

REMARKS BY SENATOR BOB DOLE
ANDERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU
GARNETT, KANSAS

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1974

include NFO.

I WISH OTHER SEGMENTS OF OUR PUBLIC WOULD TAKE THE INTEREST IN THEIR LEGISLATION AS DO SOME ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE FARM BUREAU. PUBLIC APATHY IS THE BIGGEST LIABILITY TO THE PASSAGE OF MEANINGFUL LEGISLATION, FOR TOO OFTEN THE PUBLIC DOES NOT MAKE ITS FEELINGS KNOWN ABOUT PENDING LEGISLATION UNTIL AFTER IT HAS BEEN PASSED, REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN IMPOSED, AND THE PROGRAM IS BEING ADMINISTERED.

THE LEADERSHIP YOU ARE DEMONSTRATING IN MEETING TOGETHER HERE TONIGHT IS MORE OF WHAT THIS NATION NEEDS.

LET'S LOOK AT SOME LEGISLATION AND GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS THAT AFFECT YOU AS FARMERS -- AND AS CITIZENS IN GENERAL.

AG SERVICE CENTERS

-- AGRICULTURE SERVICE CENTERS. WE MIGHT AS WELL GET TO THIS SUBJECT RIGHT OFF THE BAT. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE WE HAVE CONSIDERED LEGISLATION THAT WOULD EFFECT A CONSOLIDATION OF THE MULTIPLE OFFICES AND AGENCIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

AS YOU KNOW, EACH COUNTY HAS AN ASC OFFICE, NEARLY EVERY COUNTY HAS A SOIL CONSERVATION AND FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE OFFICE. FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE A FEW CONSOLIDATIONS INTO MULTI-COUNTY OPERATIONS. CONGRESS HAS EXAMINED THE POSSIBILITY OF LOCATING THESE OFFICES TOGETHER AND HAS MADE SOME RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION OF SUCH A PROGRAM TO THE DEPARTMENT.

PLAN GOES TOO FAR

THE RECENT DIRECTIVES, HOWEVER, ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT HAD CAUSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN THROUGH THE

STATE. THEIR PLANS GO BEYOND CO-LOCATION OF OFFICES AND PROPOSE SOME CONSOLIDATION OF COUNTIES INTO REGIONAL OR MULTI-COUNTY OFFICES. THE STATE DIRECTORS OF EACH OF THESE OFFICES WERE DIRECTED TO WORK OUT A PLAN.

I DISCUSSED THESE PLANS WITH OFFICIALS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE MONTHS AGO AND WITH MANY INTERESTED KANSANS. AND THE MORE I TALKED WITH THEM, THE MORE CONCERNED I GOT. SEVERAL TIMES I RAISED OBJECTIONS WITH USDA OFFICIALS AND MOST RECENTLY, ON MARCH 28TH, I WROTE SECRETARY BUTZ PROTESTING THE CONSOLIDATION PLAN WHICH WOULD HAVE LED TO THE CLOSING OF COUNTY OFFICES IN SOME COUNTIES AND REQUIRED SOME FARMERS TO DRIVE AS MUCH AS 75 OR 100 MILES TO CONDUCT THEIR BUSINESS. FOLLOWING THAT PROTEST, I RECEIVED WORD LAST WEEK THAT THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT HAS CHANGED ITS POLICY AND THAT THE PLANNED CONSOLIDATION HAS, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, BEEN PUT TO A HALT. IN SOME COUNTIES THE CO-LOCATION OF THE SEVERAL

OFFICES, HOWEVER, INTO ONE BUILDING IN ONE TOWN HAS TAKEN PLACE IN KANSAS AND MANY SUCH CONSOLIDATED OPERATIONS ARE IN EXISTENCE ALREADY. SOME REFINEMENTS SUCH AS THE UTILIZATION OF CLERICAL PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT REMAINS TO BE IMPLEMENTED, BUT HERE AGAIN I HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT ANY SUCH EFFORTS WILL NOT RESULT IN A REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF PERSONNEL.

FARM BILL OF 1973

-- BY THIS TIME YOU ARE ALL PRETTY WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 1973 -- THE FARM BILL WHICH WAS PASSED IN AUGUST LAST YEAR.

IN RECENT HEARINGS ON ANOTHER MATTER, I WAS ABLE TO ASK REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL FARM ORGANIZATIONS WHAT THEY THINK OF THIS LEGISLATION. ALL HAVE SOME CHANGES THEY WOULD MAKE BUT GENERALLY THEY LIKE THE PROGRAM. SOME READILY ADMITTED THEY OPPOSED THE LEGISLATION WHEN IT WAS FIRST CONSIDERED.

IN MY TRAVELS THROUGH THE STATE SINCE ITS PASSAGE I HAVE FOUND THAT KANSAS FARMERS GENERALLY LIKE THE TARGET PRICE CONCEPT THE BILL INITIATED. THIS BILL WAS A TRUE BI-PARTISAN EFFORT TO OBTAIN REASONABLE LEGISLATION IN A TIME WHEN FARMERS DID NOT ENJOY THE BEST POSITION IN OUR URBAN-DOMINATED CONGRESS. IT WAS WRITTEN AND PASSED IN A TRUE SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE -- ONE OF THE BASICS OF OUR FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

FARM BILL CHANGES PROPOSED

SINCE ITS PASSAGE, SEVERAL PROPOSED CHANGES, SOME INCLUDED, HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED -- LARGELY HAVING TO DO WITH AN INCREASE IN TARGET PRICE LEVELS.

GREATLY INCREASED PRODUCTION COSTS (17 PERCENT IN 1974 OVER 1973), HOWEVER, HAVE CAUSED THE TARGET PRICES IN THE BILL TO BE OUTDATED ALREADY AND THEY NO LONGER PROVIDE ADEQUATE PROTECTION AGAINST A POTENTIAL DROP IN PRICES. FOR THIS REASON I INTRODUCED, ALONG WITH SENATOR

MILTON YOUNG OF NORTH DAKOTA, S. 2934, A BILL WHICH REIN-
STATES THE ESCALATOR PROVISIONS OF THE ORIGINAL SENATE-
PASSED VERSION OF THE BILL. IF PASSED, THIS BILL WILL
CAUSE THE TARGET PRICE TO FLUCTUATE IN PROPORTION TO THE
COST OF PRODUCTION INDEX (COST OF PRODUCTION ITEMS, TAXES,
INTEREST, AND WAGE RATES). BASED ON THIS INDEX, THE
TARGET PRICE FOR 1974 WOULD BE RAISED TO \$2.40 AND, IF
INFLATION CONTINUES AT THE SAME RATE AS THE PAST YEAR, THE
TARGET PRICES FOR WHEAT WOULD INCREASE -- IN 1975 TO \$2.81,
1976 TO \$3.29, AND 1977 TO \$3.85, WITH SIMILAR INCREASES IN
CORN, GRAIN SORGHUM, AND BARLEY.

THE \$2.40 TARGET PRICE IS STILL FAR BELOW
PRESENT MARKET PRICES AND I CERTAINLY WOULD HOPE WE WOULD
NOT COME ANYWHERE CLOSE TO THE TARGET. IT WOULD BE A MORE
REALISTIC PROTECTION PRICE AND I SHALL WORK DILIGENTLY FOR
PASSAGE OF THIS BILL.

UNFOUNDED FEARS

DUE TO THE DECREASE IN SUPPLIES OF GRAIN WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED SEVERAL PROBLEMS, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH WAS THE UNFOUNDED THREAT THAT WE WOULD RUN OUT OF WHEAT BEFORE HARVEST THIS YEAR DUE TO EXPANDED EXPORTS AND THAT BREAD WOULD COST \$1.00 A LOAF. YOU KNOW THIS STORY AND I WAS PLEASED THAT THE SENATE PASSED MY RESOLUTION (S. CON. RES. 70) CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TO IMMEDIATELY EVALUATE THE STOCKS OF WHEAT AND THE NEED UNTIL HARVEST. THE SECRETARY DID MAKE SUCH AN EVALUATION -- AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER THE BAKERS HAD TO ADMIT THAT ADEQUATE SUPPLIES DID EXIST.

ANOTHER PROBLEM STILL HANGS ON, HOWEVER. AND THAT IS THE RENEWED THRUST FOR STRATEGIC GRAIN RESERVES. SEVERAL BILLS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED, ALL OF WHICH CREATE SOME FORM OF RESERVE, FOOD BANK, OR WHATEVER -- ALL CLAIMING COMPLETE ISOLATION FROM THE MARKETPLACE SO AS NOT TO INHIBIT FARM

PRICES. BUT WE KNOW BETTER. NO MATTER HOW RIGID A CONTROL CONGRESS MIGHT IMPOSE ON SUCH A RESERVE, THAT SAME CONGRESS, IN THE FACE OF DROUGHT, OR FAMINE, OR EVEN POSSIBLY A LESS DIRE BUT POLITICALLY POWERFUL THREAT, WOULD RESPOND TO ITS ELECTORATE AND RELEASE THOSE RESERVES BY RESCINDING ITS PROVISOS FOR ISOLATION. I FEEL THE MEMBERS OF THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE CAN SUCCESSFULLY CONTAIN THIS LEGISLATION IN THE COMMITTEE, BUT THE THREAT STILL EXISTS AND THE MEASURE COULD BE CONSIDERED AND PASSED ON THE FLOOR IF ANOTHER CRISIS SHOULD OCCUR.

FOOD FOR PEACE EXTENSION

THE FARM BILL ALSO EXTENDED THE IMPORTANT FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM (PL 480). THIS PROGRAM WAS INITIATED AND EXPANDED IN A PERIOD WHEN WE HAD HUGE SURPLUSES AS A MEANS TO USE THESE SURPLUSES TO DEVELOP NEW MARKETS AND TO HELP FEED THE HUNGRY AND STARVING PEOPLE OF THE WORLD.

IT HAS BEEN A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS AND WE WILL CELEBRATE
THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THIS PROGRAM JULY 10 OF THIS YEAR.

JAPAN WAS DEVELOPED INTO THE BIGGEST MARKET WE
HAVE FOR WHEAT TODAY THROUGH THIS PROGRAM. MANY OTHER
NATIONS ARE COMPARABLE SUCCESS STORIES. THESE MARKETS
HAVE ALL CONTRIBUTED TO ATTAINING THE EXPANDED EXPORTS
THAT HELPED DIMINISH THE SURPLUS POSITION AND INCREASE
PRICES PAID TO FARMERS TO REALISTIC LEVELS.

EVEN WITHOUT A SURPLUS

THE HUMANITARIAN PHASE OF THE PROGRAM HAS CON-
TINUED. WE ARE SHIPPING WHEAT AND OTHER FOOD GRAINS TO
DESTITUTE COUNTRIES SUCH AS INDIA, PAKISTAN, BANGLADESH,
AND OTHERS WHENEVER DISASTER STRIKES.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT, DURING THIS CURRENT
YEAR WHEN SURPLUSES DID NOT EXIST, WE CONTINUED THE
HUMANITARIAN OBLIGATION OF THIS FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM.

EVEN THOUGH THE PROGRAM WAS STARTED TO DISPERSE SURPLUSES,
IT HAS PROVEN ITS HUMANITARIAN IMPORTANCE AND WE SHALL
CONTINUE IT IN TIME OF SHORTAGE AS OUR MORAL OBLIGATION
DICTATES.

RURAL ELECTRIC PROGRAM

-- THE RURAL ELECTRIC PROGRAM WAS EXTENDED (S. 394)
AND THE INTEREST RATE WAS INCREASED TO FIVE PERCENT ON MOST
LOANS AND EVEN HIGHER ON OTHER LOANS. IN CASES OF HARD-
SHIP WHERE POWER OR TELEPHONES DO NOT EXIST, A LIMITED
AMOUNT OF TWO PERCENT LOAN MONEY IS STILL AVAILABLE BUT
WILL BE BLENDED WITH HIGHER INTEREST LOANS TO EFFECTUATE
A MORE REALISTIC COST OF MONEY. I WAS PLEASED THAT MY EIGHT
YEARS ON THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AG COMMITTEE WAS
PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IN BREAKING A DEADLOCK ON THIS LEGIS-
LATION WHEN IT CAME TO A STANDSTILL IN THE JOINT CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE. THROUGH MY ACQUAINTANCE WITH CHAIRMAN POAGE

I WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN A COMPROMISE POSITION WITH SECRETARY BUTZ THAT WAS ACCEPTED BY BOTH HOUSES AND AVOIDED A THREATENED VETO.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT -- SOME PROGRESS

-- WE ARE CONDUCTING REGULAR OVERSIGHT HEARINGS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1972, AND GENERALLY I AM PLEASED THAT JUST RECENTLY WE ARE SEEING SOME MOVES TO IMPLEMENT THE GUARANTEED LOANS PROVISIONS OF THAT LEGISLATION. THROUGH THESE GUARANTEES, LOCAL FINANCIAL SOURCES WILL BE ABLE TO LOAN FUNDS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, KEEPING THE INTEREST MONEY AT HOME AT CURRENT MARKET RATES AND PROVIDING THE NEEDED SERVICES AND INCENTIVES FOR GROWTH IN RURAL COMMUNITIES. IT HAS BEEN SLOW, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE SO, BUT I AM SURE YOU WANT THIS ADMINISTERED PROPERLY AND NOT SUBJECT TO THE MISTAKES AND ABUSE THAT SOME OF THE URBAN PROGRAMS EXPERIENCED WHEN URBAN RENEWAL COMMENCED YEARS AGO.

PENDING LEGISLATION

LET'S LOOK AT WHAT'S PENDING.

-- I MENTIONED THE PROPOSED GRAIN RESERVE BILLS, WHICH MAY REMAIN DORMANT UNTIL ANOTHER THREAT OF SHORTAGE ARISES.

-- MEAT INSPECTION STILL HAS SOME CHANGES BEING CONSIDERED, ONE OF WHICH WOULD ALLOW A STATE INSPECTION SYSTEM TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS MORE STRICT THAN THE FEDERAL REGULATIONS. THIS SEEMS REASONABLE IN SPECIAL CASES AS A STATE MAY HAVE REASON TO REQUIRE SPECIAL PROCESSING OF THE MEAT IN THEIR PARTICULAR AREA. PLANTS UNDER THE FEDERAL SYSTEM MUST REMAIN UNIFORM HOWEVER. YOU CAN READILY SEE THIS POSES A PROBLEM WHICH IS DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE.

-- WE HAVE CONSIDERED SEVERAL TIMES AND HAVE BEFORE US AGAIN LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD ALLOW STATE INSPECTED MEAT PROCESSING PLANTS (BECAUSE THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO BE

EQUAL TO FEDERAL REGULATIONS) TO SHIP INTERSTATE. THE STATE SYSTEMS ARE NOT ENTIRELY EQUAL TO FEDERAL INSPECTION EVEN THOUGH THEIR REGULATIONS MAY INDICATE IT.

-- THE NEXT LEGISLATION TO WHICH WE SHALL BE ADDRESSING OURSELVES IN THE SENATE AG COMMITTEE WILL BE LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE THE COMMODITY EXCHANGE ACT. SEVERAL BILLS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE . . . ONE HAS BEEN PASSED BY THE HOUSE. PRESENTLY I AM STUDYING THESE BILLS AND MAY INTRODUCE A BILL THAT STRIKES A MIDDLE GROUND BETWEEN THOSE PROPOSALS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION.

OTHER LEGISLATION

OTHER BILLS IN CONGRESS OUTSIDE THE JURISDICTION OF THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO HAVE AN IMPORTANT BEARING ON FARMERS AND AGRIBUSINESS GENERALLY.

THE TRADE REFORM ACT, WHICH IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED IN THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, ON WHICH I SERVE, IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO PROSPECTS FOR OUR FARM EXPORTS. IT

WILL ALSO BE IMPORTANT TO THE DOMESTIC OPERATIONS OF CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE FARM ECONOMY SUCH AS THE DAIRY INDUSTRY.

ENERGY LEGISLATION IS AS CRITICAL TO FARMERS AS TO ANYONE ELSE, AND PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT. WE MUST HAVE ADEQUATE FARM FUELS TO OBTAIN MAXIMUM PRODUCTION AND OUTPUT. SO THE REQUIREMENT FOR CONGRESS TO PASS RESPONSIBLE LEGISLATION WHICH WILL MEAN GREATER -- NOT LESS -- FUEL SUPPLIES FOR AMERICA, HAS EVEN MORE URGENCY AS FAR AS FARMERS ARE CONCERNED. SO FAR, ABOUT THE ONLY THING CONGRESS HAS DONE IS TALK, MAKE A BIG SHOW OUT OF HEARINGS ON OIL COMPANY PROFITS -- AND PASS WINTER DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME. NONE OF THIS HAS PRODUCED AN EXTRA DROP OF OIL FOR THE COUNTRY OR MADE ANY NEW ENERGY TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE. SO IT IS NOW TIME FOR CONGRESS TO PUT THE POLITICS OF ENERGY ASIDE AND GET SERIOUS ABOUT THE JOB OF MEETING OUR NATIONAL ENERGY REQUIREMENTS.

There are still other matters such as taxes,
health insurance, and medical service in rural areas --
which will be important to farmers as we proceed in
Congress for the rest of this year.

But I hope that this discussion has given you a
feeling for some of the major issues, and I appreciate the
opportunity to be with you.

Tom Benton -

(B. T. Benton)

= 1974 - "Veto-proof" Congress
- - - - - Engagement -

How I got
into politics

Frank Buehler }
Melvin Buehler }

- Comment on H. Committee - S.C. (reaffirmation)

Geo. Meany → Trade Bar.

60 M.P.H. - Truck Stops

Energy Crisis - Congress

"Granary Buster" - Butz