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~~THE~~ PRESIDENT HAS ~~SAID~~

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION CONVENTION

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 1976

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FARM BUREAU SPEECH

- THANK YOU, BILL (Bill Kuhfuss introduces you)
- GOVERNOR BOND
- SENATOR CURTIS
- SENATOR HATFIELD
- SENATOR ALLEN
- CONGRESSMAN AL ULLMAN (he speaks before your arrival and may be a platform guest)
- EARL *Sec. Butz*
- FARM BUREAU MEMBERS AND GUESTS

really

I WELCOME YOUR INVITATION TO MAKE MY FIRST

MAJOR ADDRESS OF THIS HISTORIC BICENTENNIAL YEAR OF 1976

BEFORE THE FARMERS OF AMERICA • OUR EARLIEST HERITAGE

AS A NATION WAS CREATED BY THE FARMER • TODAY,

THE FUTURE OF ALL AMERICANS --| AND THE WORLD --|

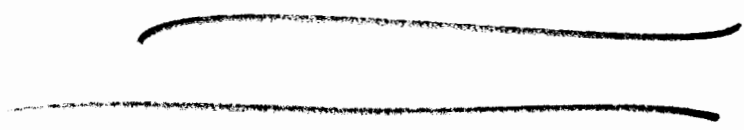
DEPENDS ON YOU MORE THAN EVER •

THERE IS NO BICENTENNIAL FORUM MORE IMPORTANT
=

THAN THIS CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR ALL AMERICANS TO JOIN YOU, OUR FARMERS,

IN RE-CULTIVATING AMERICA'S OLD AND CHERISHED VALUES, *including*
our ^{the highest} *dedication* ^{to} *moral & spiritual virtues.*



YOU, THE FARMERS OF AMERICA, TOOK THE CHALLENGE

200 YEARS AGO. IN THE WORDS OF RALPH WALDO EMERSON,

DESCRIBING THE HEROIC STAND AT CONCORD BRIDGE IN 177⁵6,

THE EMBATTLED FARMERS STOOD, AND FIRED THE SHOT HEARD

ROUND THE WORLD.

THE FARMER TODAY IS STILL EMBATTLED.

TODAY'S VITAL SHOTS ARE NOT FROM GUNS BUT FROM GRAIN.

NOT FROM PISTOLS BUT FROM PRODUCTIVITY.

THE MINUTEMAN

OF 1776 IS THE MAN WITH THE TRACTOR.

TWO HUNDRED YEARS HAVE PASSED BUT YOU REMAIN

CENTRAL TO AMERICA'S FUTURE AND AMERICA'S FREEDOM.



WE START THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR WITH JUSTIFIABLE
PRIDE IN OUR AGRICULTURAL STRENGTH AND PROGRESS.
THE LAST THREE YEARS HAVE BEEN THE HIGHEST ON RECORD IN
TERMS OF NET FARM INCOME.

I AM AWARE THAT SOME FARMERS, BECAUSE OF DROUGHT AND

OTHER REASONS, HAVE NOT SHARED IN THIS BOUNTY•

BUT THE REAL TEST IS THE NET INCOME OF THE TOTAL FARMING

COMMUNITY•

I PLEDGE TO DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER AS PRESIDENT

TO KEEP FARM INCOME HIGH. YOU CAN ANTICIPATE THAT NET FARM

INCOME WILL APPROACH ^{25 B} 25 BILLION DOLLARS, WITHOUT GOVERNMENT

PAYMENTS, IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR.

THIS WILL BE THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR THAT NET

FARM INCOME WILL EXCEED THE 1972 THEN-RECORD HIGH OF

17.3 BILLION DOLLARS, ⁴ WHICH INCLUDED NEARLY FOUR BILLION

DOLLARS IN GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS.

TODAY, I WANT TO REMIND THOSE WHO WOULD MINIMIZE
OUR NATIONAL STRENGTH THAT OVER HALF OF THE GRAIN MOVING
ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD
IS GROWN BY YOU, THE AMERICAN FARMER.

BUT, IF WE WANT DEPENDABLE EXPORT MARKETS FOR
OUR FOOD, THE UNITED STATES MUST BE A RELIABLE SUPPLIER.

ON TWO OCCASIONS SINCE I BECAME PRESIDENT THE GOVERNMENT
WAS FORCED TO TEMPORARILY RESTRAIN FARM EXPORTS.

I RECOGNIZE THAT THESE ACTIONS RESULTED IN CONFUSION AND
CONCERN AMONG OUR FARMERS.

THE FIRST GOVERNMENT INTERRUPTION CAME IN
OCTOBER, 1974, WHEN THE SOVIET UNION SUDDENLY, AND
WITHOUT NOTICE, ENTERED OUR MARKETS TO BUY AT A TIME
WHEN WE HAD A SHORT CROP IN SOME AREAS. THE
GOVERNMENT WAS FORCED TO INTERVENE TO LEARN SOVIET
INTENTIONS.

THIS WAS IN THE INTEREST OF OUR OWN LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

AND REGULAR GRAIN-BUYING CUSTOMERS OVERSEAS - AND OF

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. ACCORDINGLY, CONTRACTS WITH THE

SOVIET UNION WERE RENEGOTIATED TO CHANGE THE PROPORTION OF

CORN AND WHEAT FOR EXPORT.

THESE ACTIONS HEADED OFF THE DANGER OF EVEN MORE

SEVERE LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTIONS BY THE CONGRESS.

LAST SUMMER, THE SOVIETS SUFFERED ANOTHER

EXTREMELY SHORT CROP. THEY AGAIN TURNED TO U.S. FARMERS

FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRAIN SUPPLIES. A TEMPORARY HOLD

ON NEW SALES TO THE SOVIETS WAS MADE ONLY AFTER THEY HAD BECOME

OUR LARGEST FOREIGN CUSTOMER BY PURCHASING 9.8 MILLION METRIC

TONS OF GRAIN ~~//~~ 375 MILLION BUSHELS.

THERE WAS, AS YOU KNOW, CONCERN AT THAT TIME
ABOUT OUR OWN CORN CROP. ALTHOUGH THE WHEAT HARVEST WAS
NEARLY COMPLETE BY LATE JULY, OUR FEED GRAIN CROP WAS STILL
UNCERTAIN. DRY WEATHER HAD ALREADY DAMAGED CORN IN THE
WESTERN CORN BELT. THERE WAS NO WAY OF KNOWING IF WE WOULD
HAVE A REPEAT OF THE DROUGHT OR AN EARLY FREEZE WHICH HIT THE
CORN CROP THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

AGAIN, THE TEMPORARY HOLD ON NEW GRAIN SALES

TO THE SOVIETS, AND LATER TO POLAND, WAS TAKEN WITH

EXTREME RELUCTANCE.

PRESSURES IN THE CONGRESS WERE

INCREASING TO HALT ALL PRIVATE GRAIN SALES AND PUT AGRICULTURAL

EXPORTS IN THE HANDS OF A GOVERNMENT ^{Management} CONTROL BOARD.

I DID NOT + AND DO NOT + WANT THE GOVERNMENT RUNNING
YOUR BUSINESS -- 365 DAYS A YEAR, YEAR IN AND YEAR OUT.

IT WAS A UNIQUE SITUATION THAT REQUIRED CORRECTIVE

ACTION AND A LONG TERM SOLUTION.

THE TEMPORARY HOLD

5

ON NEW SALES PERMITTED US TO WORK OUT A FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT

WITH THE RUSSIANS.

SINCE THEN,

IN THE OPEN MARKET,

WE HAVE MADE SUBSTANTIAL NEW SALES TO THE SOVIET UNION AND

TO POLAND.

Right Now.

SHIPS FILLED WITH THIS U.S. GRAIN ARE NOW BACKED UP AT FOREIGN

PORTS, WAITING TO BE UNLOADED. THERE IS EVERY LIKELIHOOD

THAT WE MAY SELL THEM EVEN MORE THIS YEAR.

THIS NEW AGREEMENT NOW ASSURES THAT THE RUSSIANS

WILL PURCHASE AT LEAST SIX MILLION METRIC TONS OF UNITED STATES

CORN AND WHEAT EACH YEAR FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. THIS IS

MORE THAN A BUSHEL A PERSON IN TERMS OF THE ENTIRE UNITED STATES

POPULATION.

POLAND HAS ALSO INDICATED THAT IT WILL BUY ABOUT 100 MILLION
5
BUSHELS OF UNITED STATES GRAIN ANNUALLY FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

IN ADDITION TO THE ANNUAL RUSSIAN PURCHASE

COMMITMENT OF 228 MILLION BUSHELS OF WHEAT AND CORN,

THIS AGREEMENT PROVIDES AN OPTION TO PURCHASE AN ADDITIONAL

76 MILLION BUSHELS ANNUALLY.

ALL PURCHASES WILL BE AT MARKET PRICES THROUGH THE PRIVATE

SECTOR. IF THE RUSSIANS WISH TO PURCHASE MORE THAN

304 MILLION BUSHELS IN ANY YEAR, IT IS POSSIBLE UNDER THE

AGREEMENT. THERE IS NO ARBITRARY AND INFLEXIBLE CEILING.

FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE ALREADY SOLD THEM 500 MILLION BUSHELS

OUT OF THE CURRENT 1975 CROP.

THIS AGREEMENT IS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH THE AMERICAN
FARMER AND THE AMERICAN CONSUMER. IT PREVENTS THE
SOVIETS FROM DISRUPTING OUR MARKETS. AS WE HAVE
SEEN, DISRUPTIVE AND UNPREDICTABLE PURCHASES LED TO SUCH
PROBLEMS AS CONGRESSIONAL DEMANDS FOR EXPORT CONTROL AND
THE REFUSAL OF UNIONS TO HANDLE GRAIN SHIPMENTS.

WE HAVE NOW ASSURED AMERICAN GRAIN PRODUCERS

THAT AT PLANTING TIME THEY WILL HAVE A MUCH MORE RELIABLE

INDICATION OF HOW LARGE AN EXPORT MARKET THERE WILL BE

AT HARVEST TIME.

) THE AMERICAN LIVESTOCK PRODUCER WILL HAVE A BETTER IDEA
OF HIS FEED SUPPLY. >) THE AMERICAN CONSUMER WILL KNOW
THAT GRAIN WILL BE MOVING OVERSEAS IN A REGULAR FLOW AND
BE ASSURED THAT THERE WILL BE ADEQUATE FOOD AT HOME.

of ematics

WE HAVE TRANSFORMED OCCASIONAL CUSTOMERS INTO

REGULAR CUSTOMERS.

WE HAVE AVERTED AN OUTCRY EVERY

YEAR THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING TO MAKE SECRET PURCHASES.

THE PRIVATE MARKETING SYSTEM HAS BEEN PRESERVED.

RECORD

EXPORTS ARE NOW MOVING.

THE ALTERNATIVES WERE AND ARE INTOLERABLE●

THE PROSPECT OF MASSIVE PILE-UPS AT THE DOCKS,

WITH CROPS BACKED UP ALL THE WAY TO LOCAL ELEVATORS

IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE●

I ASK YOU: SHOULD WE RUN AN OBSTACLE COURSE

THROUGH CONGRESS AND OTHER ROADBLOCKS EACH YEAR ON WHETHER

TO SELL ANY GRAIN TO THE SOVIET UNION?

I SAY: NO!

Management of

SHOULD WE TURN YOUR CROP OVER TO A GOVERNMENT-CONTROL

BOARD TO MANAGE AND SELL OVERSEAS?

I EMPHATICALLY SAY

NO!

+ elsewhere

SOME IN CONGRESS ARE NOW QUESTIONING THE WISDOM

↑

OF GRAIN SALES TO THE SOVIET UNION BECAUSE THE SOVIETS ARE

newly independent

INTERVENING MILITARILY IN THE AFRICAN COUNTRY OF ANGOLA.

↑

OUR COMMITMENT TO WORK WITH ALL NATIONS -- INCLUDING

THE SOVIET UNION -- TO LESSEN THE RISK OF WAR AND TO

ACHIEVE GREATER STABILITY IS A SINCERE AND CONSTRUCTIVE

UNDERTAKING. BUT IT IS A COMMITMENT WHICH MUST BE

HONORED BY BOTH SIDES.

THERE CANNOT BE A LESSENING OF WORLD TENSION IF THE SOVIET UNION,
BY MILITARY SUPPORT AND OTHER MEANS, ATTEMPTS TO EXPAND
ITS SPHERE OF INFLUENCE THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM ITS BORDERS.

THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT CEASE ITS EFFORTS,
DIPLOMATIC AND OTHERWISE, TO STABILIZE THE MILITARY SITUATION
IN ANGOLA AND PROMOTE A QUICK AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.
WE FAVOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE, AN END TO ALL OUTSIDE
INTERVENTION, AND A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY,
PERMITTING THE SOLUTION OF THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM BY THE
ANGOLANS THEMSELVES.

WE ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH MANY OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES
TO BRING THIS ABOUT - \ COUNTRIES THAT REALIZE PERHAPS BETTER
THAN THE U.S. CONGRESS THAT OUR CONTINUED EFFORT TO COUNTER
SOVIET AND CUBAN ACTION IS CRUCIAL TO ANY HOPE OF A FAIR
SOLUTION.

THE SOVIET UNION MUST REALIZE THAT THE SOVIET ATTEMPT TO TAKE

UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE OF THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM IS INCONSISTENT

WITH THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS.

IF IT CONTINUES, DAMAGE TO OUR BROADER RELATIONS

WILL BE UNAVOIDABLE.

YOU, THE FARMERS OF AMERICA, UNDERSTAND

THE IMPORTANCE OF AMERICA'S RELATIONS WITH THE REST OF THE

WORLD. YOU KNOW WE CANNOT ABDICATE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR MAINTAINING PEACE AND PROGRESS.

I EMPHASIZE, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS A SERIOUS MISTAKE

TO ASSUME THAT LINKING OUR EXPORTS OF GRAIN TO THE SITUATION

IN ANGOLA WOULD SERVE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE WHATSOEVER.

- 40 -
already under contract
already sold

IN FACT, WITHHOLDING GRAIN WOULD PRODUCE NO IMMEDIATE
↑

GAIN IN DIPLOMATIC LEVERAGE. AMERICAN GRAIN, WHILE

IMPORTANT, TO THE U.S.S.R., IS NOT VITAL TO THEM. THE

SOVIET UNION HAS SURVIVED FOR NEARLY 60 YEARS, INCLUDING

YEARS OF TOTAL WESTERN ECONOMIC EMBARGO, WITHOUT AMERICAN

GRAIN.

THE IMPACT OF A GRAIN CUT-OFF WOULD BE FELT ONLY AFTER A LONG PERIOD. IT WOULD NOT PRODUCE THE NEEDED SHORT TERM RESULTS.

THERE IS NOT THE SLIGHTEST DOUBT THAT IF WE TRIED TO USE GRAIN FOR LEVERAGE, THE SOVIETS COULD GET ALONG WITHOUT AMERICAN GRAIN AND IGNORE OUR VIEWS.

THIS WAS EMPHATICALLY DEMONSTRATED BY THEIR ATTITUDE

TOWARD THE U.S. TRADE ACT PROVISIONS OF 1974 ON EMIGRATION

FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

THE LINKAGE OF GRAIN WITH DIPLOMACY WOULD MEAN DISRUPTION
AND HARDSHIP FOR YOU, THE FARMER, \ A SERIOUS INCREASE
IN TENSIONS BETWEEN THE WORLD'S TWO SUPERPOWERS,
AND NO EFFECT IN ANGOLA.

U.S.-SOVIET RIVALRY IN SOME AREAS AROUND THE

WORLD HAS, UNFORTUNATELY, NOT CEASED. THE ANSWER IS

TO TAKE OTHER APPROPRIATE LIMITED MEASURES NECESSARY TO

BLOCK -- AND STOP -- SOVIET ACTIONS THAT WE FIND

UNACCEPTABLE.

==

IN THESE COMPLICATED AND CONTROVERSIAL TIMES,

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU MAINTAIN THE FREEDOM TO MARKET CROPS

AND FIND CUSTOMERS WHEREVER YOU CAN. STRONG AGRICULTURAL

EXPORTS ARE BASIC TO AMERICA'S FARM POLICY AND TO THE FREEDOM

OF EVERY FARMER TO MANAGE HIS OWN FARM. YOU SHOULD BE

REWARDED -\ AND NOT PUNISHED -\ FOR PRODUCING EACH YEAR

MUCH MORE THAN WE CONSUME AT HOME.

YOU MUST EXPORT TWO-THIRDS OF EACH YEAR'S

WHEAT CROP -- OR CUT BACK PRODUCTION.

YOU MUST EXPORT 50 PERCENT OF YOUR SOYBEANS --

OR CUT BACK PRODUCTION.

Wheat - $\frac{2}{3}$
Soybeans - 50%

YOU MUST BE ABLE TO EXPORT MORE THAN 55 PERCENT

OF YOUR RICE CROP -- OR CUT BACK PRODUCTION.

YOU MUST BE ABLE TO EXPORT 40 PERCENT OF YOUR

COTTON -- OR CUT BACK PRODUCTION.

Rice - 55%
Cotton - 40%

YOU MUST EXPORT AT LEAST ONE-FOURTH OF YOUR

FEED GRAIN -- OR CUT BACK PRODUCTION.

IN SHORT, YOU MUST EXPORT TO KEEP FARMING

PROFITABLE.

Feed grain - 25%

YOU MUST EXPORT IF WE ARE TO KEEP A FAVORABLE

BALANCE OF UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

YOU MUST EXPORT IF YOU ARE TO PROSPER AND

IF THE WORLD IS TO EAT.

THIS IS THE FARM POLICY THAT IS BRINGING NEW LIFE

TO OUR RURAL COUNTRYSIDE.

FOOD IS NOW OUR NUMBER ONE SOURCE OF FOREIGN

EXCHANGE. FARM EXPORTS LAST YEAR TOTALLED NEARLY

22 BILLION DOLLARS.

OUR FAVORABLE 12 BILLION DOLLAR BALANCE IN INTERNATIONAL

AGRICULTURAL TRADE OFFSETS DEFICITS IN NON-AGRICULTURAL

TRADE; IT STRENGTHENS THE DOLLAR. THIS HELPS PAY FOR

PETROLEUM AND OTHER IMPORTS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN

OUR HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING.

WE HAVE HEARD MUCH IN THE 1970'S OF PETRO-POWER,

THE POWER OF THOSE NATIONS WITH VAST EXPORTABLE PETROLEUM

RESOURCES. TODAY, \ LET US CONSIDER A DIFFERENT KIND

OF POWER, AGRI-POWER -- THE POWER TO GROW. AGRI-POWER

IS THE POWER TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE

IN A NEW WORLD WHERE OUR FATE IS INTERDEPENDENT WITH THE

FATE OF OTHERS.

throughout the world - 52 -
1

PEOPLE CAN REDUCE THE CONSUMPTION OF PETROLEUM

WITH SOME SACRIFICE.

BUT THEY CANNOT REDUCE THE

CONSUMPTION OF FOOD WITHOUT WIDESPREAD STARVATION.

INDEED, THE WORLD'S POPULATION WILL NEARLY DOUBLE BY THE

YEAR 2000.

BY COPING WITH HUNGER, WE CAN ASSURE A BETTER

FUTURE FOR ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD.

GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL, IN OUTLINING

HIS EUROPEAN RECOVERY PLAN AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY IN 1947,

SAID THAT "OUR POLICY IS DIRECTED NOT AGAINST ANY COUNTRY.

OR DOCTRINE BUT AGAINST HUNGER, \ POVERTY, \ DESPERATION

AND CHAOS." GENERAL MARSHALL'S WORDS ARE TODAY REFLECTED

IN OUR FOREIGN POLICY•

THE CREDIBILITY OF AMERICA IN THE WORLD RESTS

UPON OUR VAST RESOURCES AS MUCH AS OUR DEFENSES.

AS WE ASSESS OUR STRENGTH FOR PEACE -- AMERICA'S FARMING

FAMILIES STAND SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH OUR MEN AND WOMEN

IN UNIFORM.



YOU AND I SHARE THE SAME IDEALS, THE SAME PRINCIPLES

AND THE SAME CONFIDENT BELIEF IN THE LAND AND IN AMERICAN

AGRICULTURE.

WE BELIEVE IN OURSELVES.

WE BELIEVE IN

THE VALUE OF THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE WHO WORK THE LAND.

AND WE BELIEVE IN OUR COUNTRY.

YOU STAND FOR HARD, FRUITFUL WORK -- AND SO DO I.

YOU STAND FOR THE BASIC MORALITY AND DEPENDABLE

QUALITIES THAT HAVE LONG CHARACTERIZED RURAL AMERICA --

AND SO DO I.

YOU STAND FOR LEAN, RESPONSIVE, FISCALLY-SOUND

GOVERNMENT -- AND SO DO I. YOU FAVOR TAX CUTS BALANCED

WITH CUTS IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING -- AND SO DO I.

YOU BELIEVE THAT FARMERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE

A GOOD LIVING -- AND SO DO I.

YOU BELIEVE IN A MINIMUM OF GOVERNMENT CONTROLS

ON AGRICULTURE -- AND SO DO I.

YOU BELIEVE IN THE ELIMINATION OF UNNECESSARY

BUREAUCRATIC REGULATIONS THAT CAUSE INEFFICIENCY AND LOSSES --

AND SO DO I. I WELCOME, FOR INSTANCE, THE LETTER

FROM YOUR FEDERATION IN SUPPORT OF MY LEGISLATION TO MODIFY

REGULATIONS THAT PROHIBIT BACKHAUL BY FARM TRUCKS.

WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN AND WILL STOP THIS FRUSTRATING WASTE.

YOU BELIEVE IN A FARM POLICY THAT BUILDS STRONG

MARKETS AT HOME AND ABROAD -- AND SO DO I.

SOME NATIONS WITH OTHER POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES
HAVE VIRTUALLY THE SAME TRACTORS AND COMBINES THAT
YOU USE IN YOUR FIELDS. BUT, THEIR FARMERS DO NOT HAVE
THE SAME INCENTIVES. THEY DO NOT HAVE THE GREATEST PIECE
OF FARM MACHINERY EVER BUILT ~~---~~ FREE ENTERPRISE.

IF WE TAKE FREEDOM AND ENTERPRISE AWAY FROM THE

AMERICAN FARMER, WE TAKE FOOD OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF MILLIONS

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

2¹/₂

YOUR EXPORTS IN THE 1970S ARE TWO AND A HALF TIMES

AS MUCH AS IN THE CORRESPONDING YEARS OF THE 1960S.

SURPLUSES THAT ONCE PILED UP IN BINS AND WAREHOUSES /-

DEPRESSING YOUR PRICES /- ARE NOT AROUND ANYMORE.

LET US WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

YOU ARE EARNING YOUR INCOME FROM A FREE MARKET /--

NOT FROM A GOVERNMENT CHECK FINANCED BY THE TAXPAYER.

LET US CONTINUE THIS VIGOROUS, / MARKET-ORIENTED,

FREE ENTERPRISE AGRICULTURE.

WE NEED AND HAVE A FIGHTING SECRETARY OF

AGRICULTURE -- EARL BUTZ. HE IS THE ADVOCATE OF PROFITABLE

FOOD PRODUCTION, THE ADVOCATE OF THE FARMER, AND THE ADVOCATE

OF FAIR PLAY.

I SHARE YOUR PRIDE IN THE NEW STRENGTH OF AGRICULTURE.

YOU HAVE MADE AMERICA THE SOURCE OF LIFE-SUSTAINING FOOD

PRODUCTION IN A WORLD THAT IS INCREASINGLY SHORT OF FOOD.

through your efforts

WE HAVE PROVIDED 25 BILLION DOLLARS IN FOOD FOR PEACE OVER

1

THE LAST 20 YEARS. IN THE LAST 10 YEARS, WE HAVE FURNISHED

80 PERCENT OF THE FOOD AID IN THE ENTIRE WORLD.

AND DURING THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR, WE WILL SHIP
APPROXIMATELY ONE BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF COMMODITIES
UNDER THE FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM.

AT HOME, YOU ARE SUPPLYING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

WITH FOOD AT A FAR SMALLER SHARE OF THEIR INCOME THAN

ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

YOU ARE NOT MAKING AN UNDUE PROFIT AT THE CONSUMER'S EXPENSE.

WHILE THE PRICE OF BREAD WENT UP NEARLY 11 CENTS A LOAF OVER

3

1½

THE LAST THREE YEARS, WHEAT PRICES ADDED ONLY ONE AND ONE-HALF

9

CENTS PER LOAF.

NON-FARM COSTS ADDED MORE THAN NINE CENTS.

LET US NEVER FORGET THAT FARMERS MUST PROFIT,

IF AMERICA IS TO PROFIT. THERE MUST BE ENOUGH INCOME

FOR YOU TO REPLACE MACHINERY, CONSERVE AND ENRICH THE SOIL,

ADOPT NEW TECHNIQUES, AND BUY ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES.

THE CONTINUITY OF OUR FAMILY FARMS IS VITAL.

THEREFORE, I WANT YOU TO BE THE FIRST TO KNOW THAT WHEN

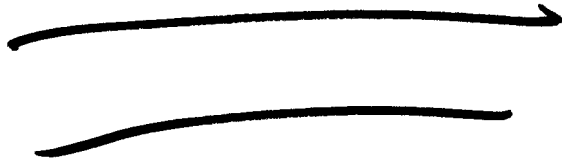
THE CONGRESS RECONVENES, I WILL PROPOSE CHANGES IN OUR TAX

LAWS TO REVISE FAMILY ESTATE TAXES. I WANT THIS DONE SO

THAT FARMS CAN BE HANDED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

WITHOUT THE FORCED LIQUIDATION OF FAMILY ENTERPRISES.

TOO MUCH LABOR AND LOVE GO INTO THE DEVELOPMENT
OF A PAYING FARM TO DISMANTLE IT WITH EVERY NEW GENERATION.



IT IS NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT THE FATE OF AMERICA

IN OUR THIRD CENTURY, AND OF ALL CIVILIZATION, DEPENDS

UPON YOU.

I HAVE FAITH IN YOU, IN ALL THE FARMING FAMILIES

OF AMERICA, AND IN YOUR FEDERATION.

LET THERE GO FORTH FROM THIS MEETING TODAY THE

BICENTENNIAL MESSAGE THAT THE PAST IS PROLOGUE TO AN EVEN

BETTER FUTURE.

AMERICA, WITH THE GREATEST MATERIAL AND

HUMAN RESOURCES EVER ACHIEVED BY ANY NATION, HAS NOT

FORGOTTEN THE SPIRIT OF "CAN DO".

WE CAN DO AND WE WILL DO.

THE AMERICAN FARMER DIED FOR FREEDOM ON THE BRIDGE

AT CONCORD 200 YEARS AGO.

THE LEAST THAT AMERICA CAN DO

TODAY IS LET THE FARMER LIVE IN FREEDOM FROM THE STIFLING

INTERFERENCE AND CONTROL OF BIG GOVERNMENT.

IF THERE IS ONE THING WE CAN ALL BE CERTAIN OF,

IT'S THIS: \ A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO GIVE YOU EVERYTHING

YOU WANT IS A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO TAKE FROM YOU

EVERYTHING YOU HAVE.

TOGETHER, LET US RESTORE TO ALL AMERICANS

A NEW CONFIDENCE IN WHICH PEOPLE HUNGER FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

AS WELL AS FOOD. IN THE WORDS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT,

BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH DO HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER

RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEY SHALL BE FILLED.

END OF TEXT