

The original documents are located in Box D20, folder “Republican Fund-Raising Dinner, Mt. Pleasant, IA, June 11, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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The First District of Iowa must regain its voice in Washington. Fred Schwengel is the man who can do that for you. Not only does the First District need Fred Schwengel but the Republican Party needs him and Congress needs him. No man ~~has~~^{ever} worked harder in Congress than Fred Schwengel. He is an experienced legislator with bold, fresh and imaginative ideas. He is not afraid to tackle injustice or to seek to right what is wrong. Your present congressman and most of his Democratic colleagues are a bunch of rubber stamps, afraid, unable and unwilling to exercise independent judgment in Washington.

(MORE)

REM 2/ REMARKS...SCHWENGEL

Compare

~~that~~ that type of representation with the kind offered by Fred

Schwengel. ~~that~~ Fred is an independent thinker who is obligated to no one but his constituents, a tireless worker for his people, a man who knows the needs, desires and attitudes of First District residents and ~~and~~ reflects them in Congress. Fred Schwengel is aware of the major problems that face this country. He was one of the early ~~advocates~~ ^{Republican} advocates of the ~~tax credit~~ ^{plan} for financing college schooling. His "Iowa Plan" was one of the first tax credit proposals introduced in the Congress.

(MORE)

3/ REMARKS...SCHWENGEL

He, along with others, was able to get a plank in the 1964 Republican platform endorsing tax credits for the expenses of a college education.

As a ~~★~~ former teacher, Fred Schwengel understands young people. Born and raised on a farm, Fred knows the problems of agriculture. If Fred Schwengel were in Congress today, you would see him doing everything ~~in~~ in his power to convince Orville Freeman that he should be a secretary ~~FOR~~ FOR agriculture and not secretary AGAINST agriculture. We ~~have~~ have a sorry situation in Washington-- a secretary of agriculture who applauds falling farm prices--and the present First District congressman has said nothing ~~about raising prices with him~~ which would [MORE]

4/ REMARKS...SCHWENGEL

indicate he disagrees with him. Farmers need Fred Schwengel in Congress to see that a fair and adequate farm program is enacted. Fred has constantly called for a farm program that deals with the economics of the farm question and not the politics of it. You can help him achieve that goal by sending him back to Congress.

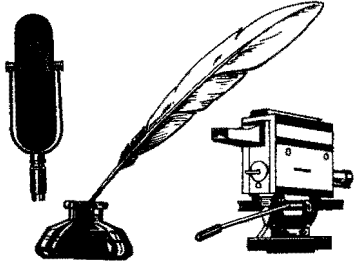
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Fred's ~~manag~~ record has been long and ~~is~~ distinguished. You need him in Congress. The country needs him in Congress. The Republican Party needs him in Congress.

I can't elect Fred Schwengel, but you can. This campaign will be long and hard. All I ask of you is that you fight the good fight and send Fred back to us.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M.,
SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 1966

SPEECH EXCERPTS--REPUBLICAN FUND-RAISING DINNER, MT. PLEASANT, IOWA.

Agriculture Secretary Orville L. Freeman is a very confused man. That is the only conclusion you can come to when you consider some of the statements he has made recently. But you must remember, too, that his boss is Lyndon B. Johnson.

It was just a few days ago that Secretary Freeman called a press conference in Washington to warn that food prices will go higher unless the farmer gets a fair shake on the price of his products. He said farm prices must be fair or farmers will leave the farm. This, he said, will threaten the food supply.

This is the same Mr. Freeman who recently made the farmer the whipping boy of inflation and told newsmen he was "pleased to report" that farm prices were falling. Confusing, isn't it? Which Mr. Freeman should we believe?

You would think it was a different man talking if you weren't familiar with the devious tactics of the Johnson-Freeman Administration, the attempts to be all things to all men. But I think you're "on" to these fellows by this time.

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."

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

It was the Johnson-Freeman Administration which cost grain farmers millions of dollars in lost income by dumping Commodity Credit Corporation grain on the market.

It was the Johnson-Freeman Administration that halted all purchases of pork by the military and later rescinded the order because of howls of outrage from farm congressmen.

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

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

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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 ^{four} 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.

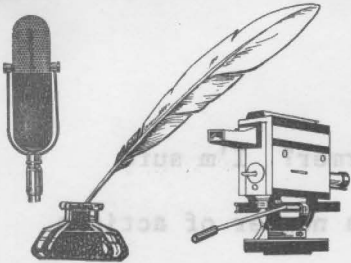
What does this all add up to? It means that farmers are caught in a vicious cost-price squeeze that leaves them on the short end while the Johnson-Freeman Administration's policies generate mounting inflation.

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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