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REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

RURAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR/WORKSHOP
SALINA, KANSAS
NOVEMBER 27, 1972

I AM HAPPY TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO THIS RURAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR HERE IN SALINA WHICH IS BEING CO-SPONSORED BY KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY.

I LOOK FORWARD TO AN INTERESTING AND PRODUCTIVE SESSION ON THE IMPORTANT SUBJECT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH SHOULD BE AS IMPORTANT TO THE COUNTRY AT LARGE AS IT IS CERTAINLY TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, AND ESPECIALLY TO THE PEOPLE HERE TODAY.

RURAL LIFE IN AMERICA IS IN MANY WAYS INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM RURAL LIFE AROUND THE WORLD. THE PEOPLE OF RURAL AMERICA SHARE WITH OTHERS IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES IN OTHER NATIONS A WAY OF LIFE AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF LIFE UNOBTAINABLE EXCEPT FOR THOSE WORKING ON OR CLOSE TO THE LAND.

BUT IN ONE VERY IMPORTANT RESPECT, PEOPLE FROM THE HEARTLAND OF AMERICA DIFFER FROM RURAL DWELLERS IN OTHER LANDS, FOR IN AMERICA THEY HELPED TO START AND TO MAINTAIN WHAT IS IN FACT A REVOLUTION. BY THEIR OWN INITIATIVE AND BY THEIR OWN CHARACTERISTIC AMERICAN DISPOSITION TO HARD WORK, THEY MADE AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION THE STANDARD -- AND THE ENVY -- OF THE WORLD.

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CERTAINLY THE MOST REVOLUTIONARY THING ABOUT THE PEOPLE FROM AMERICA'S HEARTLAND WAS THIS -- THAT THEY RID THIS COUNTRY OF THE USUAL AGRICULTURAL PROBLEM, THE PROBLEM MOST OF THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD STILL FACE, THE PROBLEM OF SCARCITY. IN ITS PLACE WE HAVE A NEW AND UNPRECEDENTED PROBLEM IN AMERICA -- THE PROBLEM OF ABUNDANT SURPLUS.

UNDER INITIATIVES TAKEN AND PLANNED BY THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION, MOST NOTABLY IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE, WE MAY SOON SEE THE PROBLEM OF SURPLUS TURNED INTO AN ADVANTAGE WHICH WILL REDOUND TO THE BENEFIT OF THE NATION AS A WHOLE AND PARTICULARLY TO THE RURAL DWELLERS WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

AND THE PROGRESS WE MAKE IN THIS AREA WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARD ENHANCING THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF RURAL DWELLERS IN AMERICA. SINCE THEY HAVE CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO THE WELFARE OF OUR COUNTRY -- BOTH THROUGH THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THEIR LABORS AND THROUGH THE STRENGTH OF THEIR CHARACTERS -- THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE LOT OF RURAL AMERICA COMES AS NO LUXURY FOR THE NATION, BUT RATHER AS A MATTER OF SIMPLE JUSTICE AND URGENT NECESSITY.

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IT WAS FOR THIS SAME PURPOSE -- THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF RURAL LIFE -- THAT THE CONGRESS PASSED AND THE PRESIDENT SIGNED THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1972. AND IT IS TO FURTHER THAT END THAT WE HAVE COME HERE TODAY TO GET INPUT FROM YOU -- THE IMMEDIATE BENEFICIARIES OF THE ACT.

- IMPROVE RURAL PROSPERITY -

AS A MEMBER OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE, I HAD A ROLE IN SHAPING THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1972. THIS LEGISLATION HOLDS GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR THE FUTURE OF RURAL AMERICA, BECAUSE IN IT WE ATTEMPTED TO PROVIDE A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR THE ENTIRE RURAL ECONOMY. WE SOUGHT TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO SPREAD PROSPERITY IN THE FARM SECTOR, AMONG THE TOWNS AND BUSINESSES WHICH SERVE IT, SO THAT ALL OF RURAL AMERICA -- STARTING WITH FARMERS -- WILL ALL GROW AND PROSPER.

FIRST, LET US THANK THE WASHINGTON OFFICIALS FOR BEING WITH US. THEY HAVE BEEN BUSY DRAFTING REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE ACT. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WANTED KANSANS WHO, HOPEFULLY, WILL BE BENEFITTING FROM THE ACT -- TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS AND PROVIDE SOME ADDITIONAL IDEAS AS TO HOW THE ACT CAN BE ADMINISTERED MOST EFFECTIVELY. IF WE CAN AVOID SOME PROBLEMS BEFORE THE REGULATIONS ARE FINALIZED, EVERYONE WILL BENEFIT.

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- INCOME IMPORTANT -

PERHAPS A COUPLE OF POINTS OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION WOULD BE HELPFUL.

FIRST, THE BASIC PREMISE IN DEVELOPING THIS LAW WAS THAT RURAL PROSPERITY IS DEPENDENT ON GOOD AND STABLE FARM INCOME FROM THE PRODUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES. SINCE COMMODITY PROGRAMS ARE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR CHANGE OR RENEWAL IN BASIC FARM LEGISLATION NEXT YEAR, WE DID NOT ATTEMPT TO GET INTO THESE COMMODITY PROGRAMS.

SECONDLY, THE COMMITTEE DID, HOWEVER, MAKE SEVERAL MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AMOUNTS AND TYPE OF FARM CREDIT THAT ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION. THESE STEPS WILL ASSIST FARMERS IN DEVELOPING IMPROVED INCOME. ALSO, YOU WILL NOTE THAT AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION, CREDIT PROGRAMS AND SMALL FARM RESEARCH ARE THE FIRST ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED ON THE PROGRAM THIS MORNING.

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- ECONOMIC STABILITY AND GROWTH -

THE MAJOR THRUST OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT IS TOWARD PROVIDING JOBS AND INCREASING BUSINESS INCOME IN RURAL AMERICA THROUGH ENCOURAGEMENT OF RURAL INDUSTRIALIZATION AND INCREASED BUSINESS ACTIVITY. THE COMMITTEE ACCEPTED MY PROPOSAL TO DO THIS THROUGH GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES OF LOANS MADE BY PRIVATE BANKING SOURCES RATHER THAN THROUGH DIRECT GOVERNMENT LENDING. INVOLVEMENT OF THE LOCAL BUSINESSES IS IMPORTANT, AND THE LESS DIRECT FEDERAL INTERVENTION, THE MORE LIKELY THAT LOCAL EFFORTS WILL BE TAILORED TO THE PARTICULAR LOCAL NEEDS.

THERE WAS ALSO RECOGNITION THAT IF RURAL AMERICA IS GOING TO ATTRACT INDUSTRY AND INCREASE BUSINESS ACTIVITY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL RURAL RESIDENTS, AN ADEQUATE AND DEPENDABLE WATER SUPPLY IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT, THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE WAS AUTHORIZED TO BUILD FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES OF SUFFICIENT SIZE TO IMPOUND WATER FOR MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

TWO YEARS AGO SENATOR TALMADGE AND I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF SPONSORING TITLE IX OF THE AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 1970. THAT PROVISION COMMITTED CONGRESS TO MAINTAINING A SOUND BALANCE BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN AMERICA. IN THIS ACT THAT AUTHORITY WAS EXTENDED AND GAVE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE THE RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY TO COORDINATE ALL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO ASSURE THAT THEIR BENEFITS ARE DIRECTED TO RURAL AS WELL AS URBAN AREAS.

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RURAL AMERICA DESERVES ITS FULL SHARE OF FEDERAL EFFORTS TO BUILD PROSPERITY, PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND SOLVE THE PROBLEMS WHICH EXIST REGARDLESS OF REGION OR LOCALITY. THIS LAW PROVIDES ANOTHER STEP TOWARD ASSURING THE EQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF THESE EFFORTS.

FINALLY, THERE WILL BE A DISCUSSION HERE THIS AFTERNOON OF A BILL I INTRODUCED DURING THE 92ND CONGRESS, NOW KNOWN AS TITLE IV OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1972. IT IS LISTED IN THE ACT UNDER THE HEADING RURAL COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION, AND THE MAN WHO ASSISTED ME IN DRAFTING THIS LEGISLATION, HAROLD GALLAHER -- WHO MANY OF YOU KNOW AS OUR KANSAS STATE FORESTER -- WILL BE ON THE PROGRAM TODAY.

BEFORE CONCLUDING, I WOULD URGE EACH OF YOU TO ASK QUESTIONS FULLY SO THAT YOU MAY INFORM OTHERS OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1972. THIS MUST BE DONE IF IT IS TO BENEFIT RURAL KANSAS.

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AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT THAT HAS NOT RECEIVED ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION IS THAT OF COMMUNICATIONS. WE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN PASSING THE RURAL TELEPHONE BANK ACT LAST YEAR AND THIS WILL PROVIDE NEEDED EXPANSION OF TELEPHONE FACILITIES IN RURAL AREAS. AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS, THE MAIL SERVICE, HAS RECEIVED NO ATTENTION. IN FACT, THIS SERVICE IS BEING CURTAILED IN SOME AREAS AND IS MEASURABLY SLOWER IN ALL AREAS. OUR RURAL CITIZENS DESERVE PROMPT MAIL DELIVERY AND IF WE EVER EXPECT TO ENCOURAGE NEW INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS TO LOCATE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES, THEY WILL SURELY NEED IMPROVED MAIL SERVICE FROM WHAT IS OFFERED TODAY.

MOST RURAL COMMUNITIES OF KANSAS AND OTHER STATES WERE FOUNDED ON LAND ADJACENT TO RAILROADS. NOW WE FIND THAT THROUGH THE USE OF OTHER MODES OF TRANSPORTATION (AIRPLANES, BUSES, CARS AND TRUCKS), THE USE OF RAILROADS HAS DECLINED GREATLY IN MOST AREAS AND MOST PASSENGER SERVICE TO RURAL COMMUNITIES HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED. IN MANY AREAS ESSENTIAL FREIGHT SERVICE IS BEING STOPPED. GRAIN ELEVATORS FIND THEY CAN NO LONGER SHIP THEIR GRAIN BY RAIL AND MUST LOOK FOR OTHER MEANS. RAIL MAIL SERVICE HAS BEEN STOPPED.

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I HAVE DISCUSSED THESE PROBLEMS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND HOPE THAT SOME COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION LINKS CAN BE MAINTAINED WITH ALL RURAL COMMUNITIES IN ORDER TO PRESERVE AND IMPROVE RURAL AMERICA.

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RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1972 SEMINAR--WORKSHOP

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 27, 1972, SALINE COUNTY 4-H BUILDING, SALINA, KANSAS

JOINTLY SPONSORED BY KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY AND SENATOR BOB DOLE

MORNING SESSION

8:30	Registration -- $5.00 fee to cover expenses Coffee and Donuts	
* 9:30-10:30	Mr. Dole meet with American G.I. Forum	
* 9:45	Remarks -- Senator Dole	
10:00	Remarks -- Lt. Gov. Reynolds Shultz, Chairman Kansas Economic Development Commission	
10:10	Remarks -- Dr. James A. McCain, President Kansas State University	
10:20	Remarks -- James V. Smith, Administrator Farmers Home Administration	
10:30	Break	

PROGRAM PANELS -- Moderated by Forest Reece, Professional Staff of the Senate Agriculture & Forestry Committee, and Bill Taggart, Legislative Assistant to Senator Bob Dole

10:40	Agricultural Conservation, Credit Programs and Small Research and Extension Programs	-- Panel of Washington officials from: Farmers Home Administration Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Soil Conservation Service Extension Service Farmers Home Administration
10:40	Rural Housing	
* 12:00	Lunch -- With participants?	

AFTERNOON SESSION

1:00	Fire Protection	Harold Gallaher, Kansas State Forester & Forest Service officials
* 1:00	Jack DeBoer's 312 Cessna to pick up Senator Dole at Rapid Aire, Salina (Arrive Executive Beech, Kansas City, at 2:00)	
1:30	Business Loans	Farmers Home Administration
2:30	Community Facilities	Farmers Home Administration
3:30	Summation -- Darrell Dunn, Associate Administrator, FHA	

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