

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

FARMERS UNION NATIONAL CONVENTION

Houston, Texas

February 28, 1972

It is always a great pleasure for me to be among my Farmers Union friends, especially at one of their National Conventions.

My only regret on this occasion is that your Vice President, and my close and dearest friend, Ed Christianson is still ill and can't be with us.

Already Dr. Butz is out on the campaign trail trying to tell farmers how good they have it and claiming that 1972 will be a banner income year for farmers.

Well, the Administration isn't going to get away with it.

The Nixon record on the needs of farmers and the needs of rural America is one of failure and neglect -- no ifs, ands, or Butz.

It's time for Mr. Butz to start levelling with the American farmer.

It's time for him to level about his personal efforts to kill the House Grain Reserve bill and the 25 percent increase in loan rates for 1971 and 1972 feed grain crops.

It's time for him to start levelling about the fact that he has opposed nearly every bill in Congress to improve farm income.

It's time for him to start levelling about the fact that the Nixon Administration continues to sit on nearly half a billion dollars in funds appropriated by Congress that could truly help farmers and rural America -- \$75 million in farm operating loan funds; \$58 million in water and waste facility grant funds; \$107 million in REA loan funds; \$240 million in Forest Service funds.

It's time for him to admit the total failure of the Administration's so-called "set-aside" program for wheat and feed grains last year, and the fact that dependence on the program again this year is going to result in economic destruction for many grain producers.

It's time for Mr. Butz to start levelling about the fact that Administration negotiators in international trade discussions are relying on low-priced farm commodities to subsidize U.S. trade balances.

In short, it's time the Administration realized that the American farmer is in deep economic trouble. He needs help now.

The Agriculture Department already has estimated that feed grain producers will agree to set aside sufficient cropland to qualify for payments of approximately \$2 billion.

I call on the Administration to release at least half of this money now to provide cash for farmers at planting time when their expenses are greatest.

The practice of providing an early partial payment of the subsidy is standard practice under the old 1965 farm act.

The Department is going to pay this money out in July anyway. If we make it available to our farm families now when they are spending heavily to prepare for planting, it will have a significant effect on the rural economy at a time when it desperately needs help.

The early payment release is just one of a series of measures the Administration should adopt now if it is really serious about helping the American farmer.

Instead, the Administration is trying to peddle a phony election year line that these are good times on the farm. You and I know better. The Nixon Administration farm record is riddled with Butz.

In addition to the early subsidy payments I call for:

-- Passage of my new grain reserve bill with its mandatory provisions to increase by 25 percent the loan rates for wheat, feed grains and cotton.

-- Increasing this year's dairy price support level to not less than 90 percent, a proposal I have introduced in the Senate.

-- Immediate release of funds appropriated by Congress for farm and rural development purposes.

-- Passage of the Humphrey-Talmadge Consolidated Rural Development Credit Act, to provide funds for a wide range of urgent rural development projects from education to medical care to recreation and conservation.

Seventy million Americans or 35 percent of the nation's population live in Rural America. They live and work on our farms, work in our forests and in our smaller communities.

The needs of these people are not much different from those of other Americans. They need decent housing, good jobs, adequate health care, a good education and the opportunity to live a happy and secure life in a free society.

Yet many of the people living in Rural America today do not experience the fulfillment of those basic wants.

-- Half the nation's poor live in Rural America despite the fact that only 35 percent of the nation's total population reside there.

-- Rural America accounts for 66 percent of all substandard housing units in the country, but receives only 16 percent of all federal housing assistance.

-- Federal per capita outlays for health services are four times greater in metropolitan areas than in rural areas.

-- Per capita federal outlays for training and development are three times greater in metropolitan areas than in rural communities.

-- Close to 30,000 small communities in this nation are in need of new or improved water and waste disposal systems.

And the list goes on and on...all pointing up on basic fact -- people living on our nation's farms and in our nation's rural areas and smaller communities have been left behind and abandoned and forgotten by federal and state governments.

We must all work to change that now.

But this Administration isn't going to act. And President Nixon is the only man I know who consistently comes up with revolutionary programs to maintain the status quo.

The man who is elected President this year will be setting the policies that will make or break the American farmer not only in the next four years, but throughout the 1970's.

The next President must be a man who understands the American farmer and his problems, a man who cares about the continuation of the family farm system and its importance not only to rural America, but to the entire nation and countries around the globe.

Throughout my public life, I have fought the battle for decent farm income and for equality of rural opportunity. I don't intend to abandon that fight now.

#

001159

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

FARMERS UNION NATIONAL CONVENTION

HOUSTON, TEXAS
FEBRUARY 28, 1972

001160

Tony Dechant

IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE AMONG MY FARMERS
UNION FRIENDS, ESPECIALLY AT ONE OF THEIR NATIONAL CONVENTIONS.

MY ONLY REGRET ON THIS OCCASION IS THAT YOUR VICE

Ed Christianson
PRESIDENT, AND MY CLOSE AND DEAREST FRIEND, ED CHRISTIANSON

IS STILL ILL AND CAN'T BE WITH US.

X Tony is in Washington

Butz - Fred Gun

ALREADY DR. BUTZ IS OUT ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL TRYING TO

TELL FARMERS HOW GOOD THEY HAVE IT AND CLAIMING THAT 1972 WILL

BE A BANNER INCOME YEAR FOR FARMERS.

! Nixon Economic Program - Just Say all is well!

WELL, THE ADMINISTRATION ISN'T GOING TO GET AWAY WITH IT.

THE NIXON RECORD ON THE NEEDS OF FARMERS AND THE NEEDS OF

RURAL AMERICA IS ONE OF FAILURE AND NEGLECT -- NO IFs, ANDs, OR

BUTZ.

Pres. Inland Secretary

IT'S TIME FOR ~~Mr. Butz~~ TO START LEVELLING WITH THE AMERICAN

FARMER.!

IT'S TIME FOR HIM TO LEVEL ABOUT HIS PERSONAL EFFORTS TO
KILL THE HOUSE GRAIN RESERVE BILL AND THE 25 PERCENT INCREASE
IN LOAN RATES FOR 1971 AND 1972 FEED GRAIN CROPS.!

IT'S TIME FOR HIM TO START LEVELLING ABOUT THE FACT THAT
HE HAS OPPOSED NEARLY EVERY BILL IN CONGRESS TO IMPROVE FARM
INCOME.

IT'S TIME FOR HIM TO START LEVELLING ABOUT THE FACT THAT
THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO SIT ON NEARLY HALF A
BILLION DOLLARS IN FUNDS APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS THAT COULD
TRULY HELP FARMERS AND RURAL AMERICA :

\$75 MILLION IN FARM OPERATING LOAN FUNDS; \$58 MILLION IN

WATER AND WASTE FACILITY GRANT FUNDS; \$107 MILLION IN REA

LOAN FUNDS; \$240 MILLION IN FOREST SERVICE FUNDS.

It's TIME FOR HIM TO ADMIT THE TOTAL FAILURE OF THE
ADMINISTRATION'S SO-CALLED "SET-ASIDE" PROGRAM FOR WHEAT AND

FEED GRAINS LAST YEAR, AND THE FACT THAT DEPENDENCE ON ~~the~~ *that*

PROGRAM AGAIN THIS YEAR IS GOING TO RESULT IN ECONOMIC

DESTRUCTION FOR MANY GRAIN PRODUCERS.

*with prices for
Hogs, Cattle & Poultry
which Skids -*

It's TIME FOR MR. BUTZ TO START LEVELLING ABOUT THE FACT

THAT ADMINISTRATION NEGOTIATORS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE DISCUSSIONS

ARE RELYING ON LOW-PRICED FARM COMMODITIES TO SUBSIDIZE U.S.

TRADE BALANCES.

*- It's the farmer who
is subsidizing the U.S. Export
Trade*

IN SHORT, IT'S TIME THE ADMINISTRATION REALIZED THAT THE
AMERICAN FARMER IS IN DEEP ECONOMIC TROUBLE. HE NEEDS HELP NOW.

THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT ALREADY HAS ESTIMATED THAT
FEED GRAIN PRODUCERS WILL AGREE TO SET ASIDE SUFFICIENT

CROPLAND TO QUALIFY FOR PAYMENTS OF APPROXIMATELY \$2 BILLION.

I CALL ON THE ADMINISTRATION TO RELEASE AT LEAST HALF OF
THIS MONEY NOW TO PROVIDE CASH FOR FARMERS AT PLANTING TIME WHEN
THEIR EXPENSES ARE GREATEST.

THE PRACTICE OF PROVIDING AN EARLY PARTIAL PAYMENT OF THE
SUBSIDY IS STANDARD PRACTICE UNDER THE OLD 1965 FARM ACT.

*This way farmers don't have to
borrow at hi-interest.*

Payments

-5-

THE DEPARTMENT IS GOING TO PAY THIS MONEY OUT IN JULY
ANYWAY. IF WE MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO OUR FARM FAMILIES NOW WHEN
THEY ARE SPENDING HEAVILY TO PREPARE FOR PLANTING, IT WILL HAVE
A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE RURAL ECONOMY AT A TIME WHEN IT
DESPERATELY NEEDS HELP.

THE EARLY PAYMENT RELEASE IS JUST ONE OF A SERIES OF
MEASURES THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD ADOPT NOW IF IT IS REALLY
SERIOUS ABOUT HELPING THE AMERICAN FARMER.

INSTEAD, THE ADMINISTRATION IS TRYING TO PEDDLE A PHONY
ELECTION YEAR LINE THAT THESE ARE GOOD TIMES ON THE FARM.

AND I KNOW BETTER. THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION FARM RECORD IS

RIDDLED WITH BUTZ.

Program

cropland
IN ADDITION TO THE EARLY ~~SUBSIDY~~ PAYMENTS I CALL FOR:

-- PASSAGE OF MY NEW GRAIN RESERVE BILL WITH ITS MANDATORY

PROVISIONS TO INCREASE BY 25 PERCENT THE LOAN RATES FOR WHEAT,

FEED GRAINS AND COTTON.

*! This is income not
promises!*

-- INCREASING THIS YEAR'S DAIRY PRICE SUPPORT LEVEL TO

NOT LESS THAN 90 PERCENT, A PROPOSAL I HAVE INTRODUCED IN THE

SENATE.

*This is income not rhetoric
- universal school lunch + Nutrition Prog
- elderly -*

-- IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF FUNDS APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS FOR

FARM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES.

*! (D) Rural Develop
Starts up of farm
income. -*

-- PASSAGE OF THE HUMPHREY-TALMADGE CONSOLIDATED RURAL

DEVELOPMENT CREDIT ACT, TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR A WIDE RANGE OF

URGENT RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FROM EDUCATION TO MEDICAL CARE

TO RECREATION AND CONSERVATION.

SEVENTY MILLION AMERICANS OR 35 PERCENT OF THE NATION'S
POPULATION LIVE IN RURAL AMERICA / THEY LIVE AND WORK ON OUR
FARMS, WORK IN OUR FORESTS AND IN OUR SMALLER COMMUNITIES.

THE NEEDS OF THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THOSE
OF OTHER AMERICANS. THEY NEED DECENT HOUSING, GOOD JOBS, ADEQUATE
HEALTH CARE + A GOOD EDUCATION, AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE A
prosperity in
industry based on farm
income
HAPPY AND SECURE LIFE IN A FREE SOCIETY.

YET MANY OF THE PEOPLE LIVING IN RURAL AMERICA TODAY DO
NOT EXPERIENCE THE FULFILLMENT OF THOSE BASIC WANTS. get,
heart's

-- HALF THE NATION'S POOR LIVE IN RURAL AMERICA DESPITE

THE FACT THAT ONLY 35 PERCENT OF THE NATION'S TOTAL POPULATION
RESIDE THERE.

-- RURAL AMERICA ACCOUNTS FOR 66 PERCENT OF ALL SUBSTANDARD
HOUSING UNITS IN THE COUNTRY, BUT RECEIVES ONLY 16 PERCENT OF
ALL FEDERAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE. —

-- FEDERAL PER CAPITA OUTLAYS FOR HEALTH SERVICES ARE
FOUR TIMES GREATER IN METROPOLITAN AREAS THAN IN RURAL AREAS.

-- PER CAPITA FEDERAL OUTLAYS FOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT
ARE THREE TIMES GREATER IN METROPOLITAN AREAS THAN IN RURAL
COMMUNITIES. }

-- CLOSE TO 30,000 SMALL COMMUNITIES IN THIS NATION ARE IN
NEED OF NEW OR IMPROVED WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS.

AND THE LIST GOES ON AND ON...ALL POINTING UP ONE BASIC
FACT -- PEOPLE LIVING ON OUR NATION'S FARMS AND IN OUR NATION'S
RURAL AREAS AND SMALLER COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN LEFT BEHIND AND
ABANDONED AND FORGOTTEN BY FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS

L WE MUST ALL WORK TO CHANGE THAT NOW. ! *Forgotten!*

BUT THIS ADMINISTRATION ISN'T GOING TO ACT. AND
PRESIDENT NIXON IS THE ONLY MAN I KNOW WHO CONSISTENTLY COMES UP
WITH REVOLUTIONARY PROGRAMS TO MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO.
L THE MAN WHO IS ELECTED PRESIDENT THIS YEAR WILL BE SETTING
THE POLICIES THAT WILL MAKE OR BREAK THE AMERICAN FARMER NOT ONLY
IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, BUT THROUGHOUT THE 1970's

THE NEXT PRESIDENT MUST BE A MAN WHO UNDERSTANDS THE
AMERICAN FARMER AND HIS PROBLEMS. A MAN WHO CARES ABOUT THE
CONTINUATION OF THE FAMILY FARM SYSTEM AND ITS IMPORTANCE NOT
ONLY TO RURAL AMERICA, BUT TO THE ENTIRE NATION AND COUNTRIES
AROUND THE GLOBE.

THROUGHOUT MY PUBLIC LIFE, I HAVE FOUGHT THE BATTLE FOR
DECENT FARM INCOME AND FOR EQUALITY OF RURAL OPPORTUNITY. I
DON'T INTEND TO ABANDON THAT FIGHT NOW.

Russians have ICBMs -
But not a family farm
China with the Great Wall - but not a
family farm.

From: Bob Healy

Feb. 28, 1972

Taxes are on every Pennsylvanian's mind, and I do not have to tell you that you are now paying a new income tax--the first in the history of the State--a 6 percent sales tax, local payroll taxes, occupational privilege taxes, school and property taxes, and that you now have a new lottery scheduled to begin on March 7. Taxes are becoming more than onerous, they are becoming unfair and burdensome:

--local government in Pennsylvania collects more than a billion and a half dollars in property taxes, and school taxes are a large part of this cost.

--the interest on local debt in Pennsylvania is over \$160 million every year, another reason for high property taxes.

--local government in Pennsylvania spends more than \$150 million each year in sewage and waste treatment costs.

Another service that you pay for, but the local government--

--your Pennsylvania cities and towns get only \$150 million back in direct grants from the Federal Government. This means little help on sewage facilities, little help on school expenses and little relief for property taxes.

And costs are increasing, the State budget is running over the \$5 billion mark. Public welfare costs in Pennsylvania are over \$600 million a year. And nationwide expenditures are likely to hit \$20 billion this year.

From: Bob Healy--Feb. 28, 1972

2

This is the fiscal condition of your State. This is the
fiscal condition of our nation and this is why we have to have
not later, not next year, not
tax reform/tomorrow but today.

So what?



Minnesota Historical Society

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

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



www.mnhs.org