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45TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF FARMER COOPERATIVES, WASH. HILTON HOTEL
WASH., D.C. 1 P.M. WED., JAN. 16, 1974.

Mr. Smith



THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME HERE
TODAY.

FARMER COOPERATIVES HAVE A LONG
AND DISTINGUISHED HISTORY OF SERVICE TO
AGRICULTURE AND THE ENTIRE NATION. AND I
AM HAPPY TO MEET WITH YOUR COUNCIL TO
DISCUSS SOME OF THE MAJOR CHALLENGES OF THE
COMING YEAR.

A WHILE BACK, PRESIDENT NIXON
POINTED OUT IN A RADIO ADDRESS TO FARMERS
THAT "NOBODY BULLIES EARL BUTZ."



I REMEMBER THINKING, "WHO WOULD
DARE?"

PERSONALLY, I'D RATHER GET CAUGHT
IN A HAY BAILER.

SO I JUST WANT TO SAY WHAT
EVERYBODY KNOWS: THAT SECRETARY BUTZ IS
ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE SPOKESMEN FOR
AGRICULTURE THAT EVER CAME TO WASHINGTON.
AND HIS VIEWS ON THE ECONOMICS OF THE
MARKET PLACE ARE LISTENED TO AND RESPECTED
BY EVERY OFFICIAL IN TOWN.

NOW, ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT
YOUR INVITATION TO SOUND THE KEYNOTE TODAY
IS THAT THE RIGHT NOTE WAS RIGHT AT
HAND -- SUGGESTED IN YOUR VERY NAME. - *cooperatives*



WHAT COULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE
FOR A THEME FOR YOUR MEETING -- AND INDEED
FOR THE ENTIRE NATION IN 1974 -- THAN
COOPERATION?



BERNARD BARUCH ONCE SAID THAT
"THE HIGHEST AND BEST FORM OF EFFICIENCY IS
THE SPONTANEOUS COOPERATION OF A FREE PEOPLE."

EFFICIENCY IS WHAT WE NEED AND
COOPERATION IS WHAT WE'RE GETTING FROM THE
FREE PEOPLE OF AMERICA.

IF THERE'S A BETTER WAY TO MEET
TODAY'S CHALLENGES, I DON'T KNOW IT.



AND JUST ON A PERSONAL NOTE, I
HAPPEN TO LIKE THIS THEME. WE ALL KNOW
THAT SPONTANEOUS COOPERATION SOMETIMES
NEEDS A LITTLE ENCOURAGING -- AND I SPENT
25 YEARS ON CAPITOL HILL DOING JUST THAT.
I WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE IT ONE OF THE
PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES OF MY EFFORTS IN ANY
JOB THAT I HOLD.

AS WE ALL KNOW, MANY OF THE CHALLENGES FACING US TODAY ARE SUMMED UP IN THE TWO WORDS "ENERGY CRISIS," AND I WANT TO DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM WITH YOU, ALTHOUGH YOU'LL BE HEARING MUCH MORE ON THE SUBJECT THIS AFTERNOON FROM BILL SIMON. AS THE WHOLE COUNTRY REALIZES, BY NOW, WHAT SIMON SAYS, SIMON MEANS AND SIMON DOES -- SO HE'S A MAN WORTH LISTENING TO.

I ALSO WANT TO DISCUSS BRIEFLY WITH YOU THE IMPORTANCE OF INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION THIS YEAR,



AND ITS MEANING NOT ONLY DOMESTICALLY, BUT
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEEDS OF OTHER
NATIONS.

FINALLY, I WANT TO SAY A FEW
WORDS ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.

BUT THE COMMON THREAT THAT RUNS
THROUGH ALL THESE SUBJECTS IS THE CHALLENGE
THEY PRESENT TO OUR CAPACITY FOR
COOPERATION.



WE ARE CHALLENGED TO SEE:

- THAT OUR SPECIAL INTERESTS MUST BE
WEIGHED AGAINST OUR COMMON INTERESTS;
- THAT WE CAN OFTEN ACHIEVE MORE
INDIVIDUALLY BY TAKING ACTIONS
COLLECTIVELY;
- AND THAT IN THIS INTERRELATED WORLD
THE EXERCISE OF EXCESSIVE ECONOMIC
POWER THREATENS NOT ONLY THOSE
AGAINST WHOM IT IS DIRECTED, BUT
ALSO THE ECONOMIC WELL BEING OF
THOSE WHO USE IT.



IN COLLOQUIAL TERMS, WE ARE
CHALLENGED TO SEE THAT THE WHOLE SCHMEAR
IS ONE SINGLE BALL OF WAX.

OR AS WE SAY IN MICHIGAN, YOU
CAN'T CATCH FLEAS WITH ONLY ONE FINGER.

NOTHING SO WELL ILLUSTRATES THE
NEED FOR COOPERATION AS THE ENERGY
CRISIS -- BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND
INTERNATIONALLY.



HERE AT HOME, OUR PEOPLE ARE
RESPONDING TO THAT NEED IN A MAGNIFICENT
SHOW OF UNITY.

THE CONSUMING PUBLIC, INDUSTRY,
AGRICULTURE, EVERY SEGMENT OF THE
ECONOMY -- ALL ARE JOINING TOGETHER IN THE
GREATEST CONSERVATION EFFORT IN PEACETIME
HISTORY.



THE EVIDENCE OF THEIR COOPERATION
IS BEING TALLIED DAY AND NIGHT ON MILLIONS
OF GAS, OIL AND ELECTRIC METERS, AT
GASOLINE PUMPS AND WHEREVER FUEL IS
DISPENSED.



WE ASKED OUR PEOPLE:

- TO TURN DOWN THE THERMOSTAT;
- TO TURN OUT SOME OF THE LIGHTS;
- TO LOWER THEIR AUTOMOBILE SPEED; AND
- TO TAKE MANY OTHER CONSERVATION
MEASURES.

THEY HAVE, AND ARE, COMING THROUGH
ON EVERY REQUEST MADE OF THEM.

THEY'VE ALREADY SAVED MILLIONS
OF BARRELS OF FUEL, AND THEY'LL SAVE
MILLIONS MORE THIS YEAR.



THEY'RE COOPERATING BECAUSE THEY
UNDERSTAND WHAT'S AT STAKE: JOBS,
PRODUCTION, INCOME, INVESTMENT. ALL OF
WHICH TRANSLATE INTO PROSPERITY FOR
EVERYBODY.

AS FOR GASOLINE RATIONING,
PRESIDENT NIXON IS AGAINST IT AND I'M
AGAINST IT. AND SO FAR WE HAVEN'T BEEN
OVERRULED BY BILL SIMON, WHO ALSO IS
AGAINST IT BUT WHO HAS PRUDENTLY READIED
A RATIONING PLAN IN CASE IT'S NEEDED AS A
LAST RESORT.

OUR HOPE AND EXPECTATION IS THAT
WE WON'T HAVE TO COME TO IT. THERE ARE
INEQUITIES AND INCONVENIENCES IN ANY
SYSTEM YOU CAN DEVISE, AND WE ARE
DETERMINED TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO AVOID
THEM.



AS FOR THE CONSERVATION EFFORTS OF INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE, THEY ARE MATCHING THOSE OF THE PUBLIC IN EVERY RESPECT. SYSTEMATIC ENERGY AUDITS ARE UNDERWAY IN MANY ESTABLISHMENTS AND IN MANY FARM OPERATIONS. TOUGH, MEASURABLE CONSERVATION GOALS ARE BEING SET. AND EMPLOYEES AT ALL LEVELS ARE BEING ENLISTED IN CAMPAIGNS TO SAVE ENERGY WHEREVER POSSIBLE.



THE SINGLE AIM IS TO MAINTAIN
JOBS AND KEEP PRODUCTION LEVELS HIGH. SO
FAR, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HOLD ECONOMIC
DISLOCATIONS TO A MINIMUM, ~~AND I THINK~~ THE
PROSPECTS ARE EXCELLENT THAT WE CAN MEET
THIS CRISIS WITHOUT ANY REALLY SERIOUS
DISRUPTIONS.



BEYOND THE CONSERVATION PROGRAM,
WE ARE MOVING ON A LONG RANGE BASIS TO
INCREASE DOMESTIC SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

THESE INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ALASKA PIPELINE, SOMETHING WE SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN UNDERWAY YEARS AGO. WE ALSO WILL BE INCREASING OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF, AND STEPPING UP PRODUCTION OF COAL, OUR MOST ABUNDANT SOURCE OF ENERGY.



IN ADDITION, WE ARE MARSHALLING OUR VAST SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES TO DEVELOP PROMISING NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY. WE WANT TO BE ABLE TO MEET ALL OUR REQUIREMENTS FROM DOMESTIC SOURCES.

AS FOR FUEL ALLOCATIONS IN THIS CRITICAL PERIOD, YOU WILL BE HEARING ABOUT THIS IN DETAIL FROM BILL SIMON, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE 1974 AGRICULTURAL CROP HAS ONE OF THE VERY HIGHEST PRIORITIES. IT IS OUR FIRM DETERMINATION THAT ADEQUATE ENERGY FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, HARVESTING, DRYING, TRANSPORTATION AND PROCESSING WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET AGRICULTURE'S NEEDS THIS YEAR.



OUR GOAL IS FULL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

TO ACHIEVE IT, THIS ADMINISTRATION IS BASING ITS POLICIES ON A CONVICTION THAT WAS NEVER MORE CLEARLY STATED THAN BY THOMAS JEFFERSON MORE THAN 150 YEARS AGO.

HE SAID: "WERE WE DIRECTED FROM WASHINGTON WHEN TO SOW AND WHEN TO REAP, WE SHOULD SOON WANT BREAD."



WELL, WE'RE NOT GOING TO WANT FOR BREAD IN THIS COUNTRY, AND WE'RE GOING TO DO OUR PART TO PREVENT THE REST OF THE WORLD FROM WANTING BREAD.

CERTAINLY OUR HELP IS NEEDED IN
MANY NATIONS. DURING THE HOUR WE'VE BEEN
HAVING LUNCH HERE, THE POPULATION OF THE
WORLD HAS GROWN BY 8,000.
ONE HUNDRED NINETY-TWO OF THESE ARE
AMERICANS.



OUR FARMERS ARE THE WORLD'S MOST
EFFICIENT PRODUCERS OF SOYBEANS, WHEAT AND
OTHER GRAINS. WE NEED THEIR PRODUCTION --
AND WE NEED THE ASSISTANCE OF YOUR FARMER
COOPERATIVES -- TO HELP FEED SOME OF THESE
NEW ARRIVALS ON EARTH.

GOVERNMENT IS DOING ITS PART BY MOVING OFF THE FARMERS' LAND -- AND LEAVING IT TO THE FARMERS. AND ONE OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT STEPS WAS TO LIFT ALL RESTRICTIONS ON THE MILLIONS OF SET-ASIDE ACRES THAT ARE NOW BEING RETURNED TO PRODUCTION.



WE NEED EXPANDED FOOD SUPPLIES NOT ONLY TO HELP FEED PEOPLE, BUT TO HELP FIGHT INFLATION HERE AT HOME. A SMALLER PERCENTAGE OF THE FAMILY BUDGET GOES FOR FOOD IN AMERICA THAN IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY

IN THE WORLD. WE WANT TO KEEP IT THAT WAY,
WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ASSURING FARMERS A
FULL, FAIR SHARE IN OUR NATION'S PROSPERITY.
THE AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT,
WHICH THE PRESIDENT SIGNED LAST AUGUST,
HELPS US ACHIEVE BOTH GOALS.



FARM PRODUCTION ALSO IS CRITICAL
IN HELPING TO BOOST OUR EXPORTS, IMPROVE
OUR TRADE BALANCE AND STRENGTHEN THE DOLLAR
IN THE INTERNATIONAL MONEY MARKET.

THE UNPRECEDENTED EXPORT RECORD SET BY AGRICULTURE LAST YEAR HELPED TO PULL OUR TRADE BALANCE INTO THE BLACK FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1970. WE ARE COUNTING ON FARMERS TO HELP KEEP THAT BALANCE POSITIVE -- AND FARMERS WILL NEED THE IMPORTANT ASSISTANCE YOUR COOPERATIVES PROVIDE.



AMERICA'S AGRICULTURAL ABUNDANCE
ALSO IS A KEY FACTOR IN OUR ABILITY TO
FORWARD THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING.
THE AMERICAN FARMER'S CAPACITY TO PRODUCE
FOR EXPORT WAS A VITAL PART OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS THAT ACHIEVED DETENTE WITH
THE RUSSIANS AND IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.



NOW TO SEE THE TRUE DIMENSIONS
OF THE ENERGY CRISIS, WE HAVE TO LOOK AT
THE WORLD PICTURE.

AND THE FIRST THING WE MUST
REALIZE IS THE IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING THE
MISTAKE OF THE TWO IRISH SAILORS ON A SHIP
OF THE BRITISH NAVY.

ONE SAID TO THE OTHER, "THE SHIP
IS SINKIN'."



HIS SHIPMATE REPLIED, "LET 'ER
SINK. SHE AIN'T OURS."

IN THE PRESENT SITUATION, IF WE
DON'T JOIN TOGETHER TO MAN THE PUMPS, THE
PROSPERITY OF ALL NATIONS COULD WIND UP IN
DAVY JONES' LOCKER.



THIS FACT OF LIFE IS WHAT LIES
BEHIND PRESIDENT NIXON'S CALL FOR A GLOBAL
SOLUTION TO THE ENERGY CRISIS. AND HE HAS
INVITED BOTH OIL-PRODUCING AND OIL-CONSUMING
NATIONS TO ATTEND MEETINGS HERE TO DEVELOP
A COMMON SOLUTION.

FOR WE ARE ALL JOINED TOGETHER
BY A COMMON TIE.

ON THE MAP OF THE WORLD ECONOMY,
THE BORDERS BETWEEN NATIONS ARE NO LONGER
DIVIDING LINES. THEY ARE CONNECTING LINKS
FORGED BY THE NEED FOR ENERGY AND THE
THINGS ENERGY PRODUCES.



A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO, A
COURAGEOUS AND FAR-SIGHTED AMERICAN
TRAVELLED AROUND THE GLOBE AND RETURNED HOME
WITH A PROPHETIC MESSAGE FOR MEN EVERYWHERE.

"ONE WORLD," SAID WENDELL WILLKIE.

HOW RIGHT HE WAS. THE FORCES OF TECHNOLOGY, TRADE, INVESTMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS HAVE CREATED AN INDISSOLUABLE WORLD.



BUT WHAT HAS NOT BEEN FULLY DEVELOPED IS THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION THAT CAN MAKE THIS WORLD SERVE OUR COMMON INTERESTS. AND ONLY THIS SPIRIT CAN BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN PROMISE AND PERFORMANCE.

STILL, WE KNOW THAT IT CAN BE
DEVELOPED, WILL BE DEVELOPED, AND INDEED
IS BEING DEVELOPED, EVEN AT THIS MOMENT OF
TEMPORARY DISCORD.

THE SPIRIT OF GLOBAL COOPERATION
WILL ULTIMATELY MATURE BECAUSE IT HAS A LIFE
AND MOMENTUM ALL ITS OWN.

I DO NOT SEE HOW IT CAN EVER
CEASE TO EXIST.



MEN AND NATIONS MAY DAMAGE IT
TEMPORARILY. THEY MAY CREATE ROAD BLOCKS.
THEY MAY DELAY ITS PROGRESS FOR A WHILE.

BUT ON THE HIGHWAY OF HISTORY,
THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION IS A JUGGERNAUT
WHOSE FORWARD MOVEMENT IS AS IRRESISTIBLE
AS THE FORWARD MOVEMENT OF TIME.

FOR IT IS POWERED BY A
SELF-GENERATING FUEL SUPPLY THAT NO FORCE
ON EARTH CAN SHUT DOWN.



THAT FUEL IS HOPE.

THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION IS
POWERED BY THE HOPE OF ALL MANKIND FOR A
BETTER LIFE. ONLY BY WORKING TOGETHER,
USING THE FORCES OF ADVANCED INDUSTRIALISM
FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL, CAN WE EVER FULFILL
THE ANCIENT DREAM OF A WORLD FREE OF
POVERTY, IGNORANCE, DISEASE AND DESPAIR.



RECENTLY, I WAS DISCUSSING THE ORIGINS OF COOPERATION AMONG PEOPLE WITH A FRIEND WHO IS AN ANTHROPOLOGIST AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION. HE SAID ONE OF ITS EARLIEST DEVELOPMENTS CAME WHEN CAVE DWELLERS LEARNED TO HUNT TOGETHER IN THE GREAT MAMMOTH KILLS, HERDING THE ANIMALS OVER THE SIDE OF A CLIFF IN AN EVER-NARROWING CIRCLE.



Cruel / not permitted now / but self preservation then

BUT PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT MILESTONE, HE SAID, CAME WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE. WHEN MEN WERE FIRST ABLE TO PRODUCE A SURPLUS OF FOOD, THEY COULD TRADE IT FOR THE PRODUCTS OF OTHERS WHO HAD SPECIAL SKILLS IN OTHER LINES -- POTTERY MAKING, WEAPON MAKING, BUILDING. THEY TRADED WITH ONE ANOTHER -- AND TRADE WAS BORN. AND SO WAS INTERDEPENDENCE AMONG MEN, AND WHAT WE CALL CIVILIZATION.



0 24 5
THAT MILESTONE OF HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT WAS REACHED, INTERESTINGLY
ENOUGH, IN WHAT WE NOW CALL THE MIDDLE EAST.

BUT CAN THERE BE ANY THOUGHT OF
EVER GOING BACK?

NEVER. WE CAN ONLY GO FORWARD.



THIS ENERGY CRISIS IS PAINFUL
PRECISELY BECAUSE IT THREATENS TO STRIP
THE GEARS BY SUDDENLY THROWING THE VEHICLE
OF PROGRESS INTO REVERSE.



IT HAS CAUSED DISPUTES AND
DISAGREEMENTS AMONG OLD FRIENDS. IT HAS
BROUGHT A CLASH OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS
AMONG ALLIES. IT HAS AROUSED OLD FEARS.
IT HAS INTERFERED WITH THE PERSONAL LIVES
OF PEOPLE ALL OVER THE GLOBE.

BUT PAINFUL AS IT IS, IF THE
ENERGY CRISIS CAN TEACH US ONCE AGAIN
WHAT OUR CAVE-DWELLING ANCESTORS LEARNED
LONG AGO, IT WILL BE WORTH IT, MORE THAN
WORTH IT.



THE LESSON IS SIMPLY THAT IN
COOPERATION IS THE HOPE OF THE WORLD.

AMERICA IS WORKING TO FURTHER THAT
HOPE IN EVERY WAY WE CAN. AND AT OUR RIGHT
HAND IS THE AMERICAN FARMER, A TOWER OF
STRENGTH AND A FORCE FOR PEACE AND UNITY
AMONG MEN AND NATIONS EVERYWHERE.



-- END --

AN ADDRESS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
BEFORE THE 45th ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF FARMER COOPERATIVES
WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL
WASHINGTON, D.C.
1 p.m. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1974



ADVANCE FOR RELEASE IN WEDNESDAY PM's

Thank you for inviting me here today.

Farmer cooperatives have a long and distinguished history of service to agriculture and the entire nation. And I am happy to meet with your Council to discuss some of the major challenges of the coming year.

A while back, President Nixon pointed out in a radio address to farmers that "Nobody bullies Earl Butz."

I remember thinking, "Who would dare?"

Personally, I'd rather get caught in a hay bailer.

So I just want to say what everybody knows: that Secretary Butz is one of the most effective spokesmen for agriculture that ever came to Washington. And his views on the economics of the market place are listened to and respected by every official in town.

Now, one of the best things about your invitation to sound the keynote today is that the right note was right at hand -- suggested in your very name.

What could be more appropriate for a theme for your meeting -- and indeed for the entire nation in 1974 -- than cooperation?

Bernard Baruch once said that "the highest and best form of efficiency is the spontaneous cooperation of a free people."

Efficiency is what we need and cooperation is what we're getting from the free people of America.

If there's a better way to meet today's challenges, I don't know it.

And just on a personal note, I happen to like this theme. We all know that spontaneous cooperation sometimes needs a little encouraging -- and I spent 25 years on Capitol Hill doing just

(more)

that. I will continue to make it one of the principal objectives of my efforts in any job that I hold.

As we all know, many of the challenges facing us today are summed up in the two words "energy crisis," and I want to discuss this problem with you, although you'll be hearing much more on the subject this afternoon from Bill Simon. As the whole country realizes by now, what Simon says, Simon means and Simon does -- so he's a man worth listening to.

I also want to discuss briefly with you the importance of increased agricultural production this year, and its meaning not only domestically, but in the context of the needs of other nations.

Finally, I want to say a few words about the international situation.

But the common thread that runs through all these subjects is the challenge they present to our capacity for cooperation.

We are challenged to see:

- that our special interests must be weighed against our common interests;
- that we can often achieve more individually by taking actions collectively;
- and that in this interrelated world the exercise of excessive economic power threatens not only those against whom it is directed, but also the economic well being of those who use it.



In colloquial terms, we are challenged to see that the whole schmear is one single ball of wax.

Or as we say in Michigan, you can't catch fleas with only one finger.

Nothing so well illustrates the need for cooperation as the energy crisis -- both domestically and internationally.

Here at home, our people are responding to that need in a magnificent show of unity.

(more)

The consuming public, industry, agriculture, every segment of the economy -- all are joining together in the greatest conservation effort in peacetime history.

The evidence of their cooperation is being tallied day and night on millions of gas, oil and electric meters, at gasoline pumps and wherever fuel is dispensed.

We asked our people:

- to turn down the thermostat;
- to turn out some of the lights;
- to lower their automobile speed; and
- to take many other conservation measures.



They have, and are, coming through on every request made of them.

They've already saved millions of barrels of fuel, and they'll save millions more this year.

They're cooperating because they understand what's at stake: jobs, production, income, investment. All of which translate into prosperity for everybody.

As for gasoline rationing, President Nixon is against it and I'm against it. And so far we haven't been overruled by Bill Simon, who also is against it but who has prudently readied a rationing plan in case it's needed as a last resort.

Our hope and expectation is that we won't have to come to it. There are inequities and inconveniences in any system you can devise, and we are determined to do everything we can to avoid them.

As for the conservation efforts of industry and agriculture, they are matching those of the public in every respect. Systematic energy audits are underway in many establishments and in many farm operations. Tough, measurable conservation goals are being set. And employees at all levels are being enlisted in campaigns to save energy wherever possible.

The single aim is to maintain jobs and keep production levels high. So far, we have been able to hold economic dislocations to

(more)

a minimum, and I think the prospects are excellent that we can meet this crisis without any really serious disruptions.

Beyond the conservation program, we are moving on a long range basis to increase domestic sources of supply. These include construction of the Alaska Pipeline, something we should have gotten underway years ago. We also will be increasing oil and gas production on the Outer Continental Shelf, and stepping up production of coal, our most abundant source of energy.

In addition, we are marshalling our vast scientific and technological capabilities to develop promising new sources of energy. We want to be able to meet all our requirements from domestic sources.



As for fuel allocations in this critical period, you will be hearing about this in detail from Bill Simon, but I can assure you that the 1974 agricultural crop has one of the very highest priorities. It is our firm determination that adequate energy for agricultural production, harvesting, drying, transportation and processing will be available to meet agriculture's needs this year.

Our goal is full agricultural production.

To achieve it, this Administration is basing its policies on a conviction that was never more clearly stated than by Thomas Jefferson more than 150 years ago.

He said: "Were we directed from Washington when to sow and when to reap, we should soon want bread."

Well, we're not going to want for bread in this country, and we're going to do our part to prevent the rest of the world from wanting bread.

Certainly our help is needed in many nations. During the hour we've been having lunch here, the population of the world has grown by 8,000. One hundred ninety-two of these are Americans.

Our farmers are the world's most efficient producers of soybeans, wheat and other grains. We need their production -- and we need the assistance of your farmer cooperatives -- to help feed some of these new arrivals on earth.

(more)

Government is doing its part by moving off the farmers' land -- and leaving it to the farmers. And one of our most important steps was to lift all restrictions on the millions of set-aside acres that are now being returned to production.

We need expanded food supplies not only to help feed people, but to help fight inflation here at home. A smaller percentage of the family budget goes for food in America than in any other country in the world. We want to keep it that way, while at the same time assuring farmers a full, fair share in our Nation's prosperity. The Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act, which the President signed last August, helps us achieve both goals.

Farm production also is critical in helping to boost our exports, improve our trade balance and strengthen the dollar in the international money market. The unprecedented export record set by agriculture last year helped to pull our trade balance into the black for the first time since 1970. We are counting on farmers to help keep the balance positive -- and farmers will need the important assistance your cooperatives provide.

America's agricultural abundance also is a key factor in our ability to forward the cause of peace and understanding. The American farmer's capacity to produce for export was a vital part of the negotiations that achieved detente with the Russians and improved relations with the People's Republic of China.

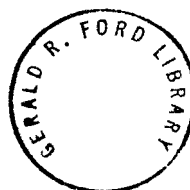
Now to see the true dimensions of the energy crisis, we have to look at the world picture.

And the first thing we must realize is the importance of avoiding the mistake of the two Irish sailors on a ship of the British Navy.

One said to the other, "The ship is sinkin'."

His shipmate replied, "Let 'er sink. She ain't ours."

In the present situation, if we don't join together to man the pumps, the prosperity of all nations could wind up in Davy Jones' locker.



(more)

This fact of life is what lies behind President Nixon's call for a global solution to the energy crisis. And he has invited both oil-producing and oil-consuming nations to attend meetings here to develop a common solution.

For we are all joined together by a common tie.

On the map of the world economy, the borders between nations are no longer dividing lines. They are connecting links forged by the need for energy and the things energy produces.

A quarter of a century ago, a courageous and far-sighted American travelled around the globe and returned home with a prophetic message for men everywhere.

"One world," said Wendell Willkie.

How right he was! The forces of technology, trade, investment and communications have created an indissoluble world.

But what has not been fully developed is the spirit of cooperation that can make this world serve our common interests. And only this spirit can bridge the gap between promise and performance.

Still, we know that it can be developed, will be developed, and indeed is being developed, even at this moment of temporary discord.

The spirit of global cooperation will ultimately mature because it has a life and momentum all its own.

I do not see how it can ever cease to exist.

Men and nations may damage it temporarily. They may create road blocks. They may delay its progress for a while.

But on the highway of history, the spirit of cooperation is a juggernaut whose forward movement is an irresistible as the forward movement of time.

For it is powered by a self-generating fuel supply that no force on earth can shut down.

That fuel is hope.



(more)

The spirit of cooperation is powered by the hopes of all mankind for a better life. Only by working together, using the forces of advanced industrialism for the benefit of all, can we ever fulfill the ancient dream of a world free of poverty, ignorance, disease and despair.

Recently, I was discussing the origins of cooperation among people with a friend who is an anthropologist at the Smithsonian Institution. He said one of its earliest developments came when cave-dwellers learned to hunt together in the great mammoth kills, herding the animals over the side of a cliff in an ever-narrowing circle.

But probably the most important milestone, he said, came with the development of agriculture. When men were first able to produce a surplus of food, they could trade it for the products of others who had special skills in other lines -- pottery making, weapon making, building. They traded with one another -- and trade was born. And so was interdependence among men, and what we call civilization.

That milestone of human development was reached, interestingly enough, in what we now call the Middle East.

But can there be any thought of ever going back?

Never. We can only go forward.

This energy crisis is painful precisely because it threatens to strip the gears by suddenly throwing the vehicle of progress into reverse.

It has caused disputes and disagreements among old friends. It has brought a clash of conflicting interests among allies. It has aroused old fears. It has interfered with the personal lives of people all over the globe.

But painful as it is, if the energy crisis can teach us once again what our cave-dwelling ancestors learned long ago, it will be worth it, more than worth it.

The lesson is simply that in cooperation is the hope of the world.

(more)



America is working to further that hope in every way we can.
And at our right hand is the American farmer, a tower of strength
and a force for peace and unity among men and nations everywhere.

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