

April 25, 1970

REMARKS OF HONORABLE BOB DOLE
BEFORE THE
WILSON COUNTY YOUNG FARMERS

AS A FARMER YOU ARE A MEMBER OF A MINORITY GROUP!
THIS IS NOT NEWS TO YOU. FARMERS HAVE TRADITIONALLY PRODUCED FOOD
FOR A GREAT NUMBER OF OTHER PEOPLE THAN HIMSELF. IN 1954 EACH
FARMER PRODUCED ENOUGH FOOD TO 18 OTHER PEOPLE, TODAY YOU ARE
FEEDING 45 OTHER PEOPLE....AND THERE ARE ABOUT TWO-THIRDS THE
NUMBER OF FARMS THERE WERE IN 1954.

FARM POPULATION HAS DWINDLED FROM 19 MILLION IN 1954
TO 10 MILLION TODAY. THESE FIGURES ARE DISCOURAGING, BUT CONSIDER
THE NUMBER OF FARMERS YOU KNOW THAT ARE PART-TIME, THAT WORK IN
TOWN PART-TIME OR FULL TIME IN ADDITION TO BEING A FARMER.

THE CURRENT CENSUS OF POPULATION SHOULD BRING SOME
STARTLING REPORTS WHEN COMPILED AND ANALIZED. BUT YOU **KNOW** THE
RESULTS OF THAT CENSUS ALREADY....YOU CAN JUDGE WHEN YOU SEE THE
FARM SALE HANDBILLS POSTED AT THE LOCAL ELEVATOR, OR COUNT THE
DESERTED FARMSTEADS ON THE WAY TO TOWN.

CONGRESS HAS BEEN PROTECTING THE FARMERS...AT LEAST THAT
HAS BEEN THE REASONING FOR FARM PROGRAMS FOR NEARLY FOUR DECADES.

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BUT I ASK YOU: "WHO HAS CONGRESS BEEN PROTECTING WITH THE FARM PROGRAM?"

"WHO HAS BENEFITED THE MOST?" THE URBAN CONSUMER!

THE URBAN DWELLING CONSUMER IS PAYING ONLY 16.5 CENTS OF HIS SPENDABLE MONEY FOR FOOD. IN OTHER NATIONS: FRANCE, ENGLAND, AND RUSSIA, HE WOULD SPEND FROM 25 to 50 CENTS OF EACH DOLLAR OF HIS SPENDABLE INCOME. SO THIS URBAN DWELLER IS REALLY GETTING A BARGAIN FOR HIS FOOD EXPENSE. AND YET URBAN CONGRESSMEN ARE CONSTANTLY PROTESTING THE PAYMENTS MADE TO FARMERS TO KEEP UP THE PRODUCTION OF THIS LOW COST FOOD. YOU HEAR MUCH ABOUT LIMITATION OF PAYMENTS TO FARMER, THERE ARE MANY URBAN CONGRESSMEN WHO WOULD DO AWAY WITH FARM PROGRAMS ENTIRELY.

MANY OF YOU MAY BELONG TO FARM ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE COALITION FARM BILL. MANY OTHERS MAY SUPPORT THE FARM BUREAU BILL. OTHERS SUPPORT OTHER BILLS. MUCH HAS BEEN SAID AND WRITTEN TO THE EFFECT THAT THE BILL BEING REPORTED OUT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE IS AN ADMINISTRATION BILL.

THE ADMINISTRATION KNOWS IT CANNOT PASS A FARM BILL. THE REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS KNOW THEY CANNOT PASS A FARM BILL, AND THE DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS KNOW THEY CANNOT PASS A FARM BILL.

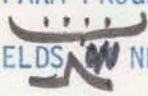
THIS IS WHERE THE MINORITY GROUP REALLY COMES TO PLAY. THERE ARE ONLY 35 MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WHOSE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS HAS 20 PER CENT OR MORE OF ITS POPULATION INVOLVED IN FARMING. THATS 35 OUT OF 435. (AND IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, 19 ARE REPUBLICANS AND 16 ARE DEMOCRATS) 400 TO 35 ODDS ARE NOT IN FAVOR OF THE FARMERS. THIS IS A REAL CRISIS FACING THE FARM PROGRAM TODAY.

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THE BILL BEING REPORTED FROM THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE IS A BILL CREATED BY THAT COMMITTEE OVER THE PAST 8 MONTHS. THESE MEN HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD, ON A BI-PARTISAN BASIS TO WRITE A BILL THAT WILL PASS THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE RESULT IS WHAT IS BEING CALLED THE POAGE-BELCHER BILL. IT PROVIDES MUCH THE SAME BENEFITS AS THE PRESENT FARM PROGRAM FOR 3-YEARS. THERE ARE SOME CHANGES, BUT BASICALLY IT IS A BILL THAT WILL PROVIDE FOR A CONTINUATION OF OUR CURRENT PRACTICES.

THIS BILL DOES NOT CONTAIN A LIMITATION OF PAYMENTS PROVISION AND WILL NOT UNTIL THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AMEND IT ON THE FLOOR DURING DISCUSSION.

THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN CAREFULLY STUDYING THE PROGRESS OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE, AND STANDS READY TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF OUR REMAINING FARMERS TO A BENEFICIAL PROGRAM. IF SUCH A BILL IS PASSED INTO LAW, WE WILL AGAIN HAVE THREE YEARS TO COME UP WITH A BETTER SOLUTION.

AS YOUNG FARMERS, I FEEL YOU HAVE A REAL FUTURE AHEAD AFTER YOU CLEAR THIS FARM PROGRAM HURDLE. THE REPORTS I READ ON POTENTIAL INCREASES IN YIELDS  NEW TYPES OF CORN THAT WILL CONVERT TO BETTER BEEF...FASTER. SOME OF THE MOST OPTOMISTIC DISCUSSIONS OF HYBRID WHEAT A FEW YEARS BACK WILL NOT COMPARE WITH POSSIBILITIES OF SOME OF THE VARIETIES PLANT BREEDERS ARE WORKING ON. THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT FOR AGRICULTURE AFTER IT HANDLES THE FARM PROGRAM AND THE RURAL-URBAN PROBLEMS.