

REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF WHEAT GROWERS
CONGRESSIONAL LUNCHEON
BAKER HOTEL, HUTCHINSON, KANSAS
NOVEMBER 10, 1965

U. S. WORLD FOOD STUDY AND COORDINATING COMMISSION

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU TODAY ABOUT FOOD. FOOD FOR THE UNITED STATES, AND FOOD FOR THE WORLD.

UNDOUBTEDLY YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE MANIFOLD REPORTS OF A WORLD FOOD CRISIS, AND ARE WONDERING WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU.

SOME OBSERVERS SAY IT IS APPROACHING --- SOME SAY IT'S ALREADY HERE. ONE EDITORIAL WRITER RECENTLY COMMENTED THAT " 'MALNUTRITION' BECOMES 'FAMINE' ANYTIME THE HEADLINE WRITER WANTS."

A CHURCH GROUP REPORTED LAST JUNE THAT TWO-THIRDS OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION NOW LIVE IN AREAS OF NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCY. HALF OF THESE PEOPLE, THE REPORT SAYS, "SUFFER DAILY OR RECURRENT CRIPPLING HUNGER." THAT'S OVER ONE BILLION HUNGRY PEOPLE.

WHAT, EXACTLY, DOES THIS MEAN TO THE KANSAS WHEAT FARMER? TO HIS CONSCIENCE? TO HIS POCKETBOOK? IT CAN MEAN A GREAT DEAL.

CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY

WHETHER YOU SAY IT IS IMPENDING, OR ALREADY HERE, THE WORLD FOOD CRISIS PRESENTS THIS NATION WITH BOTH A CHALLENGE AND AN OPPORTUNITY -- A CHALLENGE FOR US TO ASSUME THE LEADERSHIP REQUIRED TO MEET A WORLD

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PROBLEM OF POSSIBLE EPIC PROPORTIONS, AND A POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER --- INCLUDING THE KANSAS WHEAT GROWER --- TO ACHIEVE A NEW ECONOMIC VITALITY.

X AS A CHRISTIAN NATION, CAN WE OVERLOOK THIS CHALLENGE OF CONSCIENCE? CAN WE SIT IDLY BY WHILE COUNTLESS MILLIONS OF FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS STARVE TO DEATH?

AND, ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE, CAN WE AFFORD TO OVERLOOK THIS POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITY TO PUT OUR OWN AGRICULTURAL HOUSE IN ORDER?

CAREFUL PLANNING NECESSARY

IT IS IMPERATIVE, HOWEVER, THAT WHATEVER OUR RESPONSE TO THIS MAJOR WORLD PROBLEM MAY BE, IT MUST BE WELL-CONSIDERED AND CAREFULLY PLANNED. THERE IS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO RAISE SERIOUS QUESTION WHETHER PAST U. S. AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE AND GIVE-AWAY PROGRAMS HAVE NOT SOMETIMES BROUGHT MORE HARM THAN GOOD BOTH TO THE RECIPIENT COUNTRIES AND TO U. S. FARMERS AS WELL. WE MUST NOT RUSH BLINDLY INTO A GIGANTIC "FEED THE HUNGRY WORLD" PROJECT WHICH WOULD ACCOMPLISH JUST THE OPPOSITE OF ITS OBJECTIVE BY MAGNIFYING OLD MISTAKES AND COMPOUND - ING PAST FAILURES.

FARM OPPORTUNITY

ALTHOUGH WE ARE PRESENTED WITH A POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICAN AGRICULTURE, IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GOOD OR ILL. HASTILY PLANNED AND EXECUTED PROGRAMS COULD FURTHER ENDANGER THE PRECARIOUS ECONOMIC POSITION OF THE U. S. FARMER.

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ON THE OTHER HAND, EFFECTIVE AND SOUND PLANNING CAN SOW THE SEED FOR A NEW HEALTH AND VITALITY FOR AMERICAN AGRICULTURE --- FOR EXPANDED MARKETS AND INCOME, AND A BRIGHTER FUTURE POTENTIAL. WHATEVER PLANS WE MAKE MUST TAKE INTO FULL CONSIDERATION OUR PRESENT PROBLEMS OF INADEQUATE FARM INCOME, PRICES AND MARKETS.

DETERMINE GOALS

IT IS CLEAR, THEN, THAT OUR FIRST REQUIREMENT IN PLANNING TO MEET THIS TREMENDOUS CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY MUST BE THE BRINGING TOGETHER OF THE BEST MINDS IN THE FIELD TO GRAPPLE WITH THE BASIC QUESTIONS CONCERNING THESE WORLD PROBLEMS OF POPULATION AND FOOD, AND TO EMERGE WITH SOME SOUND RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO GOALS AND COURSES OF ACTION OPEN TO THIS NATION.

COMMISSION PROPOSED

BECAUSE OF THIS OBVIOUS AND ESSENTIAL NEED FOR A SOUND, REALISTIC AND RATIONAL APPROACH TO THIS WHOLE PROBLEM, MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LEGISLATION TO ACCOMPLISH JUST THIS OBJECTIVE. MY BILL, HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 717, CALLS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BI-PARTISAN U. S. WORLD FOOD STUDY AND CO-ORDINATING COMMISSION TO EVALUATE PRESENT AND FUTURE FOOD NEEDS OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF THE WORLD. THIS COMMISSION WOULD RECOMMEND WAYS AND MEANS BY WHICH THE TOTAL COMPLEX OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE MIGHT BE COORDINATED AND IMPLEMENTED TOWARD THE END OF HELPING TO MEET THESE NEEDS.

PROPOSAL WIDELY SUPPORTED

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THIS IDEA ORIGINATED WITH THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN TASK FORCE ON AGRICULTURE, OF WHICH I AM A MEMBER. THE PROPOSAL IMMEDIATELY GAINED WIDE-SPREAD FAVOR WITHIN THE HOUSE, AND WITH THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF CONGRESS, HAD BEEN INTRODUCED BY ALMOST HALF THE REPUBLICAN MEMBERSHIP OF THE HOUSE, AND HAD RECEIVED THE ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT OF MANY MORE.

COORDINATE AND RECOMMEND

THE PROPOSED EIGHTEEN MEMBER U. S. WORLD FOOD STUDY AND CO-ORDINATING COMMISSION WOULD BE CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MAKING A SOUND AND DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE WORLD FOOD AND POPULATION PROBLEM, DRAWING SOME CONCLUSIONS FROM THIS ANALYSIS, AND FINALLY MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO WHAT ROLE THE U. S. CAN PLAY IN HELPING TO SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS --- THAT IS, WHAT OUR OBJECTIVES SHOULD BE AND HOW OUR RESOURCES COULD BE UTILIZED.

IN ADDITION TO THIS, AS THE COMMISSION'S STUDY MOVED ALONG AND THE MANY PROBLEM AREAS IN OUR PRESENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE BEGAN TO RECEIVE SOME CLARIFICATION, THE COMMISSION WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CALLING ATTENTION TO THESE PROBLEMS. IT WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS FOR THE CORRECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THESE PROGRAMS.

FIFTEEN POINT STUDY

WE ON THE TASK FORCE, WROTE INTO THE LEGISLATION A SPECIFIC FIFTEEN POINT STUDY PROGRAM FOR THE PROPOSED COMMISSION. THESE FIFTEEN

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POINTS INCLUDE MOST OF THE MAJOR QUESTIONS WHICH WE, AS A NATION, NEED ANSWERED BEFORE WE CAN HOPE TO MAKE A RATIONAL APPROACH TO THIS PROBLEM -- QUESTIONS ABOUT SUCH THINGS AS WORLD FOOD NEEDS AND POPULATION TRENDS, U. S. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION POTENTIAL, AND THE COORDINATION OF PRESENT U. S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

WE THINK THAT THIS IDEA OF A FOOD STUDY AND COORDINATING COMMISSION IS THE BEST RECOMMENDATION ANYONE HAS PRESENTED THUS FAR, AS A STEP IN THE DIRECTION OF SOLVING THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM. WHY DO WE FEEL THIS WAY?

FOOD ASSISTANCE CAN HURT

LET ME QUOTE JUST A BIT FROM A ^{late last year} RECENT EDITORIAL IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. ^{editorial} THE ARTICLE BEGINS:

IT'S CERTAINLY TRUE THAT STARVATION IS AN ALL TOO FREQUENT FACT OF LIFE IN TOO MANY LANDS; FEW AMERICANS OBJECT TO EASING SUCH SUFFERING. YET, IT'S ALSO TRUE THAT THE HANDLING OF THE MOUNTAINOUS U. S. FARM HOARD CAN EASILY ENDANGER THE LIVELIHOODS OF THOSE THIS NATION SEEKS TO HELP.

THE EDITORIAL QUOTES THEODORE W. SCHULTZ, A UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST, WHO ^{and a witness before our Comm. last Friday} SAYS THAT EVEN IF THE UNITED STATES DOUBLED ITS FARM OUTPUT AND GAVE AWAY ALL ITS SURPLUS, IT PROBABLY WOULD ONLY WORSEN THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD'S UNDERPRIVILEGED.

INCENTIVE REDUCED -- RESOURCES DIVERTED

HOW CAN THIS BE SO? FIRST IT IS NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE BASIC INDUSTRY OF THE DEVELOPING NATIONS IS AGRICULTURE. THEN THE

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ANSWER BECOMES CLEAR. FREE FOOD FROM THE U. S. CAN REDUCE FOREIGN FARMER'S INCENTIVES TO PRODUCE, AND IN SOME INSTANCES, CAN SERIOUSLY IMPAIR A NATION'S PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY.

IN ADDITION TO THIS, WITH SO MUCH FREE FOOD COMING INTO THE COUNTRY FROM ABROAD, THE GOVERNMENT OF A DEVELOPING COUNTRY MAY DECIDE TO DIVERT ITS MEAGER RESOURCES FROM ITS BASIC INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE, TO OTHER AREAS OF ITS ECONOMY, OFTEN TO LESS URGENT, PRESTIGE PROJECTS.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS WITH THE RECIPIENT COUNTRIES; NOW WHAT ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF THE U. S. FARMER?

U. S. AG DOLLAR SALES DISPLACED?

THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE REPORTED IN 1964:

INFORMATION HAS COME TO THE COMMITTEE'S ATTENTION WHICH MAY POSSIBLY INDICATE THAT FOREIGN CURRENCY SALES UNDER PUBLIC LAW 480 ARE BEING MADE TO CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHICH DISPLACE REGULAR DOLLAR SALES. ATTENTION IS DIRECTED TO THOSE PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC LAW 480 UNDER TITLE I WHERE SALES MAY BE IN EXCESS OF USUAL MARKETINGS OF SUCH COMMODITIES. IN THE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE, AGREEMENTS UNDER PUBLIC LAW 480 WHICH WOULD IN ANY WAY DISPLACE U. S. DOLLAR SALES, SHOULD NOT BE ENTERED INTO. NORMAL COMMERCIAL OVER-SEA MARKETS FOR U. S. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SHOULD NEVER INTENTIONALLY BE SACRIFICED FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL REASONS.

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CAN THE PICTURE BE ANY CLEARER? X

GOOD PLANNING NEEDED

THOSE WHO ADVOCATE THAT WE IMMEDIATELY PLUNGE INTO A GREATLY EXPANDED FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HAVE A GOOD POINT --- IT IS NEEDED NOW. BUT WHAT ASSURANCES DO WE HAVE THAT SUCH AN UNDERTAKING WILL ACTUALLY HELP THE PEOPLE WE WANT TO HELP? AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE AMERICAN FARMER? LOOK AT OUR PAST EXPERIENCE AND SEE IF YOU CAN SAY THAT EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT ALL RIGHT IN THE END.

WHAT WE DESPERATELY NEED NOW IS A PLAN, AND A DARNED GOOD ONE. A PLAN TO ASSURE THE LONG-RANGE BENEFIT OF BOTH THE U. S. FARMER AND THE OVERSEAS RECIPIENT OF OUR FOOD ASSISTANCE.

OUR PROPOSED BI-PARTISAN FOOD STUDY AND COORDINATING COMMISSION CAN PROVIDE US WITH SUCH A PLAN IN A REASONABLY SHORT TIME. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A RESPONSIBLE, CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TO THIS PROBLEM, AND WILL BE OF GREATEST BENEFIT TO ALL IN THE LONG RUN.

IF WE PLAN WISELY, THIS COMMISSION COULD VERY WELL PROVE TO BE THE CATALYTIC AGENT THAT WOULD HELP BRING FOOD TO THE HUNGRY MOUTHS OF THE WORLD, AND A NEW HEALTH AND ECONOMIC VITALITY TO U. S. AGRICULTURE.