

OSBORNE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

GRADE SCHOOL

OSBORNE, KANSAS

JANUARY 13, 1968

REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE

WE ARE GOING TO NEED THE FULL PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OF OUR LAND.
THE REASON? PYRAMIDING NUMBERS OF PEOPLE. IN 1980, WE EXPECT
245 MILLION PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY AND IN THE YEAR 2000, MORE THAN 330
MILLION.

A FEW WEEKS AGO THE ELECTRONIC "SCOREBOARD" IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE BUILDING IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL REGISTERED 200 MILLION. THIS
MEANT, ON A STATISTICAL BASIS, THAT THE 200 MILLIONTH CHILD HAD BEEN BORN
IN THESE UNITED STATES.

ACTUALLY, THE SCOREBOARD DOES NOT REFER TO BIRTHS ALONE. IT REFERS
TO NET GAINS. IT INDICATES THE ADDITION OF NEW AMERICANS BY BIRTH, THE
LOSS BY DEATH AND DEPARTURE TO OTHER COUNTRIES, AND THE GAIN FROM IMMI-
GRATION. THE NET, AT THE CURRENT RATE, IS ONE NEW AMERICAN TO FEED EVERY
14-1/2 SECONDS.

WE PROBABLY COULD MEET THE INCREASED DOMESTIC DEMAND FOR FOOD IN 1980
WITH FEWER CROPLAND ACRES THAN WE HAD IN 1960. WE PROBABLY COULD MEET THE
DOMESTIC DEMAND IN 2000 WITH ABOUT THE SAME CROPLAND ACREAGE WE HAD IN 1960.

BUT POPULATION INCREASES AND FOOD DEMANDS IN THE WORLD POSE A FAR
GRAVER PROBLEM. THE WORLD IS NOW ADDING ONE MILLION MORE PEOPLE A WEEK --
MOST OF THEM IN THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. THE WORLD WILL GROW BY
ANOTHER BILLION PEOPLE IN THE NEXT 15 YEARS.

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THE GREATEST FOOD CRISIS IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND MAY OCCUR IN LESS THAN 20 YEARS. BY 1984 THE DEVELOPED NATIONS OF THE WORLD MAY HAVE EXHAUSTED THEIR CAPACITY TO FEED THE LESS-DEVELOPED HUNGRY NATIONS.

BY 1980 THE LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WILL REQUIRE 750 MILLION TONS OF GRAIN A YEAR. THIS IS 300 MILLION TONS MORE THAN REQUIRED IN 1960. IT IS EQUAL TO THE TOTAL GRAIN PRODUCTION OF NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE TODAY. BY 1980 THE EXPECTED PRODUCTION FROM ALL THE 60 MILLION ACRES OF LAND WE PRESENTLY HAVE UNDER RESERVE IN THIS COUNTRY WOULD NOT MEET THAT INCREASED DEMAND. ONCE WE HAVE REACHED THE LIMIT OF OUR PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY, THE HUNGRY NATIONS WILL HAVE NO FURTHER RECOURSE.

AT THAT TIME FAMINE CAN TRULY STALK THE EARTH.

- MANKIND AND NATURAL RESOURCES -

I DO NOT CITE THESE STUDIES OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO FRIGHTEN YOU. I CITE THEM TO UNDERSCORE THAT MANKIND'S FUTURE -- HIS VERY EXISTENCE -- IS TIED UP WITH NATURAL RESOURCES, BASICALLY WITH THE CAPACITY TO PRODUCE FOOD AND FIBER. AND THIS CAPACITY IS COMPLETELY DEPENDENT UPON PRODUCTIVE LAND AND ITS SOIL AND ITS WATERS. AS GUARDIANS OF OUR SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES YOU KNOW THIS TO BE A FACT OF LIFE.

- SOIL AND WATER -

THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT BEEN UNAWARE OF THE GROWING PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, SPECIFICALLY THE BASIC TWO -- SOIL AND WATER.

IN 1935, WITHOUT A DISSENTING VOTE, THE CONGRESS ENACTED PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE ACT IN ITS HISTORY RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES -- PUBLIC LAW 46 -- WHICH DECLARED SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION TO BE A NATIONAL POLICY AND ESTABLISHED THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE TO GIVE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TO SUCH A PROGRAM.

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OUT OF THIS, IN 1937, CAME A SECOND SIGNIFICANT STEP -- THE CREATION OF LOCAL SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS BY FARMERS AND RANCHERS UNDER STATE LAW AND THE AUTHORIZATION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THEM BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE. THIS WAS FORMED A GREAT CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP THAT HAS CONTINUED UNINTERRUPTED AND SUCCESSFULLY FOR MORE THAN THREE DECADES.

THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COULD HAVE HAPPENED ONLY IN AMERICA.

ONLY IN AMERICA DO THE PEOPLE HAVE THE CAPACITY, THE INITIATIVE, THE DESIRE, AND THE ABILITY TO TACKLE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS.

ONLY IN AMERICA DO THE PEOPLE AT THE GRASS ROOTS TELL GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS WHAT THEY NEED AND WANT, AND WHAT THEY, THEMSELVES, ARE PREPARED TO DO IN ACHIEVING THEIR GOAL.

BUT EVEN IN AMERICA THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MUST BE LISTED AS A MOST UNUSUAL DEVELOPMENT -- ONE THAT WAS UNPRECEDENTED IN OUR HISTORY -- ONE THAT BY THE VERY RAPIDITY OF ITS SPREAD AND GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT HAS ASTONISHED ITS MOST ARDENT ENTHUSIASTS, EVEN THOSE WHO HAD A GREAT DEAL TO DO WITH ITS CONCEPTION.

THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT HAS BECOME A PERMANENT PART OF THE AMERICAN SCENE AND SO HAS ITS SPLENDID ORGANIZATIONS OF DISTRICT SUPERVISORS AT THE STATE AND NATIONAL LEVELS.

- SMALL WATERSHEDS -

A THIRD STEP IN OUR NATIONAL SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS WAS ENACTMENT BY THE CONGRESS IN 1954 OF THE WATERSHED PROTECTION AND FLOOD PREVENTION ACT, PUBLIC LAW 566, WHAT WE HAVE COME TO CALL OUR SMALL WATERSHED PROGRAM. SMALL WATERSHED PROJECTS HAVE AN IMPORTANT IMPACT ON THE

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NON-AGRICULTURAL SEGMENTS OF OUR SOCIETY, TOO. WHAT IS DONE OR NOT DONE IS OF CRITICAL IMPORT TO FUTURE WATER SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, SILT POLLUTION, AND RECREATION.

WATERSHED PROJECTS ARE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS THAT RETURN ABOUT 8 PERCENT A YEAR. COST-BENEFIT ESTIMATES INDICATE A RETURN OF ABOUT \$1.70 FOR EVERY DOLLAR OF FEDERAL AND LOCAL FUNDS INVESTED.

THE SMALL WATERSHED PROGRAM HAS SWEEPED THE COUNTRY, FOR ITS ECONOMIC BENEFITS ARE MANY AND VARIED. DEMAND FOR FUNDS GREATLY EXCEEDS WHAT HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE. THERE ARE MANY EXAMPLES IN KANSAS ALONE OF A WATERSHED PROJECT BEING AN ECONOMIC SHOT IN THE ARM.

- KANSAS AND SMALL WATERSHEDS -

I'M VERY PROUD OF THE ROLE KANSAS HAS PLAYED IN THE SMALL WATERSHED PROGRAM. FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO WATERSHED PROJECT CONSTRUCTION IN KANSAS IN FISCAL 1967 AMOUNTED TO \$3,425,000 -- ABOUT 6 PERCENT OF THE NATIONAL TOTAL.

AS A MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS SINCE 1961, AND A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ITS SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATERSHEDS, I HAVE LONG OBSERVED AND SUPPORTED THE SMALL WATERSHED PROGRAM.

I KNOW IT IS SOUND. IT IS WELL ADMINISTERED BY THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE. IT OPERATES ON THE BASIS OF COMPLETE LOCAL CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT. ITS COST-SHARING BASIS, I BELIEVE, IS EQUITABLE. IT IS NOT A FEDERAL PROGRAM. IT IS A LOCAL PROGRAM WITH FEDERAL ASSISTANCE. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN SUPPORTED BY MEMBERS OF BOTH PARTIES.

- VITAL PROGRAM IN TROUBLE -

IT IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHY SUCH A PROGRAM, SO VITAL TO OUR NATIONAL WELFARE SHOULD NOT BE GOING AHEAD FULL STEAM.

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BUT THE SMALL WATERSHED PROGRAM I'M SORRY TO SAY, IS IN TROUBLE.

WRITTEN INTO THE LAW IN 1954 WAS A PROVISION FOR APPROVAL BY CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES OF WATERSHED PROJECT PLANS THAT INVOLVE A FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION TO CONSTRUCTION COSTS IN EXCESS OF \$250,000 OR HAVE A SINGLE RESERVOIR OVER 2,500 ACRE-FEET.

THIS SYSTEM HAS WORKED VERY WELL SINCE 1954. THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES OFTEN HOLD HEARINGS ON THE PLAN AND REQUEST TESTIMONY FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.

BUT THE ADMINISTRATION INSISTS THAT THE POWER TO APPROVE THESE PLANS SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO CERTAIN COMMITTEES, BUT SHOULD BE DECIDED UPON BY THE ENTIRE CONGRESS.

- CONTROVERSY NOT PARTISAN -

THE PRESENT CONTROVERSY OVER APPROVAL OF WATERSHED PROJECTS IS NOT A PARTISAN POLITICAL SCRAP. RATHER IT IS BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCH. IN THE HOUSE DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS ALIKE SOLIDLY OPPOSE THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION. UNTIL THIS DISPUTE IS RESOLVED, THERE WILL BE A HUGE BACKLOG OF WATERSHED PROJECTS AWAITING HELP -- PROJECTS THAT ARE READY TO GO.

PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT OF THE ISSUE ARE NOT TOO BRIGHT AND I FEAR THAT THE SITUATION WILL NOT IMPROVE UNTIL THERE IS SOME GIVE AND TAKE, PERHAPS ON BOTH SIDES.

- GREAT PLAINS PROGRAM -

A FOURTH SIGNIFICANT STEP IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT WAS THE 1956 ACT OF CONGRESS WHICH ESTABLISHED THE GREAT PLAINS CONSERVATION PROGRAM. AS YOU WELL KNOW, THIS LAW SET NEW PRECEDENTS IN CONSERVATION LEGISLATION.

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FOR ONE THING, IT SINGLED OUT ONE LARGE AREA OF THE NATION FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION. THE GREAT PLAINS, OF COURSE, HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN SUBJECTED TO HIGH WINDS, ERODABLE SOILS, LOW RAINFALL, AND OTHER CLIMATIC CONDITIONS THAT MAKE AGRICULTURE HAZARDOUS. THE INTENT OF THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN TO STABILIZE FARMING AND RANCHING AND IMPROVE THE ECONOMY OF THE GREAT PLAINS BY HELPING LANDOWNERS PLAN AND INSTALL LONG-RANGE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SYSTEMS.

A SECOND PRECEDENT IS THAT CONSERVATION PRACTICES ARE CARRIED OUT UNDER WRITTEN AGREEMENT, FOLLOWING A DEFINITE TIME SCHEDULE, AND PROVIDING COST-SHARE PAYMENTS AS EACH PHASE OF THE PLAN IS CARRIED OUT.

THIS NEWER APPROACH TO A SPECIAL CONSERVATION NEED HAS BEEN, BY AND LARGE, HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. GREAT PLAINS FARMERS ARE CONFIDENT THAT WITH TOOLS LIKE THE GREAT PLAINS CONSERVATION PROGRAM, THEY WILL NOT AGAIN RETURN TO THE AGONY AND DESPAIR OF THE DUST BOWL DAYS, BUT WILL INSTEAD MOVE FORWARD TO NEW PROSPERITY ON THE LAND.

KANSAS FARMERS AND RANCHERS HAVE READILY TAKEN TO THE GREAT PLAINS PROGRAM. OF 5,724,000 DOLLARS IN FEDERAL FUNDS DISBURSED UNDER THE PROGRAM UP TO JULY 1, 1967, IN KANSAS, A LITTLE OVER A MILLION DOLLARS WAS SUPPLIED IN FISCAL 1967. THIS IS NINE PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT DISBURSED TO 412 COUNTIES IN THE 10 GREAT PLAINS STATES FROM MONTANA TO TEXAS. AS OF DECEMBER 31, ALL 62 ELIGIBLE COUNTIES IN KANSAS ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM.

- OSBORNE COUNTY -

OSBORNE COUNTY RECEIVED A TOTAL OF \$87,720 IN GREAT PLAINS PROGRAM MONEY IN FISCAL 1967, THE SECOND LARGEST AMOUNT DISBURSED IN ANY KANSAS COUNTY. YOUR COUNTY RANKED THIRD IN THE NUMBER OF CONTRACTS SIGNED IN FISCAL 1967. A TOTAL OF \$377,910 OF FEDERAL FUNDS HAVE BEEN OBLIGATED FOR OSBORNE COUNTY LANDOWNERS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAM, AND THAT'S THE FOURTH HIGHEST AMOUNT IN THE STATE.

SO YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT THE GREAT PLAINS CONSERVATION PROGRAM HAS A PLACE IN THE OVERALL ECONOMY OF THE COUNTY AND THE GREAT PLAINS, AND OF THE NATION, AS WELL.

- WHAT'S AHEAD -

BUT TROUBLED TIMES ARE AHEAD, AND IN FACT, THEY ARE ALREADY HERE. THERE ARE MANY PRESSURES PUSHING AND PULLING BACK AND FORTH IN WASHINGTON. THE FINANCIAL DEMANDS OF THE VIETNAM WAR AND THE DOMESTIC NEEDS FOR FEDERAL FUNDS ARE GREATER THAN THE MEANS PRESENTLY MADE AVAILABLE TO MEET THEM.

THERE IS NO CERTAINTY ABOUT WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BRING. BUT YOU FOLKS CAN HELP INFLUENCE WHAT DOES HAPPEN IN OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. BECAUSE YOU HAVE SEEN CONSERVATION PROGRAMS AT WORK IMPROVING THE LAND AND THE PROSPERITY OF PEOPLE, YOU ARE IN A POSITION TO ACTIVELY SEEK CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THESE PROGRAMS.

I SALUTE YOU FOR THE GREAT GOOD YOU HAVE DONE THESE PAST MANY YEARS OF CONSERVATION EFFORT . . . GOOD THAT WILL LIVE LONG AFTER YOU . . . GOOD THAT WILL HELP KEEP OUR COUNTRY STRONG AND PROSPEROUS.

YOU ARE ENGAGED IN THE MOST BASIC OF ALL HUMAN ACTIVITIES.. . THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES THAT HAVE ENABLED US TO PRODUCE IN THIS LAND THE GREATEST SOCIETY IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND.

I SALUTE YOU BECAUSE YOU REALIZE FULLY THAT YOU OPERATE IN A CHANGING WORLD . . . A WORLD OF DYNAMIC AND SWIFT-MOVING EVENTS . . . A WORLD THAT POSES INCREASINGLY NEW CHALLENGES AND PRESSURES UPON OUR LAND AND WATER RESOURCES . . . AND YOU ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP UP . . . TO SHUN THE STATUS QUO.

YOU ARE PREPARING YOURSELVES TO COPE WITH CONSERVATION NEEDS IN A CHANGING WORLD.

NOTHING COULD BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THIS.

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- COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATION -

I SHALL SUPPORT YOU AND YOUR CAUSE TO THE VERY LIMITS OF MY ABILITY.
BUT I NEED YOUR HELP.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL OF YOU WHO DEEPLY BELIEVE IN THE NEED TO DEVELOP
AND CONSERVE OUR SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES TO COME TO THE AID OF THE CAUSE BY
LETTING YOUR WISHES BE KNOWN TO YOUR CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION.

WE WANT AND NEED YOUR ADVICE AND GUIDANCE.

Senate Cases -

- Wallace Murphy -

John W. Brown - (Bain story)

"Letter from Ex-lors" -

Commend Banker for their part in program

Post office legislation - Pollock printed