

SPEECH BY SENATOR ROBERT MORGAN
NoCASCOE ANNUAL CONVENTION
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA
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THOMAS JEFFERSON ONCE SAID:

"CULTIVATORS OF THE EARTH ARE THE MOST VALUABLE CITIZENS.

THEY ARE THE MOST VIGOROUS, THE MOST INDEPENDENT, THE MOST
VIRTUOUS, AND THEY ARE TIED TO THEIR COUNTRY, AND WEDDED TO ITS
LIBERTY AND INTEREST BY THE MOST LASTING BONDS."

AS WE KNOW FROM HISTORY, JEFFERSON TOOK AS MUCH INTEREST IN
FARMING AS HE DID IN GOVERNMENT, POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY OR ARCHITECTURE.
ON HIS FARM AT MONTICELLO, JEFFERSON WAS AN ASTUTE AND FARSIGHTED
OBSERVER OF AGRICULTURE. HE WAS AN ADVOCATE OF CROP ROTATION AND
SOIL CONSERVATION PRACTICES. INDEED, JEFFERSON KNEW THAT OUR
BOUNTIFUL AGRICULTURE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE PRODUCTIVE ONLY IF THE
CULTIVATORS OF THE EARTH WERE WILLING TO ENGAGE IN STRONG AND
EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION PRACTICES.

WHEN JEFFERSON WAS PRESIDENT, AMERICA WAS AN AGRARIAN SOCIETY. FOUR OUT OF FIVE ADULT MALES WERE ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE. THAT FIFTH MALE, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, WAS EITHER A TRADER OF FARM COMMODITIES OR A MAKER OR FINANCIER OF FARM IMPLEMENTS. IT WAS THE EXCEPTIONAL INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS NOT INVOLVED, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, IN FARMING.

SINCE JEFFERSON'S TIME OF NEARLY TWO CENTURIES AGO, OUR NATION HAS BECOME THE BREADBASKET OF THE WORLD. A SINGLE AMERICAN FARMER FEEDS 56 OTHER PEOPLE AND IS NEARLY TWICE AS PRODUCTIVE AS HIS NEAREST RIVAL. THIS RECORD OF PRODUCTIVITY IS THE ENVY OF THE WORLD. NO OTHER POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC SYSTEM HAS MATCHED THIS RECORD.

IT HAS BEEN THE RUGGED INDIVIDUALISM OF OUR FARMERS, ENCOURAGED BY OPPORTUNITY AND SOUND GOVERNMENT POLICY, WHICH HAS BEEN THE

DRIVING FORCE BEHIND OUR AGRICULTURE. THERE ARE FEW GROUPS THAT ARE AS DEDICATED AS OUR FARMERS.

THE AMERICAN FARMER MUST TAKE ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF TIME AND CAPITAL AND INVEST BOTH IN ONE OF THE MOST RISKY ENTERPRISES KNOWN TO MAN. EVERY FARMER FACES DISASTER FROM EVEN BEFORE THE TIME A CROP IS PLANTED TO AFTER IT IS HARVESTED. A FARMER MUST PRAY THAT THE RAIN COMES AT THE RIGHT TIME AND THAT HE CAN MANAGE WITH SOME DEGREE OF SUCCESS TO CONFRONT THE VARIOUS PESTS THAT THREATEN HIM WITH FINANCIAL RUIN.

CERTAINLY ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT CHOICES EACH FARMER MUST MAKE IS THE ACCEPTANCE OF LOWER PROFITS IN THE SHORT-RUN IN ORDER TO PRACTICE SOUND SOIL CONSERVATION PRACTICES. THERE IS A NATURAL TENDENCY FOR FARMERS, PARTICULARLY WHEN PRICES ARE DEPRESSED - AS

THEY HAVE BEEN RECENTLY - TO NEGLECT COSTLY SOIL CONSERVATION PRACTICES. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT OUR GOVERNMENT CANNOT TELL FARMERS THAT THEY MUST ENGAGE IN SOIL CONSERVATION. RATHER, GOVERNMENT MUST PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND ACCURATE INFORMATION, COUPLED WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, TO HELP FARMERS MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR SOIL CONSERVATION.

ONE ONLY HAS TO LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF THIS GREAT NATION TO UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR SOUND CONSERVATION. EARLY IN OUR HISTORY, CONSERVATION WAS NOT A PROBLEM. WHEN SOILS WERE EXHAUSTED, MEN TOOK THEIR FAMILIES WEST. UNTIL LATE IN THE 19TH CENTURY, LAND WAS NOT A PROBLEM. IN FACT, THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT WAS JUST THE OPPOSITE: TO GET PEOPLE TO SETTLE NEW LANDS.

IN THE EARLY DAYS OF OUR NATION, THERE WAS NO DEPARTMENT OF

AGRICULTURE. IN FACT, MOST OF THE FARM-RELATED PROGRAMS WERE CARRIED OUT BY THE PATENT OFFICE. IN THOSE DAYS, THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT WAS PRIMARILY TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT IMPROVED SEED VARIETIES AND NEW MACHINERY TO OUR FARMERS.

IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1862 THAT WE FINALLY HAD A DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. EVEN THEN, THE DEPARTMENT LACKED CABINET STATUS AND WAS ONLY HEADED BY A COMMISSIONER.

THE EARLY FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT DID NOT INCLUDE PRICE SUPPORTS AS WE KNOW THEM TODAY. THE DEPARTMENT WAS CHARGED WITH COLLECTING AND DISSEMINATING STATISTICS CONCERNING AGRICULTURE. ALSO, PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE DEPARTMENT PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN IMPORTING IMPROVED SEEDS AND BREEDING LIVESTOCK.

WITHOUT THIS SECOND MISSION, IMPORTING IMPROVED SEEDS AND

LIVESTOCK, OUR AGRICULTURE WOULD NOT HAVE GROWN AT THE RATE IT HAS. IN THE 19TH CENTURY OUR AGRICULTURE LAGGED SERIOUSLY BEHIND EUROPE IN PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY. A STRONG AND AGGRESSIVE ROLE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN OBTAINING AND PROMOTING NEW BREEDS WAS ESSENTIAL TO THE PRODUCTIVITY WE ENJOY TODAY.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN SIGNED THREE VERY SIGNIFICANT ACTS INTO LAW THAT AFFECTED AGRICULTURE IN 1862. THE ONE THAT IS BEST KNOWN IS THE MORRILL LAND GRANT COLLEGE ACT WHICH ESTABLISHED NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY. EQUALLY SIGNIFICANT, FROM THE STANDPOINT OF SETTLING THE WEST, WERE THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD AND HOMESTEAD ACTS.

THESE THREE ACTS, AND THE ACT WHICH ESTABLISHED THE USDA, PASSED IN THE SPACE OF ABOUT FOUR MONTHS, GOT AMERICAN AGRICULTURE MOVING. THE LAND GRANT COLLEGE ACT, FROM THE STANDPOINT OF NORTH

CAROLINA, WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT. PREVIOUSLY, OUR NATION'S AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH WAS A HIT-OR-MISS EFFORT. THE LAND GRANT COLLEGE SYSTEM GAVE THIS NATION, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE CAPACITY FOR SUSTAINED AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

THE STATUTES REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED UNTIL 1889, WHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BECAME A CABINET LEVEL DEPARTMENT HEADED BY A SECRETARY. THIS CHANGE RECOGNIZED THE EVOLVING NATURE OF AGRICULTURE IN THIS COUNTRY AND THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURE WITHIN THE WEB OF GOVERNMENTAL POLICY.

GOVERNMENT POLICY TOWARD AGRICULTURE WAS NOT GREATLY CHANGED UNTIL THE LATE 1920'S. IT WAS A NATIVE NORTH CAROLINIAN, HUGH H. BENNETT, WHO WAS AT THE FOREFRONT OF THIS CHANGE. IN APRIL, 1928, BENNETT PUBLISHED A BULLETIN, SOIL EROSION A NATIONAL MENACE, WHICH GAINED MUCH ATTENTION IN CONGRESS. BENNETT'S REPORT CAME AT A TIME

WHEN CROP SURPLUSES WERE TURNING WHAT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS THE GOLDEN PERIOD OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE, INTO AN ECONOMIC DISASTER.

BENNETT'S IDEA WAS THAT REDUCING THE PRODUCTION OF FOOD WOULD NOT ONLY LEAD TO BETTER PRICES BUT IMPROVED SOIL CONSERVATION PRACTICES,

CONGRESS QUICKLY ACTED ON BENNETT'S ADVICE, BUT THE SUPREME COURT DECIDED THAT THE RESULT, THE PRICE AND ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1929, WAS UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

THE FIRST MAJOR FARM BILL CAME FOUR YEARS LATER, THE AGRICULTURE ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1933. IN 1936, CONGRESS PASSED THE SOIL CONSERVATION AND DOMESTIC ALLOTMENT ACT AND IN 1938, CONGRESS ENACTED THE AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ACT, THE BACKBONE OF THE FARM STATUTES ON THE LAW BOOKS TODAY.

IT IS INTERESTING TO ME THAT BENNETT WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WHEN HE ISSUED HIS DISTRESSING REPORT.

RATHER, BENNETT WAS A MEMBER OF THE SOIL EROSION SERVICE WHICH

WAS HOUSED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. IN 1935, THE

SOIL EROSION SERVICE BECAME A PART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AND BENNETT BECAME ITS ADMINISTRATOR. SINCE THEN, THE SOIL

EROSION SERVICE HAS BECOME THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE.

THIS LITTLE NUGGET OF HISTORY CONCERNING THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE IS PARTICULARLY TIMELY TODAY. AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, THE PRESIDENT HAS PROMISED THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT HE INTENDS TO REORGANIZE THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT. PART OF THE DISCUSSION CONCERNS THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE WHICH SOME REORGANIZATION ADVOCATES WOULD LIKE TO MOVE BACK INTO THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT. I FIND IT SOMEWHAT IRONIC THAT WE MOVED THIS SERVICE OUT OF INTERIOR BECAUSE OF THAT DEPARTMENT'S LACK OF INTEREST IN

SOUND FARMING PRACTICES ONLY TO WANT TO MOVE IT BACK NOW WHEN WE NEED TO IMPROVE OUR SOIL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES. I WILL DISCUSS THIS MORE LATER IN MY REMARKS.

THIS HISTORY IS IMPORTANT FROM SEVERAL STANDPOINTS. MY MAIN POINT IS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS EVOLVED BECAUSE OF INCREASED AWARENESS OF THE IMPACT OF FARMING ON OUR SOCIETY AND THE NEED TO HAVE A STRONG, PRODUCTIVE AND EFFICIENT SYSTEM OF AGRICULTURE. CLEARLY, AGRICULTURE IS THE BACKBONE OF OUR ECONOMY. WITHOUT A STRONG AGRICULTURE WE COULD NOT HAVE A STRONG NATION. AND A STRONG DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CONTRIBUTES TO A STRONG AGRICULTURE, AN AGRICULTURE THAT IS UNQUESTIONABLY THE BEST THAT THE WORLD HAS TO OFFER.

RECENTLY, ONE OF MY CONSTITUENTS ASKED ME WHY WE HAVE A PRICE

SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR OUR FARMERS. YOU IN THE AUDIENCE SURELY KNOW THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION. UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE NOT BEEN AS SUCCESSFUL AS WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN IN INFORMING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OF THE NEED FOR A VIABLE SUPPORT SYSTEM. UNLESS WE ACCOMPLISH THIS TASK, WE WILL BE IN DANGER OF LOSING THESE PROGRAMS. AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW, ONLY ONE AMERICAN IN 25 CLAIMS AGRICULTURE AS HIS OCCUPATION.

WITH THIS AS BACKGROUND, I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF THE CONCERNS THAT I HAVE TODAY.

FIRST, I KNOW THAT MANY OF YOU ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION PROGRAM BUDGET. THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUESTS \$100 MILLION FOR THE AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION PROGRAM WHICH IS DOWN \$90 MILLION FROM LAST YEAR. IN ALL CANDOR, CONGRESS HAS NOT PAID MUCH ATTENTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST IN

THIS AREA. THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO FULLY RESTORE ACP FUNDS AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE SENATE WILL FOLLOW SUIT. IN THIS PARTICULAR AREA, THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY IS PENNY-WISE AND POUND-FOOLISH. IN MY OPINION, WE NEED TO MAINTAIN OUR INVESTMENT IN CONSERVATION.

A SECOND AREA OF CONCERN HAS TO DO WITH AGRICULTURAL TRADE.

LAST YEAR WAS THE YEAR FOR DOMESTIC FARM PROGRAMS. I AM NOT ABOUT TO SAY THAT I AM SATISFIED WITH OUR FARM PROGRAM BECAUSE IT BADLY NEEDS IMPROVEMENT IN CERTAIN AREAS. HOWEVER, THE SENATE HAS DONE ALL THAT CAN BE DONE AT THIS TIME. NOW, I BELIEVE, WE SHOULD TURN OUR ATTENTION TO IMPROVING THE AGRICULTURAL TRADE POLICIES OF THE NATION.

RECENTLY, I INTRODUCED LEGISLATION WITH SENATOR DICK CLARK OF IOWA WHICH WILL IMPROVE OUR FARM TRADE POLICIES. THIS LEGISLATION

WILL EXTEND THREE TO TEN YEAR CREDIT TO SOME OF OUR TRADING CUSTOMERS, AND WILL ESTABLISH A NETWORK OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. MOREOVER, THIS LEGISLATION WOULD CREATE AN UNDERSECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND, IN SOME CASES, WOULD GIVE ATTACHES THE RANK OF COUNSELLOR.

THIS LAST ELEMENT OF MY BILL MAY SEEM INSIGNIFICANT TO MANY OF YOU BUT TO ME THIS EXEMPLIFIES THE WAY AGRICULTURE IS TREATED WITHOUT OUR GOVERNMENT. MANY OF OUR AGRICULTURE ATTACHES ABROAD ARE TREATED AS SECOND CLASS CITIZENS, EVEN BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. I SEE NO REASON WHY WE CANNOT HAVE AGRICULTURAL COUNSELLORS ABROAD WHEN WE HAVE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, ENERGY AND OTHER-TYPE COUNSELLORS. OTHER FOOD AND FIBER EXPORTING NATIONS ARE FAR AHEAD OF US IN THIS AREA. WE NEED TO GIVE OUR AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT AND ITS EMPLOYEES RECOGNITION THEY DESERVE TO BE EFFECTIVE.

THIS LEGISLATION IS INTENDED TO IMPROVE OUR AGRICULTURAL TRADE POLICIES. LAST YEAR WE EXPORTED \$23.7 BILLION WORTH OF FARM COMMODITIES. WITHOUT THESE EXPORTS, OUR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE THAN IT WAS. WHILE THIS IS A STRONG RECORD, THERE ARE WAYS IN WHICH IT CAN BE IMPROVED. THIS PARTICULAR BILL DRAWS UPON THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHER FOOD EXPORTERS. SIMPLY PUT, WE ARE SIMPLY TRYING TO USE THE IDEAS OF OTHERS IN TRYING TO IMPROVE OUR FOOD TRADE POLICIES. THIS LEGISLATION, IF ENACTED, WILL GIVE US A MORE COMPETITIVE STANCE IN TRADE. WITH SUCH LEGISLATION, I SEE NO REASON WHY WE CANNOT DOUBLE OUR FOOD AND FIBER EXPORTS WHICH WILL ENHANCE THE INCOME OF NORTH CAROLINA'S TOBACCO, SOYBEAN AND PEANUT FARMERS.

A THIRD ITEM, ONE OF LITTLE INTEREST HERE, HAS TO DO WITH MR. JOE CALIFANO. I AM CURRENTLY INTERESTED IN TRYING TO EDUCATE

MR. CALIFANO AS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF TOBACCO AS AN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT IN THIS NATION. APPARENTLY MR. CALIFANO HAS NOT

UNDERSTOOD THE NATURE OF TOBACCO WITHIN OUR FARM SYSTEM. TOBACCO MEANS SMALL FARMERS TO ME AND TO MANY OTHER PARTS OF OUR GOVERNMENT.

I DO NOT KNOW WHAT CALIFANO PLANS TO DO WITH THESE INDIVIDUALS NOR

DO I KNOW WHERE CALIFANO PLANS TO COME UP WITH THE \$1 BILLION WE

WILL LOSE IN TOBACCO EXPORTS. THESE ARE MATTERS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE

THAT I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HE HAS CONSIDERED.

MY FINAL CONCERN HAS TO DO WITH THE REORGANIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. NO ONE IS TALKING ABOUT MOVING ASCS, BUT THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT MOVING NEARLY EVERYTHING ELSE. NOW SOME OF YOU MAY THINK THAT YOU ARE IMMUNE FROM THIS, BUT YOU ARE NOT IMMUNE. WHAT WE ARE WITNESSING IS A CHIPPING AWAY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. SOME ARE TALKING OF MOVING THE SOIL CONSERVATION

AND FOREST SERVICES TO THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT. THIS WOULD BE DISASTROUS. OTHER REORGANIZERS ARE TALKING OF MOVING THE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS TO A NEW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL YET WHAT CONGRESS WILL DO. HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT THESE CHANGES WOULD STRIP THE DEPARTMENT. WITHOUT THESE AGENCIES, MANY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WOULD NOT HAVE ADEQUATE REASON, IN THEIR EYES, TO SUPPORT THE COMMODITY PROGRAMS THAT ARE VITAL TO OUR FARMERS.

MY VIEW ON REORGANIZATION IS THAT WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE AGENCIES THAT ARE WORKING WELL, LEAVE THEM ALONE, AND REORGANIZE THOSE THAT ARE NOT OPERATING EFFECTIVELY OR EFFICIENTLY. GENERALLY, REORGANIZATION HAS MEANT MORE LAYERS OF BUREAUCRACY AND MORE BUREAUCRATS. NONE OF THE AGENCIES DISCUSSED FOR TRANSFER OUT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAVE BEEN CRITICIZED FOR INEFFECTIVE-

NESS OR INEFFICIENCY ON A SCALE THAT PERTURBS ME. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT ALL OF THEM COULD FUNCTION BETTER, BUT NONE OF THE AFOREMENTIONED ARE CONSIDERED TO BE TROUBLE-SPOTS WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

REORGANIZATION IS TRULY THREATENING TO EACH ONE OF YOU. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL JOIN ME IN URGING RECONSIDERATION OF THIS APPROACH. EACH OF YOU SHOULD COMMUNICATE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS WITH NEWSPAPERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS AND ANY OTHER PERSON WHO YOU BELIEVE MAY BE WILLING TO LISTEN.

IN CLOSING, I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DID NOT MENTION THE FINE WORK THAT ALL OF YOU ARE DOING IN NORTH CAROLINA. AS I TRAVEL THROUGH THE STATE, I HAVE HEARD MANY GOOD THINGS ABOUT OUR ASCS OFFICIALS AND THEIR DEDICATION TO DUTY. YOU ARE THE BACKBONE OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE. WITHOUT YOU, OUR POLICIES COULD NOT WORK.

ALL OF YOU PRESENT YOURSELVES TO THE FARMERS OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN AN ADMIRABLE AND COMMENDABLE MANNER. WITHOUT YOUR PERFORMANCE
AT SUCH A HIGH LEVEL, MY JOB AS SENATOR WOULD BE MUCH HARDER THAN
IT ALREADY IS.

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE SOME OF MY THOUGHTS.