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Since the disastrous days back in the late 1920's and the early 1930's the Congress of the United States has been faced with a tremendously problem which not only affects the lives and livelihood of the farmers of this nation but also the countless millions who depend for sustenance on production from our farms. Because of the global influence of the United States at this time it is no exaggeration to
state that the American farm problem in the broadest sense is truly an international issue.

The 64 dollar question might well be phrased in this manner. What should Congress do on the legislative level to establish a system of practical regulations which will give the farmer reasonable protection against excessive price fluctuations without subjecting him to governmentally-imposed restrictions that will deprive him of all freedom of action and initiative. Tied in with this is the dangerous possibility of an eventual loss of a world market for our farm products and an excessive consumer cost either at the market or through the United States Treasury.

What is the basic cause or reason for this perplexing problem. I pretend to be no expert but the following facts and figures may throw some light on the matter. In 1945 each farm worker produced enough agricultural products to support himself and 13 others. In 1920 each farm worker produced only enough for himself and nine others; in 1910 he produced enough for himself and seven others. Through mechanization, fertilization and improved methods each farm worker now produces sufficient agricultural products for twice as many non-farm people as 50 years ago.

Furthermore, without any increase in the acreage of crop land farmed since 1920, farmers have increased the
total volume of agricultural production for sale and for home consumption by 46 per cent. During this period farm production increased faster than our population increased. Beginning in 1939 and continuing at the present time, food production has been great enough to meet military and lend-lease needs during the war, relief feeding needs following the war, and at the same time furnish our civilian population larger per capita food supplies than in pre-war years. Per capita food consumption in the United States in 1946-1948 averaged 17 per cent higher than in the 1935-1939 period. This greater farmer efficiency in the United States has resulted in added availability of farm products despite the per capita increase in consumption of farm products. Consequently, this great nation is faced with a real danger of super-abundance unless constructive action is taken by all concerned.

Recently the House of Representatives considered new farm legislation. The debate brought out one illuminating fact, namely, that heretofore the Congress has always attacked and tried to solve the farm problem on a non-partisan basis. This previous non-political approach was sound and sensible because the solution to our agricultural quandries affect too many of our citizens.
Since January, 1949, however, it has become perfectly obvious that the new Democratic Administration intends to throw farm legislation bi-partisanship in the ash can and substitute, to the detriment of this nation and probably the world as a whole, a plan conceived solely by those with the most extreme partisan leanings. Such an approach, which utterly disregards constructive contributions which may be made by able agriculturalists in all political parties, should be condemned by all clear-thinking citizens. No one can convince me that you farmers want your future welfare and way of life dictated by a plan emanating solely from a Denver lawyer. I'll put my faith, and I think you will also, in the collective minds of those who do not seek for themselves or others political aggrandizement.

Because of a new grab for political power the American people and particularly farmers are now confronted with the so-called Brannan Plan. Where did it come from? What will it do to the farmer? Will it ruin or save the nation economically? These are legitimate questions and they must be answered to your complete satisfaction before the present farm program is pushed over the precipice to oblivion. Few will contend that the present farm program is perfect in
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This same kind of a scheme of complete regimentation has been tried before in Germany, in Argentina and in Great Britain. It has been found wanting even in those countries, so I am positive it is not the answer to your problems. To be specific, you might be interested in knowing how Germany handled the egg program. For example, every person who sold eggs was required to get a receipt in triplicate. One was to be sent to the Department of Agriculture, one was to be safely kept by the chicken raiser, the other was to be filed with the purchaser. Does that sound like a practical or workable plan for the poultry business in this county? I frankly fear that you who raise chickens and market the eggs and everyone else connected with the scheme, would get so fouled up in red tape that the snafu of O.P.A. days would look like paradise in comparison.

Let's consider for a moment the farmer's fate under this proposal. His great worries in the past have always been the vagaries of the weather, but he will find those worries utter bliss compared with the anxieties that will beset him when he becomes dependent upon the whims and fancies of the Congressional committees on appropriations for his livelihood.

The Brannan Scheme means government-administered farm prices and farm income, with absolute control of all land
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The over-all cost of this "propolition," to use the term of the Kingfish in the Amos 'n Andy show, is still very much a dark secret, but we can use Secretary Brannan's own illustration in the case of milk as an example. The Secretary said he wanted the average price to consumers down to 15 cents a quart. The average price throughout the United States today is around 21 cents per quart. The Secretary claims that for each one-cent-per-quart reduction in the price of milk the federal government would pay out $150,000,000. Now, for a reduction of six cents per quart, which he would like to make,
the federal government would have to pay out nine hundred million dollars per year. Furthermore, this would take care of only about one-third of the milk produced that is sold as fluid milk. If the other two-thirds, which goes into the production of butter, cheese, ice cream, etc., received the same bounty, the total cost to the federal treasury on this one product alone would be two and a half billion annually. A sizeable amount even in these days.

As you know, the House of Representatives recently turned this program of the Democratic Administration down by an overwhelming vote and we approved a continuation of the present law. It is indeed unfortunate that the Administration made this a partisan issue at such a critical time for the farmers of this nation. As a result, much valuable time has been lost—time which could have been well spent working on corrective legislation so that the "bugs" in the present law would be no more. If unfortunate results do accrue in the next several years, the blame should fall on the Donkey and his followers who during the past eight months have been trying to foist a strictly political farm law on the American people instead of working in cooperation with those who have the farmers' future foremost in mind. I can assure you that we who are presently in the minority in Congress will continue to strive for sound and sensible farm legislation without resorting to political chicanery.
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