

MEMORANDUM

April 28, 1972

TO: SENATOR

FROM: DAN

SUBJECT: FARM MEETING

I am attaching a copy of Thornton's memo as well as our press release.

A man by the name of John W. Sharp of the Department of Agriculture at Ohio State University has been instrumental in organizing this meeting.

Attending the meeting will be 100 farm organization representatives and farmers. NFO, NFU, Farm Bureau Federation, Milk Producers, Grain and Feed Dealers, 4 H, Farm Equipment Dealers, Ohio Rural Cooperatives, Ohio Livestock Producers.

N. Kirk Moreland, State President of NFO and Charlie Nash, State Chairman of Ohio NFU are expected to attend. Bill Swank of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and Earl McMunn of the OHIO FARMER will also be there.

Vandalia is close to the heart of the hog and beef cattle region of Ohio. Slightly north of here, corn and soy beans are very strong.

A couple of things on the minds of farmers in this region: the desire to compete with agricultural operations in other countries; they are against protectionism; they are concerned as being type cast as villains for rising supermarket prices; fear of industrialization of farm areas.

April 27, 1972

MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Humphrey
From: Jim Thornton *JCT*
Subject: Background and Suggestions for Your Meeting
With Ohio Farm Leaders This Friday, April 28

According to the 1969 Agricultural Census (the latest data available) there were 111,000 farms in Ohio, about 9,000 less than there were in 1964. Most of the farms in Ohio are small (under 100 acres) and they gross under \$10,000 annually. Most Ohio farms are involved in livestock (cattle, hogs or sheep) and grains (corn and wheat) production including soybeans.

Only 17,542 out of 111,000 farms in Ohio in 1969 grossed in excess of \$10,000 annually. All of the reduction in Ohio farms between 1964 and 1969 came from those grossing less than \$10,000, while at the same time the number of farms grossing more than that amount increased during that period by almost 5,000. The total amount of land in farms in Ohio in 1969 was about 17 million acres, down about 500,000 acres from 1964. About half of Ohio's farmland is considered cropland.

Most of the farm operators in Ohio are full owners. Only 13,000 operators in 1969 were considered as tenants. Most Ohio farmers live on the farms they operate but most of them also have off-farm jobs. North and West Ohio has experienced a strong industrial expansion which has supplied many off-farm jobs for farmers.

While the average age of the Ohio farm operator is 50 years old, I would suspect that the average age level is lower for those farmers grossing more than \$10,000.

You might wish to remind these farm leaders of your work and efforts this past year to get a grain reserve bill passed which included a 25 percent mandatory increase in the loan rates for wheat and feed grains. You might also wish to remind them of your 90% parity dairy price support bill with its built-in escalator clause to adjust for production cost increases which occur throughout the milk marketing year. And finally, you should remind them of some of the provisions of the Rural Development

Act (that are still in it) relating to loans for young farmers, increasing the loan limit for an individual FHA farm operating loan from \$35,000 to \$50,000 and the provisions to establish a special research and extension education program to help small farmers as farmers.

In addition the expansion of FHA lending authorities for non-farm business enterprises also should be of interest to many farmers who may want to establish or expand into the non-farm business field.

More importantly, I believe you should stress the importance of getting a man in the White House next year who personally knows and understands agriculture and Rural America. One of the first things that the President will have to face next year in Congress is enactment of a new farm bill.

Given the changes that are going to take place in the House next year due to this fall's election (new members as a result of deaths, retirements and reapportionment) getting a farm bill out of that body next year is going to be a truly major undertaking--even if the President is a Hubert Humphrey. Anyone in the White House with less understanding and zeal in support of farmers than you have, and there simply will not be a farm bill next year. If farmers think they have been ill-treated by consumer price concerns this year, wait until all those new House members from suburbia get back here next year.

NEWS RELEASE HUMPHREY

FOR PRESIDENT

1225 19TH ST. N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
PHONE: 202-872-1600



FOR RELEASE--

1:45 P.M. Friday, April 29, 1972

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HUMPHREY PLEDGES HELP FOR FARMER

VANDALIA, Ohio, April 29--Senator Hubert H. Humphrey said today that the next President of the United States will determine farm policy for the rest of the decade and pledged to restore decent farm prices if he is elected.

Humphrey spoke at a Farm Forum here before representatives of nearly 100 farm organizations:

"Next year with the expiration of the Agricultural Act of 1970, Congress will have to enact new farm legislation. The shape and the philosophy behind that legislation will be strongly influenced by whoever is President of the United States.

"Given the turnover in the House of Representatives next year, farmers and Rural Americans will need a President who knows and thoroughly understands their problems and needs, and who is willing to fight on their behalf. I have those credentials. The political muscle of farmers, rural residents and rural communities has been weakened greatly in recent decades because of the shift in our Nation's population from rural to urban areas. That trend and others will make it increasingly difficult in the future to pass legislation to help farmers and rural citizens.

"This task will become even more difficult if the Administration is successful in stripping the U. S. Department of Agriculture of all of its existing nonfarm agencies which it has proposed.

"Whatever political leverage or muscle farmers or rural America have today, will be totally dissipated if these developments occur.

"Agriculture is rural America's number one industry. If it becomes separated organizationally within our national government, then both farm and nonfarm residents will suffer. The people of rural America will become the people left behind.

MORE

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"If nominated and elected President of the United States, I will not only strengthen the role of the U. S. Department of Agriculture as it relates to agriculture and conservation, but as it relates to all of rural America. And I will give the highest priority to the number one need of the family farmer--the restoration of decent farm prices."

Humphrey said he would also place farm representatives on the Federal Trade and Tariff Commissions.

He pledged to appoint farm economists to the Federal Reserve Board and the President's Council of Economic Advisors.

"The farmer has no real voice in the high councils of government and at the White House. I want to change this practice of exclusion and neglect. We can't save the family farm and we can't improve the quality of life in rural America unless those who make policy are aware of the needs of 70 million rural Americans."

--HHH--



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