

March 20, 1972

MEMORANDUM

TO: SENATOR

FROM: DAN

SUBJECT: FARM APPEARANCES & Speeches

John Wefald sent us a farm speech this morning. The attached pages are excerpted from a very long speech. The material I have sent along is concerned with the plight of the family farm in Wisconsin and around the nation. He has some very good figures--see page 4. You can use this material at your NFU and NFO appearances today along with the mther material we have provided.

LIGHTS ARE GOING OUT ALL OVER RURAL AMERICA. MORE THAN 2,000 LIGHTS WENT OUT FOREVER IN YOUR RURAL WISCONSIN LAST YEAR, AS THEY HAVE EACH OF THE PAST FIVE YEARS. EACH LIGHT EXTINGUISHED REPRESENTS A FAMILY FARMING OPERATION THAT HAS PASSED FROM THE AMERICAN SCENE.

IN JUST THE PAST DECADE WISCONSIN HAS LOST NEARLY ONE FIFTH OF THE FAMILY FARMS. BUT THE PROBLEM ISN'T CONFINED TO WISCONSIN. THE SAME THING IS HAPPENING ALL ACROSS OUR NATION. IT ADDS UP TO AN APPALLING LOSS. THE RURAL OUT-MIGRATION ANNUALLY IS FAR MORE DEVASTATING TO THE NATION'S TOTAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT THAN WERE THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND DUST BOWL TRAGEDIES OF SOME 40 YEARS AGO.

EVERY SIX FARM FAMILIES WE LOSE FROM RURAL AMERICA
TOPPLES STILL ANOTHER ECONOMIC DOMINO, ONE SMALL BUSINESS,
THAT IS THE REASON FOR THE EMPTY BUSINESS BUILDINGS, THE
DIMINISHING SERVICES AND THE SKYROCKETING PROPERTY TAXES
IN MOST OF OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES.

DESPITE THE SHOCKING LOSS THAT RURAL AMERICA HAS
ALREADY EXPERIENCED, THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION'S FARM
SPOKESMAN HAS BLATANTLY TOLD US THAT IT IS GOING TO GET
WORSE BEFORE IT GETS BETTER, AND PERFORMANCE AS WELL AS
STATEMENT INDICATES CLEARLY THAT THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION
HAS NONE AND INTENDS NO EFFECTIVE NEW PROGRAM TO STOP OR
EVEN RETARD THIS DEVASTATING EROSION.

IN JUST THE PAST DECADE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, OUR NATION HAS LOST 730,000 FAMILY FARMING OPERATIONS--MORE THAN ONE FOURTH OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FARMS WE HAD IN 1963, THAT REPRESENTS THE OUT-MIGRATION OF OVER 3 MILLION PEOPLE FROM RURAL AMERICA. . .THE LOSS OF SOME 876,000 FULLTIME FARMING JOBS. . .AND THE COMPANION LOSS OF SOME 121,700 SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE RURAL COMMUNITIES.

AS TERRIBLE AS THAT RECORD IS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS, EARL BUTZ HAS TOLD US TO EXPECT AN EVEN GREATER LOSS FOR RURAL AMERICA IN THE NEXT EIGHT YEARS. . .THAT WE WILL HAVE LESS THAN 2 MILLION OF THE PRESENT 2,831,000 FARMS BY 1980. IF HIS FORECAST IS ALLOWED TO COME TRUE, THAT MEANS ANOTHER

3 1/2 MILLION FARM PEOPLE WILL BE FORCED OUT OF
RURAL AMERICA INTO THE OVERCROWDED URBAN COMMUNITIES. . .
AND A COMPANION LOSS OF ANOTHER 138,500 SMALL BUSINESSES.

HOW HAS WISCONSIN FARED? YOU NOW HAVE 108,000 FAMILY
FARMING OPERATIONS. THAT REPRESENTS A LOSS IN THE LAST DECADE
OF 22,000 FAMILIES--91,000 PEOPLE--26,400 FULLTIME FARM JOBS
. . .AND 3,667 SMALL BUSINESSES. MR. BUTZ FIGURES YOU'LL
LOSE MUCH MORE THAN THAT DURING THE NEXT EIGHT YEARS. HE
CALLS IT NATURAL PROGRESS, ELIMINATING THE INEFFICIENT FARM
OPERATORS.

HIS SUGGESTED REMEDY IS FOR FARMERS

TO "ADAPT OR DIE." POLICIES OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION
ARE FORCING FARMERS OFF THE LAND. . . SMALL TOWN BUSINESSMEN
ARE CLOSING UP. . . COMMUNITIES ARE FADING INTO THE NIGHT.

HHH

001463

La Verne Barrer Ch. Chippewa Falls County
Jim Priester - Vice Pres

n70

March 20, 1972

LIGHTS ARE GOING OUT ALL OVER RURAL AMERICA. MORE *Wisc Farmer*
Union

THAN 2,000 LIGHTS WENT OUT FOREVER IN YOUR RURAL WISCONSIN
LAST YEAR, AS THEY HAVE EACH OF THE PAST FIVE YEARS. EACH
LIGHT EXTINGUISHED REPRESENTS A FAMILY FARMING OPERATION
THAT HAS PASSED FROM THE AMERICAN SCENE.

IN JUST THE PAST DECADE WISCONSIN HAS LOST NEARLY ONE
FIFTH OF THE FAMILY FARMS. BUT THE PROBLEM ISN'T CONFINED
TO WISCONSIN. THE SAME THING IS HAPPENING ALL ACROSS OUR
NATION. IT ADDS UP TO AN APPALLING LOSS THE RURAL OUT-
MIGRATION ANNUALLY IS FAR MORE DEVASTATING TO THE NATION'S
TOTAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT THAN WERE THE GREAT
DEPRESSION AND DUST BOWL TRAGEDIES OF SOME 40 YEARS AGO.

EVERY SIX FARM FAMILIES WE LOSE FROM RURAL AMERICA
TOPPLES STILL ANOTHER ECONOMIC DOMINO, ONE SMALL BUSINESS,
THAT IS THE REASON FOR THE EMPTY BUSINESS BUILDINGS, THE
DIMINISHING SERVICES AND THE SKYROCKETING PROPERTY TAXES
IN MOST OF OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES.

DESPITE THE SHOCKING LOSS THAT RURAL AMERICA HAS
ALREADY EXPERIENCED, THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION'S FARM
SPOKESMAN HAS BLATANTLY TOLD US THAT IT IS GOING TO GET
WORSE BEFORE IT GETS BETTER, AND PERFORMANCE AS WELL AS
STATEMENT INDICATES CLEARLY THAT THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION
HAS NONE AND INTENDS NO EFFECTIVE NEW PROGRAM TO STOP OR
EVEN RETARD THIS DEVASTATING EROSION.

IN JUST THE PAST DECADE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, OUR
NATION HAS LOST 730,000 FAMILY FARMING OPERATIONS--MORE THAN
ONE FOURTH OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FARMS WE HAD IN 1963,
/ THAT REPRESENTS THE OUT-MIGRATION OF OVER 3 MILLION PEOPLE
FROM RURAL AMERICA. . . THE LOSS OF SOME 876,000 FULLTIME
FARMING JOBS. . . AND THE COMPANION LOSS OF SOME 121,700
SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE RURAL COMMUNITIES.

/ AS TERRIBLE AS THAT RECORD IS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS,
EARL BUTZ HAS TOLD US TO EXPECT AN EVEN GREATER LOSS FOR
RURAL AMERICA IN THE NEXT EIGHT YEARS. . . THAT WE WILL HAVE
LESS THAN 2 MILLION OF THE PRESENT 2,831,000 FARMS BY 1980.
IF HIS FORECAST IS ALLOWED TO COME TRUE, THAT MEANS ANOTHER

AND A COMPANION LOSS OF ANOTHER 138,500 SMALL BUSINESSES.

OF 22,000 FAMILIES--91,000 PEOPLE--26,400 FULLTIME FARM JOBS

LOSE MUCH MORE THAN THAT DURING THE NEXT EIGHT YEARS. HE

CALLS IT NATURAL PROGRESS, ELIMINATING THE INEFFICIENT FARM

OPERATORS. NEXEAKESXITXNATHRAKXPNHREKSSXKIKINATINEXNE

~~INFORMATION~~ HIS SUGGESTED REMEDY IS FOR FARMERS

001467

5

TO "ADAPT OR DIE." POLICIES OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION

ARE FORCING FARMERS OFF THE LAND. . SMALL TOWN BUSINESSMEN

ARE CLOSING UP. . COMMUNITIES ARE FADING INTO THE NIGHT.

HHH



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