FOR FILES:

This is the kit which was given the five groups of Farmers Union members who visited the Senator during the months of January and February 1954.

Sec. at at

Char. 0.

Memo

to: Cyril

from: Herb

Thirty-five Minnesota farmers will visit Senator Wednesday morning in one of the Farmers Union caravans. I'd like to have same material prepared to give them, possibly including:

Speech Fale. Far mens Unican Delegation Jan Fels/set

Copy of Senator's price support bill S.1159

Senator's old reprint, Fair Deal for Farmers

Copy of press release issued Monday commenting on President's farm message.

Check list for Farmers Belletins.

(Have we any GTA speeches left? Would we have enough left-over farm

Any other material you think would be helpful might go into "kit".

Similar delegations will be coming in for each of next five weeks, so we should try and do same thing for each Wednesday visit.

10 Great Issues 10 Great Issues Shape Jhe Farmers 7he

BILL OF RIGHTS

An address by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey at the 16th Annual GTA Convention in St. Paul, December 15, 1953

The Farmer's

'BILL OF RIGHTS'

Living in a legislated economy, farmers seek a fair price support law to be on a free, competitive basis with other economic groups.

T IS an honor to address this sixteenth annual banquet of the Farmers Union Grain Terminal Association—a great enterprise symbolic of the growth and progress of agriculture in the Midwest, and symbolic of what farm people can do working together.

It's a thrilling sight to look out over this vast gathering of farmers from throughout the great breadbasket of the Midwest.

This is America—the solid, determined, dependable America—the deep roots of democracy, embedded firmly in the soil.

America owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to its farmers of the past and of the present.

Food Our Basic Quest

Every farmer in the nation can be justly proud of the great contribution American agriculture has made, and is still making, to our country's growth and progress.

Agriculture is basic to life itself. It is the life-line of food and fiber, without which we cannot survive.

Farmers were among our nation's founders. They paved the way for creation of our great nation of today, by producing in ever-increasing abundance the essentials of our survival—the food and fiber we needed for a growing and struggling nation of free people.

The struggle for food comes before all else. By the ever-increasing efficiency of America's farmers, in providing food not only for themselves but for others about them as well, they have made possible the release of manpower to create a mighty industrial as well as a rich agricultural empire in our new world.

There's Strength in the Land

But agriculture has contributed more than food and fiber to our nation. It has contributed much to our basic strength of moral character, our hardiness, our respect for family ties. It has contributed our American pattern

Minnesota's Senator Hubert H. Humphrey has long been a staunch supporter of the parity farm price campaign. The vigorous fight he has waged in Congress for constructive farm legislation gives authoritative background to his suggested 10point "Bill of Rights" for agriculture as outlined at the Sixteenth Annual Convention of The Farmers Union Grain Terminal Association. Other convention speakers included Senator Milton R. Young (R., No. Dak.); Dr. C. Clyde Mitchell, chairman of the University of Nebraska Department of Agricultural Economics; James Patton, president of the National Farmers Union; Roy F. Hendrickson, executive secretary of the National Federation of Grain Cooperatives; James H. Dean, general manager of the Farmers Cooperative Commission company, Hutchinson, Kansas; Glenn Talbott, president of the North Dakota Farmers Union; and M. W. Thatcher, president of the National Federation of Grain Cooperatives and general manager of Farmers Union Grain Terminal Association. Farmers Union Grain Terminal Association is the nation's largest grain marketing co-op.

of family farming, with its broad base of independent landholders as a firm foundation upon which democracy could survive and grow.

Is it any wonder, then, that I say America owes a great debt of gratitude to its farm people?

Farmers today, however, are seriously concerned about the future. They see strangely familiar symptoms of economic trouble. Farm prices have been falling too far and too fast. The parity ratio—the relation of what a farmer receives to what he must pay—has gone steadily downward. It has slumped to a national average of 90 per cent, the lowest since 1941. It's even lower in many states, and for many important commodities.

Farmer is the Keystone

Farmers aren't the only ones concerned about these danger signs. The President and Congress are concerned. The business community is growing increasingly concerned. Why? Because we have learned that agricultural income and national prosperity go hand in hand. We have learned that depressions start on the farm. We have learned that the economic problems of agriculture are not just farm problems, but everybody's problems.

Agriculture is still basic to America's economy. Without a sound, efficient, abundant, prosperous agriculture, America's dynamic economy cannot long maintain its expanding pace of higher living standards and greater comforts of life for all.

We have learned that lesson in the past—the hard way. We must never forget it.

There is a public interest responsibility toward agriculture that cannot be ignored.

Our government early recognized the public's interest and the nation's welfare in a strong agriculture, in a family-farm type of agriculture, by opening up vast public lands to homesteading in order to encourage agricultural expansion and farm ownership.

By making such opportunities available, the nation was repaid many times the value of its investment in agriculture's future.

And, if you'll pardon an aside, I very much doubt if the moral fiber of our pioneering fathers was corrupted by accepting that homestead subsidy of free land!

How Skids Were Greased

As our nation embarked upon its industrial development, it was business and industry-not agriculture-that first shunned the risks of the "free market," and asked for aid and protection by law-the tariffs, the grants and subsidies, the power of regulating production-and competition-to assure reasonable profits. As a new aristocracy of industrial barons developed in our country, their influence upon government resulted in public policy being designed more and more to serve their own ends—at the expense of American agriculture, and the American workingman.

Our economy grew out of balance, and weaker became the foundation upon which it all was based.

The rich grew richer, and the poor grew poorer, until the bubble had to be burst.

I need not, I am sure, remind you at length of the great depression. Most of us remember all too well that tragic period in our economic and political history.

Agriculture, as usual, felt its impact first, longest, and hardest.

Agriculture was and is today the bellwether of our economy. It is where the symptoms first strike, then spread to the Main Streets, the factories, and the homes of all America, rural and city alike.

Parity Forged In '20's

Out of that depression of the '20's and '30's, we learned that the cost of depression is far greater, in money and human misery, than any cost of maintaining a sound and prosperous nation.

From the despair of the great depression, agriculture united in a historic fight for rightful recognition of the importance of its role in American life. It brought forth a great concept so in keeping with the principles of American Democracy that it has earned a permanent place in America's economic life—the parity concept, of equality for agriculture.

All of the efforts down through the years by our great organizations of farmers became solidly pin-pointed toward one major purpose:

The clear declaration of public policy that prices and income of farmers should be maintained on a basis of parity with industrial wages and industrial prices.

None of us should ever forget the fight it took to establish the parity concept of equality for agriculture as the law of our land.

A Few Led the Way

The great voices of that earlier historic battle for farm parity—the voices of the agricultural statesmen of that day, Ed O'Neal of the American Farm Bureau Federation, Louis Taber of the Grange, and yes, the great voice of your own hard-hitting Bill Thatcher—these voices refused to be silenced. They knew they were right. They knew they were not only fighting for farmers. They knew they were fighting for the sound economic welfare of America, for the country they loved. It wasn't an easy fight. Powerful forces were arrayed against them. A strange coalition of the uninformed, the ill-advised, the men of little faith and little vision, looking backward instead of ahead, was moulded together and manipulated as a "front" against agriculture.

Let me make myself clear: Fair-minded Americansand I think most Americans are fair-minded-have never been against decent prices and fair and equal treatment for agriculture, or for anyone else. But always in any society, there are a few who refuse to look beyond their own money-counting tables, regardless of the public interest that may be involved.

It is always these vocal few who raise the entirely false cry of government interference with "free enterprise," when their own toes are stepped upon in order to assure the benefits and blessings of free enterprise to all the rest of us.

But all the misleading attempts to distort agriculture's just plea for equality failed.

The Legislated Economy

We became realists about our economy, and the world we live in.

We recognized that there no longer exists a complete free exchange of goods and services, a complete "free market." Instead, we faced up to the fact that we work and live in the midst of protective regulations by government, firm prices administered by business, fixed costs established by accepted standards of fair wages and reasonable profits in other segments of our economy. Federal reserve regulations, utility and transportation rate fixing, tariffs to protect industry, minimum wage laws, the fair trade practices act to eliminate unfair price-cutting, and subsidies to shipping firms, airlines, and newspapers are but a few of many examples.

The farmer has never lost his spirit of independence, his willingness to work, and work hard.

Fair Play Needed

But the world about him has changed. The ways of farming have changed. The world in which he must compete for survival has changed. Man-made changes have hemmed him in on all sides by a complex, legislated economy, in which he has too often become the forgotten man.

None of us can thwart the tide of change. Our task is to keep abreast of change, to keep pace with the progress and the problems it creates, and to look to the future.

If the farmer must compete in a legislated economy, to ask him alone to exist by the simple standards of a bygone generation is like asking our superhighways of today to be governed by traffic rules of the horseand-buggy days. Only confusion and tragedy can result.

In a democracy dedicated to serving all the people, what is wrong with farmers asking the government their government—to remember that they, too, must be able to keep pace with the times, and must have traffic rules that do not leave them by the wayside as everyone else zooms past on the highway of modern life and modern living?

Government—your government—has the obligation, under our constitution, to promote the general welfare —not the welfare of the few at the expense of the many.

Congress recognized that obligation in declaring it to be the policy of our country that prices and income of farmers should be maintained on a basis of parity with other segments of our economy. With full parity as its goal, our government launched a courageous and historic series of national farm programs aimed at achieving that objective.

Men Of Grit Combine

From time to time those programs have been changed, improved, and adapted to agriculture's changing needs —but always the same objective has been spelled out the objective of parity prices and parity income.

Let me say right now, that it has taken nonpartisan support from the great farm states of our nation to maintain our strides toward the objective, and to withstand the powerful pressure that would divert us. It has taken the whole-hearted support of men who know and understand agriculture, and men with plenty of gumption to stand up and be counted—sometimes against their own colleagues—like my good friend, the distinguished Republican Senator Milt Young of North Dakota. I was proud to fight shoulder to shoulder with him in the great battle of 1949 for the Russell-Young amendment, to keep our farm program from being diverted away from its historic objective.

We have made progress — tremendous progress under the stabilizing influence of our national farm programs.

Still Far from Goal

Hand in hand with the concept of "fair returns" for agriculture came other great strides forward in American farm life-reasonable credit, sound conservation, rural electrification. We've tossed out the kerosene lanterns, and brightened the rural countryside with electricity. We've eased the drudgery of farm life by bringing the blessings of modern conveniences and modern power to the farm. We've checked the depletion and

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waste of America's potential productivity, by lifting the face of the rural countryside through sound conservation farming. We've strengthened the opportunities for farm ownership, by a credit structure geared to agriculture's needs. We breathed new life, new hope, new opportunity into a prostrate rural America—and with it, we breathed new strength and new stability into the entire American economy.

From such gains we can never turn back. Yet the real job has just begun. We are still far from our goal, far from the original objective of equality which agriculture started out to achieve. And there are still forces at work to divert us from that objective, both through misguided differences of opinion over methods of achieving it, and deliberate intent to keep us from achieving it. Together, they make a formidable foe.

Labor Recalls Past

By devious means, they seek to divide and divert the farm unity of this country. They try to turn consumers against farmers, to turn farmers against labor, and labor against farmers, and to even turn farmers against farmers—to split your own household against you.

They are failing on one front. American labor is still the farmer's best friend. They are your customers, yet they know you are their customers, too. They, too, haven't forgotten grim lessons of the past; and they are worried about dangerous symptoms of the present. They want farmers to have decent prices and decent incomes, just as they want such goals for themselves. They know that only in a well-balanced, expanding economy can higher living standards be maintained for all. Farmers need more of such understanding among consumers.

Farm Ranks Breached

But the forces historically aligned against you have gained on another front. They have split the ranks of agriculture itself.

At a time when unity of purpose is needed in agriculture as never before since the great crusade of 1933, new leadership of some major farm groups has wavered from the very objectives upon which their own organizations grew great and powerful. In the heat of controversy over how such objectives can best be achieved, willingly or unwillingly, they have allowed themselves to be diverted from the objectives themselves.

Where now are the voices of Ed O'Neil and Louis Taber, forceful voices crying out for full parity, for full equality of economic opportunity for agriculture?

Thank God the great voice of Bill Thatcher has never been stilled, has never wavered, has never been sidetracked from the main line of agriculture's fight for full economic equality!

You can be thankful, too, for the vigorous leadership of Jim Patton as President of the National Farmers Union.

GTA Paced the Fight

Every farmer-stockholder of GTA can be proud of the great record of achievement and service of this cooperative grain marketing organization. It has done more than serve you well. It has fought for you. Along with the Farmers Union, with which it is affiliated, it has always been in the forefront of the struggle for a square deal for all farmers.

Agriculture needs such vigorous champions today.

Agriculture would do well, today, to harken back to the wise words of Ed O'Neil in 1941, when he prophetically said:

"This issue raised is very clear . . . that issue is whether the parity objective is to be a reality for American farmers, or whether it is to be merely an illusive mirage, constantly dangled before the eyes of farmers, but which they are never permitted to attain."

Now, as then, that is the issue.

The issue is joined; the battle lines are being drawn.

Some Want Jungle Law

On the one hand, we have those lacking faith in democracy, men of little vision and less confidence in America's ability to maintain a dynamic, expanding economy. They are the "flexers," holding to a philosophy of scarcity, an outmoded philosophy of survival by jungle laws alone.

On the other hand, we have those holding firm to the conviction that government in a democracy must promote the general welfare, with equality of economic growth and progress.

Between these groups is a large segment of the American population which, unfortunately, fails to fully realize how much everyone is involved. They have taken our abundance for granted. America has never suffered scarcity. As a result, many haven't stopped to realize, perhaps, how our abundance has kept prices to consumers reasonable. A smaller percentage of our income is required to purchase food and clothes in America than anywhere else on earth, freeing more money for purchase of homes, automobiles, television sets and other products keeping the wheels of industry and commerce spinning. All of us should be concerned about what makes that abundance of food possible. We should be looking ahead, too, at our population growth of 2,700,-000 a year-new people who have to be fed and clothed

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and provided with jobs. They, too, have a stake in this struggle.

The issue is not whether the present farm programs are perfect.

It is whether we hold firm to the basic objective of of those farm programs—the right of farmers to equal economic opportunity — while seeking to improve our means of achieving it.

The challenge is to go ahead, rather than turn backwards.

With our eyes firmly fixed on the same historic goal, there is much more that we can and must do—and do now.

A Time for Courage

We must point closer to the income objectives set forth time after time in our farm legislation, the "takehome pay" the farmer receives. We must raise our sights, rather than lower them, toward effective devices to achieve full parity.

We need to extend price protection to the major income-producing perishable commodities, as well as the storable products. To achieve such price protection, we must use the methods or combination of methods most effective for each commodity. A diversified agriculture may call for a diversified approach. On those commodities where the price support system has worked well, both to the benefit of the producer and the consumer, let there be no tinkering or tampering. For those commodities, particularly in the perishable field, where experience may reveal the need for improved methods of price protection, let us have the courage and the imagination to try new methods. This is within the American spirit. We are not hidebound by doctrine or theory. We are a practical people. As such, all of us want to see food used, not wasted.

Long Plan Required

We need longer-range assurance of stability for agriculture. The American farmer justly deserves a longrange policy he can depend upon. Temporary extension of legislation, year by year, does not represent a policy; it represents only expediency. Constant uncertainty as to the long-range agricultural policy is within itself a source of instability within the market place. Farmers must not be left to the discretionary whims of any Secretary of Agriculture. Discretionary authority will always mean indecision and uncertainty; mandatory protection under the law means certainty and stability. The time is at hand to guit treating agricultural policy as if it were a biennial political football, to be kicked around every election year.

Effective price protection, of course, is just a foundation.

Import Curbs Vital

We need to develop new outlets and uses for our food and fiber. We need to learn to live with abundance, and use it wisely for the greatest good of humanity. To protect and expand areas of freedom in this world, we must think of full stomachs as well as full cartridge belts.

We need expanded international trade, but we need, at the same time, common-sense protection against certain groups of farmers having to suffer economic losses amounting to more than their fair share of the burden of maintaining our foreign trade policies. I refer specifically to the increasingly serious problem of competing barley, rye and oat imports from Canada. I want to commend both Senators Bill Langer and Milt Young for their leadership in seeking the proper use of the protective administrative devices Congress has had the wisdom to provide for such a situation, a fight in which I have given my wholehearted support.

We need assurances that production restrictions shall not be placed upon any important food commodity at any point below the total of domestic consumer need, plus normal exports and an adequate safety reserve, including a special reserve for use in strengthening our foreign policy. In acreage restrictions on wheat, we need recognition of the differentials in types and qualities, some of which are in short supply while others are in surplus. Wheat is not just wheat; it has many varieties, used for different purposes. Durum is an example of a variety of which we need more, rather than less.

Conservation

We need adequate incentive premiums to convert "diverted acres" under production restrictions to soilbuilding conservation practices, rather than to other competing and soil-depleting crops.

We must make greater progress in conservation. We must harness the destructive force of excess water, and convert it to constructive use. We must extend rural telephone service to farm homes of America, just as we have extended electric lights and power. We must continue our progress in research and marketing efficiency.

Obviously, there is much that can be done to improve our farm legislation—without taking away any of the advantages it now offers. It is in that spirit Congress must approach its task of writing firm, constructive, longrange farm legislation at its forthcoming session. And, it is in that spirit, I am sure, that my Senate colleagues of the great agricultural Midwest and South will stand firmly together, regardless of party.

American agriculture, at long last, has come of age. It accepts responsibility to be concerned about the well-being of all the American people.

Don't Want Favoritism

Farmers asked only what is rightfully theirs, by their heritage as American citizens: The right of equal treatment and equal respect, under the law of our land.

I know that is your conviction. I know it has long been mine. But it is time that all the American people recognized and accepted that right of equality for agriculture. It's time they accepted it as in the best interest of the entire nation—not just for the benefit of farmers alone.

Tonight marks the 162nd anniversary of our nation's Bill of Rights. As a nation, we are dedicated to preservation of these rights of all the people, rights we hold to be inalienable. We guard and protect these rights zealously. They are the very cornerstone of our democracy.

But, perhaps it is time that we, as a nation, also dedicate ourselves to preservation of certain rights for the American farmer, as the custodian of the very basis of our national life.

Farm "Bill Of Rights"

I propose as a standard from which agriculture should never again retreat this "Farmer's Bill of Rights":

- 1. The right to full equality of economic opportunity.
- 2. The right for improved standards of rural living.
- The right of reasonable protection against natural hazards.
- 4. The right to extend agricultural free enterprise through cooperative action.
- 5. The right to public cooperation and assistance in saving the soil.
- The right to preserve the social and human values of family farming.
- 7. The right to decent land tenure which would encourage the desirable goal of farm ownership.
- 8. The right to a democratic voice in his own farm program.
- The right to benefits of an expanding world trade.
- 10. The right to a long-term program of food storage to encourage abundance.

Much could be said about each of these fundamental rights for agriculture. They involve the right to a fair share of the national income for agriculture through more reasonable assurance of fair rewards and adequate incentives for those who efficiently and abundantly provide for the food and fiber needs of the nation. They mean modern schools, roads, housing, and health facilities and services in rural areas, equal to those afforded city folks. They mean protection against forces beyond agriculture's own control, through adequate farm credit facilities geared to agriculture's needs; through crop insurance, within the farmer's ability to participate; through disaster aid when needed to protect both the public and the individual interest; and through price support programs designed to contribute stability to our entire economy, and to protect the farmer from being left at the mercy of speculators.

Co-ops Need Freedom

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The "Bill of Rights" for agriculture means the right of farmers to self-help through forming cooperatives for marketing farm products, purchasing farm supplies, and providing essential services, such as extending the benefits of electricity and telephones in rural areas, with legal protection against efforts to curtail the effective functioning of such farm cooperatives. They mean the right of aid in conserving the nation's agricultural resources—our productive lands, water supplies, and forests—so that these resources will be permanently useful for the benefit of generations to come.

They mean adequate landlord-tenant arrangements for sharing the income that the soil produces, with adequate opportunity for tenants to advance up the ladder toward farm ownership. They mean an effective voice for the farmer in his own destiny such as farmer-participation in both administration and development of farm programs through democratically-elected farmer committeemen, and self-determination of the needs of adjusting production to a reasonable balance with demand through voluntary farmer-referendums. They mean facilitating the flow of farm exports to broaden the base of our farm economy.

A Rightful Heritage

The "Farmer's Bill of Rights" means greater public recognition of the wisdom and necessity for maintaining at adequate levels our storage "food banks" of feed and food reserves safeguarding the nation from any eventuality. They mean public policies making more effective use of the abundance farmers are capable of producing, policies enabling the farmer to see his food used wisely, rather than be wasted; to see the output of his land and his toil make its utmost contribution toward stamping out hunger and deprivation at home and abroad, and serving as the humanitarian arm of the nations' foreign policy, in our efforts to create a better and more peaceful world.

These, I believe, are basic rights of American agriculture.

They are not new rights. They are not rights of special privilege, gained through misuse or abuse of tremendous power over the lifelines of the nation's food supply.

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We've Earned the Right

Rather, they are rights of historic precedent, earned by the great and continuing contribution of agriculture to American life—the fulfillment of the nation's needs in peace or war, in good times or bad, at personal profit or personal loss.

They are rights set forth as public policy, time after time, in the objectives of legislation enacted by the Congress of the United States.

They need reiterating now only as a guiding beacon of light, cast upon the darkness of confusion surrounding current controversy over America's farm policy.

They must be just as zealously guarded, against forces which seek to destroy them, as we guard other historic rights, privileges, and responsibilities of freedom in our democracy.

That, I believe, should be American agriculture's rallying point for unity today—and the nation's challenge to fully exemplify the meaning of democracy as equal opportunity for all.

HEAR THATCHER DISCUSS VITAL FARM ISSUES

Hear his comments and analyses each Monday over the following radio stations —a feature of the daily GTA broadcasts. ġ

WDGY St. Paul-Mpls., Minn. 12:15-12:30 P.M. KWLM 12:15-12:30 P.M. Willmar, Minn. KMHL 12:15-12:30 P.M. Marshall, Minn. KWOA Worthington, Minn. 12:15-12:30 P.M. KCJB 12:15 12:30 P.M. Minot, N. D. WDAY 1:00- 1:15 P.M. Fargo, N. D. KFYR 1:15- 1:30 P.M. Bismarck, N. D. (12:15-12:30 Mountain Time) KSJB Jamestown, N. D. 12:15-12:30 P.M. WNAX 10:45 P.M. Yankton, S. D. KIJV 12:00-12:05 P.M. Huron, S. D. KOJM 6:50- 6:55 A.M. Havre, Mont. KMON Great Falls, Mont. 7:10- 7:15 A.M.

Ship GTA the Co-op Way

COCOOP

(Not printed at Government expense)

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 83^d congress, first session

Rural Dial Telephone System Questions and Answers

SPEECH

HON. HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Wednesday, July 8, 1953

Mr. HUMPHREY. Mr. President, some time ago I had the pleasure of dedicating a new rural dial telephone system of the Farmers Mutual Telephone Co. at Dawson, Minn., made possible through a loan under the REA rural telephone program for reorganizing and rehabilitating the system.

The occasion impressed upon me again the real need for telephones on the farms of America.

Farmers need phones for more efficient farm operation and production, and they need them for efficient marketing. Every farm is a factory in production of food and fiber—how many other types of factories would think of getting along without telephones?

Rural telephones can make an even more important contribution to fuller, richer rural life. Families need telephones for contact with their neighbors, their schools, their churches—they need them to insure the health and safety of their loved ones.

Yet the fact remains that rural telephone progress has failed to keep pace with other modern progress of recent decades. Sixty percent of America's farms—over 3,300,000 families—have no phones at all. Out of the remaining two million farmers with telephone service, perhaps one half are inadequate and antiquated—of the "whoop and holler" type.

Minnesota had fewer farms with telephones in 1950 than 30 years before in 1920, according to the United States census figures.

REA is showing the way to reverse that trend. So far, loans amounting to \$6,911,000 have been made to 16 Minnesota firms to bring modern telephone service to 5,263 rural establishments for the first time, and improved service to 15,067 rural subscribers. But we also have a backlog of telephone loan applications amounting to \$5,464,-545 from Minnesota, as part of the national backlog of nearly \$100 million the credit needed to extend rural telephone service.

Unless adequate loan funds are approved, we are not going to reverse the backward trend of rural phone service.

But what REA has done to electrify American agriculture it can also do to bring modern communication to the farmer, if free enterprise and the Government will work together to best serve the needs of all.

Because I believe there is still considerable misunderstanding about the telephone program, I ask unanimous consent to have published in the body of the RECORD questions and answers about how the telephone loan program works, which are contained in the booklet entitled "A Telephone for Your Farm," published by the Department of Agriculture.

There being no objection, the list of questions and answers was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

274158-47928

HOW THE TELEPHONE LOAN PROGRAM WORKS

Question. I live in the country and don't have a telephone. How can this program help me to get one?

Answer. By furnishing low-cost, longterm loans to whatever company can qualify and will agree to serve you. These loans will be made to finance the extension or improvement of telephone service in rural areas. They are available to person's now providing or who may hereafter provide telephone service in rural areas and to cooperative, nonprofit, limited dividend, or mutual associations. Loans will not be made to individual telephone subscribers.

Question. How will such a loan help me? Answer. An important item in providing telephone service is the need for capital. In a great many instances, capital is very difficult to obtain, and when it is obtainable from the usual commercial sources the cost is high. The low interest rates and the long repayment period provided by the REA program reduce this cost. That reduction may make service possible to your farm on a sound business basis. Moreover, the law specifies that the loans are to be made so they will result in providing adequate service to the widest practicable number of rural subscribers.

The program, therefore, may help you get a telephone in one of two ways: (1) An existing telephone organization, whether it is a commercial company, a mutual, or a co-op telephone association may be able, as a result of favorable REA loan terms, to extend service to you and your neighbors, or (2) a new co-op association organized by you and your neighbors may obtain a loan for the purpose of providing telephone service in your area on a nonprofit basis.

Question. How about my neighbor who has a telephone but is getting poor service? Answer. The program may help him in much the same way as it will those who don't have service at all. Improvement of rural telephone service is one of the purposes for which loans may be made.

WHAT TO DO FIRST

Question. What should I do first to get a telephone?

Answer. Get in touch with the nearest existing telephone system. Find out whether 274158-47928

the company can and is willing to serve you and under what conditions. By going to the company in groups you will emphasize the demand for telephone service in the community. If you and all of your neighbors get assurance of adequate service under reasonable conditions, there will be no need of bothering with other plans.

(Not printed at Government convenie)

Question. What if the company says it has no money to finance the cost of building lines to us?

Answer. Call attention to the REA telephone-loan program and urge the company to write REA for an application blank and full information about the program. The address is Rural Electrification Administration, Washington 25, D. C.

Question. What can be done if, after doing all this, we find that no nearby telephone company is willing to give us adequate telephone service under reasonable conditions or if the local company will serve me but not my neighbors farther from town?

Answer. A new telephone organization in the area may be necessary. If you and enough of your neighbors are really interested in getting telephones, or improving your service, it will be up to you to get such an organization started.

Question. Could we form a co-op to get telephones just like we did to get electric service?

Answer. Yes, in about the same way. You start off by choosing a small committee from the neighborhood to look into the possibility of organizing a new telephone co-op like your electric co-op.

Question. In forming a new organization should we organize as a cooperative or as an ordinary profit corporation?

Answer. Under the rural-telephone law. preference is given to existing suppliers of rural-telephone service and to cooperatives. mutuals, and limited dividend associations. Therefore, to qualify for preference under the law, a new organization must be a cooperative or mutual organization. This means that your chances of an REA loan to provide telephone service to you and your neighbors who want it are better if you organize a cooperative, rather than a commercial telephone company. ROLE OF ELECTRIC CO-OPS

Question. There is an REA-financed elec-

Answer. In most cases, State laws and

the co-op's charter provisions would prevent

it. Besides, since the electric and the tele-

phone service areas are never likely to be

quite the same, electric consumers and the

telephone subscribers would be two different

groups. Separate organizations, therefore,

would be the most satisfactory way to pro-

tect the interests of the two groups and to

account for the funds used for each service.

However, electric co-ops in many communi-

ties will undoubtedly be active in helping

WHAT EXISTING MUTUALS CAN DO

mutual line that is switched through a com-

mercial company in town apply for an REA

Answer. Any existing telephone company,

whether commercial or mutual, may apply.

However, such a telephone mutual or coop-

erative is frequently too small to support

adequately a modern telephone system even

with the aid of low-cost Government financ-

ing. Also, it is generally not economically

feasible to make loans for organizations con-

sisting entirely of switcher lines and owning

no central office facilities. Such a company

is entirely dependent on the switching com-

pany in matters of rates, quality of service,

and technical changes. Moreover, it has

been general practice in the industry to deny

a switcher company any share in the toll

revenue from long-distance calls its sub-

scribers originate. This puts a switcher line

Question. We have several farmer-owned

mutual lines near us. Can they get together

to expand and improve service throughout

Answer. Yes, indeed. That might be the

best way for them to help themselves as well

as their unserved neighbors. Under the law,

loans may not be made for the purpose of

merely effecting a consolidation of telephone

organizations, but a telephone system to be

developed through merger or consolidation

may obtain loans for the improvement and

extension of rural telephone service in com-

at a serious financial disadvantage.

their area and fill in the gaps?

loan to improve or expand its service?

Question. Can an existing farmer-owned

their members to get telephone service.

tric co-op in my neighborhood. Why can't

it provide telephone service too?

Question. But what advantage is there to the farmer who already has a telephone in such a consolidation of lines?

Answer. First, a larger organization can usually afford better management, operation, and maintenance, and give better service. Second, each subscriber on a big system has many more people he can call without extra toll. Third, each section is assured of capital for modernizing lines and equipment. Fourth, the whole community will be better off, which means that each individual who lives there will get some direct or indirect benefit.

Question. How can a group of small telephone co-ops or farmer-owned lines go about applying for an REA loan?

Answer. The manager or secretary of one of them, or the secretary or chairman of a committee set up by them, should write for a copy of REA's Preloan Procedure for Rural Telephone Cooperatives. This publication gives a detailed explanation of how a new group or a group of existing small co-ops or individuals can plan for qualifying for an REA loan. The same publication also explains how farmers without telephones can get together to form a new telephone co-op.

LOAN REQUIREMENTS

Question. What does a company or co-op have to do to qualify for an REA loan?

Answer. Two requirements that are of prime importance at the outset are that the borrower be in a position to (a) provide area coverage and (b) put up a sufficient amount of equity to safeguard the loan.

Question. What do you mean by "equity"?

Answer. That some local investment in the telephone system will have to be provided. In general, REA will lend only 50 to 90 percent of the appraised value of the security offered including the facilities financed by the loan.

Question. Does this mean that members of a new co-op may have to put up money?

Answer. Yes. Since the proposed cocperative will usually start with no property or assets, it will be necessary for prospective members to furnish some equity capital. This may be obtained through membership fees or stock subscriptions or in some other acceptable way.

Question. How much will each of us have to put up?

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bined areas.

Answer. That depends. The amount will vary with the size, character, and cost of the telephone system needed and cannot be determined definitely until the new system has been designed. But you had better figure on \$25 to \$50 per subscriber.

Question. But if it costs us only \$5 to join our electric co-op, why the difference?

Answer. There is a much greater risk of discontinuance of telephone service than there is of electrical service. A large number of disconnections would mean higher costs to those remaining and even a hazard to the loan security. You had to wire your farm and buy electrical appliances before you could use electricity-an expense you do not have in getting telephone service. Then you converted your farm operations largely to electric power and thus gave your electric co-op assurance you would continue to take service. In addition, your electric co-op can count on a steadily increasing revenue per patron to assure increasing financial stability. The situation is different with a telephone co-op, which has to rely largely on a fixed amount of revenue per subscriber per month. Local investment will help make up for some of the differences between the two types of service, and make the co-op a financial success. That means better security for the Government loan and better assurance to the local people of continued, adequate telephone service.

Question. Will we have to pay in the entire amount of equity before our co-op can apply for a telephone loan?

Answer. Not necessarily. However, to evidence his genuine interest in securing service, the prospective subscriber should pay at least \$10 of the membership fee or stock subscription upon signing the application and agree to pay the balance at a later date.

FORMING A NEW CO-OP

Question. How do we go about forming a new telephone co-op?

Answer. The first step could well be the organization of a telephone co-op committee in your community to expore your local telephone situation, find out what your neighbors are willing to do and determine in a preliminary way what sort of telephone system would be required to serve the area.

Question. Will REA come in and organize a telephone system for us?

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Answer. No. It will be up to you and your neighbors to take the initiative if you want to get telephone service. However, information is available on request from REA on what steps to take preparatory to making a loan application. Write to the Rural Electrification Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Question. Where else can we get help? Answer. From your county extension agent, the nearest REA-financed electric co-op, offices of local farm and cooperative organizations, and other rural civic leaders. During this preliminary stage, it will be unnecessary to hire anyone to provide financial, legal, or engineering services, although such services may be needed later.

Question. How long a period is allowed to repay the loan?

Answer. Up to 35 years, depending on the circumstances of each individual case. Interest will be 2 percent.

SIZE OF GROUP NEEDED

Question. How large a group would we have to have to qualify for a loan? Answer. Unless there are at least several hundred prospective subscribers, the chances of developing a telephone system which will give satisfactory service at low cost is not very good. There is no absolute minimum, but the group should be large enough to make it possible to employ competent management and maintenance personnel. It might be necessary to combine several neighborhoods of unserved people into one group. Question. How soon can a new group get a loan?

Answer. Existing telephone companies, if they apply for loans, have priority during the first year of the program. But a loan may be made to a new organization at any time if (1) no existing company serving rural areas has made application to serve substantially the same subscribers, or (2) a loan application from an existing company in the area has been considered and turned down.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT TELEPHONE SERVICE

Question. What type of telephone service can farmers get through the REA program? Answer. You can probably have either common battery, in which you pick up the phone

and the operator answers, or dial service. It

depends on what you are willing to pay and on certain other factors, such as the type of central-office equipment on which your line would depend for service. The most economical type of service considering first cost, operation, and maintenance, can only be determined when the ultimate telephone system can be designed for the area. REA will probably not make loans for magneto service using the old-style crank-type phones.

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Question. Is it likely that I will be able to get a private line all to myself?

Answer. Perhaps, although the cost would be high. A separate pair of wires has to be run from switchboard to serve just your farm. However, it should be possible to reduce greatly the number of parties on a line if the farmers want this improvement badly enough to pay for it.

Number of parties to line

Question. How many parties would we have to have on a line?

Answer. That again depends on how much the people in your community are willing to pay for improved telephone service. An arrangement now being made on some rural systems has up to 10 parties on a line. Through the use of a technique called selective ringing, the only phone that rings is that of the party called.

Question. We had a good telephone service until we got rural electrification in our community. Now our telephone lines are so noisy we can't use them. What can we do about that?

Answer. You may have what is called a grounded telephone system. There is only one wire, and the ground serves as the other electrical conductor. No economical way has been devised for getting away from inductive interference with electrical lines with such a system. The only real remedy is to metallicize your lines-that is, install small pairs of wires rather than single wires. If the system is already metallic, studies may have to be made to see what is causing the difficulty. Some fault which can be corrected exists when a metallic line is noisy.

Cost of telephone service Question. What will good telephone service

for my farm cost? Answer. That's hard to answer in general terms. It will depend on what kind of telephones you want, the size and density of the

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system, how you finance your local equity, and many other factors. Farmers all over the country have learned that it is not good to pay so little for service that the telephone company has no money for management and maintenance. That provides cheap service for a while, but when the facilities deteriorate there is no money to replace them, and then there is poor telephone service. That situation apparently is largely responsible for the great decline in the number of farms with telephones from about 1920 until the mid-1940's. Low-cost financing through REA should help in expanding and improving rural telephone service without undue rate increases, but farm people can probably expect to pay about the same rates for telephone service as the urban people in their area, provided they get service of the same quality. After all, farm people have many more uses for a telephone than do urban people. For the farm family, a telephone cuts down on the danger from fire, illness. and accident; saves the cost of lengthy business trips; helps in marketing farm crops; and brings neighbors closer together.

Question. Will I be able to make long-distance calls from my telephone?

Answer. Yes; if the company which will serve you is able to arrange a connection with the Bell system for toll service. As a matter of fact, long-distance calls provide the operator of a local telephone system with an additional and important source of revenue. Sc farmers who own their own telephone lines can help the financial condition of their system by learning the many ways in which they can use long-distance service to advantage in their farming business.

Use of power lines and poles

Question. Will we be able to use the power lines of the electric co-op in our area for telephones?

Answer. Maybe. Technically, it is possible. Here again, local conditions will be the deciding factor. A telephone system can use the facilities of an electric system either by stringing two sets of wires on the same pole or by carrying speech on the power conductor. Joint use of poles seems to offer prospects of construction and operating economies. The equipment for talking over the power lines is at present rather costly, and prices will have to come down a lot

before this method will have much value for farmers, except perhaps in an extremely isolated area where there is no other way they can get telephone service.

Question. How do we find out about using the power lines or poles?

Answer. Talk with the officials of the electric co-op or power company in your community. The decision as to whether or not to enter into such an agreement depends on their wishes and on the practicability of joint use from an economic and engineering standpoint. REA has developed a standard form of contract which it will approve for any of the electric co-ops desiring to enter into joint use arrangements with a telephone organization. If REA's material on this subject has not come to the attention of the electric co-op officials, they can get information by writing REA.

Question. How about radio telephone service for farmers?

Answer. This is another promising new method, although it is still in the relatively early stages of development. Because of the expense the chances are that for some time it will only be suited to isolated areas where pole line construction is difficult and costly.

How a telephone co-op operates

Question. If we decide to form a co-op, who will own and control it?

Answer. A co-op is an incorporated, locally owned, private, nonprofit enterprise. The people who use its services and are its members own and control it. Each member has only one vote. This gives all members an equal share in its control. By their vote members direct co-op policies. They have the right and duty to elect directors from the membership who are capable and publicspirited. These directors are responsible to the members for the overall management of the co-op. They delegate the day-by-day management job to a paid manager.

Question. Is this a practical way to run a business?

Answer. It has been a practical and successful way for farmers to do business in a number of fields for a good many years. United States Department of Agriculture records show that of the American farmer coops doing business today, 1,600 have been in business more than 30 years, many of them more than half a century. Millions of Amer-

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icans belong to co-ops as a means of satisfying a variety of needs.

Question. Can we hope to make a success of running a telephone system, when so many companies have stayed out of rural areas presumably because there was no money to be made there?

Answer. Many people asked the same question about electric co-ops when REA started in 1935. But today more than 900 electric co-ops, serving over 3 million rural establishments, are being run successfully by the rural people who organized them and own them. This record is particularly outstanding considering: First, that electric co-ops are obliged to repay 100 percent of their initial capital, whereas practically no other commercial utility is obligated to amortize its investment, and second, that they are doing this in territories in which commercial utilities have not been willing to risk investment because of low financial returns.

In a telephone co-op there are several factors in your favor. One is that in a business where the patrons are also the owners everyone has a personal interest in making the business a success by, for example, keeping operating costs low. Another is that a co-op operates on a service-at-cost basis. A third reason is that REA borrowers will have advantages, through participating in the REA telephone loan program, of low-cost, long-term financing, and of technical and management information accumulated from combined experience of similar enterprises.

Question. Can a co-op enterprise fail? Answer. There are co-op successes and co-op failures. On the whole, the record is good. Any co-op which is well managed and whose members keep informed and take an active interest in its affairs need have no fear of failure. A co-op enterprise must be managed economically and efficiently just like any other business. Its success depends also on an informed and active membership.

Question. What money risks do I run by joining?

Answer. None, except for the amount you obligate yourself to pay as a membership fee or in some other form as your share of your initial capital. Your co-op will be incorporated under the laws of your State. As a member of a co-op corporation you will have no personal liabilities for any debts or obligations of the co-op. Effect of nonprofit operation Question. What effect will co-op operation have on my cost of service?

Answer. That depends upon how efficiently the co-op operates. Your monthly telephone rates will be no higher than necessary to meet the expense of operating and maintaining a satisfactory system and repay the REA loan. If the co-op books show a net margin at the end of the year, that amount is considered an overpayment by the patrons and belongs to them, not to the co-op. In case of the co-ops financed by REA, this overpayment is not returned to the patron immediately because the co-op needs the amounts to pay off its loan to REA. Thus, as the loan is being repaid, the patrons are getting larger individual equities in the ownership of the co-op system. Eventually they will have it free of debt, merely by paying for service at the usual rates.

Question. Are co-ops exempt from taxes? Answer. No. Co-ops pay property taxes and a variety of other Federal, State, and 274158-47928 local taxes, just as other businesses do. The exact situation regarding amounts and kinds of taxes paid by co-ops varies from State to State. Co-ops which exist primarily to serve their members at cost are not subject to Federal income tax because receipts beyond the cost of doing business represents savings to the patrons and not a profit or income to the co-op. It is impossible to assess a profit tax, such as an income tax, against an organization which has no profit, whether it is a co-op or a commercial corporation.

Question. Once we get started, will REA help us run the business?

Answer. Unless REA is convinced you can operate your business successfully, it will not make you a loan in the first place. As in the case of any financing institution making a substantial loan, REA expects to keep track of your progress and to provide the amount of consultation and advisory service necessary to protect the Government's security and to achieve the objectives for which the loan was made.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

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A Fair Deal Program for the American Farmer

Remarks of

Hon. Hubert H. Humphrey

of Minnesota

in the

Senate of the United States October 4, 7, 11 and 12, 1949

> Not printed at Government expense

United States Government Printing Office, Washington : 1949

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United States Generations Principles Windlayton = 1909. - 20092

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 81st congress, first session

REMARKS of HON. HUBERT H. HUMPHREY OF MINNESOTA

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Mr. HUMPHREY. Mr. President, the 90-percent parity will do much to protect the economy of the United States. It puts a reasonable floor under agricultural prices. Mr. President, I lived in South Dakota in the depression days when the law of supply and demand was really operating. The law was the sheriff, and he came down on the poor farmer. There was demand, all right, but the people did not have money to satisfy their demand. That argument with relation to the law of supply and demand does not go over very strong with the junior Senator from Minnesota. The law of supply and demand has not successfully regulated agricultural production. Low farm prices have not in the past discouraged surpluses; in fact, low prices encourage surpluses. Flexible parity sounds good in theory, but the record reveals no positive results in controlling surpluses.

I charge that the flexible parity formula may well be more expensive to the Treasury than the 90-percent parity. I say this because flexible parity relies on control over surpluses by the so-called forces of supply and demand. The 90percent parity support has the machinery of acreage allotments and quotas to control surpluses. This not only protects the farmer in his price, but may well protect the Treasury through placing a check on undue surpluses.

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I make this observation: The solvency of our country does not rest in the Treasury of the United States. It rests in the farmers and the workers, rather than in the United States Treasury.

Mr. President, the amendment I voted for this afternoon is an amendment which, in effect, says we are not relying upon the orthodox economic law of supply and demand. Reliance upon such orthodox economic theory has brought distress to the American farmer in the past. What we have done this afternoon is to say to the farmer, "We want you to have an adequate income, but if the Government is going to put a floor under your income it is not going to rely upon the uncertainties of automatic operation of the law of supply and demand. We are going to rely on price supports."

I wish to take a few minutes of the Senate's time to invite the attention of my colleagues to some pertinent material which bears very directly upon the amendment which is before us, and also upon the bill.

This is no time to be cutting price supports. Ninety percent for basic commodities should be considered the very minimum in the public interest. I think we should look back into history. We can point with abhorrence to the price drop which took place in 1920 and 1921. I invite the attention of the Senate to the price drop which took place in 1920 and 1921. It was actually the beginning of the depression of the 1930's. It was the beginning of the long depression which resulted in collapse in the 1930's.

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In the period of 12 months from 1920 to 1921 farm prices were drastically reduced in this great, prosperous America.

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I want to point out to my colleagues that from 1920 to 1933 farm mortgage indebtedness increased by \$11,000,000,-000 at an average of \$1,000,000,000 a year. Someone had to pay that indebtedness. Let us see on what kind of parity ratio it was paid. In 1920, the last good year the farmers had up until the war years, the parity ratio was 104. That is when the farmer was still receiving \$2 a bushel for his wheat and was still making a little money. Every midwesterner in the Senate knows that in 1921 we were literally ruined. I remember what happened in my own family. I think every man on a farm was literally wiped out of existence by what happened tc prices in 1921. I want the advocates of flexible parity to listen to me. Parity was 75 percent in 1921. I ask any farmer in the United States if 1921 did not practically take him to the cleaners. In 1922 it was 80 percent. I ask anyone to consider the mortgage indebtedness record of the farmer. He was going more into debt. In 1923 there was an 86-percent parity ratio. The same was true in 1924. I do not know where the farmers were who were supposed to be making a lot of money.

How about a little bit later on? How about the only year that was a good year for the farmer, which was 1928? He had 90 percent of parity. The records show that 1928 was the only year when the farmer was able to pay off more on his mortgages than he contracted in mortgages.

Let us go a little bit further. How about 1930? I ask my Republican friends: Was it good in 1930? The parity ratio was then 80 percent—not 75,

but 80 percent—5 percent better than the low minimum of the bill which we are considering.

How about 1931, when every farmer in this country was on his back? The parity ratio was 64 percent, 11 points below what is contained in this bill we are now considering, and which proposes to give us prosperity.

Mr. President, I am amazed to find out that anyone could be against 90 percent of parity. We have had it only twice, and those were the only times the farmer made a dime. Anyone who has any intimate understanding of farm life knows that a farmer cannot live on 80 percent of parity. If that situation is allowed to exist, we are simply saying that farmers are not as good as other people—

Mr. LONG. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. HUMPHREY. I yield.

Mr. LONG. Does the Senator realize that the economic indicators show that wages in industry have been increased in the Nation, that we are increasing the compensation of Federal Government employees 3 or $3\frac{1}{2}$ percent, and that apparently the Government realizes that wages are up for everyone else in the country, but now we are proposing to cut them down for the farmers.

Mr. HUMPHREY. That is correct. When did the farmer get on the black-ink side of the ledger? I think it was in 1941, the first year of the war. He then had a parity ratio of 94 percent. He made money in 1942. Then the parity ratio was 106. Do Senators think he made any money in 1935, when his parity ratio was 84?

Let us for a moment ask ourselves honestly, when the parity ratio was 84, in 1935, were the farmers doing well? The only time the farmer ha: ever done well was when he got a ratio of 90, not less. This, I think, a study of the economic facts will definitely indicate.

The farmer's best year was in 1946. In 1946 he had a parity ratio of 121, in 1947 he had a ratio of 120, in 1948 of 115, and his parity ratio, as we all know, has gone down considerably this year.

Mr. FULBRIGHT. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. HUMPHREY. I yield to the Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. FULBRIGHT. Has the Senator the figures of per capita incomes so as to put the comparison in the RECORD?

Mr. HUMPHREY. I have, and I shall get to that. Let me point out what has been happening in recent times.

During 1948 farm crops came down 20 percent, and the average of all farm commodities dropped by an unlucky 13 percent. During 1949 the drop has continued. Farm commodities have slid down the old, familiar chute since the start of 1948 by 20 percent. Today the American farmers get \$4 for the very same amount of goods that brought \$5 just a little over a year and a half ago.

Perhaps some think these price declines have happened just to a few commodities which only a few farmers produce. Let no one fool himself.

Let us look at the major basic commodities. Look at wheat, for example. Since the start of 1948, wheat has come down well over one-third—36 percent to be exact. Cotton has come down from the postwar peak by 22 percent and a fifth or a sixth of the drop has come in the last rear. Rice is down 36 percent from the early part of 1948, and more than half of that cut has come in the last year. Tobacco, due to various fortunate circumstances, seems to be in

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better shape, percentage-wise at least. But look at the other great basic commodity, corn. Since the beginning of 1948 corn prices have dropped more than half—52 percent.

Mr. President, here is what price supports do. If the Secretary of Agriculture did not announce price supports, as he has on occasion, when he could announce a 90-percent price support, the prices would go way down. There has been instance after instance where the Secretary of Agriculture has had to announce a price support prematurely in an effort to bolster up the market. I recall the case of dried milk. The junior Senator from Minnesota and the Senator from Wisconsin went to the Department of Agriculture and asked the Secretary to announce a price support for dried and powdered milk in order to stop the drop. The price support was announced at 90 percent and checked the price drop.

Do you know how much less the farmer is paying for the goods he must buy? We know the farmer has to plow back into his business of producing a very big share of his cash receipts. He has to buy machinery and fertilizer, milk cans and feed, and many other items, as well as food, clothing, and household goods.

Do my colleagues know how much less he is paying for what he has to buy? While corn has come down 52 percent and wheat 36 percent, and all farm commodities an average of about 20 percent, the prices of goods bought by the farmer have come down very little. Until recently the reduction was about 3 percent, and at present the average stands at about 5 percent. But that is not the whole story. Farmers buy grain and hay and animals from one another, as well as from dealers, and the reductions in these farm-produced items make up

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a big share of the small average drop in prices paid by farmers. In other words, if prices farmers pay for farm goods had not come down appreciably the average of prices paid by farmers for all the goods they buy would be down so little it could hardly be noticed.

As we have learned to expect, farm prices are coming down first, much the fastest, and so far much the farthest of all prices.

Thus, the purchasing power of a bushel of corn or a bushel of wheat has dropped very fast. The wheat farmer is getting less than 90 percent of parity. He is getting about 87 percent. The rice grower is getting less than 90 percent of parity. He is getting about 86 percent.

The flue-cured tobacco grower is still getting a little above parity, and the cotton grower is not so bad off so far with 99 percent. But look at the corn producer. The Secretary informed me that as of September 15, 1949, the corn price was 75 percent of parity, because of lack of adjustment in the parity price.

There are often times when there are fluctuations in the price, and there are often times when the Commodity Credit Corporation has to make farm loans. Any man who knows anything about agriculture knows that prices do not remain static. When they fluctuate, the market is bolstered. It has fluctuated on rye, corn, wheat, hogs, and milk, a host of commodities, within the last year.

It is my information that there may be some who are afraid the farmer is getting too rich. If so, let us see how rich the farm people of America are. Last year the average income of all farm people was \$905. That included food grown on the farm and eaten in the farm home. It included income earned off the farm, 860384—31934 as well as income from farming. It added up to 905, compared with 1,572 for the average person not living on a farm.

I ask the Members of the Senate, when we take \$905, which includes the farm produce the farmer and his family consume on his own farm, and compare it with \$1,572, the average income of a person off the farm, how can we justify a farm-support program of less than 90 percent of parity on the basics?

Farm people are nearly one-fifth of all the people in the United States, and they get a total of less than one-tenth of the national income. The question I wish to ask is: Shall we cut that some more?

Let us not fool ourselves. If we maintain a mandatory support level of 90 percent of parity for a few commodities called basic, we will not be doing too much to prevent the disparity of either farm prices or farm income. It would be a pitifully small thing to do. We would not be doing anything directly at all for the commodities that make up the greater bulk of farm income-those important products which are not called basic. Of course, it is my considered judgment that we ought to have many more commodities under mandatory price supports, many more. I might point out that those that are under mandatory price support of 90 percent of parity, the basics, do not represent the great bulk of American agriculture.

I will say for the RECORD right now that for every dollar that the Commodity Credit Corporation has spent up to today, or will spend in the next 10 years, the mortgage losses of the American farmers from 1920 to 1936 will total twice as much. Those losses will double the amount the Commodity Credit Corporation ever spends. The millions of dollars the farmers loct in the banks, that they never could reclaim, and which were lost because of low farm prices, would amount to enough to pay off all the Commodity Credit Corporation can spend from now on for the next 2 years.

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Low prices to the farmers is what will break the country, not the few dollars we are going to put out in support of the farm economy.

Mr. President, we saw what happened when the price of cotton was down. We had a depression then. When the price of corn was low we had a depressed market for cattle, for hogs, for sheep, for every commodity that the farmer had.

I submit that the record is crystal clear that the only time the American farmer has ever made one dime, the only time he has ever been able to buy his wife a new dress, the only time he has ever been able to have a 2-day vacation, is when he had a level of 90 percent parity ratio.

I submit again to those who are critics of our 90 percent proposal and who are advocates of 75 percent of parity, that when in 1921 parity was 75 percent, when in 1934, it was 70 percent, when in 1935 it was 84 percent, what was happening to the country? The only time that anyone on the floor of the Senate can remember the farmer making any money was when the price got up to around 90 percent, and when the price to the farm r is around 90 percent, Mr. Farmer can be a good customer. When the price was below that what was it the farmer needed? He needed the Farm Security Corporation. He needed long range loans, with low rates of interest. He needed all kinds of bank credit. He needed to refinance himself. And generally he ended up in the ash heap. Was that good for anybody?

Mr. President, every depression that has come about has had its beginning on the farm. We are not worried around 860384—31934 here over voting a billion dollars for stock-piling minerals. We are going to vote all kinds of money to stock-pile strategic minerals. Why? To defend America. We are willing to vote \$1,300,000,000 to arm western Europe. Why? To defend America. We are willing to vote \$5,300,000,000 for ECA. Why? To defend America. We are willing to vote \$15,000,000,000 for the National Military Establishment. Why? To defend America. But, Mr. President, when someone mentions that we have to spend \$600,-000,000 upon one-fifth of the population of the country to defend the Agricultural Belt in America so that the farmers will not go "broke," so that they will have a decent farm income, so that the man who is operating a filling station, and the grocery man will have a customer who can pay his bills, it is said we are going to break the Treasury.

I say that is so much "hogwash." We are not going to break the Treasury. The only time the Treasury is in good condition is when the farmer can buy what he needs and pay for it. The only time the country is prosperous is when the farmer receives a reasonable price for his crops. That is the basic lesson everyone has learned.

The junior Senator from Minnesota had an amendment which was presented in his behalf by the Senator from Montana [Mr. MURRAY], dealing with what my colleague, the senior Senator from Minnesota, has presented—an amendment relating to eggs, chickens, turkeys, and hogs. I urge support of that amendment. I shall support it, and I will tell the Senate why. I shall support it by reason of the very argument that my colleague has so ably presented, because though we have mandatory price supports for many basic commodities, it appears to me we ought not to leave any Chi

discretion in reference to some of these most vital commodities which affect great sections of American agriculture.

Mr. President, I should like to have inserted in the RECORD at this point some pertinent factual material with reference to the production of hogs, turkeys, eggs, and chickens in the year 1948. With due State pride on behalf of the State of Minnesota—I know my colleague concurs in this—we would like to make proper note as to where Minnesota ranks in the production of these important agricultural commodities. I ask unanimous consent that the information to which I have referred be printed in the RECORD at this point as a part of my remarks.

There being no objection, the tables were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

1948 marketing production Hogs: Pounds United States total____ 15, 524, 000, 000 Iowa _____ 3, 750, 000, 000 Illinois _____ 1,940,000,000 Indiana_____ 1, 415, 000, 000 Minnesota _____ 1, 142, 000, 000 Missouri _____ 1, 093, 000, 000 Turkeys: United States total____ 579,000,000 California_____ 97,000,000 Minnesota _____ 52,000,000 Texas 48,000,000 Iowa 37,000,000 Oregon _____ 32,000,000 Missouri 24,000,000 Eggs: Dozen United States total____ 55, 168, 000, 000 Iowa 4, 339, 000, 000 Minnesota _____ 3, 885, 000. 000 Pennsylvania _____ 3, 096, 000, 000 Texas _____ 2, 774, 000, 000 Missouri _____ 2, 731, 000, 000 Illinois _____ 2, 712, 000, 000 Chickens: Pounds United States total_____ 2, 354, 000, 000 Iowa 170,000,000 Pennsylvania 137,000,000 Illinois _____ 121,000,000 Missouri 118,000,000

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hickens—Continued	Pounds
Minnesota	116,000,000
Indiana	111, 000, 000
1946 and 1947, Minnesota wa	s second.

Mr. President, I wish to say to the Senator from North Dakota that grain products such as barley, rye, oats, and flax, are a part of the general picture of a farm which exemplifies what we call diversified production. From what little I know about it-and I do not pose as an expert-for many years the Department of Agriculture has been educating the farmers, at least in the Midwest, to what we call diversified farming. The American Farm Bureau Federation, the Grange, the National Farmers Union. and every other great agricultural organization has been telling the farmers that they ought not to be one-crop farmers. They have been urged to diversify. to raise chickens, turkeys, if possible, a few cows, a few hogs, and a certain amount of feed grain, in addition to the cash crop. That has been the picture which has been developed in the agricultural belt of the Midwest. This type of agricultural development has saved the Government of the United States a great deal of money. As my colleague has stated, that kind of agricultural development has protected the soil. At the same time it has given a diversified agricultural economy a chance to survive, in order that there may be a cash crop for the farmer as well as the crops which he needs for feed. I think our amendment will do more to stabilize American agriculture than will be done by any other amendment which has been proposed to this bill on the floor of the Senate. This amendment will tend to lead toward the family-size farm. It is the kind of amendment which will give a reasonable amount of stability and security.

Mr. President, let me say that I should like to have a greater amount of parity provided for these commodities. I still do not think 75 percent of parity is sufficient. I wish the amendment provided for 90 percent of parity, because 90 percent of parity is not too high. I see no reason why we should not spell out the other commedities to be supported, and thereby save the Secretary of Agriculture the problem of deciding whether it was the intent of Congress that they be supported. I do not wish to leave in the Secretary of Agriculture the amount of authority that is provided by the bill, without spelling out what the nonbasics to be supported will be, because according to my memory the nonbasics will be supported only if there is sufficient appropriation provided for supporting them. However, if we definitely include them in the bill, with a provision of mandatory authority for mandatory price supports for them, then it will be the obligation of the Congress to provide appropriations to support them. Certainly I do not think the turkey farmer, the duck producer, the farmer who raises oats or barley or rye or flax, or the pork producer or the producer of eggs should be left with uncertainty as to whether the commodity he produces will be given supports. These commodities should be supported and no doubt should be permitted.

Mr. President, in the few minutes allotted to me I wish to review some of the debate which has taken place not only with reference to the Brannan plan, but also with reference to the Anderson program and the various amendments which have been offered. I shall deal with one amendment in particular.

My position on the parity formula has been made quite clear in these debates. I have stood for 90 percent of parity. 860384-31934 A critical examination of the record of the parity formula over the past years shows conclusively that whenever there was less than 90-percent parity provided for farm commodities, or whenever the price level of farm commodities fell below 90 percent of parity, the American farmer found himself in financial distress. I still say to Members of the Senate that this is an observation which has not been answered. I distinctly remember the distinguished senior Senator from Georgia saving that he did not want to deal with statistics. To be sure, one cannot eat them; but the simple fact is that whenever farm prices have gone below 90 percent of parity in reference to what the farmer must pay for the goods he needs for his family and his farm, the farmer has been in economic trouble.

It may seem to some that what we are talking about is the mere statement that one small group in America find themselves in financial distress. However, it has been brought out, without contradiction on this floor, that the farm economy is the foundation-stone of a sound American economy.

I shall repeat at this time the statement which I made a week ago. Every depression this country has known in the past 75 years has been born in the Farm Belt, because of depressed farm prices. That was true of the depression or recession of 1920 and 1921. It was also true in 1907. It was also true in 1931, 1932, and 1933.

I invite the attention of my colleagues to the fact that in 1932, at a time of low farm prices, the average farm commodity had a parity ratio of 55. In other words, the prices of farm commodities averaged 55 percent of parity. That is only 5 percent below the low minimum of the act of 1948. I ask any

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reasonable person to form his own judgment as to what a 60-percent parity ratio would mean to America. It would mean ruination, lack of jobs, unemployment, business bankruptcies, and farm-mortgage foreclosures.

The other day, in reviewing my material, I started with 1920 and 1921. From 1917 to 1920 we had a parity ratio of more than 100, and the farmer made money. Businessmen made money. In 1921 we had a parity ratio of 75; and I should like to have anyone produce evidence that the farmer prospered in 1921-22. The beginning of the depression of the 1930's was in 1921-22, when we had mortgage foreclosures, when the farmers hauled their commodities to market at ever-descending prices, when the farmers of America went deeper into debt, and small businesses were being liquidated by the hundreds of thousands.

The recession of 1921 and 1922 was more intense, more vigorous in its application to small business and farmers, than any other recession in the history of the country. It was catastrophic.

From 1921 to 1940 there were two periods in which we had a parity ratio of 90 or more. We had it in 1925 and again in 1928. The records reveal that those were the only 2 years when the farmers made a profit. Some people may want to fool around with the American farm economy, but, personally, I do not. I am unwilling to ignore the plain facts of agricultural economics. I am unwilling to close my eyes to the cruel lessons of history. The farmers of America cannot endure low prices-they cannot endure farm prices of 60 percent of parity, of 75 percent of parity, or of any percent below a minimum of 90.

I have heard a great deal about the question of cost. I want Members of the Senate to figure out the cost of a de-860384-31934

pressed agriculture. It is estimated that the cost of the depression was approximately \$300,000,000,000 in lack of income to the American people, loss of production, and loss of employment. That cannot be laughed off. This country was almost wrecked, primarily because we had 9-cent corn. 25-cent wheat, and \$2.50 to \$3 hogs. Yet in 1932 we had a parity ratio of 55 percent.

.....

The distinguished Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. KERR] pointed out that there is a direct relationship between farm income and industrial wages. That has not been disputed. As farm income goes up so do industrial wages. Today the senior Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. THOMAS] pointed out conclusively in the debate that there is a direct relationship between farm income and national income. For every dollar of farm income there is \$7 of national income. No one can dispute that. We have had the best national income we have ever had in peacetime, under a 90-percent parity program. That program yielded results to the farmers, the businessman, the corporation, and the Government.

We talk about money. How are we going to pay for these things? I want to know how we are going to pay for a 75percent parity program if the farmer does not have enough money to pay his taxes. I predict that if there is a decrease in farm prices on the basis of this flexible parity program, we shall find such a sizable depreciation in the revenues of the Government that the loss which will result because of the flexible parity program will be 10 times the loss which would result form a 90-percent parity program. A high parity program means revenue-revenue for the farmer, for the worker, for business, and for the Government. A low parity of 75 or 85 means trouble-trouble to the American

both as an instrument of peace and an instrument of war.

Mr. President, we are beginning to hear talk about how expensive the farmer is. But the only time he is expensive is when he is broke, and the only time he is broke is when he receives less than 90 percent of parity for the crops he produces. I defy anyone to prove to the contrary. That is a broad defiance and a broad challenge. Instead of talk, I ask anyone to present actual facts and figures to show me to the contrary, to show where the farmers have been able to get by with less.

Now a word about the Brannan plan. I should like to support it, but I agree with the Senator from Oklahoma that we have not had all the information we need about it. I am in favor of its broad economic philosophy. I may not go along with it entirely, in respect to crossing every "t" and dotting every "i," but I do support its basic philosophy.

Under the Brannan plan there are to be loans, acreage allotments, and controls, as we now have them under the Steagall amendment and under the basic act of 1938. Where does the Brannan plan move in a new direction? It does so in regard to perishables and nonstorables. Where does the hue and cry come from today in opposition to the price supports? It arises in respect to eggs and potatoes. Why is that? Because we do not have a formula by which we can properly store those commodities and at the same time make them available to consumers at prices which the consumers can afford to pay. The Brannan plan gives us that formula.

The distinguished Senator from Vermont [Mr. AIKEN] is absolutely correct, for he said on the floor of the Senate again and again that production payments are provided for by the Aiken

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economy and trouble to the Federal

Treasury. Ninety percent of parity has

not cost this Nation one dime, it has

yielded millions and millions and mil-

lions of dollars in good business.

Seventy-five percent of parity, 80 per-

cent of parity, or 85 percent of parity

will bankrupt the American farm-

er. A plan providing for 75 percent of parity will simply be telling the Ameri-

can farmer that he can get by on 75

percent of what we can get by on. Even

those of us who favor providing for 90

percent of parity are not so generous;

we are merely telling the American

farmer. "You can get by on 90 percent

Mr. President, another argument

which has been presented is the cost of

storing surpluses. It is said that we can-

not afford to store agricultural commod-

ities. We are told to look at the surplus

commodities already in storage. Very

well, Mr. President: but let me ask where

we would have been in 1941 and 1942 if

the granaries of this country had not

been stored full of crops on which there

were Government loans. That was at a

time when our allies needed food. Those

materials were critical materials. Of

course we are willing to appropriate bil-

lions of dollars for the stock piling of

strategic minerals, but I cannot find very

many Members of Congress who are will-

ing to appropriate a few hundred mil-

lions of dollars for the stock piling of

strategically needed foods. Frankly, Mr.

President, now that Mr. Nehru, Prime

Minister of India, is visiting in the city

of Washington, if we have any surplus

wheat, I know where it can be well used.

Let us send it to India or give it to India.

Perhaps by doing that we shall avoid hav-

ing to spend billions of dollars on atomic

bombs, perhaps to be used sometime to

protect our freedom. Food can be used

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of what we can get by on."

Act. They are limited by the amount of money made available, but they are provided for. So production payments are nothing revolutionary, nothing fantastically new. Production payments simply are payments made directly to the farmer, which means that instead of paying twice, the American taxpayer will pay only once. Today we pay high taxes, plus high prices in the consumer market. Under the Brannan plan, taxes will not be increased, but there will be lower prices in the consumer market.

Mr. President, I know why some persons do not like the Brannan plan. They do not like it because it is the first plan which points clearly to the identity of interest of the American workers and the American farmers. Let us not kid ourselves, Mr. President. We can have good prices for the farmers and reasonable prices for the consumers. We can have that situation under production payments, and at no more cost than the cost at the present time-and at less cost, really. At the same time we encourage the development of family-sized farms and diversified farming with soil conservation practices.

I submit that the Brannan plan will provide a program by which the farmer can have a good income and at the same time the consumers can be supplied with a great variety of foods, at prices which they can afford to pay.

I repeat that in the case of the socalled basics-cotton, wheat, corn, tobacco, and rice-there is litle or no difference between the Brannan plan and the present plan. But when it comes to dairy products, milk, chickens, turkeys, ducks, and when it comes to the perishable commodities which today are a problem because they cannot be stored, the Brannan plan is the answer, on the simple basis of establishing a parity price for 860384-31934

those commodities. Under the Brannan plan the farmer will sell his commodities in the normal market, and the law of supply and demand will establish the market price. The difference between the price the consumer pays, namely, the market price, and the price the farmer should receive for his products, namely, the parity price, will be paid by a direct production payment. Is there anything wrong with that, Mr. President? Certainly there is something wrong with it if Senators do not believe the farmer should make a decent living or if there is a desire to keep the farmers and the workers divided. I think there is a good deal of that kind of politics on the part of certain Senators on the other side of the aisle. The Republican Party has won a good many elections on the basis of persuading the worker that the farmer is his enemy, and persuading the farmer that the worker is his enemy. In that connection the philisophy of the Brannan plan which demonstrates that workers and farmers have an identity of interest is good medicine and sound economics. It joins together the farmer and worker or, better to say, the farmer and consumer, in a program that provides support for the producer and fair prices for the consumer.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed at this point in the RECORD an analysis of the Brannan plan which has been made by a good farmer. Representative FRED MARSHALL, representing the Sixth District of Minnesota. His family have been in Minnesota for over 100 years and they have been recognized as one of the leading farm families in the Midwest. He formerly was a member of the State Agricultural Adjustment Administration committee and was State director of the Farm Security Administration, and he defeated Mr.

Knutson. Mr. MARSHALL knows the farmer and his business. He will take a back seat to no one when it comes to agricultural legislation. Believe me. Mr. President, in his statement, which I now submit rather than to take the time of the Senate to read it, Representative MARSHALL has given a fine analysis of the Brannan plan.

There being no objection, the analysis was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MARSHALL DISCUSSES BRANNAN LONG-RANGE FARM PROGRAM

Farmers and farm leaders are watching each new development this week involving recommendations made by Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan for the country's long-range farm program. The basic outline of the plan has been presented to the Committee on Agriculture, which will continue extensive hearings on its major principles when Congress convenes again on April 25. As a framework for practical farm legislation, the Brannan plan deserves serious consideration from every person interested in the future economy of this Nation. The interdependence of the farmer, the worker, and the businessman is reflected in these recommendations to a degree seldom paralleled in any past farm legislation.

Basically, the new program is designed to reduce the retail price of food and at the same time maintain a parity of income for the farmer. In other words, plenty of food at prices people can pay, plus a fair return to the farmer. The farmer would receive production payments, loans, and purchase agreements to make up the difference between the support price for commodities and the average selling price of these commodities in the market place.

Most significant is Brannan's emphasis on the family sized farm. It is part of his effort to halt the increasing industrialization of farming. He realizes that the backbone of rural America is the farm family and that the backbone of our economy is the family 860384-31934farm. Under the proposed plan, the parity of income formula would apply only to the family sized farm, which is defined in the program as any farm producing under 1,800 units for marketing. A unit is simply a common scale of measurement for all commodities under support. The basic unit would be 10 bushels of corn. Other comparative units are based on this, so that a unit of hog would be 76 pounds and a unit of whole milk would be 346 pounds. A farm eligible for participation in the program would then be one with production of not more than 1,800 of such comparative units. Brannan reverses the present procedure and starts his computations from an income level fixed for the farmer on the basis of average annual purchasing power of cash receipts from farm marketings for the years 1939 through 1949. The base period would move forward each year to reflect the changes in farm costs and average income during the most recent 10-year period. The schedule of price supports is arrived at by comparing the average farm prices for the 10 preceding years to the average level of cash receipts from farm markets as this is related to the current income support standard.

In a government of formulas this is actually a fairly simple one, and, since income must be our ultimate concern, it would seem to be a realistic one. It sets a minimum level under which it would be dangerous to let farm income drop. From experience we know that in times of depression farm income drops the farthest first and comes back to normal last. By attempting to stabilize this income we tend to stabilize other segments of our economy because farmers are industry's best customers and industrial workers are the farmer's best customers.

Under the Brannan plan farmers will need to practice sound soil conservation and comply with whatever programs are necessary to curtail wasteful production and disorderly marketing. This is rightly based on the principle that the farmer is a trustee of our soil and is expected to safeguard its productivity for future generations. It is difficult to see that any widespread control or limita-

tion would be necessary at a time when consumption can be increased by allowing market prices to seek their own level on the basis of supply and demand. While maintaining reserve supplies against crop failures and national emergency, and with increased consumption at home and growing world markets, it should minimize the danger of wasteful production c disorderly marketing. Also, the proposed plan would not give the Secretary of Agriculture a single power which he does not already possess under present laws.

It is difficult to estimate the cost of such a program since we are always faced with the urknown quantities of weather, production, and markets. Mr. Brannan insists, however, that basing our estimate on existing circumstances during the past marketing year, it will cost the same amount we are spending on our present support program and in some instances, it will cost less. At the same time, the cost would be reflected in cheaper prices in the market place. Under present legislation the Secretary announced that he will buy pork and milk in the near future to support these prices on the market. Why can't that money be used to provide cheaper pork and milk for our people? This is the question we must be prepared to answer in considering the cost of this plan. We must compare the over-all effect of both programs as well as the costs of both programs. This will give us a true evaluation of the new plan.

FRED MARSHALL.

Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent to have printed at this point in the RECORD the Minnesota poll of Sunday, July 10, 1949, as printed in the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune. It is entitled "Farmers Tend To Favor Brannan Plan, But Many Are Undecided." The poll refers to Minnesota farmers. In that area the Farm Bureau is strong.

There being no objection, the poll was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

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FARMERS TEND TO FAVOR BRANNAN PLAN, BUT MANY ARE UNDECIDED

A sampling of farm opinion throughout the State by the Minnesota poll indicates that among farmers who know something of the Brannan farm program, there is more sentiment in favor of the plan than against it. But almost half of them haven't yet formed any opinion about the program.

In the State as a whole, including city and town residents as well as farm people, opinions are almost evenly divided on the Brannan proposals. But the indecision even among Minnesotans who know about the Brannan plan (only 37 percent of the State's adults recall having heard or read about it) signifies that there has been no crystallization of State-wide opinion about the program.

When farm people are asked which they would choose if given the chance—(a) the Brannan idea of a guaranty of fair income for farmers, provided they comply with crop controls, or (b) no income guaranty, but freedom from Government controls—they lean toward the guaranty of income.

In announcing the Truman administration's farm program several months ago, Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan said it was designed to reduce prices to consumers on such things as meat, milk, poultry products, fruits and vegetables, by letting market supply-and-demand factors determine prices. At the same time, farmers would receive Government payments to cover the difference between lower market prices and the amounts which the program said they should receive.

To be eligible for payments, farmers would have to agree to comply with Government crop control programs and to cooperate in soil conservation work.

Hotly debated since its announcement, the Brannan plan has become one of the major issues before the Eighty-first Congress.

Minnesota poll interviewers asked a representative cross section of men and women 21 years of age and older, in all parts of the State: "Have you heard or read about the Brannan plan, the administration's proposed new Federal farm program?"

answers:	

- Commenter (manual data	All	City	Town	Farm
Yes No Don't recall	Percent 37 58 5	Percent 32 65 3	Percent 34 61 5	Percent 47 44 9

Those answering "yes" then were asked: "From what you have heard or read up to now, would you say you are inclined to be in favor of the Brannan plan or against it?" The replies:

	All	City	Town	Farm
In fame	Percent	Percent	Percent 8	Percent 14%
In favor Against	11	11	10	10
No opinion	16	11	16	221/
Total knowing of program Haven't heard of	37	32	34	47
plan; don't recall	63	68	66	53
Total	100	100	100	100

These are the principal explanations offered by people who are inclined to support the Brannan plan:

"It would give all farmers a fair price;" "I'm afraid if farm prices tumbled too much, we would have another depression;" "it would give farmers an equal purchasing power with the rest of industry;" "it will help the small farmers;" "it guarantees the farmers an income."

Those who tend to oppose the Brannan program say:

"It's too much socialism;" "I don't like subsidies;" "I like to run my own farm;" "it's too costly for the Government to support;" "the difference will be made up in taxes;" "there's too much Federal control in this country—soon they'll socialize everything;" "it takes away our liberty."

Democratic-Farmer-Laborites lean toward support of the plan; independent voters are divided in sympathies; and Republicans are 860384-31934 inclined to be opposed to it, the survey indicates.

The final question was asked only of farm people interviewed throughout the State. Each was handed a card bearing two statements, and interviewers asked:

"The Brannan plan calls for a guaranteed fair income to farmers, provided they comply with Government crop programs. If you yourself had the choice, which of these would you take?"

The two choices were stated in this manner:

1. The guaranteed income, on condition you comply with marketing quotas, acreage allotments and other Government programs.

 No guarantee of income, but freedom to plant any crops and any acreages you wanted, regardless of Government programs. The farmers' replies:

Percent

More than half of the farm people belonging to farm organizations choose the No. 1 statement. Farmers who do not belong to any organization are divided about evenly in their preferences.

I wish to see this one more year devoted to the further study of the objectives and philosophy and the economic program of the Brannan plan. I do not think anyone is prepared to say the Brannan plan today is a final answer, but I submit that the Brannan plan offers a program, it offers us a practical alternative, it offers us a sound basis upon which to measure a long-range agricultural plan which gives a guaranty in price support for the basic commodities, and at the same time provides an effective price support for the perishable nonstorable commodities, provides an income for the farmer that will make him a productive individual in our society, and assures a price for the consumer that will encourage the consumption of goods. Some people may say it cannot be true, 860384—31934 that we simply cannot have so many good things all in one package.

Mr. President, I submit that the best way to find out about it is to try it. It is possible to have it all in one package.

Dear Friend:

A limited number of Farmers' Bulletins have been allotted to me for distribution in Minnesota. I want to share these with you.

If any of the bulletins will be of interest to you, please mark them on this list and return it to my Washington office. I shall appreciate it if you do not request more than FIVE at this time. The Department of Agriculture has restricted me to a limited number and I shall be happy to furnish them in quantities of not over five to each individual as long as the supply lasts.

If I can be of assistance to you in my official capacity, I hope you will feel free to write me.

Sincerely yours,

imply

Hubert H. Humphre

Street	Number.	

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- F 1863 The turnip aphid in the Southern States and methods for its control.
- F 1881 Potato diseases and their control.
- F 1915 Snap beans for marketing, canning, and freezing.
- F 1934 Tomato diseases.
- F 1945 The pea aphid on peas and methods for its control.
- F 1953 Lettuce varieties and culture.
- F 1955 Onion-set production.
- 1956 Growing the transplant onion crop. F
- F 1957 Cauliflower and broccoli varieties and culture. F 1958 Potato production in the Northeastern and
- North Central States.
- F 1971 The pea weevil and methods for its control.
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- F 1986 Potato storage.
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- F 1996 Growing dry beans in the Western States.
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F 1972 Poison-ivy, poison-oak, and poison-sumac:

identification, precautions, eradication,

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

83d CONGRESS 1st Session

S. 1159

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Максн 4, 1953

Mr. HUMPHREY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

A BILL

To provide mandatory price supports through 1957 for dairy products, hogs, cattle, poultry and eggs, oats, soybeans, rye, flaxseed, barley, grain sorghums, and other commodities.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
 That section 101 (d) (6) of the Agricultural Act of 1949,
 as amended (7 U. S. C. 1441 (d) (6)), is amended to
 read as follows:

6 "(6) The level of support of cooperators for the 1953, 7 1954, 1955, 1956, and 1957 crops of any basic agricultural 8 commodity with respect to which producers have not dis-9 approved marketing quotas shall be such percentage, not in 10 excess of 100 and not less than 90, of the parity price of

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such commodity as the Secretary deems necessary to assure
 an adequate supply thereof and to protect the income of the
 American farmer."

4 SEC. 2. Title III of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as
5 amended (7 U. S. C. 1446-1449), is amended by adding
6 at the end thereof a new section as follows:

7 "SEC. 304. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of
8 this title—

"(a) price support shall be made available to pro-9 ducers for the 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, and 1957 crops 10 of oats, rye, barley, flaxseed, soybeans, and grain sor-11 ghums at such level, not in excess of 100 per centum 12 and not less than 90 per centum, of the parity price of 13 14 such commodities as the Secretary deems necessary to 15 assure an adequate supply thereof and to protect the 16 income of the American farmer; and 17 "(b) price support shall be made available during 18 the years 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, and 1957 to pro-19 ducers of whole milk, butterfat, and the products of such 20 commodities, and to the producers of poultry, eggs, hogs, 21 and beef cattle, at a level of not less than 90 per centum 22of the parity price of such commodities." 23SEC. 3. Section 301 (a) (1) (G) of the Agricultural 24Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1301 (a) 25(1) (G)), is amended to read as follows:

"(G) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, the parity price for any basic agricultural commodity, as of any date during the eight-year period beginning January 1, 1950, shall not be less than its parity price computed in the manner used prior to October 31, 1949." SEC. 4. The amendments made by the first two sections

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7 of this Act shall not affect the authority of the Secretary of 8 Agriculture under section 402 of the Agricultural Act of 9 1949 to make price support available at a higher level when 10 necessary in order to prevent or alleviate a shortage in the 11 supply of any agricultural commodity essential to the na-12 tional welfare or in order to increase or maintain the pro-13 duction of any agricultural commodity in the interest of 14 national security.

83d CONGRESS 1st Session

S. 1159

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By Mr. HUMPHREY

MARCH 4, 1953 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

EQUALITY FOR AGRICULTURE

CANZILAR

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey's Farm Program (Presented to 83rd Congress) January, 1954

Strengthening and expanding price and income protection for farmers while seeking to develop new outlets and new uses for our agricultural abundance have been keynotes of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey's legislative proposals for an improved farm program, as submitted to the 83rd Congress.

Measures sponsored or co-sponsored by Senator Humphrey in the present session of Congress include:

Humphrey "Equality for Agriculture" Price Support Bill (S. 1159): Carrying out recommendations of Minnesota State Legislature by:

1. Establishing price support level at 90-100% of parity for all basic and other designated storable commodities;

2. Adding flaxseeds, soybeans, oats, rye, barley and grain so rghums to the list of storables supported by mandatory 90-100% price supports;

3. Making mandatory support of dairy products, cattle, hogs, poultry and eggs at 90% of parity, but permitting use of such alternative methods to achieve support levels as compensatory payments, expanded school lunch program, domestic food allotment plan for low-income families, and development of international program for making such food supplies available to avert famine and combat communism;

4. Extending the period of firm mandatory farm price supports through 1957;

5. Extending use of present dual parity formula through that same period, instead of converting to so-called "new" parity formula at lower levels.

Farmer-run farm programs: Preserving elected-farmer committee system for administering farm programs in rural counties, plus election of state farmercommittees instead of appointment by Secretary of Agriculture.

Rotating storage stocks: Preventing deterioration yet avoiding pricedepressing "dumping" of old stocks, through provision for "rotating" stocks, purchasing new commodities to replace those sold to avoid spoilage.

International Food Reserves: Creating world reserves through FAO to provide means of absorbing temporary market surpluses and make them available wherever they are most needed in world to prevent famine and starvation.

Wheat and Corn Set-Asides: Raising designation of "normal" reserves for wheat and corn before marketing quotas are required, with provision for setting aside contingency reserves beyond normal supply, withheld from regular market except in case of crop failure or emergency need in support of foreign policy -a safety "stockpile" specifically prevented from becoming a price-depressing overhang on normal markets. Wheat for Pakistan: Emergency use of wheat reserves to combat famine in Pakistan.

Food for Freedom: Authorizing President to use America's abundance to ease emergency famine conditions in world, support "Cold War"; designate portion of FOA foreign aid for purchase of American farm products for countries needing them but lacking American dollars.

Emergency Livestock Credit: Liberalizing loans to livestock producers suffering economic hardship, whether in drouth area or not, as part of emergency drouth assistance.

Domestic Food Allotment: A food-stamp plan for increasing consumption among low-income families of farm commodities in surplus supply.

While not in bill form, Senator Humphrey also outlined two other proposals to Senate agricultural committee for study pending action toward stimulating wider use of American food at home and abroad:

Expanding World Markets: Creation of an independent agricultural trading corporation to coordinate expanded efforts to seek foreign outlets for American food and fiber for relief purposes, for barter, for sale at concessional or "soft currency" prices, or any other means.

Dairy Diet Dividends: Increasing consumption of fluid milk, butter, and cheese among needy aged, dependent children, blind, and totally handicapped through partial consumer-subsidy to supplement meager allowances for public assistance. Consumption possibilities among 2,610,000 needy aged over 65, 2,016,000 dependent children, 98,380 blind, 167,513 permanently totally disabled, and 283,000 others on general public assistance rolls, all now lacking adequate amounts of dairy products in their diets, are sufficient to wipe out entire existing dairy surplus at minimum cost as investment in public health and welfare.

Other efforts outlined by Senator Humphrey as extended in behalf of Minnesota's

farmers during 83rd Congress include:

Urged and encouraged expanded school lunch program, increased beef purchases for school lunch and overseas use.

Fought against raising of interest rates, "tight money" policies which have restricted both farmer's credit and his market.

Supported more adequate loan funds for REA power and telephone programs, and fought for transmission line to seek lower-cost power.

Sought greater recognition of average family farmer in Department of Agriculture's advisory committee structure.

Supported maintenance of adequate soil conservation funds, opposed slashes in both ACP and SCS appropriations.

Backed increase in funds for agricultural research, over amount proposed by Administration.

EQUALITY FOR AGRICULTURE

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Sought greater recognition of average family farmer in Department of Agriculture's advisory committee structure.

Supported maintenance of adequate soil conservation funds, opposed slashes in both ACP and SCS appropriations.

Backed increase in funds for agricultural research, over amount proposed by Administration.

- 30 -

From the office of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D.,Minn.) 140 Senate Office Building Washington, D. C. NAtional 8-3120, Ext. 881

For release Friday P.M., January 22, 1954

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) called upon Secretary of Agriculture Benson today to immediately announce his intention to continue support of dairy products at 90% for another year, "in order to give Congress ample time to reach a decision on whether it wants to make such support mandatory, or prefers leaving it to your discretion."

"I firmly believe such assurance at this time would eliminate uncertainty and add considerably to stability of the market, and prevent undue 'dumping' of butter inventories upon the government by the private trade," Senator Humphrey wrote to Secretary Benson.

Press dispatches recently quoted Secretary Benson as saying he felt it would be necessary to reduce the support level for dairy products on April 1, the date the present commitment for support at 90% of parity expires. Senator Humphrey urged Secretary Benson to reconsider any such decision, "if it has been made", and take full cognizance of "the detrimental effect any such announcement at this time has upon existing markets".

"Because Congress now has under consideration enactment of new farm legislation that might well affect the support level for dairy products, it would seem most wise to avoid market confusion by avoiding any changes in our dairy support program until the Congress has acted, one way or another," Senator Humphrey wrote. "By indicating in advance you intend lowering the support level on April 1, I'm convinced you are complicating rather than alleviating our surplus problem. It should be apparent that dealers will seek to unload their own inventories of butter on the government at 90% of parity, if it appears they can later buy butter back at a lower percentage of parity.

"It should also be apparent that considerable confusion will result in the market should you lower the support level, only to have the Congress subsequently enact legislation requiring support at 90% of parity. In view of the fact that Congress has such legislation under consideration, and may not reach a decision upon it by April 1, I strongly urge that you immediately publicly announce your intention to continue support of dairy products at 90% of parity for another year."

Senator Humphrey said he concurred in the concern Secretary Benson has expressed over getting butter out of the government's hands into useful channels of consumption, but "deplore the lack of initiative or imagination shown so far by the Administration toward creating new outlets for that purpose."

He called upon the Secretary of Agriculture to make known the Department's position on the "Dairy Diet Dividend" plan which Senator Humphrey suggested last July, calling for supplementing the diets of persons on public old age assistance with a partially-subsidized monthly allotment of butter, through a stamp plan making use of established state welfare departments and normal channels of private trade. From the Office of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey 140 Senate Office Building Washington, D. C. NAtional 8-3120, Ext. 881

FOR RELEASE

Thursday A.M., January 21, 1954

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) today protested the Department of Agriculture's plans to move all of its commodity operations involving dairy products, livestock, processed fruits and vegetables, and linseed oil out of Minnesota.

In a letter to Secretary of Agriculture Benson, Senator Humphrey urged his "immediate reconsideration" of the decision to greatly curtail the Minneapolis functions of the Commodity Stabilization Service by transferring them to Cincinnati, Ohio, on February 15th.

Senator Humphrey revealed he had sent copies of his protest to all members of Minnesota's Congressional delegation, and urged them to join him in fighting to avert the shift.

"While I have already registered my objection with officials of the Commodity Stabilization Service, I want to protest most strongly to you against this curtailment of the Department's operation in Minnesota," Senator Humphrey wrote to Secretary Benson.

"Farmers, farm cooperatives, and dealers in farm commodities have expressed to me strong objections to this move. I concur in their feeling that this move adversely affects Minnesota's great agricultural trade.

"As you know, perishable commodities provide the bulk of Minnesota's farm income, and the Twin Cities are a natural agricultural trade center for one of America's most productive agricultural regions.

"I can see no justification for this curtailment," Senator Humphrey declared.

Senator Humphrey added that it impressed him as "unsound and unwise" for Secretary Benson to be making major changes in his pattern of handling commodity operations "at a time when the Congress is just commencing its study of new farm legislation, which may necessitate other changes in your operations".

"Changes in programs affecting these very commodities will be among the questions to be considered by the Congress," Senator Humphrey wrote. "Therefore it would seem more prudent to defer setting up an entirely new pattern of commodity operations and offices until Congress has acted."

Senator Humphrey said he regretted public announcement of the intended change before giving Minnesota agriculture or the state's elected representatives an opportunity to discuss it.

"I urge your immediate reconsideration of this decision, and ask that any reorganization of commodity offices be held in abeyance at least until the present Congress has reached its decision on the type of farm program you will be asked to administer during the next few years, and the commodities it will cover", Senator Humphrey's letter concluded.

Involved in the transfer to the new office in Cincinnati would be all the procurement, shipping, storage, inventory, disposal, payment and accounting functions of the Commodity Stabilization Service in relation to dairy products, including butter, cheese, and non-fat dry milk solids, as well as for livestock products, processed fruits and vegetables, and linseed oil. All that the Minneapolis CSS office would handle thereafter would be grain, flaxseed, and beans. From the Office of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey 140 Senate Office Building Washington 25, D. C. NAtional 8-3120, Ext. 881

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 12, 1954

THE MOUNTAIN AND THE MOUSE

President Eisenhower has "broken faith" with American agriculture by submitting a message on farm legislation that is little more than "an expensive dud", Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D.-Minn.) declared today.

"After all the talk of a new and better farm program, all the President is now proposing is the same old disastrous sliding scale idea of 1948-49 which farmers have overwhelmingly disavowed, dressed up this time with a temporary sedative to conceal its eventual impact," Senator Humphrey said.

"What's happened to the campaign promise to do something about perishables? What's happened to the promise to treat oats, barley and rye the same as the basic commodities? What's happened to all the talk of some better program for aiding dairy producers?" he asked.

It's now apparent, Senator Humphrey said, that "Congress will have to take in its own hands" the formulation of an improved farm program.

"Farmers have a right to feel let down, but they won't be left to any such bleak outlook as the President's message proposes," he declared. "I'm sure that farmstate Senators and Congressmen, Republicans and Democrats alike, are going to see to it that we get a decent farm program realistic enough to help get agriculture back on its feet".

All that's really new in the entire program outlined by the President, he declared, was "a trial run for the Brannan Plan on wool".

Senator Humphrey said the Administration's much-publicized prolonged study had apparently been "just a waste of time".

"The mountain has labored and brought forth a mouse. All the hullabaloo of a full-year's study, with a vast array of consultants and hand-picked advisory groups and an advance propaganda barrage about searching for a new farm program, now seems to have been for no purpose other than to provide a stage setting for presenting what Secretary Benson said he favored when he was first chosen for the Cabinet -leaving farmers to the mercy of the market place, hoping to reduce production by lowering support prices until some are no longer able to produce and survive.

"They could have saved a lot of time, trouble, and money by telling us last year they wanted to turn backward, instead of promising the farmer something new and something better.

"It looks like all the build-up for these advisory commissions was just window dressing to provide an ingenious but expensive alibi for breaking the golden promise of campaign time.

"It was apparent from the day Ezra Taft Benson was appointed Secretary of Agriculture that an all-out attempt was going to be made to put across the sliding scale on America's farmers. It has been made even more clear as announcements of the hand-picked advisory committees rolled off the mimeograph machines. And it should have been apparent to everyone as Ezra Benson crisscrossed the country attacking the existing farm programs, with the President's blessing.

"If this Administration was truly interested in economy, it could have saved all the postage, all the travel money, all the conference expense, and all the rest of the overhead which has gone into the preparation of this most colossal -- and most expensive -- of all alibis in political history."

FOR RELEASE: Wednesday A.M. November 4, 1953

From the Office of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey 140 Senate Office Building Washington, D. C. National 8-3120, Ext. 881

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D.-Minn.) today vigorously protested the Department of Agriculture's new reorganization as "a hasty, ill-advised political move" that will "cripple and undermine established institutions effectively serving agriculture" without providing any compensating economy.

He termed the hastewith which Secretary of Agriculture Benson "brought his secret plan out from behind wraps and rushed it into effect" another example of the cabinet member's "stubborn determination to prejudge everything out of the past as wrong, to flagrantly repudiate his pledges to the Congress and defiantly flaunt in the face of Congressional committees the authority they reluctantly gave him only under personal assurances he has now violated".

"This is not a partisan issue, even though Benson's attitude threatens to make it one," Senator Humphrey declared. "Many of the changes are just sheer nonsense -- silly name-changing to try and wipe out any trace of names of bureaus and agencies familiar to farmers and the public for the past twenty years.

"Why the haste to rush this plan into effect, only two weeks after making its bare skeleton known to the public?

"No one has had time to properly study these proposals, because no one has yet been given the full details of the ramifications of the changes proposed. I challenge the Department of Agriculture to show me one out of ten farmers in the country who now knows what it is all about, yet Secretary Benson keeps talking about wanting to follow the farmer's advice and guidance.

"The truth is he has closed his ears to farmers on this as well as other issues, and is blindly and stubbornly applying preconceived notions to departmental organization while completely ignoring past experiences of trial and error that have gone into developing effective operations.

"Again I ask, why this haste? Benson says he wants to 'move forward'.

"Where has been any 'haste' to 'move forward' en adequate price protection for agriculture? Where has been any 'haste' to act in behalf of cattlemen's demands for emergency assistance?

"On every other issue he has stalled and gone in circles; yet on the one issue that deserves time and thoughtful consideration, he has blindly plunged ahead like a bull in a China shop."

Senator Humphrey, who was first of many Senate and House members to ask that Secretary Benson delay effective date of the reorganization until after the Congress reconvenes, reiterated that Benson was "bypassing" the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations which have jurisdiction over government reorganization. Members of both groups, Republicans and Democrats alike, have joined in calling for a delay in putting the program into effect, along with Republican Chairman Clifford Hope of the House Agricultural Committee and many others.

When Senator Humphrey earlier failed to get action on the postponement in an appeal to Secretary Benson, he wrote Senator Margaret Chase Smith, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Government Organization, asking her to intervene. Today he made public a copy of a telegram from Senator J. L. McClellan of Arkansas, senior minority member of the committee, dated Oct. 30, saying, "Re copy your letter October 27 to Senator Chase Smith, I agree with you. Am accordingly wiring Senator Smith supporting your position and request of her. Regards, J. L. McClellan".

Senator Smith has informed him, Senator Humphrey said, that she had asked Secretary Benson to grant Humphrey's request for a delay to permit further study. From the Office of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey 429 Nicollet Hotel Minneapolis, Minnesota

FOR RELEASE

Sunday A. M. September 20, 1953

If government aid to agriculture is a "subsidy", then America's great free enterprise business economy is far more "subsidized" than the farmers, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey declared yesterday (Saturday, September 19) in addresses at two annual community celebrations in northern Minnesota.

Speaking at Kittson county's annual "Potato Day" in Karlstad at noon and later at the Polk County "Barley Day" festivities in McIntosh during the evening, Senator Humphrey quoted from an official analysis released by the Bureau of the Budget to show that business, not agriculture, collects the heaviest share of government "subsidies".

"It may come as a surprise to many, but almost every economic group in our country receives some special aid from the Federal government, paid out of general tax revenues," Senator Humphrey said.

"Here's a breakdown of what it costs the government to provide each of our major economic groups with these 'aids and special services', as listed in official reports of the Budget of the United States Government:

"Agriculture: \$463 million actual in 1952; \$547 million estimated in 1953; and two billion, 857 million for a five-year total from 1949 through 1953.

"Business: One billion 41 million actual in 1952; one billion 18 million estimated in 1953; and 4 billion, 430 million for the five-year total.

"Labor: \$200 million actual in 1952; \$206 million estimated in 1953; and one billion 6 million for the five-year total.

"You hear lots of public discussion about subsidy to agriculture, but very little about subsidy to the business world. Yet the Administration's own figures show twice as much subsidy going to business as going to the farmer, and four times as much as going to labor.

"And even that doesn't tell the full story: the Budget points out that business groups receive other special benefits for which Federal funds are not expended. Businesses, for example, have benefitted from special tax exemptions, accelerated amortization, depletion allowances, exemptions from income taxes, tariff protection, and other aids," Senator Humphrey declared.

All such subsidies, Senator Humphrey added, "can only be justified to the extent they serve the public interest".

"For that reason farmers have every right to share in government protecti and government assistance without having a finger of guilt pointed at them, as long as they fulfill the food and fiber needs of the nation", Senator Humphrey added. From the Office of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey 429 Nicollet Hotel Minneapolis, Minnesota

FOR RELEASE Friday A. M. August 28, 1953

Protecting agriculture is protecting America's lifeline of food and fiber and protecting strength of our entire economy, Senator Hubert Humphrey declared Thursday night (August 27) in an address at the City Hall in Sauk Centre, Minnesota.

"Price supports don't serve the farmer alone -- they guarantee the nation an adequate food supply at all times, good season or bad", Senator Humphrey declared. "Congress has had the wisdom and foresight to protect the public's stake in food by encouraging agricultural abundance, and by seeking to provide workable means whereby the burden of serving the public interest through abundant production doesn't fall upon the farmer alone."

Senator Humphrey said criticism against farm price supports was "shortsighted and unfair", in view of similar protective devices provided for other segments of our economy.

"Industry has cost-plus contracts, tax amortization benefits, and many other forms of subsidy to prevent risk of loss in meeting the nation's stepped-up demands. Our merchant marine is subsidized, to make sure we'll have ships when we need them. Similar subsidies are provided for airlines. Labor has minimum wage laws, as protection against exploitation.

"The farmer should certainly be entitled to similar safe-guards as long as he is serving the public interest with his production -- and the farmer is entitled to such protection without being continually castigated as though he were on 'relief'", Senator Humphrey declared.

Senator Humphrey outlined the measures he has introduced to strengthen and improve present price support programs, saying they would "carry out every request of Minnesota's State Legislature, every campaign promise of President Eisenhower that now seem to be forgotten."

"We hear quite a bit about 'flexible' supports to adjust production, but the 'flex' is always downward", Senator Humphrey said. "My price support bill has adequate provision for flexibility to obtain adjustments, but that flexibility is upwards -- a sensible way to seek adjustments by higher incentive supports on the commodities we need most, instead of the 'starve 'em out' theory of withholding any realistic price support in an attempt to get production shifts." From the Office of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey 429 Nicollet Hotel Minneapolis, Minnesota

Every city in Minnesota has a vital stake in a sound and prospering agriculture, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey told a gathering of Northern Minnesota farmers Sunday (August 23) at the annual Red Lake and Clearwater counties Farmers Union picnic.

"Unless farmers have some cash in their pockets, the cash registers can't jingle on Main Street", Senator Humphrey said. "And unless the merchants have customers in our agriculture trading centers, they can't buy the manufactured products of our industrial centers."

Farmers, Senator Humphrey said, are "big consumers" as well as abundant producers.

"Not enough people realize the importance of the farm market for products of city industry," Senator Humphrey declared.

"Farmers use more steel in a year than goes into a year's output of passenger cars. Farmers use more petroleum than is used in any other industry. They used enough raw rubber in a year to put tires on six million cars. They use enough electrical power to supply the great cities of Chicago, Detroit, Baltimore, and Houston combined."

He called attention to the REA program as an example of how improvement in rural living and production methods opened up vast new markets for American industry pointing out that "for every dollar of loan funds invested in rural electrification loan funds paid back with interest by farmer-cooperatives -- six dollars have been spent on electrical appliances for the farm home and farm plant."

As a result, he said, any sudden decline in farm purchasing power "gradually reflects itself through our entire economy, curtailing business and cutting down jobs in industry."

For that reason, he insisted, "danger signs now on the horizon" of falling farm prices "should be everybody's concern."

He called efforts to do away with price support programs at adequate levels for agriculture "shortsighted and dangerous, threatening to weaken the strength of our entire economy when it must be kept strong as the backbone of our national security.

Senator Humphrey denied that the price support program offering government loan at 90 percent of parity prices were a "subsidy", any more than government's guarantee of housing mortgages up to 90 percent of their value through the FHA were a "subsidy" to America's banks and home builders.

When farmers fight for preservation of the farm programs that protect the economic stability of agriculture, they "are fighting to protect the economic securi ty of the entire nation, not just for their own interests alone", Senator Humphrey declared. From the Office of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey Room 140 Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. NAtional 8-3120, Ext. 881

FOR REIEASE Thursday, July 30, 1953

SENATOR HUMPHREY URGES DAIRY PLAN TO AID CONSUMERS AND FARMERS

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) today called on the Senate's agricultural and public welfare committees to consider providing the nation's needy aged and dependent children with minimum nutritional requirements in dairy products, as "Dairy Diet Dividends" to supplement existing meager public assistance.

He proposed price differentials to permit those already determined as eligible for public assistance to achieve a "parity of purchasing power" for specified amounts of milk, butter, and cheese.

His proposal called for expanding the opportunities of relief recipients to purchase nutritionally-needed dairy product: through normal channels of trade, with the difference between relief prices and average prices being met from public assistance funds.

Senator Humphrey said he believed "an economically sound, nutritionally effective, and socially desirable plan" could be worked out to protect the health of the nation's unfortunates. and at the same time stimulate increased consumption of dairy products so as to assure producers fair returns without the necessity of government purchase and storage of huge quantities of perishable products like butter.

He said he was offering the proposal for "study and consideration," because of his conviction that "we should be finding new ways to wisely use our abundance, instead of being forced to take the negative approach of curbs on our ability to produce."

The proposal is outlined in a research analysis on "Food Surpluses and Food Deficiencies", prepared at Senator Humphrey's direction by Dr. Francis Joseph Weiss, scientific consultant on food and nutrition.

Because it "dramatically emphasizes the urgent need for some such constructive steps," Senator Humphrey said, he made the study a part of the Senate Record as "a factual contribution to the Senate's future consideration of measures aimed at this direction."

He urged both the agricultural committee and the public welfare committee to make use of the interim period while Congress is adjourned this fall "to explore the possibilities of making use of the nation's food abundance as a means of suppl menting the admittedly meager public assistance allowances now provided...to conduc studies and possibly even hearings into such plans for opening new avenues of [utilizing our food abundance." Calling attention to the President's support for efforts to make increasing use of America's farm abundance to alleviate hunger and suffering in other parts of the world, Senator Humphrey commented that "we must be just as concerned about hardship and deprivation within our own country as we are about human suffering elsewhere."

"It is a reflection upon our wisdom that we permit need to exist in the midst of plenty; that we don't find a way to make sure everyone has the opportunity to obtain the essentials of a healthy diet, as long as we have ample food to provide it," Senator Hunghrey said.

"I have been giving considerable study to possible opportunities of expanding outlets for essential foods among our low-income families now lacking proper diets," he explained. "I have come to a tentative conclusion that we might have to start with a few, specified food products most seriously needed in diets, and that we might better confine the start of any consumer subsidy efforts to specified groups already established as eligible for and requiring some form of public assistance."

For that reason, he said, he was urging concentration upon finding ways of "bringing fresh milk, buttor and cheese within the reach of the pocketbooks of families now unable to afford these health-giving foods, and at the same time protect the dairy producers so we can be assured of the continued production the nation requires for adequate health standards."

"I hope we can have high priority for action toward such an objective when Congress reconvenes next year," Sonator Humphrey said. "Between now and then, however, I shall be interested in the reaction of the dairy industry, my fellow farm state senators, and farm organizations to the possibilities offered by the Dairy Diet Dividend ideas."

Highlights from some of the facts set forth in the food deficiency study which Senator Humphrey presented included:

United States now trails Sweden, Switzerland, and New Zealand in per capita milk consumption.

Milk prices are now highest in areas where relief payments for dependent children are the lowest.

If each adult receiving public assistance were enabled to purchase a pint of milk a day and each dependent child receiving such assistance were enabled to have a quart of milk a day---the recommended amounts to avoid dietary deficiencies--an annual market outlet would be created for 736,200,000 quarts of milk per year.

If each person on public assistance were enabled to purchase two ounces of butter per day--the amount needed to adequately provide for "visible fat" requirements--an annual market outlet would be created for almost the entire 263,000,000 pounds of butter stored away by the Government from November, 1952 to July, 1953.

For relief recipients to have purchasing power for butter equivalent to that of the average family income, the "relief price" would have to be 37.6 cents per pound.

For relief recipients to have purchasing power for fresh milk equivalent to that of the average family income, the "relief price" would have to average 10 cent per quart, compared to a market price average of 22 cents per quart.

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