

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
January 12, 1978
San Francisco

RESPONSE OF JOE KINNEY TO NCFC'S HUMPHREY RESOLUTION

Well, indeed it is an honor for me to acknowledge this great event and I'd like to share a few comments with you. When I went to work with Senator Humphrey, he had two comments. He said number one, "Agriculture to me is bipartisan--there just aren't enough votes alone." The second thing he said was, "I'm a co-op man and I believe that co-ops hold the best promise for the future of American agriculture."

Some of the Senator's best friends throughout the years have been leaders in the American co-op movement. I could stand up here the rest of the day and name names, but I'll name two in particular--Bill Thatcher and Murray Lincoln.

This past year the Senator has been very active in cooperative issues. I think of two. The Form G issue. When the Farm Bill was considered on the floor of the Senate, the Senator spent a great amount of time to explain that program and sharing his views on why he thought it was immensely important. Of course, what I'm talking about here is the administrative decision by Secretary Bergland to permit small grains and coarse grains to be pooled through co-ops.

He also spent a great amount of time in discussions at the White House regarding the investment tax credit issue, and it is his deepest hope to make that part of the Administration's tax package when it comes forward in the Second Session of the 95th Congress, which begins January 19.

Senator Humphrey has always been a very positive man. He doesn't have any enemies--at least in his view. He has always been a man of the future. And even though he has had some very trying times lately, he is looking ahead and it's been a great inspiration to me and others around him to have been through this ordeal.

The past few days have been tremendously encouraging. He's gaining weight. He says he is getting fat again. He's looking forward to coming back, and you can be assured that he's going to spend a considerable amount of time in the Second Session dealing with co-op issues.

Again, Armstead, it's been a great privilege for me to acknowledge this and I thank you very much.



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