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Immediately

EARL BUTZ

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 2, 1971 ---- U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.)

said today on the Senate floor that President Nixon's major reason for nominating Earl L. Butz for Secretary of Agriculture is to improve farm income. Dole said: "I believe that realized net farm income in 1972 will improve measurably. This is President Nixon's goal. It is also Dr. Butz's objective."

The Kansas Senator said that the Republican Party knows that in 1972 it will have to stand on its record, added that he believes the Republicans "will have a successful story to tell about this Administration's work for American Agriculture ---- much better than the low income Kennedy-Johnson years."

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(Following is the full text of the floor statement)

From 1961 to 1968, American farmers posted a realized net farm income level that average 13.8 billion dollars. From 1969 to 1971, however, during the Nixon-Hardin period, farm income averaged 16.1 billion dollars, up 16 per cent (for accumulative total increase of 6.6 billion dollars.)

Farmers need to get incomes commensurate to their work, as do most workers in other segments of the economy. Secretary Butz has told President Nixon he will do everything economically feasible to improve this record. I believe that realized net farm income in 1972 will improve measurably. This is President Nixon's goal. It is also Dr. Butz's objective.

The Republican Party knows that in 1972, it will have to run on its record. We will have a successful story to tell about this Administration's work for American Agriculture --- much better than the low income Kennedy-Johnson years.

We attained a "triple" record for U.S. agriculture exports in the last fiscal year.

- (1) The value of farm exports was 7.8 billion dollars --- a new record by a wide margin.
- (2) Sales for dollars were a record 6.8 billion dollars.
- (3) The volume of these exports were about eight per cent above the volume of the previous record export years.

We are proud of this record --- but not complacent. We have set a new export objective of 10 billion dollars --- by the end of this decade.

Our programs look to overseas markets, and we intend to compete for maximum utilization for our products throughout the world.

If U.S. farm exports are to reach our \$10 billion goal by the next decade --- a necessary objective --- they must move competitively in the world market. It will be our problem to do everything feasible in our discussion with foreign governments to stimulate export markets for U.S. farm families. We are not satisfied with the results of the Kennedy round of trade negotiations. In this round agriculture was treated as a poor relative. (MORE

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It is the intent of this Administration to obtain our fair share of the world markets. Producers deserve every consideration and we intend to see that they get it and exports improve prices paid to farmers.

I have listened in committee sessions to my colleagues' comments on the need to help grain producers --- a worthwhile objective to which Dr. Butz committed himself from the moment of nomination. He stated cogently and clearly as possible as follows:

"In a real sense, it is going to be a great experiment. I have had conversations with the President. He is going to back us all the way in efforts to give our farmers the income they entitled to. Our President is fully understanding and deeply sympathetic with the economic position of some of our farmers, especially in the corn belt where the price of corn is too low for comfort and below the cost level."

I noted a great absence of oral activity when mention was made of the great harm the dock strike was causing farmers and the nation. It is to be noted that since the President invoked the Taft-Hartley provision, corn prices have responded by going up about 10 cents per bushel to the farmer.

Those of us who are truly the friends of all farmers can demonstrate the effect by support S.560, the Emergency Public Interest Protection Act. This bill will keep the transportation channels open all the time so that price firming export can continue all the time, and Dr. Butz has indicated his support of this legislation.

We intend to see that wheat and corn prices are higher than the October 15, 1968 prices of \$1.26 and .96 per bushel respectively. We recognize that these prices were a handicap to the Democrat candidates in the 1968 election.

Many of you will recall the massive dumping of grains we saw in the 1961 to 1968 period of depressed prices. Many of you will recall the efforts made to raise the resale price to 115 percent of the loan rate, and the pressure of the Johnson Administration that defeated those efforts. We now have the 115 percent of the loan rate minimum resale for grains. I assure you that Dr. Butz will see to it that this provision of the law is implemented with a plus factor so that farmers will not be competing with the government for available markets with low levels.

As a member of the Senate Nutrition Committee, I have seen what hunger does to people. Under this Administration, government feeding programs have been improved and millions of needy people, heretofore outside this program will be reached.

The nation is now committed to a drive to eliminate hunger and malnutrition. We now have programs to do the job of providing an adequate diet to every American. We also have the will to achieve this goal within the vitality of the system that makes abundance possible.

The revised food stamp program provided the means whereby even the poorest of the poor can obtain an adequate diet; we have a food donation program; we have an amended School Lunch Act to improve the nutrition of needy school children; we have a food certification program for infants and expectant mothers; and we have a nutrition education program to help low-income families get the most from their food dollar. We are on the right road.

Now, I feel confident that we will conquer hunger and malnutrition in this nation. While we are improving the health and well-being of our neediest we are increasing the demand for food, especially animal proteins.

I want to assure this great body that Dr. Butz will be a great Secretary of Agriculture and will carry forward the President's program with great wisdom and energy. I urge colleagues to vote to confirm him.