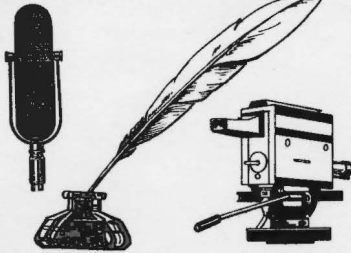


The original documents are located in Box D20, folder “Republican Dinner for Catherine May, Yakima, WA, May 14, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Jerry - You want general distribution on this? This is for Yaking, Wash.

CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE IN SUNDAY A.M.'s
(6:30 p.m. Saturday, MAY 14)

EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN.

The Johnson-Freeman Administration has slammed the door on the American farmer, and Republicans in Congress are not going to let the Democrats get away with it.

With his orders to various government agencies to drive down food prices, Mr. Johnson has made the farmer the whipping boy of inflation. Declining in numbers as they are, America's farmers must all the more vigorously demand that the Johnson-Freeman Administration halt all of its moves to roll back prices paid the nation's food producers. And I can tell you that Republicans in Congress are going to help them.

First the President took a whack at the farmer in worried reaction to consumer grumbling over high food prices. When Republicans pointed out that prices received by the farmer account for only 31 per cent of the grocery store price tag on food-stuffs, Mr. Johnson did a double-take. Now he is wooing the country's wheat farmers with a 15 per cent increase in the national acreage allotment for the 1967 crop.

The increase in the wheat acreage allotment is simply a fact of economic life for which the wheat farmer owes nobody any thanks--not Mr. Johnson, Mr. Freeman, or anyone else. If the market couldn't take the additional production, the farm planners in Washington wouldn't be telling the farmer he can plant more.

At the same time, the series of actions taken by the Johnson-Freeman Administration to depress farm prices in a desperate move to soothe the consumer remains on the record and cannot be expunged.

It was the Johnson-Freeman Administration which held down prices to thousands of sugar producers by opening the door to greater sugar imports.

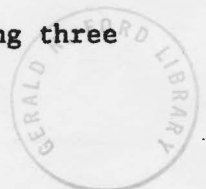
It was the Johnson-Freeman Administration which cost grain farmers millions of dollars in lost income by dumping Commodity Credit Corporation grain on the market.

It was the Johnson-Freeman Administration which hurt the dairy industry by ordering an expansion of dairy imports.

The farmer is the victim of inflation along with the consumer--not the villain the Johnson-Freeman Administration would make him out to be. That is the unpleasant truth, the tragic truth.

Today's farm prices are not the push behind the inflation that is stealing three to five dollars of every hundred an American earns this year.

(MORE)



SPEECH EXCERPTS

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The dismal truth for the farmer under the Johnson-Freeman Administration is that farm prices today are 13 per cent lower than they were during the Korean War. But food prices have gone up 16 per cent during that period.

Where is the inflated food dollar going? The farmer certainly isn't getting it. He isn't even getting his fair share.

* * *

If Orville Freeman now crows about the increase in national wheat acreage allotments, it will come with poor grace from a man who recently announced he was "pleased to report" drops in farm prices.

* * *

The farmer should ask Mr. Freeman and Democrats in Congress about Johnson-Freeman Administration fiscal policies which have pushed up farm production costs by 15 per cent since 1952.

The farmer should ask Mr. Freeman and Democrats in Congress about market price manipulations which have pushed down prices received by farmers, dropping them 6 per cent since 1952.

The farmer should ask Mr. Freeman and Democrats in Congress about Johnson-Freeman Administration policies which have resulted in a parity ratio for April of only 80.

The farmer should ask Mr. Freeman and the Democrats in Congress what happened to all the promises of full parity they made during the 1964 election campaign.

The farmer should ask Mr. Freeman and the Democrats in Congress about the excessive federal spending which is the major cause of the inflation for which the farmer is being blamed.

* * *

Mr. Johnson talks economy but doesn't do anything about it. And while he talks, the free-spending Democrats in Congress go right on fattening the \$112.8 billion Johnson budget, which was phoney in the first place.

I believe a substantial majority of the American people favor fiscal caution, particularly at this time when we are fighting a billion-dollar-a-month war in South Vietnam.

But big-spending Democrats in the Congress obviously believe they should go Mr. Johnson one or two or three billions better on domestic vote-buying legislation.

It's time the American people called a halt to excessive federal spending. They can do that by electing more Republicans to Congress.

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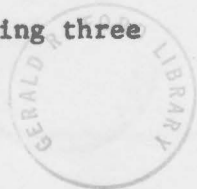
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(MORE)

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