. We  
must make it possible for Americans to find good places to  
live. We have the potential opportunity to make possible  
better lives for millions of our countrymen.

But rhetoric about rehabilitation, reform, and renewal  
will do very little for rural America. The key is economic  
equity, economic justice for the American farmer. The key  
is higher farm income. The key is parity -- yet the Republican  
administration is ready and eager to forget parity.

Reform  
or  
Renewal

On our campuses, in our newspapers, in the electronic  
media, even in Congress, and the White House, there is far  
too little discussion of the needs of rural America. Once again  
rural America is neglected. It is a forgotten land and a forgotten  
people. When a President can deliver a State of the Union  
message and fail to mention family farmers and American  
agriculture, then I say the farmer is being neglected and forgotten.

Neglected

Power

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When a Presidential message on the economy fails to include any major reference to the economic and social needs of American agriculture, then I say the American farmer is being neglected and forgotten.

When a government fails to take the leadership in presenting a farm program to Congress, then you can only conclude that the farmer is neglected and forgotten.

*Stop The Neglect*

The neglect of agriculture must stop. It is time the farmer's needs and efforts are recognized. It is time for the government to make the American farmer a ~~partner~~ <sup>Partner in</sup> the prosperity and progress of this country.

*See !! this !!*

If I am elected to the United States Senate, I shall ask to be assigned to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

I served on this Committee for approximately 8 years. It is my hope that I can serve again. I believe

that Midwest Agriculture needs an effective, hard-working, determined and experienced spokesman for the family farmer.

I have done this in the past. I am prepared to do an even better job in the future.

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*As your Senator,*

~~if elected~~, I shall be your faithful servant who cares about every farm family, every rural resident, and every rural community.

So, I ask your help, not only for election to the U. S. Senate, but in building a better rural America.



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