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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

REMARKS BEFORE ROCKFORD FARM GROUP,

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

MARCH 11, 1976

## FARM FORUM ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- THANK YOU, DEL (Del Tedrick, Winnebago County Farm Bureau Executive Director)
- SENATOR PERCY
- CONGRESSMAN ANDERSON
- FORMER GOVERNOR OGILVIE
- BOB WINTERS (WINNEBAGO County Farm Bureau President)
- FARMERS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE ~~FOR ME~~ TO BE IN ROCKFORD

AND IN THE GREAT STATE OF ILLINOIS THIS AFTERNOON.

I ENJOYED MYSELF SO MUCH LAST WEEKEND --

I JUST COULDN'T RESIST COMING BACK.

I WANT TO TAKE AS MANY OF YOUR QUESTIONS

AS POSSIBLE, BUT LET ME MAKE ONE OR TWO BRIEF COMMENTS

FIRST ~~ABOUT~~ WHERE WE STAND IN AGRICULTURE.

LAST WEEK IN SPRINGFIELD, I OUTLINED MY

AGRICULTURAL POLICIES IN SOME DETAIL. LET ME

SUMMARIZE THEM NOW:

I AM FIRMLY OPPOSED TO THE GOVERNMENT HOLDING  
YOUR RESERVES IN A GOVERNMENT BIN OR WAREHOUSE.

I AM FIRMLY OPPOSED TO A GOVERNMENT BOARD SELLING  
YOUR EXPORTS. I WANT OUR EXPORT TRADE TO STAY  
IN PRIVATE HANDS.

I AM FIRMLY OPPOSED TO ANY INTERNATIONAL RESERVE  
THAT WOULD PUT YOUR FARM PRODUCTS UNDER THE CONTROL  
OF AN INTERNATIONAL BODY WHERE THIS COUNTRY COULD BE  
OUT-VOTED BY FIFTY TO ONE -- OR EVEN BY ONE HUNDRED TO ONE•

I AM FIRMLY OPPOSED TO SUBSIDIZED IMPORTS•

I DON'T WANT AMERICAN FARMERS COMPETING AGAINST THE  
TREASURIES OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS•

I AM IN FAVOR OF PRODUCTIVITY AND PROSPERITY  
ON THE FARMS OF AMERICA•



OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, NET FARM INCOME  
HAS RISEN TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS IN AMERICA'S HISTORY.  
THAT OUTSTANDING RECORD IS DUE TO TWO THINGS.

FIRST OF ALL, IT'S DUE TO SOME VERY HARD WORK  
ON THE PART OF THE FARMERS OF ILLINOIS AND THOSE IN  
OTHER AGRICULTURAL STATES.

AND SECOND, WE'VE LET THE FARMER RELY ON THE  
MARKETPLACE, RATHER THAN DEPEND ON THE GOVERNMENT.

THIS NEW FREEDOM, WITH ITS COMPETITION,  
ITS INCENTIVES, AND ITS CAPACITY FOR EXPANSION AND  
FLEXIBILITY, HAS WORKED -- BOTH TO THE FARMER'S BENEFIT  
AND TO THE BENEFIT OF OUR OVERALL AGRICULTURAL STRENGTH  
AND ECONOMIC GROWTH.

I OPPOSE ANY POLICY THAT WOULD ONCE AGAIN  
HAVE THE FARMER PRODUCING FOR GOVERNMENT STORAGE,  
AND A GOVERNMENT CHECK, ON THE GOVERNMENT'S TERMS.

MY POLICY IS TO LET THE GOVERNMENT GOVERN,  
AND LET THE FARMER FARM, AND LET THE PEOPLE BENEFIT.

THAT POLICY HAS WORKED WONDERS IN THE PAST  
FEW YEARS, AND WE CAN MAKE IT SUCCEED JUST AS WELL  
IN THE FUTURE.

THE AMERICAN FARMER'S MARKET TODAY REACHES  
TO THE FAR CORNERS OF THE WORLD.

THE AMERICAN FARMER EXPORTED A RECORD

21.6 BILLION DOLLARS IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS LAST YEAR

NEARLY 2 BILLION DOLLARS WORTH FROM RIGHT HERE IN

ILLINOIS.

THIS YEAR, WE ARE SELLING 6.8 BILLION DOLLARS  
WORTH OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO WESTERN EUROPE,  
3.2 BILLION DOLLARS WORTH TO JAPAN, ~~2~~ BILLION DOLLARS  
WORTH TO THE SOVIET UNION, AND 1.2 BILLION DOLLARS WORTH  
TO EASTERN EUROPE.

WE HAVE CONCLUDED A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT  
FOR GRAIN SALES TO THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH CALLS FOR  
THE SALE OF AT LEAST 6 MILLION TONS OF CORN AND WHEAT  
EVERY YEAR BETWEEN 1976 AND 1980.

BECAUSE OF THIS AND OTHER AGREEMENTS, YOUR  
EXPORT PROSPECTS WILL NO LONGER BE CAUGHT IN WHAT HAS  
BEEN LITERALLY A "FEAST OR FAMINE" CYCLE.



INSTEAD, THOSE PROSPECTS WILL BE AS STEADY  
AND AS RELIABLE AND AS PROFITABLE AS WE CAN MAKE THEM.  
YOUR PROFITS ARE AMERICA'S PROFITS, AND THANKS TO YOU,  
WE ARE ENJOYING OUR BEST BALANCE OF INTERNATIONAL  
TRADE IN YEARS.

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SALES THUS FAR IN THE

1970s ARE TWO AND A HALF TIMES GREATER THAN THEY WERE

A DECADE AGO.

ALL AMERICANS, AND MILLIONS OF PEOPLE  
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, OWE THE AMERICAN FARMER  
A SPECIAL DEBT OF GRATITUDE AND PLENTY OF PRAISE  
FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING RECORD OF PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTION,  
AND ON THEIR BEHALF, I THANK YOU MOST SINCERELY.

BUT NO ONE PRAISES YOU MORE OFTEN,

OR WITH MORE GENUINE RESPECT AND AFFECTION, THAN

MY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND MY GOOD FRIEND,

EARL BUTZ.

///

AS I ANNOUNCED IN SPRINGFIELD LAST WEEK,  
I HAVE APPOINTED SECRETARY BUTZ AS CHAIRMAN OF MY  
NEW CABINET-LEVEL AGRICULTURAL POLICY COMMITTEE,  
WHICH WILL HAVE THE CENTRAL ROLE IN DEVELOPING AND  
DIRECTING OUR NATION'S FOOD POLICIES.

THOSE POLICIES MUST GUARANTEE A FAIR PRICE

FOR THE FARMER, A FAIR SHARE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE,

AND A FAIR SHAKE FOR EVERYBODY.

EARL BUTZ HAS SAID COUNTLESS TIMES THAT THE

AMERICAN FARMER IS "THE MIRACLE MAN OF THE 20TH CENTURY."

I COULDN'T AGREE WITH HIM MORE, AND I THINK IT'S TIME

FARMERS GOT AS MUCH OUT OF THEIR WORK AS THEY PUT

INTO IT.

THE AMERICAN FARMER IS MORE EFFICIENT,  
MORE SKILLED, MORE ADVANCED, AND MORE PRODUCTIVE  
THAN ANY OTHER FARMER IN ANY OTHER NATION OF THE WORLD.



EARLIER IN THIS CENTURY, THE AMERICAN FARMER  
SEEMED TO BE A VANISHING BREED. FOR TOO LONG,  
MIGRATION FROM AMERICA'S FARMS AND FIELDS THREATENED  
TO LEAVE RURAL AMERICA IN DECAY AND IN POVERTY.

I AM GLAD TO SEE THAT CONFIDENCE HAS RETURNED  
TO OUR RURAL AREAS, THAT MORE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE  
COMING INTO AGRICULTURE, AND THAT THE ENROLLMENTS  
IN OUR AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES ARE RUNNING AT AN ALL-TIME  
HIGH.

TO FURTHER ENCOURAGE THE REVITALIZATION OF  
RURAL AMERICA, I HAVE PROPOSED AN INCREASE IN THE  
ESTATE-TAX EXEMPTION FROM 60,000 TO 150,000 DOLLARS.

THIS IS IN ADDITION TO MY EARLIER PROPOSAL  
THAT THE CONGRESS ACT TO STRETCH OUT ESTATE TAX PAYMENTS,  
AT GREATLY REDUCED INTEREST RATES, OVER A 25-YEAR PERIOD.

THIS DUAL RELIEF WILL HELP SAVE THE AMERICAN  
FAMILY FARM, WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF THE  
BASIC ELEMENTS IN OUR FREE AMERICAN SOCIETY.  
WE MUST PRESERVE IT FOR OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN.

FROM THE RURAL BEGINNINGS OF AMERICA

200 YEARS AGO, POETS, ~~PAINTERS~~ AND POLITICIANS

HAVE CELEBRATED THE VIRTUES OF THE AMERICAN FARMER•

IN THIS ERA THE AMERICAN FARMER REMAINS OUR  
NATION'S GREATEST NATURAL RESOURCE. I AM CONFIDENT  
THAT AS LONG AS AMERICAN AGRICULTURE REMAINS STRONG,  
AMERICA HERSELF WILL BE STRONG AND FREE AND PROSPEROUS.

NOW I WILL BE GLAD TO RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS  
YOU MAY HAVE.

END OF TEXT