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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Joint Statement of 28 Republican Members of the House

In the four and one-half years that have passed since the Japanese surrender, the United States has generously helped our friends and former enemies in all quarters of the world. The hungry were fed, the war damage repaired and financial assistance given to strengthen their economies. This country can be proud of the results obtained through our unselfish efforts.

As expected, the need and demand for assistance has materially eased. This is particularly true of food. American food exports have declined sharply with the result that we have accumulated in a short period of time large surpluses of food, now valued at over \$2,000,000,000. The Secretary of Agriculture has announced acreage allotments for this year in our major crops that will reduce their acreage by approximately 30,000,000 acres. Further slashes may be expected in 1951 unless prompt steps are taken to move the accumulating food surpluses.

It is time that we should give thought and consideration to our own problems and the problems of our own people. We are therefore sponsoring a bill to make available to our own deserving people the surplus food owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation. This was clearly the intent of Congress when at the last session the Agricultural Act of 1949 was passed. Legalistic interpretations and regulations have succeeded in almost completely nullifying this congressional directive and making necessary this clarifying bill.

The legislation we propose will authorize the Secretary of Agriculture and the Commodity Credit Corporation to make surplus food commodities available to Federal, State and local welfare agencies, private welfare agencies and the school-lunch program. To expedite the program of assistance, the Secretary of Agriculture would be authorized to advance up to six months' storage costs to apply against handling and transportation costs. At the present time the Commodity Credit Corporation is paying storage bills that vary according to the estimates and their source from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 a month on their holdings of surplus agricultural commodities. Under this bill these storage costs would be substantially reduced with the result that the needed food would be made available to the deserving American people at no cost to the taxpayers. In fact, it would be possible in some instances to reduce the State and local tax load through the utilization of these surpluses and we are sure that this matter will be thoroughly checked when the bill is considered.

It is the intention of the sponsors of this legislation that it be considered entirely non-political. It is believed to be in keeping with the best American traditions to help one's own and those deserving and in need of help.

According to the latest figures, there are 2,715,751 persons receiving old age pensions, 1,486,404 receiving dependents and children benefits, 92,000 blind receiving help, and 543,000 on State and local relief rolls.

The Commodity Credit Corporation on December 31, 1949, had in inventory over 23,000,000 pounds of cheese, over 215,000,000 pounds of dried milk, nearly 50,000,000 pounds of prunes, 23,000,000 pounds of raisins, over 9,000,000 cwt of dried beans, 1,600,000 cwt of rice, over 70,000,000 pounds of dried eggs, 725,000 pounds of turkeys, and is committed to buy over 50,000,000 bushels of potatoes.

Why not bring these two sets of statistics together, for they are more than statistics? They are people and food. Better to get the food to the deserving people than to pay storage, and ultimately hire more people to destroy the food.

Hugh D. Scott, Jr. - Penn.
John Phillips - Calif.
Jesse P. Wolcott - Mich.
Richard M. Nixon - Calif.
Hardie Scott - Penn.
William L. Pfeiffer - N. Y.
John W. Heselton - Mass.
Kenneth B. Keating - N. Y.
J. Glenn Beall - Md.
Donald Jackson - Calif.
Robert J. Corbett - Penn.
Edwin Arthur Hall - N. Y.
Thomas H. Werdel - Calif.
W. Sterling Cole - N. Y.

R. Walter Riehlman - N. Y.
Thomas A. Jenkins - Ohio
Albert H. Cole - Kan.
Antoni N. Sedlak - Conn.
Henry J. Latham - N. Y.
William S. Hill - Colo.
Charles B. Hosven - Iowa
August H. Andresen - Minn.
Paul B. Dague - Penn.
Gerald R. Ford, Jr. - Mich.
Harold O. Lovre - S. Dak.
James W. Wadsworth - N. Y.
Daniel A. Reed - N. Y.
Henry O. Talle - Iowa



Joint Statement by 18 Republican Members of the House

Millions for storage charges on surplus food stocks but nothing for needy Americans who could use the food, is apparently the Administration's policy. The Appropriations Committee report on hearings on the Agriculture Department appropriations bill disclosed that the Commodity Credit Corporation paid \$105,239,287 in storage charges on surplus food stocks in bulging warehouses during the period July 1, 1949 to December 31, 1949. This is at a rate of over \$17,500,000 per month. The storage bill is running at an even higher rate now. Secretary Brannan testified Thursday that the Commodity Credit Corporation could pay freight charges on surplus commodities -- like potatoes -- if they were to be converted to cattle feed but not for human consumption.

There are pending before the House Agriculture Committee several bills that would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to advance for freight and handling charges up to the cost of six months' storage, on surplus food commodities for Federal, State and local welfare agencies. Why can't we get surplus food to needy Americans before it spoils? The savings in storage charges on dried beans, dried milk, and many other products would more than offset the freight charges, and result in a net saving to the taxpayers.

Roy Woodruff, Michigan
Richard Nixon, California
Kenneth Keating, New York
Hugh Scott, Pennsylvania
Hardie Scott, Pennsylvania
Jesse P. Wolcott, Michigan
Antoni Sadlak, Connecticut
Clifford P. Case, New Jersey
Harold O. Lovre, South Dakota

Gerald R. Ford, Jr., Michigan
John J. Allen, Jr., California
Walter Norblad, Oregon
Jay LeFevre, New York
Charles A. Wolverton, New Jersey
Robert Hale, Maine
Ralph A. Gamble, New York
James E. Van Zandt, Pennsylvania
T. Millet Hand, New Jersey

