

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

"CHALLENGES AHEAD FOR COOPERATIVES"

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1980
COOPERATIVE LEAGUE OF THE U.S.A.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HERE TODAY AND TALK WITH YOU ABOUT THE CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD IN THE 1980'S FOR COOPERATIVES. NOT ONLY THOSE COOPERATIVES HERE IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT ALSO THE HUNDREDS OF COOPERATIVES WHICH WILL COME INTO BEING WORLDWIDE IN THIS DECADE.

EVENTS OF THE PAST COUPLE OF WEEKS HAVE LEFT MANY OF US BREATHLESS -- THEY HAVE BEEN EXCITING EVENTS, BUT AT THE SAME TIME UNSETTLING.

BUT AS A BOY SAID WHEN HE PEEKED UNDER THE SIDE SHOW TENT, "YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET".

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PEOPLE VOTED ON NOVEMBER 4TH FOR A CHANGE. SPEAKING WITH THEIR BALLOTS, THEY WERE SAYING: INFLATION MUST BE STOPPED. JOBS MUST BE CREATED. GOVERNMENT SPENDING MUST BE CURTAILED. AND AMERICA'S LEADERSHIP MUST BE RE-ESTABLISHED IN THE WORLD. PRESIDENT-ELECT REAGAN HAS SET THE TONE FOR THE DECADE OF THE 1980'S -- AS HE STATED DURING HIS CAMPAIGN: TOGETHER WE ARE GOING TO DO WHAT HAS TO BE DONE. WE'RE GOING TO PUT AMERICA BACK TO WORK AGAIN".

THE KEY WORD IS -- TOGETHER.

WORKING TOGETHER IS THE VERY ESSENCE OF THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT. THAT'S WHY THE FUTURE FOR COOPERATIVES AND THEIR PEOPLE-ORIENTED LEADERSHIP IS BRIGHTER TODAY THAN IT HAS EVER BEEN BEFORE.

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COOPERATIVE LEAGUE OF THE USA

BEFORE SPELLING OUT THE CHALLENGES AND GOALS OF COOPERATIVES THAT I SEE AHEAD, I WOULD FIRST LIKE TO THANK THE COOPERATIVE LEAGUE FOR INVITING ME AS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER TODAY. THE WORK THAT THE LEAGUE HAS CARRIED OUT SINCE ITS CREATION IN 1916, HAS BEEN TRULY OUTSTANDING.

CLUSA, THE OFFICIAL U.S. MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE, IS THE OLDEST AND LARGEST WORLD NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION EXCEPT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS -- BUT CLUSA IS THE ONLY NATIONAL U.S. COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC OUTREACH PROGRAMS.

JUST LAST YEAR, CLUSA MARKED ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY FOR ITS OUTREACH PROGRAM -- A PROGRAM OF HELPING PEOPLE IN UNDERDEVELOPED NATIONS, AS WELL AS CITIZENS IN DISADVANTAGED AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES. BOTH HERE AND ABROAD, CLUSA WORKS TO BRING PEOPLE AND THEIR IDEAS TOGETHER IN THE CO-OP STRUCTURE.

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CLUSA HAS A RECORD OF PROVEN SUCCESS IN LISTENING TO WHAT I CALL "PEOPLE'S NEEDS", HELPING THEM TO IDENTIFY THEIR RESOURCES AND ASPIRATIONS, ESTABLISHING CONTINUED RELATIONSHIPS WITH EMERGING COOPERATIVES AND IN MANY CASES TRANSCENDING INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES.

ONE EXAMPLE: IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR, CLUSA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPANDING A COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN INDIA, ORGANIZING AND CAPITALIZING FEDERATIONS OF VEGETABLE OIL PRODUCER'S COOPERATIVES. THIS PROJECT, MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH A GRANT OF \$100 MILLION WORTH OF U.S. SOYBEAN OIL FROM THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT(AID), IS THE LARGEST OILSEED COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT EVER UNDERTAKEN BY A U.S. ORGANIZATION.

IN FACT, THE \$100 MILLION GRANT IS THE LARGEST COMMITMENT IN U.S. HISTORY OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES THROUGH THE FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM. INDEED, THE COOPERATIVE LEAGUE HAS PLAYED, AND WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE FUTURE OF COOPERATIVES AND HELPING THEM MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE 1980'S.

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COOPERATIVES TODAY

THE COOPERATIVE PHILOSOPHY IS A UNIQUE EXPRESSION OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. PRODUCER AND CONSUMER COOPERATIVES HAVE EVOLVED THROUGH EXPERIMENT AND EXPANSION; THEY HAVE SURVED WARS AND DEPRESSIONS. TODAY, THEY ARE ADAPTING TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN AGRICULTURE, GLOBAL COMMITMENTS IN A WORLD OF HUNGRY PEOPLE AND ARE SHARING THE LEADERSHIP WITH OTHER BUSINESS LEADERS IN THE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM.

AN ESTIMATED FIVE OUT OF SIX FARMERS ARE MEMBERS OF AT LEAST ONE COOPERATIVE AND THE PROPORTION CONTINUES TO GROW. BUT, AS YOU WELL KNOW, THERE ARE COOPERATIVES FOR OTHERS THAN JUST THE FARMER.

THE COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISE IS INVOLVED IN EVERY AREA OF OUR SOCIETY TODAY. IN FOOD, HOUSING, ENERGY -- IN HEALTH CARE, MANUFACTURING, TRANSPORTATION, INSURANCE -- IN THE SALE OF "HOME-MADE CRAFTS" EDUCATION AND ON THE CAMPUSES OF OUR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WE ARE SEEING A GROWING TREND TOWARD COOPERATIVE STUDENT HOUSING.

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COOPERATIVE FUNERAL HOMES ARE SPREADING SO FAST ACROSS THE UNITED STATES THAT BEFORE LONG WE MAY FIND THAT CO-OP SERVICES WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE CRADLE TO THE GRAVE.


ONE IN THREE AMERICANS ALREADY BELONG TO A COOPERATIVE OF SOME KIND. AND THIS PRINCIPLE OF COOPERATIVE AMONG U.S. CITIZENS AND AROUND THE WORLD, CAN BE IDENTIFIED IN THEIR CHOICE OF LIFE STYLE, THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING, AND THEIR ECONOMIC WELL-BEING .

LEGISLATION AND THE CO-OP

SINCE I CAME TO THE CONGRESS IN 1962, I HAVE HELD A KEEN INTEREST FOR THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE IN LEGISLATION PROVISIONS ASSISTING THE SCOPE AND RANGE OF COOPERATIVE VENTURES. I HAVE WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTED THIS LEGISLATION AND IN PARTICULAR, THE LEGISLATIVE LANDMARKS FOR COOPERATIVES SUCH AS THE RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BANK BILL, THE NATIONAL CONSUMER COOPERATIVE BANK ACT, AND THE FARM CREDIT ACT AMENDMENTS, WHICH RECENTLY PASSED THE SENATE.

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FARM CREDIT ACT AMENDMENTS

THE FARM CREDIT  AMENDMENTS ACT IS A SERIES OF AMENDMENTS NOW PENDING IN CONGRESS. THE HOUSE IS EXPECTED TO TAKE UP CONSIDERATION OF THIS BILL IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, WITH SOME CHANGES. BUT OVERALL, H.R. 7548 WILL EXPAND THE ABILITY OF THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM AND ALLOW THOSE INSTITUTIONS TO BETTER SERVE THE NEEDS OF THEIR MEMBER-BORROWERS -- THE U.S. FARMERS, RANCHERS, PRODUCERS AND HARVESTERS OF AQUATIC PRODUCTS -- AND THEIR COOPERATIVES.

THROUGH PRUDENT MANAGEMENT, WISE INVESTMENTS, AND SUPERVISED CREDIT, THE COOPERATIVE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM HAS GROWN TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT SOURCE OF AGRICULTURAL CREDIT. AND ON THE WAY, THEY PAID OFF THEIR FEDERAL INDEBTEDNESS IN FULL SO THAT TODAY, THE COOPERATIVE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM IS ENTIRELY MEMBER-OWNED AND OPERATED.

ANOTHER CO-OP SUCCESS IS IN THE MAKING -- THE NATIONAL CONSUMER COOPERATIVE BANK.

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THE NATIONAL CONSUMER COOPERATIVE BANK

IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY, WE HAVE ABOUT 6,700 FARMER COOPERATIVES, WITH A BUSINESS VOLUME OF AT LEAST \$43 BILLION. BUT COOPERATIVES TODAY -- AND FOR THE FUTURE -- COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES. AS POPULATION CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED THROUGHOUT RURAL AMERICA, A GOOD ARGUMENT CAN BE MADE FOR ADJUSTING THE ELIGIBILITY FOR REQUIREMENTS FOR CO-OP MEMBERSHIP.

BUT IT IS THE NATIONAL CONSUMER COOPERATIVE BANK, AS A NEW CREDIT INSTITUTION I BELIEVE THAT WILL BEGIN TO OPERATE ON A PARALLEL TRACK TO THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM. AND WE ALL LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN THROUGH MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS AND FISCAL INTEGRITY, THIS BANK, TOO, WILL PAY OFF ITS FEDERAL OBLIGATION AND STAND ON ITS OWN FEET AS A MAJOR SOURCE OF CREDIT FOR THE GROWING NUMBER OF CONSUMER COOPERATIVES.

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I CAN RECALL DURING DEBATE ON THE BILL BACK IN 1977 AND 1978
IT WAS THE CALL OF THE AMERICAN CONSUMER -- AND PRODUCER AS WELL --
FOR A CONSUMER CO-OP BANK AS A NECESSARY TOOL FOR THE COOPERATIVE
FORM OF BUSINESS ENTERPRISE. CONSUMERS WANTED USER-OWNED
ENTERPRISES THAT WOULD NARROW THE PRICES IN THE MARKETPLACE--
SERVE AS A COMPETING YARDSTICK, AS WELL AS RAISE THE QUALITY
OF THE FOOD HE BUYS.

TODAY, THE NATIONAL CONSUMER COOPERATIVE BANK IS A REALITY --
BRINGING HIGH HOPE AND OPTIMISM AND VISIONS OF A BRIGHTER FUTURE
FOR ALL CONSUMERS.

THE GOAL OF THE CONSUMER COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IS TO DEVELOP
SOUND, FINANCIALLY STRONG ORGANIZATIONS -- WITH ECONOMIC
STRENGTH IN THE MARKETPLACE.

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CO-OPS IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

I BELIEVE THE 1980'S OFFER NEW CHALLENGES FOR COOPERATIVES - ONE OF WHICH IS INCREASED INVOLVEMENT IN THE POLITICAL AND LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

MOST COOPERATIVES ADHERE TO THE CONCEPT OF POLITICAL NEUTRALITY. I BELIEVE COOPERATIVES SHOULD CONTINUE ON THAT PATH. BUT THAT DOES NOT RULE OUT THE BASIC INTEREST THAT COOPERATIVES MUST HAVE IN THE ONGOING POLITICAL AND LEGISLATIVE SCENE. COOPERATIVES IN THIS DECADE NEED TO INCREASE THEIR INTEREST AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES FACING THIS GREAT NATION, AND IN THE CANDIDACIES OF THOSE SEEKING ELECTIVE OFFICE IN WASHINGTON.

UP TO NOW, COOPERATIVES HAVE BEEN "SLEEPING GIANTS" AS FAR AS THE POLITICAL PROCESS IS CONCERNED. AWAKEN THIS GIANT, AND THERE COULD BE IN THE 1980'S A MASSIVE GRASS ROOTS POLITICAL SURGE TRIGGERED BY THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT. WE MAY HAVE ALREADY SEEN THE BEGINNING WITH OVER 20 POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES FORMED BY FARMER COOPERATIVES ALONE.

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IT IS CERTAINLY HARD TO REALIZE ECONOMIC BENEFITS WHEN GOVERNMENT POLICIES ARE CREATING DOUBLE DIGIT INFLATION, DOUBLE DIGIT INTEREST RATES, AND ESCALTING THE ALREADY HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT LEVELS.

BUT ONE ROLE OF THE COOPERATIVE -- VIRTUALLY UNNOTICED BY ITS CRITICS -- IS THE INTEREST OF THE COOPERATIVES IN PRESERVING A STRONG ECONOMY. CO-OPS WANT AN ECONOMY THAT HELPS PEOPLE INSTEAD OF HURTING THEM. CONSUMER COOPERATIVES BENEFIT FAMILIES THAT NEED A STABLE, AFFORDABLE ECONOMY.

I BELIEVE THE TIME HAS COME TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS.

I'D LIKE TO MENTION SOME OTHER AREAS WHICH ALSO AFFECT COOPERATIVES.

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NEW TRANSPORTATION COOPERATIVE

A WHOLE SERIES OF TRANSPORTATION DEREGULATION BILLS HAVE COME THROUGH THE HOUSE AND SENATE IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, SUCH AS TRUCKING AND AIRLINE DEREGULATION.

I HAVE WATCHED OUR NATION'S COOPERATIVES WRESTLE WITH THE PROBLEM OF TRANSPORTATION -- DEREGULATION OF THE RAILROADS HAS RAISED THE SPECTRE IN SOME AREAS OF TOO LITTLE RAIL SERVICE, AND ALSO CUT VERY DEEPLY INTO THE TAX BASE OF MANY RURAL COMMUNITIES AND DRIED UP THE GROWTH ON THE MAIN STREETS OF COUNTLESS SMALL TOWNS IN AMERICA.

THE CONCEPT OF RURAL TRANSPORTATION COOPERATIVES IS A BEACON OF LIGHT IN AREAS OF SHRINKING RAILROAD SERVICE. MANY OF US IN CONGRESS HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN SEEING THE RURAL TRANSPORTATION CO-OP CONCEPT TRIED OUT AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THE RESULTS OF THE PILOT TEST CARRIED OUT BY THE RURAL TRANSPORTATION COOPERATIVE TASK FORCE. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE CONCEPT

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HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER, SECRETARY BERGLAND SUGGESTS IT COULD LEAD TO CREATION OF A RURAL TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION.

THE ESSENTIAL POINT IS THAT THE EFFORTS OF COOPERATIVE LEADERS WORKING TOGETHER IS VITAL IN HELPING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND LEADERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION STAY INFORMED ON CO-OP MOVEMENTS NEEDS AND DESIRES.

ENERGY FOR COOPERATIVES

BESIDES THE ECONOMY, NO OTHER ISSUE SO AFFECTS THE CO-OP AND THEIR MEMBERS, AS OUR ENERGY DILEMMA. SINCE THE OIL EMBARGO OF 1974, WE HAVE ADOPTED POLICIES DEALING WITH SYNFUELS, GAS, AND OIL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT. WE HAVE CREATED A CLIMATE FOR ALTERNATIVE FUELS, INCLUDING GASOHOL. ENERGY LEGISLATION FOR COOPERATIVES HAS ALSO DEALT WITH

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ALLOCATION OF CRUDE OIL TO INDEPENDENT REFINERIES. CONGRESS HAS WORKED TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COOPERATIVE REFINERIES WHICH DO NOT HAVE OIL WELLS OF THEIR OWN TO GET A FAIR SHAKE AT THE IMPORTED CRUDE OIL, AT A FAIR PRICE. COOPERATIVES RECEIVE PRIORITY FOR NATURAL GAS, UNDER SECTION 401 OF THE NATIONAL ENERGY ACT OF 1978, AND AGRICULTURE RECEIVES PRIORITY FOR GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL FOR PLANTING, HARVESTING AND FOOD PROCESSING IN THE EVENT OF RATIONING.

HERE IN WASHINGTON, D.C., THE DUPONT CIRCLE COOPERATIVE NEIGHBORHOOD ENERGY CORPORATION, IS ONE OF A NATIONWIDE NETWORK OF DECENTRALIZED NEIGHBORHOOD BASED SOLAR POWER STATIONS FIRST CREATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY. THE SOLAR COLLECTORS ARE MANUFACTURED BY THE COOPERATIVE SOLAR GROUP -- ONE OF THE THOUSANDS OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED PRODUCER CO-OP FACTORIES CREATED UNDER THE COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE ACT.

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THIS PIONEER WORK IN THE CONSUMER ENERGY COOPERATIVE FIELD
DESERVES RECOGNITION, AND I COMMEND THE CO-OP MOVEMENT FOR IT.

THOSE OF US FROM THE HEARTLAND OF AMERICA FIND IT EASY TO
RECOGNIZE THE DIFFERENT NATIONAL ORIGINS OF OUR OWN POPULATION
AND THE DIFFERENT INFLUENCES THAT HAVE COME TOGETHER IN
THE "MELTING POT" OF BOTH OUR CITIES AND RURAL FARMLAND
COMMUNITIES.

THE TRADITION OF COOPERATION HAS SERVED OUR COUNTRY WELL.
OVER THE YEARS, THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN MANY EXAMPLES OF HOW U.S.
COOPERATIVES HAVE PASSED THIS "SELF-HELP, SHARING" CONCEPT
ONTO OTHERS. PARTICULARLY THOSE IN FOREIGN NATIONS.

AMERICAN COOPERATORS WERE PIONEERS IN FOREIGN AID -- CREATING
CARE IN THE AFTERMATH OF WORLD WAR II AS A COOPERATIVE TO CHANNEL
RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO EUROPE. ASSISTING THE COOPERATIVES OF
EMERGING NATIONS, SUCH AS INDIA SO THAT PEASANT FARMERS CAN
OWN AND OPERATE VAST FERTILIZER PRODUCTION FACILITIES IS JUST
ONE EXAMPLE OF THE WORLDWIDE OUTREACH OF THE COOPERATIVE
MOVEMENT HERE AT HOME.

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AMERICAN COOPERATORS DO NOT BELIEVE IN GIVE AWAY PROGRAMS. THEY HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE PRACTICAL SUCCESS OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATION THROUGH COOPERATIVES AT HOME AND THEY SUPPORT THESE EFFORTS OVERSEAS. CONGRESS HAS RECOGNIZED THESE CONVICTIONS AND TODAY A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP EXISTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER U.S. COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATIONS. THIS RELATIONSHIP UTILIZES YOUR EXPERTISE IN SUCH AREAS AS EXPANDING RURAL ELECTRIFICATION, COOPERATIVE HOUSING, CREDIT UNION STRUCTURES AND AGRICULTURAL CREDIT.

WITH U.S. FARMERS PRODUCING MORE GRAIN, MORE EFFICIENTLY, THAN ANY OTHER AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM IN THE WORLD -- I FORESEE AN EVEN STRONGER ROLE FOR U.S. COOPERATIVES IN THE 1980'S.

CAPPER-VOLSTEAD AND TAXATION

A NOTE ON THE STATE OF THE CAPPER-VOLSTEAD ACT AND TAXATION MEASURES AFFECTING COOPERATIVES -- AS YOU KNOW IN THE PAST FEW YEARS THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION HAVE STEPPED UP THEIR ATTACKS ON THE CAPPER-VOLSTEAD ACT.

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BUT AS A RESULT OF THE AMENDMENT BY CONGRESSMAN ANDREWS IN THE LAST SESSION OF CONGRESS, NO APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FTC CAN BE USED TO STUDY OR ATTACK MARKETING ORDERS OR MARKETING COOPERATIVES FOR SOME TIME.

COOPERATIVE TAXATION HAS BEEN A CONSTANT HOT POTATO-- SO TO SPEAK -- IN CONGRESS. AND YOU MAY ALSO RECALL , DURING THE 95TH CONGRESS A BILL WAS ENACTED, THAT ENABLES COOPERATIVES FOR THE FIRST TIME TO FULLY UTILIZED INVESTMENT TAX CREDITS. AS THE NEW INCOMING CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, MY POSITION ON THE COMMITTEE ALLOWS ME EVEN GREATER OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH TAXATION MEASURES AFFECTING YOUR INTERESTS. I PREDICT THAT CO-OP TAX LEGISLATION WILL AGAIN BE AN ISSUE IN THE 97TH CONGRESS AND I WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH ALL OF YOU.

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CO-OPS IN THE FUTURE

THE UNITED STATES HAS EXPORTED ITS AGRICULTURAL SURPLUSES TO A HUNGRY WORLD -- THESE U.S. COOPERATIVES NOW FORM THE THIRD LARGEST GRAIN EXPORTING ORGANIZATION IN THE NATION. I EXPECT U.S. COOPERATIVES TO EXPAND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN FOREIGN TRADE IN BOTH DIRECT EXPORTS AND JOINT VENTURES OVERSEAS.

I WOULD EXPECT U.S. COOPERATIVES TO GROW IN IMPORTANCE AS A CONSTITUENCY FOR FOREIGN AID -- AND TO EXPAND THEIR ROLE AS A PARTNER WITH GOVERNMENT IN PROVIDING HUMAN RESOURCES AND KNOW-HOW IN DEVELOPING SIMILAR PEOPLE-OWNED AND OPERATED ENTERPRISES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES. I ALSO EXPECT U.S. CONSUMER COOPERATIVES TO INCREASING SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH CONSUMER GROUPS OF OTHER COUNTRIES ALONG WITH THE EXAMPLE OF OUR NATIONAL CONSUMER COOPERATIVE BANK.

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CHALLENGES AND GOALS FOR COOPERATIVES IN THE 1980'S

I PROUDLY SUPPORT THE COOPERATIVE LEGISLATION AND ADVOCATE THE POSITIVE AND INCREASING ROLE COOPERATIVES HAVE IN EVERYDAY LIFE HERE IN THE UNITED STATES. YOU CAN EXPECT MY CONTINUED SUPPORT AND WORKING CLOSELY WITH YOU IN THE LEGISLATION TO COME IN THE 97TH CONGRESS. YOU CAN ALSO EXPECT SUPPORT FROM THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION AND FOR ALL THOSE THINGS -- THE FUTURE IS VERY PROMISING FOR COOPERATIVES.

I WOULD ONLY CLOSE BY STRESSING WHAT I SEE AS THE FOUR CHALLENGES -- AND GOALS THAT ALL COOPERATIVES WILL HAVE FOR THIS DECADE.

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FOR THE 1980'S COOPERATIVES WILL SEE ATTEMPTS BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND CONGRESS TO INTERVENE IN ITS AFFAIRS -- WHAT THE COOPERATIVES MUST DO IS KEEP PACE WITH THAT CONGRESSIONAL INTENT BY INCREASING INTEREST ON THEIR PART IN THE LEGISLATION AND THOSE MEN AND WOMEN ELECTED TO OFFICE.

SECONDLY, THE ECONOMY IS STILL IN TROUBLE. HERE THE COOPERATIVE CAN HELP ACHIEVE A MORE STABLE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND DECREASE OUR NATIONAL DEBT THROUGH ITS EXPANSION OF ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL PRESERVE THE FAMILY FARM AS WELL AS LOOSEN THE GRIP ON THE CONSUMERS POCKETBOOK.

THIRDLY, I BELIEVE THAT THE CONSUMER COOPERATIVES THEMSELVES MUST MEET THE CHALLENGE OF CRITICS TO THEIR COOPERATIVES HEAD-ON --- THESE COOPERATIVES MUST PROMOTE THEIR ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES AND ARGUE THE WEAK CRITICISMS WAGED AGAINST THEM TODAY.

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AND LAST OF ALL, I BELIEVE COOPERATIVES MUST MEET THE CHALLENGE THAT THE FOREIGN NATIONS ARE PLACING BEFORE THEM IN AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE, AND ENCOURAGE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENTS AND ASSIST IN COMMITMENTS WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

I BELIEVE THE COOPERATIVES OF TODAY CAN GROW AND BROADEN THEIR HORIZONS TO MEET THESE CHALLENGES NOT ONLY OF FOREIGN NATIONS, BUT OF THE PROBLEMS WE FACE HERE AT HOME -- IN FACT, THE COOPERATIVE WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE SOLUTION AND AN ACHIEVER OF THE GOALS FOR THIS DECADE OF THE 1930'S.

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