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President Ford Committee

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MEETING BRIEFING PAPER FOR THE PRESIDENT  
October 14, 1976

MEETING WITH: IOWA FARMERS (Question and Answer Session)

Friday, October 15, 1976  
2:30 p.m.  
Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa  
Veterinary Medical Building

FROM: MARY HOWE for Peter McPherson

I. PURPOSE

To provide an opportunity for Iowa farmers, representing all agricultural interests in the state, to question the President about matters of concern to them.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

- A. Background: The Iowa President Ford Committee felt it important that the farmers in the state have an opportunity to meet with the President.

There has been dissatisfaction among farmers concerning the grain embargo. The farmers generally do not like government regulation of farm matters, but obviously were happy with recent price support actions. They also want to have input into agricultural policy.

It is felt that the President can demonstrate the interest of the Administration toward farm problems and its desire for grass-roots-level input into the making of farm policy.

- B. Participants: List attached.
- C. Press Plan: The Question and Answer session will be closed to the media. Afterward, a group of eight farmers who were in attendance at the Question and Answer session will debrief the press. They are:

Jim Mullins  
Richard Elijah  
Thurman Gaskill  
Baxter Freeze

Willard Latham  
Merlyn Groot  
Royal Holz  
Verne Folkmann

III. TALKING POINTS

1. The President should reassure the farmers that he will not resort to another embargo except in the most extreme circumstances.
2. That he will seek grass-roots-level input on the naming of a new Secretary of Agriculture and in the determination of future agricultural policy, especially as to embargos.
3. There are several questions that may be raised at the Q & A session which should be brought to the President's attention:
  - a. Who will be the new Secretary of Agriculture? (The farmers will want a fairly detailed description of the type of individual to be named.)
  - b. Why was the price support on corn not set at a higher level and why was there no increase in the price support of beans?
  - c. It is understood that the President vetoed a bill last year on veterinary research; he may be asked why.
  - d. It is understood that the President is opposed to new grain inspection legislation; he may be asked why. (Mr. Jim Risser of the Des Moines Register & Tribune was awarded a Pulitzer Prize last year for his investigation and exposure of grain inspection frauds across the nation.)
4. The President should be aware of the efforts to improve Lock & Dam 26 on the Mississippi River at Alton, Illinois which is currently inadequate for some shipping. The Corps of Engineers is presently involved in repairing it. There is some disagreement as to whether the facility should be at a deeper channel level (the environmentalists and railroads in particular do not want to see this happen).

LIST OF IOWA FARMERS APPEARING WITH THE PRESIDENT

Richard Elijah - Clarence  
Roger Christensen - Ogden  
Charlotte Mohr - Eldridge  
Merlyn Groot - Manson  
Baxter Freeze - Cummings  
Harold L. Parker - Holstein  
Lyle Peterson - Stratford  
Kenneth Ohlson - Cherokee  
Eldon Hobey - Badger  
Ronald McGregor - Nashua  
James Montgomery - Larrabee  
Darl Reynolds - Milo  
Dean Jimonsen - Quimby  
Joe Lundsgaard - Cherokee  
Orville Kalsem - Huxley  
Don Nelson - Danville  
Willard Latham - Alexander  
Maynard Lang - Brooklyn  
Jake Stimpson - Clarinda  
John D. Morris - Columbus Junction  
Elmer J. Hamann - Eldridge  
Ray Hagie - Clarion  
Royal Holz - Grand Junction  
Lyle Eivins - Creston  
Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Frame - Plano  
Harvey Moeckly - Ankeny

LIST OF IOWA FARMERS CONTINUED

Ed Askew - Thurman

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Howe - Corwith

C. M. Strothman - Marion

Dennis Lundsgaard - Cherokee

Robert Doolittle - Webster City

John Greig - Estherville

Felix Homberger - Corwith

Jim Mullins - Corwith

Robert Altman - Altoona

Dwight White - Bloomfield

Richard Hinderaker - Radcliff

Hugo Schnekloth - Eldridge

Richard Vilmont - Ames

Ralph Neill - Corning

Ralph Patterson - Cherokee

Edwin Augustine - Washington

Vern Folkmann - Conroy

Kenneth Thatcher - Cummings

Paul E. Johnson - Madrid

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Otilie - Marshalltown

Jim Boggess - Vellisca

Donald Johnson - Fairfield

Wallace McKee - Indianola

Charles Meloy - Cherokee

Thatcher Johnson - Madrid

Thurman Gaskill - Corwith

Kenneth Logeman - Northwood

Dean Kleckner - Rudd

Leo Bodensteiner - West Union

MEMBERS OF THE FARMERS FOR FORD STAFF AND STATE CHAIRMEN OF  
THE FARMERS FOR FORD

Mr. & Mrs. Roy B. Keppy - National Chairman of the Farmers for Ford  
Davenport, Iowa

Charlotte Mohr - Eldridge, Iowa

Ida Jean Keppy - Davenport, Iowa

Annette Rensburg - Davenport

John Trotman - Montgomery, Alabama

John W. Wilbanks, Batesville, Arkansas

Sen. Fred Anderson - Loveland, Colorado

Earle L. Isaacs, Ellendale, Delaware

Charles Gabby - Lewiston, Idaho

Laird Noh - Kimberly, Idaho

Gilbert Fricke - Petersburg, Illinois

Don Heckard - Logansport, Indiana

Richard Elijah - Clarence, Iowa

Doyle Rahjes - Agra, Kansas

Richard F. Price - Phoenix, Maryland

Verne Long, Pipestone, Minnesota

Merlin Valan - Moorhead, Minnesota

John Zapt - Bismark, Missouri

G. W. Deschamps - Missoula, Montana

Merlin Carlson - Lodgepole, Nebraska

Laurence Montero - Winnemucca, Nevada

Tim Hafen - Pahrump, Nevada

C. William Haines, Jr. - Masonville, New Jersey

Keith Johnson, Oneida, New York

Mr. & Mrs. John W. Ihrle, III. - Louisburg, North Carolina

MEMBERS OF THE FARMERS FOR FORD STAFF AND STATE CHAIRMAN OF  
THE FARMERS FOR FORD

Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Belter, Leonard, North Dakota  
Charles Benner - Middleburg, Pennsylvania  
Mr. & Mrs. John Glaus - Chamberlin, South Dakota  
Jay Anderson - East Bernard, Texas  
Hobart Cockerham - Lusk, Wyoming  
James M. Isaacs - Batesville, Arkansas  
Clyde McGinnis - newsman  
Elby Esquibel - Taos, New Mexico  
Dick Peister - Lusk, Wyoming  
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