

MEMORANDUM

MARCH 21, 1972

TO: Senator

FROM: Dan S.

SUBJECT: Appearance at Staughton High School

We hear from our advance people that both students and townspeople will be in the audience in this agricultural community. We've given you a hard-hitting speech on agriculture, and with some good information on the needs of young farmers for money and credit so they can overcome the economic hurdles of starting a farm.

The property tax issue is also very important in this area. Several surrounding townships are involved in a taxpayer's revolt and are not sending property taxes to Madison.

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

STAUGHTON HIGH SCHOOL

STAUGHTON, WISCONSIN

MARCH 22, 1972

I'VE COME TO STAUGHTON TODAY TO ASK YOU TO JOIN WITH  
ME IN A CRUSADE TO SAVE RURAL AMERICA.

I'VE COME TO ASK YOUR HELP TO SAVE THE FAMILY FARM.

I'VE COME TO ASK YOUR HELP TO REPLACE THE SECRETARY  
OF AGRICULTURE NEXT NOVEMBER--NO IFS, ANDS OR BUTZ.

RURAL AMERICA IS THE STRENGTH OF AMERICA--IT'S THE  
BACKBONE OF THE NATION AND TOO MANY PEOPLE TAKE IT FOR  
GRANTED.

WITHOUT AGRICULTURE WE WOULDN'T HAVE OUR GREAT CITIES,  
WE WOULDN'T HAVE OUR GREAT INDUSTRIES. WITHOUT THE  
STAUGHTONS AND THE ARNOTTS AND THE ARCADIAS WE WOULDN'T  
HAVE THE MILWAUKEES, THE MADISONS AND THE SUPERIORS.

THERE'S A CRISIS IN RURAL AMERICA AND IT AFFECTS ALL  
OF US--YOUNG AND OLD.

LIGHTS ARE GOING OUT ALL OVER RURAL AMERICA, MY FRIENDS.  
MORE THAN 2,000 LIGHTS WENT OUT FOREVER IN RURAL  
WISCONSIN LAST YEAR AS THEY HAVE IN EACH OF THE PAST FIVE  
YEARS.

EACH LIGHT REPRESENTS A FAMILY FARM.

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 BUSINESS BUILDINGS,  
THE DIMINISHING SERVICES AND THE SKYROCKETING PROPERTY TAXES  
IN MOST OF OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES.

WISCONSIN NOW HAS 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.

THIS IS A TRAGEDY. THERE IS NO REASON FOR THE FAMILY FARM TO DISAPPEAR FROM THE FACE OF RURAL AMERICA.

THERE IS NO REASON FOR THE FAMILY FARMER TO BE SADDLED  
BY HIGH INTEREST RATES AND IMPOSSIBLE MORTGAGES.

THERE IS NO REASON FOR LOW PARITY ON DAIRY PRODUCTS,  
IT'S 80 PERCENT TODAY, IT SHOULD BE 90 PERCENT.

AND MY FRIENDS THERE IS NO REASON THAT THE CITIZENS  
OF STAUGHTON AND OTHER TOWNS IN WISCONSIN HAVE TO BE  
SADDLED WITH PROPERTY TAXES SO HIGH THAT THEY SPEED THE  
EXODUS FROM RURAL AMERICA.

I AM A MAN OF THE SOIL. I KNOW THE PROBLEMS YOU FACE  
TODAY. I HAVE TAKEN THEM TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

WHEN I CAME BACK TO THE SENATE LAST YEAR I ASKED TO  
SERVE ON THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE. FEW DESIRE THIS ASSIGNMENT.

AND I WAS DETERMINED TO BE THE VOICE OF THE FAMILY  
FARMER IN THE HALLS OF CONGRESS BECAUSE THE FAMILY FARMER  
HAS BEEN FORGOTTEN BY THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION AND HIS  
LIVELIHOOD IS BEING THREATENED BY LARGE CORPORATE INTERESTS.

TO THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION AMERICAN AGRICULTURE IS IN  
THE BOARD ROOM OF RALSTON PURINA.

BUT TO ME AMERICAN AGRICULTURE IS RIGHT HERE IN DANE  
COUNTY--RIGHT HERE IN STAUGHTON HIGH SCHOOL.

MANY OF YOU WILL HAVE TO LEAVE STAUGHTON AND OTHER  
TOWNSHIPS IN DANE COUNTY.

YOU WILL HAVE TO LEAVE BECAUSE THERE AREN'T ENOUGH  
GOOD JOBS FOR YOU. AND IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR A YOUNG  
MAN TO GET UP THE MONEY TO START HIS OWN FARM.



THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA ESTIMATES THERE ARE  
NEARLY 200,000 YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WANT TO GO INTO FARMING  
TODAY BUT CAN'T BECAUSE OF HIGH OPERATING COSTS AND STRICT  
CREDIT REQUIREMENTS.

I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BE FORCED OUT OF STAUGHTON.  
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO LIVE HERE AND HAVE THAT FARM.

AND THAT'S WHY I'VE INTRODUCED AND FOUGHT FOR A NEW  
FARM BILL.

LET ME TELL YOU WHAT IT DOES FOR YOU.

--IT PROVIDES LOANS AT LOW RATES OF INTEREST FOR YOUNG  
FARMERS WHO ARE IN NEED OF CREDIT TO ENTER FARMING AND CAN'T  
GET IT.

--IT PROVIDES A NEW METHOD OF FINANCING TO PAY FOR THE  
PRESSING PUBLIC NEEDS OF OUR RURAL TOWNSHIPS AND MUNICIPALITIES

--SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, COMMUNITY CENTERS,

--IT PROVIDES A CREDIT MECHANISM TO ENCOURAGE INDUSTRIAL  
EXPANSION IN RURAL COMMUNITIES,

--IT BEGINS A NEW PROGRAM OF SMALL COMMUNITY FIRE  
PREVENTION ASSISTANCE,

--AND IT ESTABLISHES A RURAL REVENUE SHARING FUND OF  
\$500 MILLION TO HELP OUR FAMILY FARMS,

I AM AN OPTIMIST ON RURAL AMERICA,

I THINK RURAL AMERICA IS GOING TO GROW,

I BELIEVE YOUNG PEOPLE WON'T HAVE TO ABANDON THEIR  
HOMES AND THEIR FARMS.

I THINK WE CAN GET FAIR PRICES, HIGHER INCOMES, FARM  
BARGAINING, AND 100 PERCENT OF PARITY FOR OUR FARMERS.

I PLEDGE MYSELF TO DO SO.

I PLEDGE MYSELF TO BEGIN A NEW DAY FOR STAUGHTON, AND  
FOR RURAL WISCONSIN.

Staughton High School March 22 2:45 p.m.

I've come to Staughton today to ask you to join with me in a crusade to save rural America.

I've come to ask your help to save the family farm.

I've come to ask your help to replace the Secretary of Agriculture next November-no ifs, ands or Butz.

Rural America is the strength of America -it's the backbone of the nation and too many people take it for granted.

Without agriculture we wouldn't have our great cities, we wouldn't have our great industries. Without the Stoughtons and the Arnotts and the Arcadias we wouldn't have the Milwaukeees, the Madisons and the Superiors.

There's a crisis in rural America and it affects all of us -- young and old.

Lights are going out all over rural America, my friends.

More than 2,000 lights went out forever in rural Wisconsin last year as they have in each of the past five years.

Each light represents a family farm.

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.

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✓ 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.

✓ Wisconsin now has 108,000 family farming operations. That represents a loss in the last decade of 22,000 families----91,000 people---26,400 full time 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.

This is a tragedy. There is no reason for the family farm to disappear from the face of rural America.

There is no reason for the family farmer to be saddled by high interest rates and impossible mortgages.

There is no reason for low parity on dairy products. It's 80% today. It should be 90%.

And my friends there is no reason that the citizens of Staughton and other towns in Wisconsin have to be saddled with property taxes so high that they speed the exodus from rural America.

I am a man of the soil. I know the problems you face today. I have taken them to the highest levels of government.

When I came back to the Senate last year I asked to serve on the Agriculture Committee. Few desire this assignment.

And I was determined to be the voice of the family farmer in the halls of Congress because the family farmer has been forgotten by the Nixon Administration and his livelihood is being threatened by large corporate interests.

To the Nixon Administration American agriculture is in the board room of Ralston Purina.

But to me American Agriculture is right here in Dane County--- right here in Staughton High School.

Many of you will have to leave Staughton and other townships in Dane County.

You will have to leave because there aren't enough good jobs for you. And its almost impossible for a young man to get up the money to start his own farm.

I don't think you should be forced out of Staughton. You should be able to live here and have that farm.

And that's why I've introduced and fought for a new farm bill.

The Future Farmers of America estimates there are nearly 200,000 young <sup>people</sup> ~~men~~ who want to go into farming today but can't because of high operating costs and strict credit requirements.

Let me tell you what it does for you.

--It provides loans at low rates of interest for young farmers who are in need of credit to enter farming and can't get it.

--It provides a new method of financing to pay for the pressing public needs of our rural townships and municipalities--Schools, hospitals, community centers.

--It provides a credit mechanism to encourage industrial expansion in rural communities.

--It begins a new program of small community fire prevention assistance

--And it establishes a rural revenue sharing fund of \$500 million to help our family farms.

I'm an optimist on rural America.

I think rural America is going to grow.

I believe young people won't have to abandon their homes and their farms.

I think we can get fair prices, higher incomes, farm bargaining, and 100% of parity for our farmers.

I pledge myself to do so.

I pledge myself to begin a new day for Staughton, and for rural Wisconsin.



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