

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):

S

FOIA Number:

S

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential Library Staff.

Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File Backup Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13700
Folder ID Number: 13700-003

Folder Title:
National Farm Bureau 1/8/90 [OA 8309] [1]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	19	5	6

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Orlando, Florida)

For Immediate Release

January 8, 1990

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE AMERICAN FARM BUREAU

Orlando Convention Center
Orlando, Florida

10:47 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all very much. Thank you, Dean. (Applause.) Well, my thanks to my friend, Dean Kleckner, Farm Bureau President, for that warm introduction. We're grateful for his leadership on that National Economic Commission, and the tremendous support of you, the members of the Farm Bureau. My thanks, too, to Bob Delano out here, former Farm Bureau President, whose leadership and counsel have been so helpful to me. I'm happy to have my distinguished -- our distinguished Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter here at my side, doing a superb job for us. (Applause.) And I know you'll hear tomorrow from Ambassador Carla Hills. You talk about two people who understand the need to open up foreign markets to U.S. agricultural products -- these two are tough and they are the tops -- and we're grateful to both of them. (Applause.) My friend, Bob Martinez, Governor Martinez, it's always a pleasure to see you and visit your beautiful state.

And, of course, I'm very proud of the next two -- great to see Senator Connie Mack here -- a new Senator making a national impression, I'll tell you. And next to him, or right near him -- second from the end -- my close friend, and a long-time supporter, Bill McCollum. Two outstanding voices for Florida in our Nation's Capital. I wish we had a lot more like them, I'll tell you. (Applause.)

I just returned from a little fishing and hunting over the holidays in Texas and Alabama, and I heard a story about the time that Mark Twain spent three weeks fishing in Maine after the fishing season had closed. On the way home, aboard the train, he told the man seated next to him about all the fish he'd caught. Finally, Mark Twain asked, "By the way, who are you, sir?" "I'm the State Game Warden," replied the man. "Who are you?" And after a long pause, Twain said, "Well, to be perfectly truthful, I'm the biggest damn liar in the whole United States." (Laughter.)

I won't bore you with my fishing stories because I could reminisce with you all day long on this subject. It's a pleasure to be here because, for 71 years now, the American Farm Bureau has helped American farmers -- over three million member families -- to become the best in the world. And farming is a proud and noble part of our history. In fact, Thomas Jefferson himself wrote that "Agriculture is the most useful of the occupations of man."

Today, nearly two centuries later, I'm here to give my first major address of the new decade. And I'm proud to begin this decade by talking to you about the future of farming in this country. But as we look forward, it's also important to reflect upon the past and what farmers have gone through, both good and bad.

You -- America's farmers -- deserve the credit for the rebound in U.S. farming. And I salute you again. I salute the board of directors up here -- all farmers -- who are leading this

MORE

outstanding organization. You've been through the worst droughts and national disasters of the 1980s, and you've survived tough economic times. But you've worked with your minds and your hands to beat adversity with a kind of can-do commitment that's been the hallmark of American farming for generations.

Right here in Florida we're seeing some of that can-do attitude as you face -- Florida farmers -- as you face the terrible loss of the citrus and winter vegetable crop. On the way down on Air Force One, Bob Martinez gave me the details of Florida's losses. But let me tell you -- I'm sure you've heard this from Clayton -- you will not be facing this alone. Clayton and I have talked, and I've asked the Secretary to personally oversee our efforts to provide assistance and I know you can count on the USDA to be in there fighting with you. (Applause.)

It was a little over four years ago -- seems like just yesterday -- but a little over four years ago that the 1985 Farm Bill became law. Admittedly, the cost has been high, but it has worked. Since then, the news has been good. Surpluses have declined dramatically, and most of our good land has been brought back into production. Net farm income reached a record level last year, and the share of income that came from market sales continued to grow. The farm credit situation has greatly improved, bringing more financial stability to rural America.

As we face the future, the outlook is even better. Through sound fiscal policies and wise management of our resources, common-sense attitudes -- and, God willing, good weather -- we can succeed. Together, we will keep rural America strong and American agriculture thriving in the 1990s. (Applause.)

But to do that -- and Dean Kleckner alluded to this in his introductory remarks -- to do that, our first priority must be to keep the American economy growing. That means fiscal and monetary policies that make sense. Today, one of the best things we can do for farmers is to keep the interest rates low, and that is exactly what we intend to do. (Applause.)

This year, we will work with Congress on the 1990 Farm Bill. Getting a good farm bill through Congress is like milking a bull. (Laughter.) But I can tell you that to be competitive, we must have market-oriented farm policies that allow producers more flexibility to decide what crops to grow -- (applause) -- and that because American farmers then can do what Americans do best: compete.

At the same time, we've got to maintain a safety net to protect farmers from conditions beyond their control. But market-oriented farm policies are only a part of the agricultural picture. It is absolutely essential that we expand markets and enhance productivity. We've got to assure the public that America's food is safest in the world, and we've got to protect our precious environment.

America's farmers -- I know this -- America's farmers understand the importance of a clean environment. Many of you here today come from farms that have been handed down from parents and grandparents. You know that to protect the land is to protect not just your livelihood, but your heritage.

We must recognize that productive agriculture and a sound environment can be compatible -- especially in terms of water quality. The administration has initiated a concentrated five-year effort to work with the nation's farmers to protect our groundwater from contamination by fertilizers and pesticides. We'll spend close to a third of a billion dollars on research and support for farmers to stop contamination of our land and water. We must keep your good land in business -- without unreasonable burdens -- but we must also keep it good land. I am counting on your leadership as we work to expand farm productivity while safeguarding our precious environment.

We must also make sure that all Americans are confident in the safety of our food supply. My administration is working hard to develop legislation to protect the food supply without overwhelming the agricultural industry.

But in the coming decade, the American farmer must have a level playing field in the international trade arena, too. And the way to fight trade barriers is through negotiation, not reciprocal protectionism. I know that many Farm Bureau leaders serve on the Agricultural Trade Policy Advisory Committee, and how important this issue is to you. Our administration has just made a bold proposal in the Uruguay round that would phase out export subsidies in five years and other trade-distorting practices in 10 years. But any agreement we sign -- and I can guarantee you this -- any agreement that we sign will be an agreement that is also good for American agriculture. You see, our goal is simple: open markets and free trade. (Applause.)

And it's beginning to work. International markets are improving. The value of U.S. agricultural exports has increased for the third year in a row. And sales to developing nations -- the dynamic markets of the future -- were up 13 percent last year.

We also support expanding our ties with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union to open even more markets. Earlier this winter, Secretary Clayton Yeutter led a presidential delegation to Poland to determine how American know-how can help Poland shift from that controlled economy to a market economy. It was a wonderful mission, and we're forging new partnerships between our agricultural industries and Eastern Europe's emerging economies. But in today's global economy, America must also become more competitive through increased production, new uses for our products, and expanded markets at home. And so this administration supports greater research into biotechnology for improved productivity and we're encouraging alternative uses of farm products like ethanol and other new fuels and fuel additives.

Just a few months ago, we proposed the expansion of the producer tax credit for alternative fuels to include ETBE. This will mean more markets for growers and cleaner air for all Americans.

But for us to reap the full benefits of a competitive economy we must cut the capital gains tax rate. (Applause.) With our capital gains tax proposal, we can help keep American agriculture dynamic and prosperous. And with continued economic growth, we can keep rural America going strong. Passage of our capital gains proposal, which would apply to the sale of farmland, will be one of my top priorities in this legislative year. Your support has been instrumental in the fight for the capital gains cut. And the fight isn't over yet. And I am sick and tired of the demagogues who call this a tax cut for the rich. It means jobs, it means savings, and it is good for all Americans. (Applause.)

And so the Farm Bill, our international trade negotiations, and a capital gains tax cut will be high on my agenda for this great nation. Because what's good for agriculture is good for America. (Applause.)

Let me talk just a little about some of the challenge facing all America. Like people everywhere in this great country, you work hard, you sacrifice to make good lives for yourselves and your children. Every one of us dreams of excellence in education, economic opportunity for all citizens, and a clean and healthy environment and safe, drug-free streets, schools, and workplaces. Together we are working to build a better America.

But much remains to be done, and you're in the forefront. Rural America cares about education. You know, some say improving our schools is something for federal money and Washington bureaucrats to handle. And I know you don't believe that. Whether it's a

classroom on a rolling prairie in Nebraska or a busy New York street, improving education is a national challenge.

Last September, I met with the nation's governors at the education summit in Virginia to begin promoting educational restructuring in every state and determining national goals to attain excellence. The administration has sent the Educational Excellence Act to the Congress, and we want, and America needs, action on it soon. (Applause.)

Rural America is also battling the ravages of violence and drugs. Every citizen has the right to a safe home, the right to freedom from fear. Early in my administration, we sent the comprehensive Violent Crime Control Act to the Congress. We proposed measures to improve enforcement and prosecution, and strengthen current laws to put the drug dealers behind bars and keep them there. This critical crime legislation has been sitting on Capitol Hill for months. Brave citizens everywhere are standing up to crime. And it's a time for Congress to act quickly and responsibly because the war on drugs and crime will not wait. (Applause.) And I might say parenthetically, thank God we've got Bill McCollum in a key role in the House and Connie Mack -- Senator. I again want to mention that the support that we are getting for them and others like them for this approach I've outlined.

Let me just add a little more on our relationship with Capitol Hill. When I took office -- Inaugural Address -- I put my hand out to the Congress, to the Democratic majority, and reminded us all that the American people did not send us to Washington to bicker. As I've said, we sent proposals to Congress on clean air, combating crime, capital gains. Responsible proposals. Carefully thought-out. Based on principles. Finally, rural America -- let me just finish. Now a year has passed. A new year has become. And it's time -- it is past time -- for Congress to tend to some of the unfinished business.

Let me say to Congress as it comes back in a couple of weeks now: The hand of cooperation is once again extended. And I would only add -- America wants it done right. America wants it done responsibly. And America wants it done now. (Applause.)

We are always willing to listen to ideas and alternatives. But we are not willing to compromise on fundamental principles.

Finally, rural America does believe in liberty and democracy. Freedom-loving people everywhere are following the news reports from behind what used to be called the Iron Curtain. In fact, I read that the first thing to sell out in West Berlin on the day the Wall came down wasn't TVs or denim jeans. It was fresh fruit. In Romania, citizens knew freedom had arrived because, for the first time in many years, they saw food on the grocery store shelves. We reap what we sow, says the Bible, and what a bountiful harvest we are witnessing. It is a harvest of joy and opportunity that we will continue to support and encourage every step of the way.

And let me add -- this harvest is not just happening in Eastern Europe. Let's help the countries to our south so that this hemisphere will be the first totally democratic hemisphere in the entire world. (Applause.)

I know I don't have to tell you this, but let me just tell you from the bottom of a grateful heart that I am mighty proud of our courageous fighting men who have helped Panama. And the joy shown by the people of Panama says it all right there in the streets of Panama City. (Applause.) And so as I conclude my comments to the Farm Bureau, I can tell you I am optimistic about the coming decade, for I believe in the wisdom of our policies; I believe in the providence of the Almighty; and most importantly, I believe in the tough resiliency and the moral strength of the American people.

MORE

Throughout our history, farmers -- many in this room -- have weathered disaster. And each time, like steel forged in a white-hot furnace, you are stronger with each testing by fire.

In the "Dirty '30s" swirling clouds of dust ruined hundreds of farmsteads on the Great Plains. Many of the Dust Bowl farmers stayed on the land, and today, their descendants have invented conservation techniques to catch and preserve the winter snows and the spring rains to carry their crops through the hot plains summer. A triumph of human courage and ingenuity. In the 1970s, an unheard-of disease, the Southern Corn Leaf Blight, swept through the fields of the Midwest. In a few days, the tall, green, tasseled corn was devastated as if someone had taken a blowtorch to it. Over that winter, scientists and farmers developed resistant corn varieties in time for the next spring planting. A national food disaster was stopped dead in its tracks. A triumph of faith, science and inventiveness.

And today, at the daybreak of the new decade, I want rural America to share in the promise and prosperity of our great nation. And in the months and years to come, as we approach the horizon of the new century, may we all share in the opportunity and optimism of a world at peace.

Thank you and God bless the United States of America.
Thank you very, very much. (Applause.)

END

11:11 A.M. EST

①

INCL:
CAPITAL
GAINS

Grant/Cawley
December 26, 1989
Draft one
A:farmers

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AMERICAN FARM BUREAU
71ST ANNUAL CONVENTION
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
JANUARY 8, 1990
10:45 A.M.

My thanks to Dean Kleckner ((AFB President)) for that introduction. Governor Martinez, it's always a pleasure to see you. ((I'd also like to thank our great Secretary of Agriculture, Clayton Yeutter for accompanying me here today.))

I just returned from a week or so fishing and hunting over the holidays, and I heard a story about the time Mark Twain spent three weeks fishing in Maine -- despite the fact that ~~the~~ fishing season there had closed. On the way home aboard the train, he told the man seated next to him of his many catches. Finally, Mark Twain asked him, "By the way, who are you, sir?" "I'm the state game warden," replied the man, "Who are you?" After a long pause, Twain said, "Well, to be perfectly truthful, I'm the biggest damn liar in the whole United States." ///

It's an honor to be here today. The American Farm Bureau, for 71 years now, has helped American farmers -- nearly 4 million *over 3 million* member families -- to become the best in the world. American farming is the backbone of this country, a proud and noble part of American history. In fact, many years ago, Thomas Jefferson wrote that "Agriculture is the most useful of the occupations of man." That still holds true.

Through the worst droughts and natural disasters of the 1980s, you have worked with your minds -- and your hands -- to beat adversity at every turn. You deserve the credit for the rebound in U.S. farming achieved during the last decade.

It was only five years ago that the landmark 1985 Farm Bill was passed. Since then, the news has been good. Today, farm income and agricultural exports are reaching record highs. Agricultural surpluses have declined dramatically, and most of our good land has been brought back into production. The farm credit situation has greatly improved over the situation a decade ago.

This Administration will not cut and run. We must stay with the proven principles of the 1985 Farm Bill when we sit down to ^{write} ~~right~~ the new bill for 1990. Certain improvements are necessary, of course, but ^{like} ~~will~~ **will stay with what works.**

We've got to maintain the safety net under farm income. The cost of Federal farm programs have been cut in half, without hurting farm income -- and I want to say to rural America **that I do not intend to try to balance the federal budget on the backs of American farmers and ranchers.**

Farmers need a market-oriented Farm Bill. Producers must have the flexibility to decide what crops to grow. And we must recognize how compatible the concerns are of both agriculture and the environment. Especially in terms of water quality. You have understood the importance of a clean environment, and truly are stewards of the land. I am looking to your leadership as we work

to expand agricultural productivity while safeguarding the environment.

We must also make sure that all Americans can be confident in the safety of the food supply. ^{This} The Administration is working to include provisions in the Farm Bill to protect the food supply without imposing unreasonable burdens on the agriculture industry -- and already we've seen improved coordination between the FDA, the EPA and the Department of Agriculture on this issue.

But the one thing the American farmer needs is a level playing field. The way to fight trade barriers is through tough negotiation, not retaliation and protectionism. That's why this Administration has just made a bold proposal in the Uruguay Round that would phase out export subsidies in five years and trade-distorting subsidies in ten years. **Our goals are simple: free markets and fair trade.**

In today's global economy, America must become more competitive -- through increased production, new uses for our products, and more open markets. ^{This} The Administration supports greater research into biotechnology for improved productivity, and encourages alternative uses of farm products -- ones like ethanol and other new fuels. And we also support expanding our ties with the Soviet Union -- already the third-largest customer for U.S. agricultural commodities -- to ^{word} open more markets.

That's why I sent Secretary Yeutter to lead the Presidential Economic Delegation to Poland earlier this winter. We're not simply handing the Eastern Europeans food -- we're forging new

partnerships between our agriculture industries and their emerging market economies. Through market development, technology transfers, and information sharing at all levels -- Americans are helping these nations take their place in the global marketplace.

I spoke earlier about Jefferson's thoughts on the virtue of farming. You know, too, that Jefferson wrote on the inalienable rights of man, especially those of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. That means living above a mere existence on this Earth -- it means enjoying freedom, equality and justice. And to enable ourselves to make the best lives we can for ourselves and our children, we need excellence in education, economic opportunity for all citizens, and safe, drug-free streets, schools, and workplaces.

Together, we're working to build a better America. In education, we've sent the Educational Excellence Act to the Congress, and met with the Nation's Governors at the Education Summit to determine national goals for promoting educational restructuring in all the states. And we'll be announcing those goals early this year.

We believe in economic opportunity -- economic empowerment -- for all Americans. And although we're in the midst of the greatest peacetime economic expansion in the history of this country -- 85 months in December -- we will not be satisfied until that expansion reaches every corner of this Nation. We're going to keep the job creation machine rolling -- we're going to

go beyond the 20 million new jobs created since 1982. We're going to hold the line on new taxes and new spending. Because the problem with the budget deficit isn't that we tax too little. **It's that we spend too much.**

Continued economic growth in America is essential to a strong and prosperous agricultural industry. To encourage new businesses, capital investment, and support for the small businesses which provide most of the new jobs to the American economy, **we must cut the capital gains tax rate.** Passage of our new proposal -- which includes provisions for the sale of farmland -- will be one of my top priorities in this legislative year. **Because what's good for agriculture is good for America.**

///

Every citizen has the right to a safe home and freedom from fear. Early in my Administration, we sent the Violent Crime Control Act to the Congress. We proposed measures to augment enforcement and prosecution, and ^{to} strengthen current laws to put cop-killers and drug-dealers behind bars and keep them there. I urge the Congress to act swiftly on our crime legislation, which has ^{been} sitting on the Hill now since last spring. Brave citizens everywhere are standing up to crime, and they deserve better treatment than stalled legislation and tired excuses.

We've begun a new war on drugs -- a coordinated, comprehensive national strategy. And under the leadership of Bill Bennett, the National Drug Control Strategy is a fresh assault on the death and destruction that drugs cause. But this

fight will never be won by law enforcement and treatment efforts alone; it will only ~~be~~ won by a change in public attitude, from tolerance to intolerance -- of drugs and those who use them.

And so, these are some of my priorities for the coming years -- keeping America strong and the economy rolling, protecting our environment, promoting excellence in education, and making the streets safe from crime and drugs. **Giving every family the opportunity to make a better life for themselves.**

We take for granted that the "better life" means a life of liberty. But the people of Eastern Europe are just now enjoying freedom of action, and the power of free choice. They are once again leading their own lives as citizens, not mere existences as subjects. They are once again becoming free.

"We waited for 24 years," one Rumanian told the press. "The last 10 or 15 years were bad, every year worse. It was very hard to live, to find food. But the last thing ^{on} our minds was the food. The first thing was that our liberty, our words, were taken away." And now, newspapers have once again begun publishing in Rumania -- with names like "Freedom," "Liberty," "Truth" and "Free Youth."

Many say there is an emerging world order, perhaps a new postwar settlement for Eastern Europe. What we need now is not a futile attempt to control events that have taken on a life of their own. What we need is an awareness of the wonderful possibilities that follow these events.

That is what the Secretary of Agriculture was working for when he led the delegation to Poland -- setting up new systems for their governments and businesses to enter the free world. Helping these people enjoy not only what we have now, but through exchanges of information and marketing, helping them so that we can all enjoy the fruits of their learning in the future -- fruits of peace, liberty, and understanding. In that sense, Jefferson was right -- Agriculture truly is the most useful occupation of man. God bless you.

#

Grant/Cawley
January 2, 1990
Draft two
A: farmers

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AMERICAN FARM BUREAU
71ST ANNUAL CONVENTION
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
JANUARY 8, 1990
10:45 A.M.

My thanks to Dean Kleckner ((AFB President)) for that introduction. Governor Martinez, it's always a pleasure to see you. ((I'd also like to thank Secretary Yeutter for accompanying me here today.))

Batts
312-399-5850

Yeutter is not traveling w/ puns, will meet there

I just returned from some fishing and hunting over the holidays, and I heard a story about the time Mark Twain spent three weeks fishing in Maine -- although fishing season had closed. On the way home, aboard the train, he told the man seated next to him about his many catches. Finally, Twain asked him, "By the way, who are you, sir?" "I'm the state game warden," replied the man, "Who are you?" After a long pause, Twain said, "Well, to be perfectly truthful, I'm the biggest damn liar in the whole United States." ///

Humorous Quotations

I won't bore you with my fishing stories, because you never know if there are any game wardens nearby ... It's a pleasure to be here, because for 71 years now, the American Farm Bureau has helped American farmers -- over 3 million member families -- to become the best in the world. Farming is the backbone of this country, a proud and noble part of our history. In fact, many years ago, Thomas Jefferson wrote that "Agriculture is the most useful of the occupations of man."

Patrick Batts
312-399-5850
AFB Info Ctr.

Battle's

Now, nearly two centuries later, I'm here today to give my first major address of the new decade. And I begin the decade by beginning with agriculture. Together, let's look at the future of farming in this country, and at the future for America. But let's first look back for a moment at the last decade -- and what farmers have gone through, both good and bad.

You deserve the credit for the rebound in U.S. farming achieved over the last ten years. Through the worst droughts and natural disasters of the 1980s, you have worked with your minds -- and your hands -- to beat adversity at every turn as a team.

In the mid-eighties, when the drought hit the Southeast especially hard, Iowa farmers sent trainload after trainload of ^{Jenkins} fresh hay to save the livestock. Now, Southeastern farmers are reciprocating, sending help to Iowa in the form of XXX. hay
 ((research to supply details)) That's the kind of can-do commitment that's been the hallmark of American farming for generations.

It was only five years ago that the landmark 1985 Farm Bill became law. Since then, the news has been good. Today, agricultural exports are reaching record highs. Surpluses have declined dramatically, and most of our good land has been brought back into production. Net farm income attained a record level last year, and the share of income that came from market sales -- instead of government handouts -- continued to grow. The farm credit situation has greatly improved, bringing financial stability back to rural America.

Cooper
EVANS

As we face the future, the outlook is even better. Through sound fiscal practices, wise management of our resources, common sense attitudes -- and, God willing, good weather -- we can succeed. Together, let us work out the policies to keep rural America strong, and American agriculture robust. First on our plate is the 1990 Farm Bill.

We will stay with the proven principles of the 1985 Farm Bill when we sit down to write a new bill for 1990 and beyond. Certain improvements are necessary, of course, but we must not change direction. **This Administration will not cut and run.**

We must keep the income subsidies that are so vital to making ends meet on the farms and ranches. We've got to maintain the safety net under farm income. The cost of Federal farm programs has been cut in half, without hurting farm income -- and I want to say to rural America that I do not intend to try to balance the federal budget on the backs of American farmers and ranchers. Evans

Historically, America's farmers have understood the importance of a clean environment, and truly are stewards of the land. Many of you here today come from farmlands that have been handed down from parents and grandparents. The land you till will likely be plowed by your children after you. You know that to protect the land is to protect your livelihood, your traditions, and your heritage. We must keep your good land in business -- without unreasonable burdens -- but first, we must

keep it good land. I am looking to your leadership as we work to expand farm productivity while safeguarding the environment.

We must recognize that agriculture and the environment can be compatible -- especially in terms of water quality. The Administration has proposed a concentrated five year effort to protect the nation's groundwater from contamination by fertilizers and pesticides. We'll spend close to a third of a billion dollars on research and support for farmers, so that we put a stop to the contamination of our land and water.

We must also make sure that all Americans are confident in the safety of our food supply. The Administration is working to include legislative provisions to protect the food supply without overwhelming the agriculture industry -- and already we've seen improved coordination between the FDA, the EPA and the Department of Agriculture on this issue.

We need market orientation, so that producers can have the flexibility to decide what crops to grow. And the American farmer needs a level playing field in the international arena. The way to fight trade barriers is through tough negotiation, not retaliation and protectionism. That's why this Administration has just made a bold proposal in the Uruguay Round that would phase out export subsidies in five years and trade-distorting subsidies in ten years. Our goals are simple: free markets and fair trade. Lee

But in today's global economy, America must also become more competitive -- through increased production, new uses for our

products, and more open markets. The Administration supports greater research into biotechnology for improved productivity, and encourages alternative uses of farm products -- ones like ethanol and other new fuels. The value of U.S. agricultural exports has increased for the fourth year in a row, and sales to developing nations -- the dynamic markets of the future -- were up 13 percent last year. We support expanding our ties with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union -- already the third-largest customer for U.S. agricultural commodities -- to open even more markets.

That's why I sent Secretary Yeutter to lead a Presidential Economic Delegation to Poland earlier this winter. We're not simply handing the Eastern Europeans food -- we're forging new partnerships between our agriculture industries and their emerging market economies. Through market development, technology transfers, and information sharing at all levels -- Americans are helping these nations take their place in the global marketplace. Because what is needed now are not futile attempts to control events that have taken on a life of their own. What we need is an awareness of the wonderful possibilities that may follow these events.

I read that the first thing to sell out in West Berlin on the day the Wall came down was fresh fruit. In Romania, many citizens first realized freedom had arrived when they saw food on the shelves in the grocery stores, for the first time in many

years. They reap what they sow, says the Bible, and what a bountiful harvest we are witnessing. MK

But for us to reap the benefits of a competitive economy, we must begin at home. That means cutting the capital gains tax rate. Two of our biggest competitors internationally -- West Germany and Japan -- don't tax long-term gains at all. We shouldn't either. With a level playing field in the tax system, we can keep the agricultural industry strong and prosperous. And with continued economic growth, we can keep rural America on its feet. Passage of our new proposal -- which includes provisions for the sale of farmland -- will be one of my top priorities in this legislative year. Because what's good for agriculture is good for America.

Sound agriculture policies are important to me, and I'm looking forward to working on the Farm Bill, the international trade negotiations, and the fight for a capital gains tax cut. But what I've really come to share with you are my concerns for the future of rural America. Because like Americans everywhere, you sacrifice to make the best lives you can for yourselves and your children. Every one of us dreams of excellence in education, economic opportunity for all citizens, a clean and healthy environment, and safe, drug-free streets, schools, and workplaces. Together, we're working to build a better America.

Rural America cares about education. Some say improving the schools is something for the bureaucrats in Washington to deal with in the big-city schools. That's not true. Improving

education is a national -- not simply a federal -- challenge. The Nation's Governors and I met at the Education Summit to determine national goals for promoting educational restructuring in every state. The Administration has sent the Educational Excellence Act to the Congress, and we look forward to quick action on it soon.

Rural America believes in economic opportunity -- **economic empowerment** -- for all Americans. And although we're in the midst of the greatest peacetime economic expansion in the history of this country -- 85 months in December -- we will not be satisfied until that expansion reaches every corner of this Nation. We're going to keep the job creation machine rolling -- we're going to go beyond the 20 million new jobs created since 1982. And we're going to hold the line on new taxes and new spending. Because the problem with the budget deficit isn't that we tax too little. **It's that we spend too much.**

Finally, too many people think drugs and crime are solely an inner-city problem. Every citizen has the right to a safe home and freedom from fear. Early in my Administration, we sent the Violent Crime Control Act to the Congress. We proposed measures to improve enforcement and prosecution, and strengthen current laws to put cop-killers and drug-dealers behind bars and keep them there. I urge the Congress to act swiftly on our crime legislation, which has been sitting on Capitol Hill now for nearly a year. Brave citizens everywhere are standing up to crime. It's time for action in the Congress.

Rural Americans about

~~We've begun a new war on drugs -- a coordinated, comprehensive national strategy -- a tough assault on the death and destruction that drugs cause. But this fight will never be won by law enforcement and treatment efforts alone; it will only be won by a change in public attitude, from tolerance to intolerance -- of drugs and those who use them.~~

These are the concerns of Americans everywhere, not just those in the cities or on the plains. I am optimistic about the coming decade, for I believe in the wisdom of our policies and in the providence of the Almighty. And most importantly, I believe in the tough resiliency and moral strength of the American people. Throughout our history, farmers -- many in this room -- have weathered disaster after disaster. And each time, like the steel formed from lumps of ore in the white-hot furnaces of the mills, you come out stronger with each testing by fire.

In the "Dirty Thirties," thick clouds of dust swirled into the air causing the dustbowl that ruined hundreds of farmsteads *Jenkins* on the Great Plains, choked thousands of head of livestock and inspired the epic The Grapes of Wrath. Many of the dustbowl farmers stayed on the land, and today, their descendants have invented modern conservation techniques to catch and preserve the winter snows and spring rains -- to carry their thirsty crops through the hot plains summers. **A triumph of human courage, hope and ingenuity.**

Then, in the 1970s, a previously unheard-of disease, *Jenkins* Southern Corn Leaf Blight, swept through the fields of the

Midwest. In less than five days, the tall green, tassled corn was killed -- as if someone had taken a blowtorch to it. Over that winter, scientists and farmers developed resistant corn varieties in time for the next spring planting. A national food disaster was stopped dead in its tracks. A triumph of faith, science and inventiveness.

Today, at the daybreak of the new decade, I want rural America to share in the promise and prosperity of our great nation. And in the months and years to follow, as we approach the horizon of the new century, may we all share in the opportunity and optimism of our world at peace.

Thank you and God bless America.

#

Grant/Cawley
January 2, 1990
Draft three
A:farmers

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AMERICAN FARM BUREAU
71ST ANNUAL CONVENTION
ORLANDO CONVENTION CENTER
JANUARY 8, 1990
10:45 A.M.

My thanks to Dean Kleckner ((AFB President)) for that introduction. Governor Martinez, it's always a pleasure to see you. I'd also like to thank Secretary Yeutter for joining us here today.

Pat Batts
312-319-5850

Little Brown Book of
Anecdotes,
p. 556

I just returned from some fishing and hunting over the holidays, and I heard a story about the time Mark Twain spent three weeks fishing in Maine -- after fishing season had closed. On the way home, aboard the train, he told the man seated next to him about all the fish he caught. Finally, Twain asked, "By the way, who are you, sir?" "I'm the state game warden," replied the man, "Who are you?" After a long pause, Twain said, "Well, to be perfectly truthful, I'm the biggest damn liar in the whole United States." ///

Pat Batts
AFB-PAO
312)399-5850

I won't bore you with my fishing stories, because you never know if there are any game wardens nearby ... It's a pleasure to be here, because for 71 years now, the American Farm Bureau has helped American farmers -- over 3 million member families -- to become the best in the world. Farming is the backbone of this country, a proud and noble part of our history. In fact, in the earliest days of our nation, Thomas Jefferson wrote that "Agriculture is the most useful of the occupations of man."

Pres. Quotation

Treasury of
Presidential
Quotations,
p. 2
Caroline Hamberger

Today, nearly two centuries later, I'm here to give my first major address of the new decade. And I begin this exciting, new decade by beginning with agriculture. I'd like to talk to you about the future of farming in this country, and about the future of America. But ^{as we} ~~is~~ looking forward to the future, it's ^{also} important to ^{take} ~~look back~~ for a moment, ^{and reflect upon} ~~at~~ the last decade -- ^{and} ~~at~~ what farmers have gone through, both good and bad.

You -- ~~the~~ ^{is} American farmers -- deserve the credit for the rebound in U.S. farming achieved over the last ten years.

Through the worst droughts and natural disasters of the 1980s, ^{through economic tough times} you have worked with your minds -- and your hands -- to beat adversity at every turn, ^{as a team}.

~~In the mid-eighties, when the drought hit the Southeast especially hard, Iowa farmers sent trainload after trainload of fresh hay to help save precious livestock. Now, Southeastern~~

~~farmers are reciprocating, sending hay in return to Iowa. That's~~
^{with a} ~~the~~ kind of can-do commitment that's been the hallmark of American farming for generations.

It was only five years ago that the landmark 1985 Farm Bill became law. Since then, the news has been good. Today, agricultural exports are reaching record highs. Surpluses have declined dramatically, and most of our good land has been brought back into production. Net farm income attained a record level last year, and the share of income that came from market sales -- instead of government supports -- continued to grow. The farm

Susan
 Offutt
 X4762
 ONB
 Policy

credit situation has greatly improved, bringing financial stability back to rural America.

Susan Offutt
24762

As we face the future, the outlook is even better. Through sound fiscal practices, wise management of our resources, common sense attitudes -- and, God willing, good weather -- we can succeed. ^{we will develop} Together, ~~let us work out the~~ policies to keep rural America strong, and American agriculture thriving. / First on our plate is the 1990 Farm Bill. ((You know, getting a good Farm Bill through Congress is a little like milking a bull ...))

B.F.

But I can tell you, we will stay with the proven principles of the 1985 Farm Bill when we sit down to write a new bill for 1990 and beyond. Certain improvements are necessary, of course, but we must not change direction. From subsidy levels, to food safety measures, to environmental concerns and free trade provisions, we will stay in keeping with the 1985 legislation. This Administration will not cut and run.

We've got to maintain the safety net under farm income by maintaining the subsidies that have been so vital to help make ends meet on our farms. Since 1986, the cost of Federal farm programs has been cut in half, without hurting farm income -- and I want to say to rural America that I do not intend to try to balance the federal budget on the backs of American farmers and ranchers. (11)

Susan
Offutt

Historically, America's farmers have understood the importance of a clean environment, and truly are stewards of the land. Many of you here today come from farms that have been

handed down from your parents and grandparents, and for many, great-grandparents. The land you till will hopefully ~~be~~ be planted by your children after you. You know that to protect the land is to protect ~~your~~ ^{not just} livelihood, ^{but} your traditions, and your heritage. We must keep your good land in business -- without unreasonable burdens -- but we must also keep it good land. I am ^{Counting on} ~~looking to~~ your leadership as we work to expand farm productivity while safeguarding the environment.

We must recognize that agriculture and a sound environment can be compatible -- especially in terms of water quality. The Administration has proposed a concentrated five-year effort to work with the nation's farmers to protect our groundwater from contamination by fertilizers and pesticides. We'll spend close to a third of a billion dollars on research and support for farmers, so that we put a stop to the contamination of our land and water.

Dept of Ag report

We must also make sure that all Americans are confident in the safety of our food supply. The Administration is working to include legislative provisions to protect the food supply without overwhelming the agriculture industry -- and already we've seen improved coordination between the FDA, the EPA and the Department of Agriculture on this issue.

Legis. Aff.

~~But the environment is only a part of the agricultural picture.~~
~~must be ~~the~~ need~~ ^{our} market-oriented farm policies, to guarantee that

producers have the flexibility to decide what crops to grow. And the American farmer needs a level playing field in the international trade arena. But the way to fight trade barriers

is through tough negotiation, not retaliation and protectionism. Our Administration has just made a bold proposal in the Uruguay Round that would phase out export subsidies in five years and trade-distorting subsidies in ten years. Our goals are simple: free markets and fair trade. *Li*

But in today's global economy, America must also become more competitive -- through increased production, new uses for our products, and more open markets. The Administration supports greater research into biotechnology for improved productivity, and encourages alternative uses of farm products -- ~~one~~ like ethanol and other new fuels. The value of U.S. agricultural exports has increased for the fourth year in a row, and sales to developing nations -- the dynamic markets of the future -- were up 13 percent last year. *Li*
Susan
officer
X4762

We also support expanding our ties with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, ~~already the third-largest customer for U.S. agricultural commodities~~ to open even more markets.

That's why I sent Secretary Yeutter to lead a Presidential Economic Delegation to Poland earlier this winter. We're not simply handing the Eastern Europeans food -- we're forging new partnerships between our agriculture industries and their emerging market economies. Through market development, technology transfers, and information sharing at all levels -- Americans are helping these nations take their place in the global marketplace.

But for us to reap the benefits of a competitive economy, we must begin at home. That means cutting the capital gains tax rate. Two of our biggest competitors internationally -- West Germany and Japan -- don't tax long-term gains at all. With a cut in the capital gains tax rate, we can keep ^{American} ~~the~~ agricultural ~~industry~~ dynamic and prosperous. And with continued economic growth, we can keep rural America going strong. Passage of our capital gains proposal -- which includes provisions for the sale of farmland -- will be one of my top priorities in this legislative year. Because what's good for agriculture is good for America.

Jenner

Sound agriculture policies are important to me. The Farm Bill, [✓] ~~our~~ international trade negotiations, and the fight for a capital gains tax cut will be high on my agenda for the nation. But I also want to talk to you ^{today} about some of the challenges facing ^{all} ~~rural~~ America. Like ^{people} ~~Americans~~ everywhere ^{in this great country} you work hard and sacrifice to make good lives for yourselves and your children. Every one of us dreams of excellence in education, economic opportunity for all citizens, a clean and healthy environment, and safe, drug-free streets, schools, and workplaces. Together, we're working to build a better America.

Rural America cares about education. Some say improving our schools is something for ~~the~~ ^{federal money and} bureaucrats in Washington to handle. ~~It's a big-city problem.~~ That's not true. ^{whether its a classroom on a dusty plain in north Dakota or} Improving education ^{Wash. Street} is a national ~~-- not simply a federal --~~ challenge. ^{Last August, in New York,} The Nation's Governors and I met at the Education Summit to ^{begin} determine ⁶ national ^{Sept.}

But much remains to be done and you're in the forefront.

Just as important to...

goals ~~for~~ ^{to attain excellence} promoting educational restructuring in every state.

Jack Howard -
(HSC) Legis. Affairs

The Administration has sent the Educational Excellence Act to the Congress. We want, and America needs, action on it soon.

Jack Howard -

Rural America ^{also} believes in economic opportunity -- economic empowerment -- for all Americans. And although we're in the midst of the greatest peacetime economic expansion in the history of this country -- 85 months in December -- we will not be satisfied until that expansion reaches every corner of this Nation. We're going to keep the job creation machine rolling -- we're going to go beyond the 20 million new jobs created since 1982. And we're going to hold the line on new taxes and new spending. Because the problem with the budget deficit isn't that we tax too little. It's that we spend too much.

~~Finally~~, too many people think drugs and crime are solely an inner-city problem. Every citizen has the right to a safe home and freedom from fear. Early in my Administration, we sent the Violent Crime Control Act to the Congress. We proposed measures to improve enforcement and prosecution, and strengthen current laws to put cop-killers and drug-dealers behind bars and keep them there. I urge the Congress to act swiftly on our crime legislation, which has been sitting on Capitol Hill for months. Brave citizens everywhere are standing up to crime. It's time for Congress to act quickly and responsibly. The war on drugs and crime won't wait.

Legis. Affs.

~~We have begun a new war on drugs -- a coordinated, comprehensive national strategy -- a tough assault on the death~~

*Finally, we can
achieve peace and freedom*

8

~~and destruction that drugs cause. But this fight will never be won by law enforcement and treatment efforts alone; it will only be won by a change in public attitude, from tolerance to intolerance -- of drugs and those who use them.~~

These are the concerns of Americans everywhere, not just those in the cities or on the plains. I am optimistic about the coming decade, for I believe in the wisdom of our policies and in the providence of the Almighty. And most importantly, I believe in the tough resiliency and moral strength of the American people. Throughout our history, farmers -- many in this room -- have weathered disaster after disaster. And each time, like ~~the~~ steel forged in ^a white-hot furnaces, you come out stronger with each testing by fire.

In the "Dirty Thirties," thick clouds of dust swirled into the air causing the dustbowl that ruined hundreds of farmsteads on the Great Plains, choked thousands of head of livestock and inspired the epic The Grapes of Wrath. Many of the dustbowl farmers stayed on the land, and today, their descendants have invented modern conservation techniques to catch and preserve the winter snows and spring rains -- to carry their thirsty crops through the hot plains summers. A triumph of human courage, hope and ingenuity.

In the 1970s, an unheard-of disease, Southern Corn Leaf Blight, swept through the fields of the Midwest. In less than five days, the tall green, tasseled corn died -- as if someone had taken a blowtorch to it. Over that winter, scientists and

Jack Jenkins
Dept. of Ag.
582-6193

speechwriter

Jack
Jenkins

farmers developed resistant corn varieties in time for the next spring planting. A national food disaster was stopped dead in its tracks. A triumph of faith, science and inventiveness.

Today, at the daybreak of the new decade, I want rural America to share in the promise and prosperity of our great nation. And in the months and years to come, as we approach the horizon of the new century, may we all share in the opportunity and optimism of a world at peace.

Thank you and God bless America.

#

4

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Grant/Cawley
January 2, 1990
Draft four
A: farmers

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AMERICAN FARM BUREAU
71ST ANNUAL CONVENTION
ORLANDO CONVENTION CENTER
JANUARY 8, 1990
10:45 A.M.

My thanks to Dean Kleckner ((AFB President)) for that introduction. Governor Martinez, it's always a pleasure to see you. I'd also like to thank Secretary Yeutter for joining us here today.

Pat Beatts
(312) 319-5850

I just returned from some fishing and hunting over the holidays, and I heard a story about the time Mark Twain spent three weeks fishing in Maine -- after fishing season had closed. On the way home, aboard the train, he told the man seated next to him about all the fish he caught. Finally, Twain asked, "By the way, who are you, sir?" "I'm the state game warden," replied the man, "Who are you?" After a long pause, Twain said, "Well, to be perfectly truthful, I'm the biggest damn liar in the whole United States." ///

Little Brown Book
p. Quotations,
p. 556

I won't bore you with my fishing stories, because you never know if there are any game wardens nearby ... It's a pleasure to be here, because for 71 years now, the American Farm Bureau has helped American farmers -- over 3 million member families -- to become the best in the world. Farming is the backbone of this country, a proud and noble part of our history. In fact, in the earliest days of our nation, Thomas Jefferson wrote that "Agriculture is the most useful of the occupations of man."

Today, nearly two centuries later, I'm here to give my first major address of the new decade. And I begin this exciting, new decade by beginning with agriculture. I'd like to talk to you about the future of farming in this country, and about the future of America. But as we look forward to the future, it's also important to take a moment and reflect upon the last decade -- and what farmers have gone through, both good and bad.

You -- America's farmers -- deserve the credit for the rebound in U.S. farming achieved over the last ten years. You've been through the worst droughts and natural disasters of the 1980s, survived economic tough times, and now face the loss of this year's citrus crop. But each time, you have worked with your minds -- and your hands -- to beat adversity at every turn with a kind of can-do commitment that's been the hallmark of American farming for generations.

It was only five years ago that the landmark 1985 Farm Bill became law. Since then, the news has been good. Today, agricultural exports are reaching record highs. Surpluses have declined dramatically, and most of our good land has been brought back into production. Net farm income attained a record level last year, and the share of income that came from market sales -- instead of government supports -- continued to grow. The farm credit situation has greatly improved, bringing financial stability back to rural America.

As we face the future, the outlook is even better. Through sound fiscal practices, wise management of our resources, common

sense attitudes -- and, God willing, good weather -- we can succeed. **Together, we will develop policies to keep rural America strong, and American agriculture thriving.**

First on our plate is the 1990 Farm Bill. ((You know, getting a good Farm Bill through Congress is a little like milking a bull ...))

But I can tell you, we will stay with the proven principles of the 1985 Farm Bill when we sit down to write a new bill for 1990 and beyond. Certain improvements are necessary, of course, but we must not change direction. From subsidy levels, to food safety measures, to environmental concerns and free trade provisions, we will stay in keeping with the 1985 legislation. **This Administration will not cut and run.**

We've got to maintain the safety net under farm income by maintaining the income supports that have been so vital to help make ends meet on our farms. Since 1986, the cost of Federal farm programs has been cut in half, without hurting farm income. Today, the two best things we can do for farmers are keep interest rates low, and cut the budget deficit. But I want to say to rural America that **I do not intend to try to balance the federal budget on the backs of American farmers and ranchers. ///**

Historically, America's farmers have understood the importance of a clean environment, and truly are stewards of the land. Many of you here today come from farms that have been handed down from your parents and grandparents, and for many, great-grandparents. The land you till will hopefully likely be

planted by your children after you. You know that to protect the land is to protect not just your livelihood, but your traditions, and your heritage.

We must recognize that agriculture and a sound environment can be compatible -- especially in terms of water quality. The Administration has proposed a concentrated five-year effort to work with the nation's farmers to protect our groundwater from contamination by fertilizers and pesticides. We'll spend close to a third of a billion dollars on research and support for farmers, so that we put a stop to the contamination of our land and water. We must keep your good land in business -- without unreasonable burdens -- but we must also keep it good land. I am counting on your leadership as we work to expand farm productivity while safeguarding the environment.

We must also make sure that all Americans are confident in the safety of our food supply. The Administration is working to include legislative provisions to protect the food supply without overwhelming the agriculture industry -- and already we've seen improved coordination between the FDA, the EPA and the Department of Agriculture on this issue.

But the environment is only a part of the agricultural picture. Our farm policies must be market-oriented to guarantee that producers have the flexibility to decide what crops to grow. And the American farmer needs a **level playing field** in the international trade arena. But the way to fight trade barriers is through tough negotiation, not retaliation and protectionism.

Our Administration has just made a bold proposal in the Uruguay Round that would phase out export subsidies in five years and trade-distorting subsidies in ten years. **Our goals are simple: free markets and fair trade.**

But in today's global economy, America must also become more competitive -- through increased production, new uses for our products, and more open markets. The Administration supports greater research into biotechnology for improved productivity, and is encouraging alternative uses of farm products -- like ethanol and other new fuels. The value of U.S. agricultural exports has increased for the fourth year in a row, and sales to developing nations -- the dynamic markets of the future -- were up 13 percent last year.

We also support expanding our ties with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union **to open even more markets.** That's why I sent Secretary Yeutter to lead a Presidential Economic Delegation to Poland earlier this winter. We're not simply handing the Eastern Europeans food -- we're forging new partnerships between our agriculture industries and their emerging market economies. Through market development, technology transfers, and information sharing at all levels -- Americans are helping these nations take their place in the global marketplace.

But for us to reap the benefits of a competitive economy, we must begin at home. That means cutting the capital gains tax rate. Two of our biggest competitors internationally -- West Germany and Japan -- don't tax long-term gains at all. With a

cut in the capital gains tax rate, we can keep American agriculture dynamic and prosperous. And with continued economic growth, we can keep rural America going strong. Passage of our capital gains proposal -- which includes provisions for the sale of farmland -- will be one of my top priorities in this legislative year. **Because what's good for agriculture is good for America.**

Sound agriculture policies are important to me. The Farm Bill, our international trade negotiations, and the fight for a capital gains tax cut will be high on my agenda for the nation. But I also want to talk to you today about some of the challenges facing all America. Like people everywhere in this great country, you work hard and sacrifice to make good lives for yourselves and your children. Every one of us dreams of excellence in education, economic opportunity for all citizens, a clean and healthy environment, and safe, drug-free streets, schools, and workplaces. **Together, we're working to build a better America.**

But much remains to be done and you're in the forefront. Rural America cares about education. Some say improving our schools is something for federal money and Washington bureaucrats to handle. That's not true. Whether it's a classroom on a dusty plain in North Dakota or a busy street in New York, improving education is a national challenge. Last September, the Nation's Governors and I met at the Education Summit to begin promoting educational restructuring in every state and determining national

goals to attain excellence. The Administration has sent the Educational Excellence Act to the Congress. We want, and America needs, action on it soon.

Rural America is battling the ravages of violence and drugs. Too many people think drugs and crime are solely an inner-city problem. Every citizen has the right to a safe home and freedom from fear. Early in my Administration, we sent the Violent Crime Control Act to the Congress. We proposed measures to improve enforcement and prosecution, and strengthen current laws to put cop-killers and drug-dealers behind bars and keep them there. I urge the Congress to act swiftly on our crime legislation, which has been sitting on Capitol Hill for months. Brave citizens everywhere are standing up to crime. It's time for Congress to act quickly and responsibly. The war on drugs and crime won't wait.

Finally, rural America believes in liberty and democracy. Freedom-loving people everywhere are following the news reports from behind what used to be called the Iron Curtain. In fact, I read that the first thing to sell out in West Berlin on the day the Wall came down was fresh fruit. In Romania, citizens knew freedom had arrived when they saw food on the shelves in the grocery stores, for the first time in many years. We reap what we sow, says the Bible, and what a bountiful harvest we are witnessing.

These are the concerns of Americans everywhere, not just those in the cities or on the plains. I am optimistic about the

coming decade, for I believe in the wisdom of our policies and in the providence of the Almighty. And most importantly, I believe in the tough resiliency and moral strength of the American people. Throughout our history, farmers -- many in this room -- have weathered disaster after disaster. And each time, like steel forged in a white-hot furnace, you come out stronger with each testing by fire.

In the "Dirty Thirties," thick clouds of dust swirled into the air causing the dustbowl that ruined hundreds of farmsteads on the Great Plains, choked thousands of head of livestock and inspired the epic The Grapes of Wrath. Many of the dustbowl farmers stayed on the land, and today, their descendants have invented modern conservation techniques to catch and preserve the winter snows and spring rains -- to carry their thirsty crops through the hot plains summers. **A triumph of human courage, hope and ingenuity.**

In the 1970s, an unheard-of disease, Southern Corn Leaf Blight, swept through the fields of the Midwest. In less than five days, the tall green, tasseled corn died -- as if someone had taken a blowtorch to it. Over that winter, scientists and farmers developed resistant corn varieties in time for the next spring planting. A national food disaster was stopped dead in its tracks. **A triumph of faith, science and inventiveness.**

Today, at the daybreak of the new decade, I want rural America to share in the promise and prosperity of our great nation. And in the months and years to come, as we approach the

horizon of the new century, may we all share in the opportunity and optimism of a world at peace.

Thank you and God bless America.

#

5

Grant/Cawley
January 3, 1990
Draft five
A: farmers

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AMERICAN FARM BUREAU
71ST ANNUAL CONVENTION
ORLANDO CONVENTION CENTER
JANUARY 8, 1990
10:45 A.M.

My thanks to Dean Kleckner ((AFB President)) for that introduction. Governor Martinez, it's always a pleasure to see you. I'd also like to thank Secretary Yeutter for joining us here today.

Pat Batts
AFB

I just returned from some fishing and hunting over the holidays, and I heard a story about the time Mark Twain spent three weeks fishing in Maine -- after fishing season had closed. On the way home, aboard the train, he told the man seated next to him about all the fish he caught. Finally, Twain asked, "By the way, who are you, sir?" "I'm the state game warden," replied the man, "Who are you?" After a long pause, Twain said, "Well, to be perfectly truthful, I'm the biggest damn liar in the whole United States." ///

Little Brown
Book of
Anecdotes,
p. 556

I won't bore you with my fishing stories, because you never know if there are any game wardens nearby ... It's a pleasure to be here, because for 71 years now, the American Farm Bureau has helped American farmers -- over 3 million member families -- to become the best in the world. Farming is the backbone of this country, a proud and noble part of our history. In fact, in the earliest days of our nation, Thomas Jefferson wrote that "Agriculture is the most useful of the occupations of man."

Pat Batts
AFB - PAO

Treasury of
Presidential
Quotations
p. 2

Today, nearly two centuries later, I'm here to give my first major address of the new decade. And I begin this exciting, new decade by beginning with agriculture. I'd like to talk to you about the future of farming in this country, and about the future of America. But as we look forward to the future, it's also important to take a moment and reflect upon the last decade -- and what farmers have gone through, both good and bad.

You -- America's farmers -- deserve the credit for the rebound in U.S. farming achieved over the last ten years. You've been through the worst droughts and natural disasters of the 1980s, survived economic tough times, and now face the loss of this year's citrus crop. But each time, you have worked with your minds -- and your hands -- to beat adversity at every turn with a kind of can-do commitment that's been the hallmark of American farming for generations.

It was only five years ago that the landmark 1985 Farm Bill became law. Since then, the news has been good. Today, ^{Cooper Evans - Talking PAs for WHO Radio 12/89} agricultural exports are reaching record highs ^{doubled since 1982}. Surpluses have declined dramatically, and most of our good land has been brought back into production. Net farm income attained a record level last year, and the share of income that came from market sales -- instead of government supports -- continued to grow. The farm credit situation has greatly improved, bringing financial stability back to rural America.

As we face the future, the outlook is even better. Through sound fiscal practices, wise management of our resources, common

sense attitudes -- and, God willing, good weather -- we can succeed. **Together, we will develop policies to keep rural America strong, and American agriculture thriving.**

First on our plate is the 1990 Farm Bill. ((You know, getting a good Farm Bill through Congress is a little like milking a bull ...))

But I can tell you, we will stay with the proven principles of the 1985 Farm Bill when we sit down to write a new bill for 1990 and beyond. Certain improvements are necessary, of course, but we must not change direction. From subsidy levels, to food safety measures, to environmental concerns and free trade provisions, we will stay in keeping with the 1985 legislation.

This Administration will not cut and run.

We've got to maintain the safety net under farm income by maintaining the crop subsidies that have been so vital to help make ends meet on our farms. Since 1986, the cost of Federal farm programs has been cut in half, without hurting farm income.

Susan Offutt
X

Cooper Evans -
Talking PAs for
WFO Radio, 12/89

Let me tell you, today, the two best things we can do for farmers are keep interest rates low, and cut the budget deficit. ///

But I also want to say to rural America that I do not intend to try to balance the federal budget on the backs of American farmers and ranchers. ///

Historically, America's farmers have understood the importance of a clean environment, and truly are stewards of the land. Many of you here today come from farms that have been handed down from your parents and grandparents, and for many,

great-grandparents. The land you till will hopefully be planted by your children after you. You know that to protect the land is to protect not just your livelihood, but your traditions, and your heritage.

We must recognize that agriculture and a sound environment can be compatible -- especially in terms of water quality. The Administration has proposed a concentrated five-year effort to work with the nation's farmers to protect our groundwater from contamination by fertilizers and pesticides. We'll spend close to a third of a billion dollars on research and support for farmers, so that we put a stop to the contamination of our land and water. We must keep your good land in business -- without unreasonable burdens -- but we must also keep it good land. I am counting on your leadership as we work to expand farm productivity while safeguarding the environment.

We must also make sure that all Americans are confident in the safety of our food supply. The Administration is working to include legislative provisions to protect the food supply without overwhelming the agriculture industry -- and already we've seen improved coordination between the FDA, the EPA and the Department of Agriculture on this issue.

But the environment is only a part of the agricultural picture. Our farm policies must be market-oriented to guarantee that producers have the flexibility to decide what crops to grow. And the American farmer needs a level playing field in the international trade arena. But the way to fight trade barriers

△?

Dept of Ag -
Press Release
letter's 1989
accomplishments

Jusan Offutt
OMB - Farm Policy
X4762

Dept of Ag
Press Release
letter's 1989
accomplishments

li

USHS for HHS to implement

is through tough negotiation, not retaliation and protectionism.

Our Administration has just made a bold proposal in the Uruguay Round that would phase out export subsidies in five years and trade-distorting practices subsidies in ten years. Our goals are simple: free markets and fair trade.

*Dorothy Durrant
USDA
X 3324*

But in today's global economy, America must also become more competitive -- through increased production, new uses for our products, and more open markets. The Administration supports greater research into biotechnology for improved productivity, and is encouraging alternative uses of farm products -- like ethanol and other new fuels. The value of U.S. agricultural exports has increased for the fourth year in a row, and sales to developing nations -- the dynamic markets of the future -- were up 13 percent last year.

Notes memo to A. Card 11/17/89

We also support expanding our ties with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union to open even more markets. That's why I sent Secretary Yeutter to lead a Presidential Economic Delegation to Poland earlier this winter. We're not simply handing the Eastern Europeans food -- we're forging new partnerships between our agriculture industries and their emerging market economies. Through market development, technology transfers, and information sharing at all levels -- Americans are helping these nations take their place in the global marketplace.

*rept of AG
News Release -
Yeutter's 1989
Accomplishments*

But for us to reap the benefits of a competitive economy, we must begin at home. That means cutting the capital gains tax rate. Two of our biggest competitors internationally -- West

Janner

Germany and Japan -- don't tax long-term gains at all. With a *Janner* cut in the capital gains tax rate, we can help keep American agriculture dynamic and prosperous. And with continued economic growth, we can keep rural America going strong. Passage of our capital gains proposal -- which includes provisions for the sale of farmland -- will be one of my top priorities in this legislative year. **Because what's good for agriculture is good for America.**

Sound agriculture policies are important to me. The Farm Bill, our international trade negotiations, and the fight for a capital gains tax cut will be high on my agenda for the nation. But I also want to talk to you today about some of the challenges facing all America. Like people everywhere in this great country, you work hard and sacrifice to make good lives for yourselves and your children. Every one of us dreams of excellence in education, economic opportunity for all citizens, a clean and healthy environment, and safe, drug-free streets, schools, and workplaces. **Together, we're working to build a better America.**

But much remains to be done and you're in the forefront. Rural America cares about education. Some say improving our schools is something for federal money and Washington bureaucrats to handle. That's not true. Whether it's a classroom on a dusty plain in North Dakota or a busy street in New York, improving education is a national challenge. Last September, the Nation's ~~Governors~~ and I met at the Education ~~Summit~~ to begin promoting

educational restructuring in every state and determining national goals to attain excellence. The Administration has sent the Educational Excellence Act to the Congress. We want, and America needs, action on it soon.

Rural America is also battling the ravages of violence and drugs. Too many people think drugs and crime are solely an inner-city problem. Every citizen has the right to a safe home and freedom from fear. Early in my Administration, we sent the Comprehensive Violent Crime Control Act to the Congress. We proposed measures to improve enforcement and prosecution, and strengthen current laws to put [cop-killers] and drug-dealers behind bars and keep them there. I urge the Congress to act swiftly on our crime legislation, which has been sitting on Capitol Hill for months. Brave citizens everywhere are standing up to crime. It's time for Congress to act quickly and responsibly. The war on drugs and crime won't wait.

Finally, rural America believes in liberty and democracy. Freedom-loving people everywhere are following the news reports from behind what used to be called the Iron Curtain. In fact, I read that the first thing to sell out in West Berlin on the day the Wall came down wasn't TV's or denim jeans. It was fresh fruit. In Romania, citizens knew freedom had arrived because, for the first time in many years, they saw food on the grocery store shelves. We reap what we sow, says the Bible, and what a bountiful harvest we are witnessing. It is a harvest of joy and

Mr. Howard
Legis Aff. (Hse.)
X7030

Boyd
Hollingsworth
Legis Aff.
(Sen.)
X7054

UK

opportunity that we will continue to support and encourage every step of the way.

These are the concerns of Americans everywhere, not just those in the cities or on the plains. I am optimistic about the coming decade, for I believe in the wisdom of our policies and in the providence of the Almighty. And most importantly, I believe in the tough resiliency and moral strength of the American people. Throughout our history, farmers -- many in this room -- have weathered disaster after disaster. And each time, like steel forged in a white-hot furnace, you come out stronger with each testing by fire.

Jack Jenkins - Yeutter's Speechwriter; Dept of Ag; In the "Dirty Thirties," swirling clouds of dust ruined hundreds of farmsteads on the Great Plains, choked thousands of head of livestock and inspired the epic The Grapes of Wrath. Many of the dustbowl farmers stayed on the land, and today, their descendants have invented modern conservation techniques to catch and preserve the winter snows and spring rains -- to carry their thirsty crops through the hot plains summers. **A triumph of human courage, hope and ingenuity.**

In the 1970s, an unheard-of disease, Southern Corn Leaf Blight, swept through the fields of the Midwest. In less than five days, the tall green, tasseled corn died -- as if someone had taken a blowtorch to it. Over that winter, scientists and farmers developed resistant corn varieties in time for the next spring planting. A national food disaster was stopped dead in its tracks. **A triumph of faith, science and inventiveness.**

Today, at the daybreak of the new decade, I want rural America to share in the promise and prosperity of our great nation. And in the months and years to come, as we approach the horizon of the new century, may we all share in the opportunity and optimism of a world at peace.

Thank you and God bless America.

#

6

Grant/Cawley
January 4, 1990
Draft six
A:farmers

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AMERICAN FARM BUREAU
71ST ANNUAL CONVENTION
ORLANDO CONVENTION CENTER
JANUARY 8, 1990
10:45 A.M.

My thanks to Dean Kleckner ((AFB President)) for that warm introduction ... And for his support on the National Economic Commission, as well as the support of the Farm Bureau membership, on your "No to More Taxes" campaign. Secretary Yeutter, thanks for joining us here today; ~~I know you just finished visiting some of the citrus farms here in Florida damaged by the freeze.~~ Governor Martinez, it's always a pleasure to see you. And of course, my thanks to your former Farm Bureau president, Robert Delano, whose leadership was key to our farm efforts during the election campaign.

Pat
Bohls

I just returned from some fishing and hunting over the holidays, and I heard a story about the time Mark Twain spent three weeks fishing in Maine -- after fishing season had closed. On the way home, aboard the train, he told the man seated next to him about all the fish he caught. Finally, Twain asked, "By the way, who are you, sir?" "I'm the state game warden," replied the man, "Who are you?" After a long pause, Twain said, "Well, to be perfectly truthful, I'm the biggest damn liar in the whole United States." ///

little
Brown Bk of
Anecdotes,
p. 556

I won't bore you with my fishing stories, because I could talk all day on this subject ... It's a pleasure to be here,

because for 71 years now, the American Farm Bureau has helped American farmers -- over 3 million member families -- to become the best in the world. Farming is the backbone of this country, a proud and noble part of our history. In fact, in the earliest days of our nation, Thomas Jefferson wrote that "Agriculture is the most useful of the occupations of man."

Today, nearly two centuries later, I'm here to give my first major address of the new decade. And I'm proud to begin this decade by talking to you about the future of farming in this country, and about the future of America. But as we look forward, it's also important to reflect upon the past -- and what farmers have gone through, both good and bad.

You -- America's farmers -- deserve the credit for the rebound in U.S. farming achieved. You've been through the worst droughts and natural disasters of the 1980s, and survived economic tough times. But each time, you have worked with your minds -- and your hands -- to beat adversity at every turn with a kind of can-do commitment that's been the hallmark of American farming for generations.

Right here in Florida we're seeing that can-do attitude as you face the terrible loss of the citrus and winter vegetable crop. But let me tell you. You won't be doing it alone. I've asked Secretary Yeutter to personally oversee our efforts to provide assistance and I know you can count on U.S.D.A. to be in there fighting with you.

Pat Batts

AFB- Public Aff.
(312) 399-
5850

Treasury of
Presidential
Quotations, p. 2



It was only five years ago that the 1985 Farm Bill became law. Admittedly, the cost has been high but it has worked. Since then, the news has been good. ~~Surpluses~~ have ~~declined~~ ~~dramatically~~, and most of our good land has been brought back into production. Net farm income attained a record level last year, and the share of income that came from market sales -- instead of government supports -- continued to grow. The farm credit situation has greatly improved, bringing more financial stability to rural America.

As we face the future, the outlook is even better. Through sound fiscal practices, wise management of our resources, common sense attitudes -- and, God willing, good weather -- we can succeed. Together, we will keep rural America strong, and American agriculture thriving in the 90's.

Our first priority must be to keep the American economy growing. That means fiscal and monetary policies that make sense -- that provide a stable business environment. Let me tell you. Today, the best thing we can do for farmers is to keep interest rates low, and that's what we intend to do.

Later this year, we will work with Congress on the 1990 Farm Bill. ((You know, getting a good Farm Bill through Congress is a little like milking a bull ...)) But I can tell you that to be competitive, we must have market-oriented farm policies. Farmers need more flexibility to decide what crops to grow based on market signals, not government mandate. We've got to give

copy EVANS-
Thinking P/S for
WHO said, 12/89

American farmers the chance to do what Americans do best:
compete.

At the same time, this Administration will not cut and run.
We've got to maintain a safety net to protect farmers from
conditions beyond their control. But market-oriented farm
policies are only a part of the agricultural picture. We've got
to expand markets and enhance productivity. We've got to assure
the public that America's food is the safest in the world, and
we've got to protect our precious environment.

America's farmers understand the importance of a clean
environment. Many of you here today come from farms that have
been handed down from parents and grandparents, and for many,
great-grandparents. The land you till will hopefully be planted
by your children after you. You know that to protect the land is
to protect not just your livelihood, but your heritage.

We must recognize that productive agriculture and a sound
environment can be compatible -- especially in terms of water
quality. The Administration has initiated a concentrated five-
year effort to work with the nation's farmers to protect our
groundwater from contamination by fertilizers and pesticides.
We'll spend close to a third of a billion dollars on research and
support for farmers, so that we put a stop to the contamination
of our land and water. We must keep your good land in business -
- without unreasonable burdens -- but we must also keep it good
land. ((tree insert)) I am counting on your leadership as we

Jusan Offutt
WB Farm Policy
X4762

pt of Ag -
RSS Release -
Offutt's 1989
accomplishments

work to expand farm productivity while safeguarding the environment.

We must also make sure that all Americans are confident in the safety of our food supply. The Administration is working to develop legislation to protect the food supply without overwhelming the agriculture industry -- and already we've seen improved coordination between the FDA, the EPA and the Department of Agriculture on this issue.

*Susan Offutt
WB-Farm Policy
X 4762*

*rpt of Ag -
Press Release -
Yeutter's 1989
Accomplishments*

But in the coming decade, the American farmer must have a level playing field in the international trade arena. And the way to fight trade barriers is through tough negotiation, not reciprocal protectionism. I know that many Farm Bureau leaders serve in key roles on the Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee, and how important this issue is to you. Our Administration has just made a bold proposal in the Uruguay Round, key to its success, that would phase out export subsidies in five years and other trade-distorting practices in ten years. Our goal is simple: open markets and free trade.

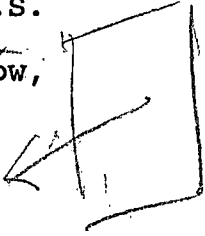
*Farm Bureau
Fax*

*ROOTHY
Dwoskin
ISTR-GATT
X*

Pat Batts

And international markets are improving. The value of U.S. agricultural exports has increased for the fourth year in a row, and sales to developing nations -- the dynamic markets of the future -- were up 13 percent last year.

*ewain Rahe
382-1294
Foreign Ag Svc
Info Director,
USDA*



We also support expanding our ties with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union to open even more markets. Earlier this winter, Secretary Yeutter led a Presidential Delegation to Poland to determine how American know-how can help Poland shift to a

*rpt of Ag -
Press Release -
Yeutter's 1989
Accomplishments*

market economy. We're forging new partnerships between our agriculture industries and Eastern Europe's emerging economies. Through market development, technology transfers, and information sharing at all levels -- Americans are helping these nations take their place in the global marketplace.

But in today's global economy, America must also become more competitive -- through increased production, new uses for our products, and more open markets. This Administration supports greater research into biotechnology for improved productivity, and is encouraging alternative uses of farm products -- like ethanol and other new fuels and fuel additives. Just a few months ago, we expanded the producer tax credit for alternative fuels to include ETBE. This will mean more markets for growers and cleaner air for all Americans.

But for us to reap the benefits of a competitive economy, we must begin at home. That means cutting the capital gains tax rate. With a cut in the capital gains tax rate, we can help keep American agriculture dynamic and prosperous. And with continued economic growth, we can keep rural America going strong.

Passage of our capital gains proposal -- which includes provisions for the sale of farmland -- will be one of my top priorities in this legislative year. Your support has been instrumental in keeping up the fight for the capital gains tax cut. And the fight isn't over yet. Because what's good for agriculture is good for America.

Notes memo to Andy Conrad 11/17/89

Ferry Grinnell 11/17-2015 USDA - Energy

Reg Jenner - Treasury 500-5911

would apply to

Sound agriculture policies are important to me. The Farm Bill, our international trade negotiations, and the fight for a capital gains tax cut will be high on my agenda for the nation. But I also want to talk to you today about some of the challenges facing all America. Like people everywhere in this great country, you work hard and sacrifice to make good lives for yourselves and your children. Every one of us dreams of excellence in education, economic opportunity for all citizens, a clean and healthy environment, and safe, drug-free streets, schools, and workplaces. **Together, we're working to build a better America.**

But much remains to be done and you're in the forefront. Rural America cares about education. Some say improving our schools is something for federal money and Washington bureaucrats to handle. That's not true. Whether it's a classroom on a dusty plain in North Dakota or a busy street in New York, improving education is a national challenge. Last September, the Nation's Governors and I met at the Education Summit to begin promoting educational restructuring in every state and determining national goals to attain excellence. The Administration has sent the Educational Excellence Act to the Congress. We want, and America needs, action on it soon.

Rural America is also battling the ravages of violence and drugs. Too many people think drugs and crime are solely an inner-city problem. Every citizen has the right to a safe home and freedom from fear. Early in my Administration, we sent the

scheduling
X 7560
Wendy

legis. Affairs
Mr. J. Howard (Asst.)
X 7030

legis. Affairs
(Senate)
X 7054
Mr. Boyd
Hollingsworth

regis Affairs
 x 7054
 W.
 Hollingsworth

Comprehensive Violent Crime Control Act to the Congress. We
 proposed measures to improve enforcement and prosecution, and
 strengthen current laws to put drug-dealers behind bars and keep
 them there. I urge the Congress to act swiftly on our crime
 legislation, which has been sitting on Capitol Hill for months.
 Brave citizens everywhere are standing up to crime. It's time
 for Congress to act quickly and responsibly. The war on drugs
 and crime won't wait.

Finally, rural America believes in liberty and democracy.
 Freedom-loving people everywhere are following the news reports
 from behind what used to be called the Iron Curtain. In fact, I
 read that the first thing to sell out in West Berlin on the day
 the Wall came down wasn't TV's or denim jeans. It was fresh
 fruit. In Romania, citizens knew freedom had arrived because,
 for the first time in many years, they saw food on the grocery
 store shelves. We reap what we sow, says the Bible, and what a
 bountiful harvest we are witnessing. It is a harvest of joy and
 opportunity that we will continue to support and encourage every
 step of the way.

These are the concerns of Americans everywhere, not just
 those in the cities or on the plains. I am optimistic about the
 coming decade, for I believe in the wisdom of our policies and in
 the providence of the Almighty. And most importantly, I believe
 in the tough resiliency and moral strength of the American
 people. Throughout our history, farmers -- many in this room --
 have weathered disaster after disaster. And each time, like

steel forged in a white-hot furnace, you come out stronger with each testing by fire.

In the "Dirty Thirties," swirling clouds of dust ruined hundreds of farmsteads on the Great Plains, choked thousands of head of livestock and inspired the epic The Grapes of Wrath. Many of the dustbowl farmers stayed on the land, and today, their descendants have invented modern conservation techniques to catch and preserve the winter snows and spring rains -- to carry their thirsty crops through the hot plains summers. **A triumph of human courage, hope and ingenuity.**

In the 1970s, an unheard-of disease, Southern Corn Leaf Blight, swept through the fields of the Midwest. In a few days, the tall green, tasseled corn was devastated -- as if someone had taken a blowtorch to it. Over that winter, scientists and farmers developed resistant corn varieties in time for the next spring planting. A national food disaster was stopped dead in its tracks. **A triumph of faith, science and inventiveness.**

Today, at the daybreak of the new decade, I want rural America to share in the promise and prosperity of our great nation. And in the months and years to come, as we approach the horizon of the new century, may we all share in the opportunity and optimism of a world at peace.

Thank you and God bless America.

#

Jack JENKINS
Dept of Ag
Speechwriter
382 - 6193

7

Grant/Cawley
January 5, 1990
Draft seven
A:farmers

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AMERICAN FARM BUREAU
ORLANDO CONVENTION CENTER
JANUARY 8, 1990
10:45 A.M.

My thanks to Dean Kleckner ((AFB President)) for that warm introduction ... We are grateful for his leadership on the National Economic Commission, and the tremendous support of the Farm Bureau membership. Secretary Yeutter and Governor Martinez, it's always a pleasure to see you. My thanks, too, to your former Farm Bureau president, Robert Delano, whose leadership and counsel have been so helpful.

I just returned from some fishing and hunting over the holidays, and I heard a story about the time Mark Twain spent three weeks fishing in Maine -- after fishing season had closed. On the way home, aboard the train, he told the man seated next to him about all the fish he caught. Finally, Twain asked, "By the way, who are you, sir?" "I'm the state game warden," replied the man, "Who are you?" After a long pause, Twain said, "Well, to be perfectly truthful, I'm the biggest damn liar in the whole United States." ///

I won't bore you with my fishing stories, because I could talk all day on this subject ... It's a pleasure to be here, because for 71 years now, the American Farm Bureau has helped American farmers -- over 3 million member families -- to become the best in the world. Farming is a proud and noble part of our

history. In fact, Thomas Jefferson himself wrote that "Agriculture is the most useful of the occupations of man."

Today, nearly two centuries later, I'm here to give my first major address of the new decade. And I'm proud to begin this decade by talking to you about the future of farming in this country. But as we look forward, it's also important to reflect upon the past -- and what farmers have gone through, both good and bad.

You -- America's farmers -- deserve the credit for the rebound in U.S. farming. You've been through the worst droughts and natural disasters of the 1980s, and survived economic tough times. But you have worked with your minds -- and your hands -- to beat adversity with a kind of can-do commitment that's been the hallmark of American farming for generations.

Right here in Florida we're seeing, some of that can-do attitude as you face the terrible loss of the citrus and winter vegetable crop. But let me tell you. **You won't be doing it alone.** I've asked Secretary Yeutter to personally oversee our efforts to provide assistance and I know you can count on U.S.D.A. to be in there fighting with you.

It was only five years ago that the 1985 Farm Bill became law. Admittedly, the cost has been high but it has worked. Since then, the news has been good. Surpluses have declined dramatically, and most of our good land has been brought back into production. Net farm income reached a record level last year, and the share of income that came from market sales

continued to grow. The farm credit situation has greatly improved, bringing more financial stability to rural America.

As we face the future, the outlook is even better. Through sound fiscal practices, wise management of our resources, common sense attitudes -- and, God willing, good weather -- we can succeed. **Together, we will keep rural America strong, and American agriculture thriving in the 90's.**

To do that, our first priority must be to keep the American economy growing. That means fiscal and monetary policies that make sense. **Today, the best thing we can do for farmers is to keep interest rates low, and that's what we intend to do.**

This year, we will work with Congress on the 1990 Farm Bill. ((You know, getting a good Farm Bill through Congress is a little like milking a bull ...)) But I can tell you that to be competitive, we must have market-oriented farm policies that allow producers more flexibility to decide what crops to grow. **So American farmers can do what Americans do best: compete.**

At the same time, **this Administration will not cut and run.** We've got to maintain a safety net to protect farmers from conditions beyond their control. But market-oriented farm policies are only a part of the agricultural picture. We've got to expand markets and enhance productivity. We've got to assure the public that America's food is the safest in the world, and we've got to protect our precious environment.

America's farmers understand the importance of a clean environment. Many of you here today come from farms that have

been handed down from parents and grandparents. You know that to protect the land is to protect not just your livelihood, but your heritage.

We must recognize that productive agriculture and a sound environment can be compatible -- especially in terms of water quality. The Administration has initiated a concentrated five-year effort to work with the nation's farmers to protect our groundwater from contamination by fertilizers and pesticides. We'll spend close to a third of a billion dollars on research and support for farmers to stop contamination of our land and water. We must keep your good land in business -- without unreasonable burdens -- but we must also keep it good land. I am counting on your leadership as we work to expand farm productivity while safeguarding the environment.

We must also make sure that all Americans are confident in the safety of our food supply. The Administration is working hard to develop legislation to protect the food supply without overwhelming the agriculture industry.

But in the coming decade, the American farmer must have a **level playing field** in the international trade arena too. And the way to fight trade barriers is through tough negotiation, not reciprocal protectionism. I know that many Farm Bureau leaders serve on the Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee, and how important this issue is to you. Our Administration has just made a bold proposal in the Uruguay Round, key to its success, that would phase out export subsidies in five years and other trade-

distorting practices in ten years. **Our goal is simple: open markets and free trade.**

And international markets are improving. The value of U.S. agricultural exports has increased for the fourth year in a row, and sales to developing nations -- the dynamic markets of the future -- were up 13 percent last year.

We also support expanding our ties with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union **to open even more markets.** Earlier this winter, Secretary Yeutter led a Presidential Delegation to Poland to determine how American know-how can help Poland shift to a market economy. We're forging new partnerships between our agriculture industries and Eastern Europe's emerging economies.

But in today's global economy, America must also become more competitive -- through increased production, new uses for our products, and expanded markets at home. This Administration supports greater research into biotechnology for improved productivity, and is encouraging alternative uses of farm products -- like ethanol and other new fuels and fuel additives. Just a few months ago, we proposed the expansion of the producer tax credit for alternative fuels to include ETBE. This will mean more markets for growers and cleaner air for all Americans.

But for us to reap the full benefits of a competitive economy, we must cut the capital gains tax rate. With our capital gains proposal, we can help keep American agriculture dynamic and prosperous. And with continued economic growth, we can keep rural America going strong. Passage of our capital

gains proposal -- which would apply to the sale of farmland -- will be one of my top priorities in this legislative year. Your support has been instrumental in the fight for the capital gains tax cut. **And the fight isn't over yet.**

The Farm Bill, our international trade negotiations, and a capital gains tax cut will be high on my agenda for the nation. **Because what's good for agriculture is good for America.///**

But I also want to talk to you today about some of the challenges facing all America. Like people everywhere in this great country, you work hard and sacrifice to make good lives for yourselves and your children. Every one of us dreams of excellence in education, economic opportunity for all citizens, a clean and healthy environment, and safe, drug-free streets, schools, and workplaces. **Together, we're working to build a better America.**

But much remains to be done and you're in the forefront. Rural America cares about education. Some say improving our schools is something for federal money and Washington bureaucrats to handle. I know you don't believe that. Whether it's a classroom on a dusty plain in North Dakota or a busy New York street, improving education is a national challenge. Last September, I met with the Nation's Governors at the Education Summit to begin promoting educational restructuring in every state and determining national goals to attain excellence. The Administration has sent the Educational Excellence Act to the Congress. **We want, and America needs, action on it soon.**

Rural America is also battling the ravages of violence and drugs. Every citizen has the right to a safe home and freedom from fear. Early in my Administration, we sent the Comprehensive Violent Crime Control Act to the Congress. We proposed measures to improve enforcement and prosecution, and strengthen current laws to put drug-dealers behind bars and keep them there. This critical crime legislation has been sitting on Capitol Hill for months. Brave citizens everywhere are standing up to crime. **It's time for Congress to act quickly and responsibly. The war on drugs and crime won't wait.**

Finally, rural America believes in liberty and democracy. Freedom-loving people everywhere are following the news reports from behind what used to be called the Iron Curtain. In fact, I read that the first thing to sell out in West Berlin on the day the Wall came down wasn't TV's or denim jeans. It was fresh fruit. In Romania, citizens knew freedom had arrived because, for the first time in many years, they saw food on the grocery store shelves. We reap what we sow, says the Bible, and what a bountiful harvest we are witnessing. **It is a harvest of joy and opportunity that we will continue to support and encourage every step of the way.**

I am optimistic about the coming decade, for I believe in the wisdom of our policies and in the providence of the Almighty. And most importantly, I believe in the tough resiliency and moral strength of the American people. Throughout our history, farmers -- many in this room -- have weathered disaster. And each time,

like steel forged in a white-hot furnace, you are stronger with each testing by fire.

In the "Dirty Thirties," swirling clouds of dust ruined hundreds of farmsteads on the Great Plains. Many of the dustbowl farmers stayed on the land; and today, their descendants have invented conservation techniques to catch and preserve the winter snows and spring rains -- to carry their crops through the hot plains summers. **A triumph of human courage, hope and ingenuity.**

In the 1970s, an unheard-of disease, Southern Corn Leaf Blight, swept through the fields of the Midwest. In a few days, the tall green, tasseled corn was devastated -- as if someone had taken a blowtorch to it. Over that winter, scientists and farmers developed resistant corn varieties in time for the next spring planting. A national food disaster was stopped dead in its tracks. **A triumph of faith, science and inventiveness.**

Today, at the daybreak of the new decade, I want rural America to share in the promise and prosperity of our great nation. And in the months and years to come, as we approach the horizon of the new century, may we all share in the opportunity and optimism of a world at peace. Thank you and God bless America.

#

Anecdotes

General Editor

away on his travels and none of them knew his address. So they mailed a letter superscribed "Mark Twain, God Knows Where." Some weeks later they received an acknowledgment reading simply: "He did."

Compare SIR HUMPHRY DAVY 1.

16 After attending a service conducted by Dr. Doane, later bishop of Albany, Mark Twain congratulated him on an enjoyable service. "I welcomed it as an old friend," he went on. "I have a book at home containing every word of it." Dr. Doane bristled. "I am sure you have not," he replied huffily. "Indeed I have," Twain persisted. "Well, I'd like to have a look at it then. Could you send it over to me?" The following day Twain sent him an unabridged dictionary.

17 A devotee of cigars, Mark Twain was contemptuous of those who made a great to-do about giving up smoking. He always claimed that it was easy to quit: "I've done it a hundred times!"

18 Mark Twain, careless about his dress, one day called on Harriet Beecher Stowe without his necktie. On his return Mrs. Clemens noticed the omission and scolded him. A little later a messenger turned up on Mrs. Stowe's doorstep and handed her a small package. Inside was a black necktie, and a note: "Here is a necktie. Take it out and look at it. I think I stayed half an hour this morning without this necktie. At the end of that time, will you kindly return it, as it is the only one I have. Mark Twain."

19 Mark Twain loved to brag about his hunting and fishing exploits. He once spent three weeks fishing in the Maine woods, regardless of the fact that it was the state's closed season for fishing. Relaxing in the lounge car of the train on his return journey to New York, his catch iced down in the baggage car, he looked for someone to whom he could relate the story of his successful holiday. The stranger to

whom he began to boast of his sizable catch appeared at first unresponsive, then positively grim. "By the way, who are you, sir?" inquired Twain airily. "I'm the state game warden," was the unwelcome response. "Who are you?" Twain nearly swallowed his cigar. "Well, to be perfectly truthful, warden," he said hastily, "I'm the biggest damn liar in the whole United States."

20 Twain was tired of receiving photographs from men claiming to be his double. To cope with the heavy correspondence this entailed he composed the following form letter and had his printer run off a few hundred copies: "My dear Sir, I thank you very much for your letter and your photograph. In my opinion you are more like me than any other of my numerous doubles. I may even say that you resemble me more closely than I do myself. In fact, I intend to use your picture to shave by. Yours thankfully, S. Clemens."

21 "In a world without women," Twain was once asked, "what would men become?"

"Scarce, sir," replied Twain. "Mighty scarce."

22 In later life Mark Twain suffered periodically from bronchitis and arthritis. Whenever the newspapers reported that he had had another attack, well-wishers would send him prescriptions, remedies, nostrums, and elixirs of life in the hope of bringing about his recovery. He had a standard reply for acknowledging these unsolicited items: "Dear Sir (or Madam), I try every remedy sent to me. I am now on No. 87. Yours is 2,653. I am looking forward to its beneficial results."

23 When Mark Twain was born in November 1835, Halley's comet blazed in the night sky. Twain often referred to this, and came to think of himself and the comet as "unaccountable freaks" which, having come in together, must go out together. He was right: when he died in April 1910, Halley's comet was again in the sky.

UCCELLO, Paolo
painter and craftsman
under the patronage of
ings show his preoccupations
and foreshortening.

1 Uccello's fascination with drawing him up all night drawing and other figures. When he asked him to come to bed, he found it a delightful thing this per-

ULBRICHT, Walthar
German statesman.

1 Extolling the glories of his State, Ulbricht declared: "I will reach the horizon."

"That was a wonderful thing to do to him afterward. "But you never reached the horizon?"

"Of course," said Ulbricht. "I know the dictionary definition of the imaginary line which reaches the horizon."

UNITAS, John (1933-1992)
quarterback and passer
Football League (1956-1992)

1 The National Football League game of 1956, in which the Colts defeated the New York's Yankee Stadium in overtime, entered the game favoring the Colts, knowing that they had to win for bettors to win their bets. Tied 17-17 at the end of regulation, overtime Unitas led the Colts to a 24-17 victory.