

Return to <sup>E. T. B.</sup>

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON


February 10, 1956

MEMORANDUM TO:

Jack Anderson

I attach herewith copies of comments from farmers made to hog buyers in the general area of southern Minnesota, northern Iowa, southwestern Wisconsin, and eastern South Dakota representing the George A. Hormel & Company meat packers at Austin, Minn.

May I suggest that you review these with our P. R. Committee for most effective use.

  
E. T. B.

See Nelson about this.

Mr. Seely. Rollis has copies of this material and they are now considering best method of using. Am returning this for your files. Jack.

Austin, Minnesota  
February 3, 1956

Mr. R. F. Gray:

The following are names of men who heard Secretary Benson talk and made comments about it.

Julius Schultz, Dexter, Minnesota.

"If everyone would listen to the program and co-operate, we would surely benefit from it."

Oliver Hillier, Austin, Minnesota.

"The theory sounded good; my complaint is there has been too little performance."

Bill Lonergan, Rose Creek, Minnesota.

"The Soil Bank Plan sounds good, but doesn't fit my situation; I have a small farm. I agree we should not have support prices."

Bill Jones, Ramsey, Minnesota.

"It is difficult for me to feature the Soil Bank Plan benefiting me with only an 80-acre farm."

John Hoag, RR #2, Austin, Minnesota

"It sounds to me like the Secretary is doing as well as anyone could with so many difficult problems."

Myron Aultfather, Austin, Minnesota.

"I don't agree with all details of the program, but I was tremendously impressed with the Secretary as a man."

Steve Lickteig, Austin, Minnesota

"I can't agree with all the details of the Benson Program, but thought he gave a good talk and certainly think he is sincere in what he is doing."

Martin Bustad, Austin, Minnesota.

"Now there is a fine man; he is thinking right."

I heard a number of other comments, but did not get names for the record. Everyone commented about the sincerity of the message and the unwavering policy of basing all decisions on right or wrong rather than political expediency. A few agreed with the logic of the program, but thought there had been too much waiting. One comment I overheard and which amused me very much was, "It is difficult to throw snowballs at a man who refuses to call you names."

I'm satisfied the day was well spent. Even the most radical of the opposition cannot possibly conduct a campaign against Benson with the vigor they had before meeting and hearing him.

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CARROLL PLAGER

COPY

Austin, Minnesota  
February 4, 1956

Mr. L. P. Reeve:

The following are names of men who heard Secretary Benson talk and made comments about it.

Norman LeVasseur, Lyle, Minnesota

"Good man--a hard job to do with an inherited problem."

Orville Vollman, RR #2, Albert Lea, Minnesota.

"Great speech with sound thinking. There is no quick solution."

Ercell Anderson, RR #2, Austin, Minnesota.

"Good speech with lot of thought. If he had supported hogs at \$15.00 in November, I would have kept twenty sows instead of thirteen."

Lawrance Lukes, Glenville, Minnesota.

"Sound program. Surplus is the problem."

Ralph Voigt, Taopi, Minnesota.

"He is a tool for the men above him."

Leo Sorensen, Ringsted, Iowa.

"I have faith in the Secretary's program. Furthermore, I think him to be a man of high principles--devoted to his office and a thorough understanding of the agricultural problems. I believe he is willing to do what he knows is best for agriculture despite any political pressure or other outside pressure."

Orville Hanson, Comfrey, Minnesota.

"Gave a good talk. You've got to admire the man for having so much courage to come out and talk to people in this manner. I gained more respect for the man after seeing and hearing him. You can't support live hogs - if you would, where would the little fellow like I be. The big fellow would raise twice as many and where would I be then. Supply and demand will still govern the market best yet."

Robert Schroeder, New Ulm, Minnesota

"Speech was all right, honest and very open minded. I think he is doing all he can."

Ed Elisner, New Ulm, Minnesota

"Good talk, but should have given it sooner. Soil bank good idea. No support should be given to meat."

James Schaefer, Nicollet, Minnesota

"Didn't come out with anything hopeful to help the live-stock feeder."

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DON TORGERSON

[Benson, Ezra Taft: Papers, Box 32, "Minnesota (1)"]