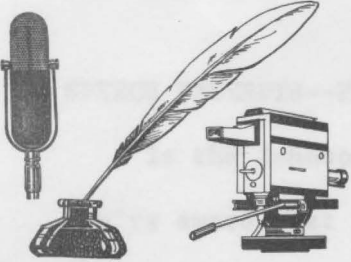


The original documents are located in Box D20, folder “Republican Fund-Raising Dinner, Towanda, PA, June 10, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M.
FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1966

SPEECH EXCERPTS--REPUBLICAN FUND-RAISING DINNER, TOWANDA, PENNSYLVANIA.

Agriculture Secretary Orville L. Freeman is a very confused man. That is the only conclusion you can come to when you consider the statements Mr. Freeman has made on recent occasions.

Most recently Mr. Freeman warned that food prices will go higher unless the farmer gets a fair shake for his products. He said farm prices must be fair or farmers will leave the farm.

Mind you, this is the same Mr. Freeman who made the farmer the whipping boy of inflation and recently told newsmen he was "pleased to report" declines in farm prices. You would think it was a different man talking, wouldn't you, if you weren't familiar with the devious tactics of the Johnson-Freeman Administration.

Mr. Freeman said he was "pleased to report" that farm prices were dropping from "cyclical highs which have accounted for most of the consumer food increases."

After the Johnson-Freeman Administration had succeeded in driving down farm prices, Mr. Freeman began wailing that farmers are quitting dairying because of economic pressures. He ought to know; he has contributed to those pressures.

It was the Johnson-Freeman Administration that substituted margarine for butter in the government's relief feeding programs and in Army and Air Force rations.

It was the Johnson-Freeman Administration that refused to make use of open market purchase authority for milk and dairy products.

It was the Johnson-Freeman Administration that tried to chop back school lunch and school milk appropriations.

It was the Johnson-Freeman Administration that sharply increased cheddar cheese imports.

It was the Johnson-Freeman Administration that refused to restrict imports of cream, junex, grapex, colby cheese and swiss cheese.

It was the Johnson-Freeman Administration that refused to hold nationwide hearings aimed at permanently increasing Class I milk differentials in federal milk markets.

*Limited hide efforts ****

(MORE)



SPEECH EXCERPTS--FARM

Is the Johnson-Freeman Administration the friend of the farmer? I'm sure you're aware that the Johnson-Freeman Administration has taken a number of actions aimed at depressing farm prices. These actions were taken under the guise of a war on inflation. Unfortunately, the American farmer became the first casualty.

* * *

The Johnson-Freeman Administration rode to power in the farm states in 1964 with promises of "parity of income" and "90 per cent of parity price supports." What is the latest parity ratio? For May it was only 79.

* * *

It is the Johnson-Freeman Administration's inflationary policies that are the push behind the steady rise in the cost-of-living--not today's farm prices.

It is excessive Johnson-Freeman Administration spending that is fanning the flames of inflation, and inflation is stealing three to five dollars out of every hundred an American earns this year.

The farmer is the victim of inflation, along with other consumers--not the villain the Johnson-Freeman Administration would make him out to be.

The truth is that farm prices today are 6 per cent lower than in the Korean War year of 1952, but food prices have gone up 16 per cent since then.

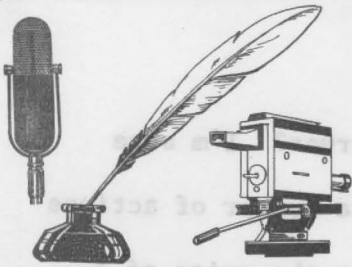
During the same period, farm costs have gone up 15 per cent.

What does this all add up to? It means that farmers are caught in a vicious cost-price squeeze that leaves them on the short end while the Johnson-Freeman Administration's policies generate mounting inflation.

It means the Johnson-Freeman Administration has blamed farmers for high food prices despite the fact that farmers are not getting their fair share of the food dollar. Official federal government figures show that prices received by the farmer account for only 39 per cent of the grocery store price tag for foodstuffs. The other 61 per cent is added after the food leaves the farm.

How can we change this? I'll tell you how--by electing a strong Republican Congress in 1966. Farmers will have an opportunity in November to vote for a party that aims to make sure the farmer shares adequately in the nation's prosperity--the Republican Party. Farmers will have an opportunity to reject the Democratic Party, which has proved itself long on farm promises but short on performance. And I'm sure that's just what they'll do.

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