The original documents are located in Box 36, "7/22/76 - Remarks at a Gathering of Future Farmers of America" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA, JULY 22, 1976

TALKING POINTS

SECRETARY BUTZ, PRESIDENT BOBBY, STATE AND

NATIONAL OFFICERS OF THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA:

-1-

IT IS A PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE

ONCE AGAIN.

GENERAL MOTORS HAS DONE A FINE JOB IN MAKING IT

POSSIBLE FOR ALL OF YOU TO COME TO WASHINGTON TO GET A

FIRST-HAND INSIGHT INTO THE WORKINGS OF OUR GOVERNMENT.

I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR WASHINGTON

-?-

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, AND I AM GLAD TO SEE FUTURE FARMERS

FROM GREAT BRITAIN, NEW ZEALAND AND DENMARK JOINING

YOU TODAY.

AS WE RECALL THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY DURING THIS

BICENTENNIAL YEAR, WE ARE REMINDED OF THE VERY IMPORTANT

ROLE WHICH FARMERS -- AND YOUNG PEOPLE -- HAVE PLAYED

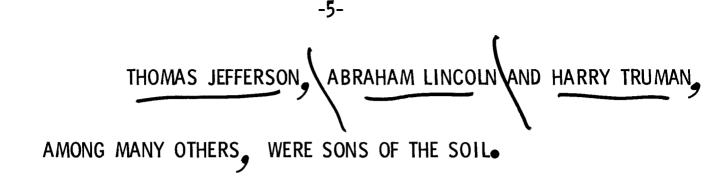
IN THE BIRTH AND GROWTH OF AMERICA.

OUR FARMS HAVE PRODUCED NOT ONLY THE MOST ABUNDANT

SUPPLIES OF FOOD AND FIBER THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN

BUT ALSO SOME OF THE MOST OUTSTANDING LEADERS IN OUR

NATION'S HISTORY.



AMERICA'S DEEP ROOTS IN AGRICULTURE NEED CONSTANT

NOURISHMENT, AND THIS MEANS WE MUST ENSURE THAT THE FAMILY

FARMS OF AMERICA WILL CONTINUE TO BE A LIVING, THRIVING

AND VALUABLE TRADITION IN THIS COUNTRY.

FOR TOO LONG, THAT TRADITION HAS BEEN IN DANGER.

FOR A GENERATION, MORE AND MORE YOUNG PEOPLE MOVED AWAY

FROM THE FARMS AND FROM RURAL AMERICA, AND MIGRATED

-6-

TO THE CITIES.

THERE WERE MANY REASONS FOR THIS MASS MIGRATION,

BUT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT HAS BEEN A DEFICIENCY IN OUR

GOVERNMENT TAX STRUCTURE WHICH ACTUALLY DISCOURAGES

-7-

PASSING FARM PROPERTY FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT.

AFTER WORLD WAR I, THERE WAS A POPULAR SONG CALLED

"HOW YA GONNA KEEP EM DOWN ON THE FARM, AFTER THEY'VE SEEN

PAREE TODAY THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IS KEEPING PEOPLE

ON THE FARM AFTER THEY'VE SEEN THE ESTATE TAXES THEY HAVE TO PAY.

I HAVE PROPOSED THAT THE CONGRESS TAKE THREE IMPORTANT

STEPS TO IMPROVE THIS SITUATION:

FIRST, TO RAISE THE ESTATE-TAX EXEMPTION FROM ITS 1942

LEVEL OF 60,000 DOLLARS, TO A MORE REALISTIC 150,000 DOLLARS;

-9-

SECOND, TO EXTEND THE PAY-BACK PERIOD AT LOW INTEREST

RATES OVER 25 YEARS;

AND THIRD, TO EXEMPT FROM TAXATION THE TRANSFER OF

PROPERTY BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE.

THE ENACTMENT OF THESE PROVISIONS WOULD GO A VERY

LONG WAY TOWARD ENSURING THAT FAMILY FARMS WILL STAY IN THE

FAMILY, THAT THE FARMS YOUR MOTHERS AND FATHERS AND

GRANDPARENTS WORKED SO HARD TO DEVELOP WILL NOT HAVE TO BE

SACRIFICED JUST TO PAY THE TAX COLLECTOR.

THE AMERICAN FARMER IS TOO IMPORTANT TO THIS COUNTRY,

AND TO THE WORLD, FOR US TO CONTINUE TO SHORTCHANGE HIM

AND IN EFFECT, DRIVE HIM OFF HIS LAND THROUGH OFFICIAL TAX

POLICIES.

THESE POLICIES MUST BE CHANGED, AND THE AMERICAN

-13-

FAMILY FARM MUST BE PRESERVED.

PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON ONCE OFFERED THIS

DEFINITION OF AMERICA AND THE GREAT PROMISE IT HELD FOR MEN

AND WOMEN EVERYWHERE: "AMERICA" HE SAID, "IS THE HARVEST

SLEEPING IN THE UNPLOWED GROUND."

AS THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA, YOU WILL REAP THAT

HARVEST, IN A LITERAL AS WELL AS SYMBOLIC SENSE.

-15-

THE THIRD CENTURY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE IS OPENING

ON A NOTE OF CONFIDENCE AND HOPE.

YOU HAVE A FERTILE FIELD IN WHICH TO PLANT THE SEEDS OF HOPE

AND HARMONY, PEACE AND PLENTY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

OF AMERICANS.

TO BRING IN THAT HARVEST, AS ANY OTHER, HARD WORK

IS REQUIRED.

YOU ARE NO STRANGERS TO HARD WORK, AND I HAVE EVERY

CONFIDENCE YOU WILL GET THE JOB DONE AND MAKE AMERICA GROW

AND PROSPER IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

END	OF	TEXT