

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WAR ON HUNGER  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1968  
REMARKS OF HONORABLE BOB DOLE

SENATE HEARINGS ON THE EXTENSION OF PUBLIC LAW 480 WILL BEGIN MARCH 13. IN THE HOUSE, WE ALSO EXPECT TO BEGIN PUBLIC HEARINGS SOON. ALREADY WE HAVE STARTED INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMEN ON THE OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM.

THE ISSUES CONCERNING THIS YEAR'S EXTENSION OBVIOUSLY WILL NOT ROTATE AROUND THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE ACT WILL BE EXTENDED, BUT RATHER HOW THE ACT WILL BE DIRECTED AND CHanneled IN ORDER TO MEET THE VERY SERIOUS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS FACING OUR NATION BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

WE HERE ARE ALL WELL AWARE OF THE MALTHUSIAN GEOMETRY OF CURRENT WORLD POPULATION GROWTH. THOSE AWESOME STATISTICS HAVE BEEN WELL DOCUMENTED AT THIS CONFERENCE.

THERE IS A GENERAL AWARENESS THAT AMERICAN AGRICULTURE ACTING ALONE HAS NEITHER THE PHYSICAL CAPACITY NOR THE ECONOMIC INCENTIVE TO FEED THE HUNGRY MULTITUDES OF THE WORLD FOR A PROLONGED TIME.

IN ADDITION, THERE IS A GROWING RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION CONTROL BY THE DEVELOPING NATIONS THEMSELVES.

THESE THREE PHENOMENA -- THE WORLD'S STAGGERING POPULATION GROWTH, THE INABILITY OF AMERICA TO REMEDY THE PROBLEM ALONE, AND A GROWING EMPHASIS ON LOCAL AGRICULTURE AND FAMILY PLANNING -- PRESCRIBE THE OUTER BOUNDARIES OF OUR NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE AS WE BEGIN DEBATE ON THE EXTENSION OF P. L. 480.

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WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK, I FEEL WE SHOULD EMPHASIZE AT LEAST SIX BASIC CONCEPTS.

FIRST: THE AMERICAN FARMER MUST RECEIVE FAIR AND ADEQUATE COMPENSATION FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROGRAM.

I WANT TO TAKE JUST A MOMENT TO REMIND EVERYONE HERE THAT AMERICAN FARMERS IN 1967 TOOK A CUT IN THEIR REALIZED NET INCOME OF ABOUT \$1.9 BILLION. FARM PRICES ARE DOWN AND ARE DOWN SUBSTANTIALLY. THE PARITY RATIO, MEASURING THE RELATIONSHIP OF FARM PRICES TO FARM COSTS, STOOD AT 74 FOR THE YEAR 1967. THIS WAS THE LOWEST YEARLY AVERAGE IN 34 YEARS.

I RECITE THESE FIGURES ONLY TO EMPHASIZE THAT IN ANY CONTINUATION OF P. L. 480, THE ECONOMIC NECESSITIES OF PRODUCERS MUST BE RECKONED WITH. WHY SHOULD A GRAIN PRODUCER BE EXPECTED TO ACCEPT A CUT-RATE PRICE FOR THE GRAIN THAT GOES AS FOOD FOR PEACE WHEN NO ONE ELSE IN THAT PROCESSING AND MARKETING CHAIN ACCEPTS LESS THAN A STANDARD FEE FOR THEIR SERVICES?

SECOND: P. L. 480 SHOULD BE USED AS AN INSTRUMENT TO BOOST MARKET PRICES, NOT DEPRESS THEM.

I AM SURE WE CAN ALL RECALL SOME OF THE HIGHLY OPTIMISTIC AND ENTHUSIASTIC CLAIMS THAT WERE MADE TWO YEARS AGO WHEN P. L. 480 WAS EXTENDED. THERE WAS TO BE, ACCORDING TO SOME, A "NEW ERA" FOR AMERICAN FARMERS. YET THE RECORD SHOWS THAT THE PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED AS EFFECTIVELY AS THE CONGRESS INTENDED.

THIRD: GREATER EMPHASIS ON FREE ENTERPRISE AND SELF-HELP IN DEVELOPING NATIONS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

WE ALL RECOGNIZE, I AM SURE, THE LIMITS TO WHICH OUR GOVERNMENT CAN IMPOSE ANY IDEA -- ECONOMIC, SOCIAL OR POLITICAL -- UPON ANY FREE, SOVEREIGN NATION OF THE WORLD.

BUT THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT WE CANNOT TRY TO PURSUE ALL HONORABLE MEANS

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AVAILABLE TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF FREE ENTERPRISE ECONOMIC SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT THE UNDERDEVELOPED PARTS OF THE WORLD. AFTER ALL, THE COMMUNIST ECONOMIC SYSTEM HAS NOT DISTINGUISHED ITSELF IN THE AREA OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

LIKEWISE, THE EMPHASIS ON SELF-HELP AND NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING EFFORTS SHOULD BE INTENSIFIED. WE WILL BE DOING THE CHILDREN OF TOMORROW A TERRIBLE INJUSTICE IF TODAY WE ARE A PARTY TO PROGRAMS WHICH DELAY DEVELOPMENT OF FOOD PRODUCTION RESOURCES WE KNOW WILL BE NEEDED IN THE FUTURE.

FOURTH: GREATER EMPHASIS MUST BE PLACED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT POOR COUNTRIES MAKE POOR CUSTOMERS, AND PROSPEROUS COUNTRIES MAKE GOOD CUSTOMERS.

I BELIEVE THE ACCENT IN FOREIGN AID SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL OBJECTIVES OF THE UNITED STATES. WHILE THERE IS PLENTY OF ROOM IN OUR HEARTS FOR THE HUMANITARIAN IMPULSE, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT INAUGURATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIPS IS THE MOST REWARDING ASPECT OF THE PROGRAM.

AMERICAN AGRI-BUSINESS HAS PARTICIPATED IN MARKET DEVELOPMENT IN THE PAST. NOW IS THE TIME FOR GREATER ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA.

FIFTH: BETTER COORDINATION OF EXISTING ACTIVITIES AND ACCELERATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING NATIONS ARE NEEDED.

IN THE LAST EXTENSION OF P. L. 480, I WAS THE AUTHOR OF AN AMENDMENT PERMITTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, IN COOPERATION WITH LAND GRANT AND OTHER UNIVERSITIES OF THIS NATION, TO ACCELERATE OUR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EFFORTS IN THE HAVE-NOT NEIGHBORHOODS OF OUR GLOBE. I HOPED THAT FARMERS AND COUNTY AGENTS -- THOSE SKILLED IN PRACTICE AND THOSE SKILLED IN THE THEORY OF MODERN AGRICULTURE -- COULD BE MORE EFFECTIVELY USED. MANY OF

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US WORKED FOR THE "FARMER-TO-FARMER" PROGRAM CLOSELY AND EFFECTIVELY COORDINATED WITH A.I.D. AND PEACE CORPS ACTIVITIES.

UNFORTUNATELY, NOT ONE DIME HAS BEEN REQUESTED OR APPROPRIATED TO IMPLEMENT OR EVEN EXPERIMENT WITH THIS PROVISION.

I HOPE THAT IN THE UPCOMING EXTENSION YOU WILL GIVE THIS ASPECT OF P. L. 480 YOUR ATTENTION AND SUPPORT.

SIXTH: P. L. 480 MUST HELP MEET THE BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS PROBLEM.

FINALLY, THE EXTENSION OF THIS ACT MUST RECOGNIZE THE VERY SERIOUS FISCAL STRAINS BEING IMPOSED ON OUR CURRENCY.

P. L. 480, LIKE ALL OTHER FOREIGN AID AND COMMERCE, MUST JUSTIFY ITS VALUE AGAINST A BACKDROP OF THE BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS PROBLEM.

YOU AND I KNOW THAT THE COUNTRIES WHICH DO BUSINESS WITH US IN THE P. L. 480 PROGRAM ARE POOR. THEY ALWAYS RESIST EFFORTS TO INCLUDE HARD TERMS IN P. L. 480 COMMODITY AGREEMENTS. YET OUR INSISTENCE ON HARDER TERMS MUST BE INCREASED IF THE AMERICAN DOLLAR IS TO REMAIN HEALTHY.

OUR FRIENDS ABROAD MUST REALIZE THAT UNLESS THE DOLLAR REMAINS STRONG, NONE OF THE OTHER ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THEIR COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL AFFILIATION WITH US WILL REMAIN.

#### CONCLUSION

YES, I SUPPORT RENEWAL OF THE P. L. 480 PROGRAM AND BELIEVE IT WILL BE EXTENDED THIS YEAR. IN SO DOING, WE SHOULD MOVE TO INCREASE FARM PRICES, EXPORT FREE ENTERPRISE AS WELL AS FOOD, EXPAND SELF-HELP AND FAMILY PLANNING ACTIVITIES, INTENSIFY MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND AGRI-BUSINESS PARTICIPATION, ACCELERATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, IMPROVE PROGRAM COORDINATION AND ADOPT MORE IMAGINATIVE METHODS TO DEAL WITH THE BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS PROBLEM.