

P.M. PARK

CLEAR LAKE, IOWA

AUGUST 10-13, 1949





# WELCOME

## TO EACH CAMPER:

We welcome you to Camp! Your cooperation is needed in all camp activities to make it most successful.

The purpose of Camp is to show you a good time, help you make new friends, and teach you about the Farmers Union.

We hope by attending Camp, you will gain a better understanding of the Farmers Union and the cooperative principles, thereby gaining inspiration to carry on the work in your locals and classes.

The success or failure of the camp will depend on the conduct of each of us. It will be what we make it, so let's make it a joyful place where we'll want to come again and again.

All democratic organizations have a set of rules. Since this is your Camp, you will make the rules and abide by them. Everyday courtesies and "understood" rules are practiced by all.

The Staff is to make things run smoothly and help you to make real the purpose for which you came to camp. We hope you learn a lot. We hope you enjoy it.

BETTY LOWNES  
State Secretary-Treasurer  
and Ass't Camp Director

MARY NICOLETTO  
State Education Director  
and Camp Director



## S T A F F

Camp Director-----Mary Nicoletto  
Asst Camp Director-----Betty Lowmes  
Camp Hostes-----M. Ida Rink  
Girls' Deans-----Mildred Stevenson  
Margaret Nielsen  
Boys' Deans-----Joseph Lansing  
Henry Blake, Jr.  
K.P. Captain-----M. Ida Rink  
Asst K.P. Captain-----Mrs. Claude Wessling  
Librarian-----Lucille Green  
Recreation and Evening Programs-----Betty Lowmes  
Mrs. Ira Crane  
Mary Nicoletto  
Sports Directors-----Bob Biederman  
E.C. Richards, Jr.  
Lifeguard-----Robert Hobbie

## I N S T R U C T O R S

Ruth Vogt and E.C. Richards Jr (Field Workers, National Farmers Union Education Department) .....	Know Your Farmers Union Cooperatives Farm Family Living
Lulu Evanson (Director of Education, N.D. Farmers Union) .....	Health Problems
Merle Hansen (Farmers Union Field Worker) .....	Your World Today (Thursday class)
Fred W. Stover (President, Iowa Farmers Union) .....	Your World Today (Friday class)
Mary Nicoletto (Education Director, Iowa Farmers Union) .....	Handicraft

GUEST SPEAKER FRIDAY EVENING AT FUN FESTIVAL---Lulu Evanson



## I AM CAMP

I am sunlight, a sheen on the water, a mist on the mountains, and stars.

I am a doorway out of the commonplace into a vast new adventuring experience.

I am a place where youth learns the joy of play without string, of fellowship without regrets, of creative effort that wearies not, and of a good time that leaves no headaches - or heartaches - behind.

I am a new purpose for life that will make the years different.

I am Noise - and silence with a thrill in it.

I am Laughter - and quiet resolution that seeks the comfort of the hills.

I am Energy - and the touch of loving service.

I am Youth - and the slowly emerging habits that make outward experience worthy.

I am Today - and also the Tomorrow that is being shaped.

I am Habits, Ideals, and Ways of Living, Confirmed Attitudes, in the Soul of Youth.

Because I am all these, and more, I would invite YOU into fellowship with me.

Come with me, youthful and eager reader of these lines, and I will do thee Good.

Good, that passes not away.

Good, that Temptation will not dislodge.

Good, that Time will not chill.

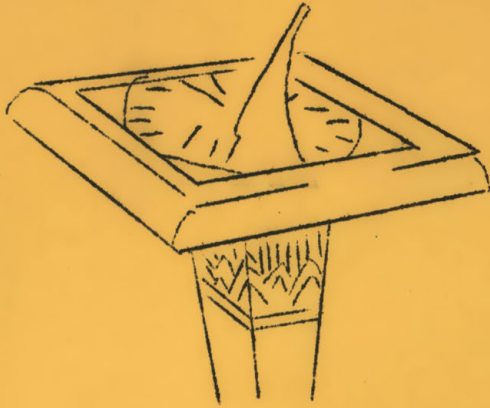
Good, that poverty will not quench.

Good, that riches will not deceive.

Come with me, this summer, and life for you will be the same no more.

I AM CAMP.

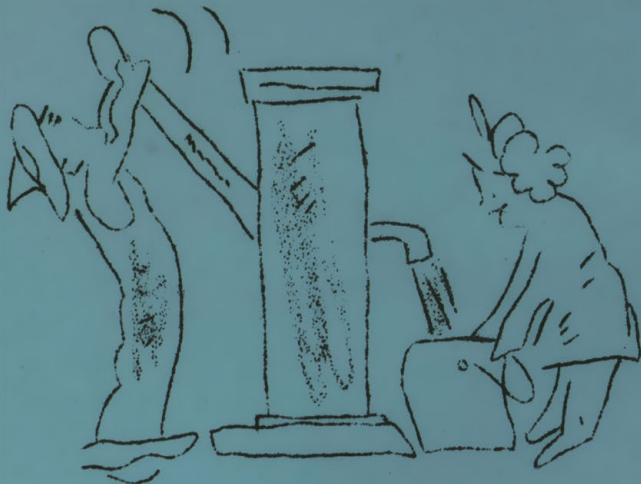




# daily schedule

6:45 A.M.....Rising  
7:30.....Breakfast  
8:30.....Assembly  
8:45.....Know Your FU  
9:20.....Recess  
9:30.....Farm Family Living  
10:15.....Recess  
10:25.....Cooperatives  
11.00.....Swimming, Recreation  
12.00.....Dinner  
1.15 P.M.....Assembly  
1:45.....Your World Today  
2:30.....Recess  
2.45.....Health Problems  
3.30.....Swimming, Handicraft,  
Free time  
5:30.....Supper  
7.00.....Evening Program  
(Tuesday --Get Acquainted Party )  
(Wednesday-Scavenger Hunt and Picnic)  
(Thursday--Farmers Union Fun Festival & Rally)  
9:30.....Lunch  
10:30.....Lights Out





## K.P. SCHEDULE

All campers will be asked to serve on K.P. Duty; that is, helping in the kitchen and dining room and with camp maintenance at scheduled hours. The main reason for this is that people get to know each other by working together, and in all camps and schools K.P. Duty has broken down barriers and helped much in the business of making friends.

Four K.P. Teams have been selected. You will find the number of your Team on your identification badge. Each team will work together all during the Camp. The Captain will see that the members report for duty and will distribute the work evenly so that it need not fall on just a few. Names of those selected for K.P. Teams will be posted Wednesday evening on the bulletin board. It is your responsibility to check the list and to find out what team you are on and when you are on duty; also, to report promptly for duty at the scheduled time shown on the chart below:

### Wednesday

Supper-----Team 1

### Thursday

Breakfast-----Team 2

Dinner-----Team 3

Supper-----Team 4

Grounds-----Team 1

### Friday

Breakfast-----Team 1

Dinner-----Team 2

Supper-----Team 3

Grounds-----Team 4

### Saturday

Breakfast-----Team 3

Dinner-----Team 4

Supper-----Team 2



## FARMERS UNION JUNIORS

### JUNIOR MOTTO:

He Loves his country best who strives to make it best.

### JUNIOR COLORS:

Blue of the sky that covers us all,  
Gold of the grain that feeds mankind.

### JUNIOR FLOWERS:

Bluebell and buttercup -- flowers of the field.

### JUNIOR SONGS:

"Men of the Soil" and "The March of Youth".

### JUNIOR AIM:

To Build...

1. A better world, by building better citizens-ourselves.
2. Tolerance and understanding in ourselves to insure liberty and justice to all.
3. An understanding of the problems of agriculture which we must face as we grow older.
4. A strong militant organization which will help us solve these problems.
5. Co-operatives, that the wealth of the farms may not be centralized in the hands of a few.
6. Economic democracy, that we may safeguard political democracy.
7. Love of our fellowman, whatever his race, creed or color.
8. A warless world.



FARMERS UNION CREED

LEADER: Because I know that as an individual I am nothing;

ALL: As one person alone, my voice is small, my influence is limited;

LEADER: But banded with my brother farmer I am power.

ALL: Just as the lone drop of water has little power, yet when it is joined with many others, becomes the rushing stream providing electric power for thousands of enterprises; just so am I, when I band with my fellow farmers.

LEADER: I pledge the work of my hands, the fruit of my soil and the loyalty of my heart to the Farmers Union.

ALL: I am proud that my hands have labored to bring forth fruit from the soil. To the organization that is pledged to the preservation of the farm family home, I, in turn, pledge my utmost loyalty that I may do for it what I expect it to do for me.

LEADER: I will keep my eyes on the goal and let no petty annoyances make me forget it.

ALL: The little things that discourage and dishearten me will never loom so large before me that the shining goal of brotherhood will be lost to my eyes.

LEADER: I will attend my local meetings and let no personal animosities keep me from mingling with my neighbors for our common good.

ALL: I will strive to be sympathetic and understanding with my neighbor, remembering that we are all kin in our mutual need. I will never let any personal ill feeling that I may have toward him interfere with my sincere attempt to live cooperatively.

I will attend my local meetings because I know that the meetings need me and I need them.

LEADER: I will support our cooperatives with my entire patronage and our leadership with my utmost confidence.

ALL: Knowing that I can only get out of my organization what I put into it, I will whole-heartedly support its cooperatives, giving them the power of my patronage. At the same time I will trust the leadership of those persons I myself have put into positions of authority, asking for myself both strength to lead and



faith to follow.

LEADER: And I will remember that greater than any man in it - worthy of any sacrifice - deserving of all faithfulness, is the Union itself, built for me and by me, my own organization.

ALL: This Union that I belong to is my own. People like myself built it for people like myself. I am building it now. It belongs to me, and what becomes of it is my great concern. It is a tremendous responsibility and a tremendous privilege. It will demand sacrifice, perhaps, but it is worthy of it, for its greatness is not built on the personal ambition or attainment of individuals, but on the cooperation of the entire organization of people like you and me.

\*\*\*\*\*

WE BELIEVE...

That we should all have equal opportunity,  
White man and Negro;  
Catholic, Protestant and Jew;  
Foreign born and native born;  
Man and woman.

That equal opportunity  
should include:

Right to worship as we please  
Right to a job  
Right to Decent Housing  
Right to Vote  
Right to

LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF  
HAPPINESS!



## FREUNDELET

Oh, Freundelet, Oh, Fruendelet,  
Pray tell me where's your home?  
"My home," she said, "Is Switzer-  
land"  
"It's made of wood and stone."  
"My home," she said, "Is Switzer-  
land"  
"It's made of wood and stone."

### Chorus:

Yo ho ho, tra la la  
Yo ho ho, tra la la  
Yo ho ho, tra la la  
Yo ho ho, tra la la la

Yo ho ho, tra la la  
Yo ho ho, tra la la  
Yo ho ho, tra la la

Oh, Freundelet, Oh, Fruendelet,  
Pray tell me where's your heart?  
"My heart," she said, "I gave away"  
But still I feel it smart."

Oh, Fruendelet, OH, Fruendelet,  
Pray tell me where's your head?  
"My head," she said, "I gave away"  
"It's with my heart instead."  
"My head," she said, "I gave away"  
"It's with my heart instead."

\* \* \* \* \*

## ONE WORLD

One world United Nations all,  
In Peace and Justice  
Working for a better land I know.  
One world with God on high our guide  
We'll banish fear  
And build upon the rocks of brother-  
hood.

We are men of toil  
Guardians of the soil,  
Blood and sweat we've seen,  
This is what we mean.

One world, one world, One World,  
Just one world for you and me.

## GREAT DAY

### Chorus:

Great day!  
Great day! the Union's marchin'  
Great day!  
We're gonna build our Union strong.

### (Solo):

One of these mornin's bright and  
fair,

### (All):

We're gonna' build our Union  
strong

### (solo):

Hitch on your wings and try the  
air,

### (all):

We're gonna' build our union  
strong.

### (Chorus)

One of these mornin's bright  
and fair.

(etc.)

Old man McKellar won't be there.  
(etc.)

### (Chorus)

Some of these mornin's bright  
and fair,

(etc.)

Crump be a-workin' and we don't  
know where.

(etc.)

### (Chorus)

WE GOT TO ALL GET TOGETHER

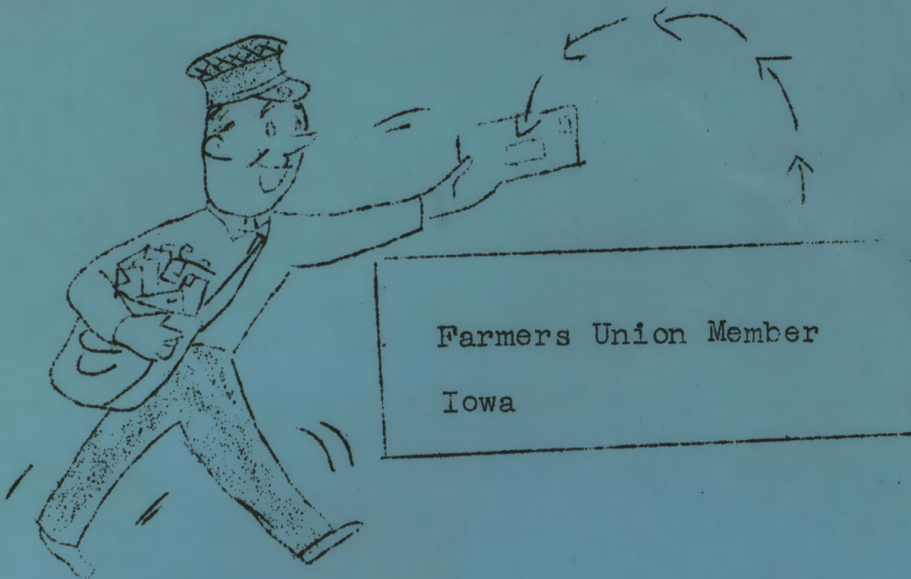
There's a farmer in the country  
and a worker in the town;  
They've got to get together  
'fore the sun goes down.

### Chorus:

We got to all get together;  
We got to all get together,  
All you hard working people  
surely got to organize.

Got a union in the country!  
Got a union in the town;  
That's the only way to keep  
from getting pushed around  
(Chorus)





# FARMERS UNION RALLY AND FUN FESTIVAL

You are cordially invited to attend the Farmers Union Rally and Fun Festival, which is to be held the evening of Friday, August 12, at the P.M. Park, Clear Lake, Iowa.

As you, undoubtedly, have already noticed in the last issue of THE IOWA UNION FARMER, we are having our State Camp at Clear Lake on August 10-13. Quite a few Juniors and leaders from all sections of the state and a staff of nine or ten instructors and supervisors will be at Camp for these four days.

On the evening of Friday, August 12, we are inviting everyone to spend the evening with us.

Our guest speaker will be LULU EVANSON, Education Director of the North Dakota Farmers Union, Jamestown, North Dakota.

There will also be a short program put on by the Juniors and Camp Staff, and a summary of camp classes and activities.

Free refreshments will be served after the evening program.

Make plans now to be with us Friday evening, August 12, for we are sure it will be enjoyable and worthwhile. Bring the entire family.

Sincerely yours,

*Mary Nicoletto*

Mary Nicoletto  
Education Director  
IOWA FARMERS UNION



PAYOR BENEFIT: IF ENDOWMENT INSURANCE IS TAKEN AND ELIGIBILITY IS ESTABLISHED, INSURANCE THAT WILL SEE THAT THE PREMIUMS ARE ALWAYS PAID IS AVAILABLE. ENDOWMENT INSURANCE IS A GOOD WAY TO SAVE MONEY FOR USE AT AGE 18 TO GET THAT START IN LIFE. SINCE THE PARENT GENERALLY PAYS THE PREMIUM ON THIS INSURANCE, HIS LIFE IS INSURED SO THAT IN CASE THE PARENT SUFFER A DISABLING ILLNESS OR DEATH AND IS NOT ABLE TO CONTINUE TO PAY THE PREMIUMS, THEY ARE AUTOMATICALLY PAID THROUGH THIS ADDITIONAL COVERAGE. IF THE MALE PARENT IS UNINSURABLE WE WILL CONSIDER THE BENEFIT ON THE MOTHER'S LIFE.

THE RATES OF PREMIUMS FOR PAYOR BENEFIT ARE FIGURED INDIVIDUALLY ACCORDING TO AGE OF THE PARENT, AGE OF THE CHILD AND THE AMOUNT OF COVERAGE.

## HOW IT WORKS

WHEN ELIGIBILITY FOR THIS AWARD IS ESTABLISHED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE NFU, COMPLETED APPLICATIONS ARE SENT TO NFU LIFE ASS'N. AND UPON APPROVAL, AWARD CERTIFICATES ARE SENT TO THE INDIVIDUAL RESERVE OR JUNIOR. ALONG WITH THIS CERTIFICATE, APPLICATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL TERM, ENDOWMENT, & PAYOR BENEFIT COVERAGES ARE SENT TO THE AWARD GROUP WITH RATES OF PREMIUMS GIVEN FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION. THIS APPLICATION WITH PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS FOR ADDITIONAL INSURANCE COVERAGES IS RETURNED TO NFU LIFE ASS'N. IF THE ADDITIONAL COVERAGE IS APPROVED AN ENDORSEMENT IS MADE UPON THE ORIGINAL AWARD CERTIFICATE SHOWING THE INCREASED COVERAGES.

THE NATIONAL FARMERS UNION OFFER OF FREE INSURANCE APPLIES TO BASIC. THE NFU WILL AWARD \$1000 OF THE BASIC COVERAGE TO AGE 25 AT THE END OF THE FIRST YEAR'S JUNIOR OR RESERVE WORK, AND WILL AWARD 50% OF THE COST OF THAT SAME INSURANCE EACH YEAR THAT YOUTH WORK IS COMPLETED.

**\$1,000 OF INSURANCE FREE!**  
**for doing F.U. YOUTH WORK**

 **ANNOUNCING**  
**The**  
**FINEST YOUTH**  
**INSURANCE PROGRAM**  
**IN AMERICA**

**For**  
**FARMERS UNION**  
**JUNIORS (14 and up)**  
**RESERVES (8 to 14 yrs)**





# ANNOUNCING

THE NATIONAL FARMERS UNION HAS NEGOTIATED FOR SOME TIME WITH NATIONAL FARMERS UNION LIFE ASSOCIATION FOR INSURANCES FOR FU YOUTH.

LIFE ASSOCIATION HAS AGREED TO UNDERWRITE THE FINEST, LOW-COST, COOPERATIVE INSURANCE PROGRAM EVER OFFERED TO A YOUTH GROUP IN THE UNITED STATES.

ADDITIONALLY, NATIONAL FARMERS UNION NOW OFFERS AWARDS TO ITS YOUTH MEMBERS, IN INSURANCE, WHICH MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR ITS YOUTH TO LEARN AND EARN WITHIN THE FARMERS UNION JUNIOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION WILL GIVE FREE ONE YEAR OF INSURANCE -- \$1000 OF TERM TO AGE 25 -- TO EVERY YOUTH UPON COMPLETION OF HIS FIRST YEAR OF FARMERS UNION EDUCATIONAL WORK.

IN SUCCEEDING YEARS, IT WILL GIVE AN AWARD OF 50% OF AN ANNUAL PREMIUM ON THE SAME INSURANCE TO EVERY RESERVE OR JUNIOR WHO DOES THAT YEAR'S EDUCATIONAL WORK AND PAYS THE OTHER  $\frac{1}{2}$  PREMIUM.

## ADVANTAGES OF THIS INSURANCE PLAN

1. IT WILL BE AN INCENTIVE TO STUDY THE FARMERS UNION PROGRAM AND KEEP UP WITH AFFAIRS EFFECTING FARMERS.
2. IT STARTS OUT YOUNG PEOPLE EARLY IN A COOPERATIVE.
3. IT WILL PROVIDE PROTECTION ON THEIR LIVES.
4. IT WILL PROTECT THEIR RIGHT TO HAVE LIFE INSURANCE THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES.
5. IT WILL PROVIDE THE MOST ECONOMICAL INSURANCE SAVINGS PROGRAM KNOWN TO US ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD! PREMIUMS ARE LOWER THAN ANY KNOWN TO THE FARMERS UNION FOR LIKE ENDOWMENT INSURANCE.

# The COVERAGES

THE NFU JUNIOR INSURANCE PROVIDES THREE COVERAGES:

BASIC: TERM INSURANCE TO AGE 25, WHICH IS CONVERTIBLE AT ANY TIME TO A STANDARD FORM OF WHOLE LIFE PROTECTION WITHOUT FURTHER PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AT THE COST OF

\$5.00 PER \$1000 PROTECTION PER YEAR

- - - - -

ENDOWMENT AT AGE 18: AT THE OPTION OF THE INSURED, \$500 UNITS OF ENDOWMENT AT AGE 18 MAY BE ADDED TO THE BASIC, TERM POLICY. THIS IS A SAVINGS FEATURE TO PERMIT SAVINGS FOR A COLLEGE EDUCATION OR A START IN BUSINESS. THE PRINCIPLE SUM (\$500 PER UNIT) MAY BE WITHDRAWN AT AGE 18 WITHOUT CANCELLING OR EFFECTING THE BASIC INSURANCE COVERAGE. OR IT MAY BE LEFT WITH THE COMPANY AT INTEREST UNTIL IT IS NEEDED FOR THAT START IN LIFE.

THE COST OF EACH \$500 UNIT, AT THE VARIOUS INSURANCE AGES UP TO 15 YEARS, IS SHOWN BELOW:

8. - 45.93	12. - 79.38
9. - 51.49	13. - 96.13
10. - 58.45	14. - 121.26
11. - 67.41	15. - 163.17

THE ENDOWMENT UNITS HAVE CASH VALUES AT THE END OF ONE YEAR, FOR USE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

NOTE: ENDOWMENT UNITS INCLUDE ADDITIONAL LIFE INSURANCE IN A LIKE AMOUNT. THUS, A JUNIOR WITH NFU'S \$1000 AWARD INSURANCE AND \$1000 OF ENDOWMENT HAS A TOTAL OF \$2000 LIFE INSURANCE PROTECTION.



## NEW REPUBLIC

Reprinted from the February 28, 1949 New Republic



## ROCK-RIBBED FARMERS

*At Atlantic City, the Farm Bureau Federation  
proved hard of hearing about the platform*

*which elected Truman*

**by Benton J. Stong**

**T**HE American Farm Bureau Federation easily can match the record of the NAM for rock-ribbed conservatism. A month after the Truman election victory, the Farm Bureau at its Atlantic City convention came out strongly against price controls, public housing, public ownership of utilities, any kind of public health program that does not meet the approval of the AMA, and announced that the tidelands-oil reserves should be handed over to state ownership. The Farm Bureau claims 1.2 million dues-paying members, which makes it the largest farm organization in the United States.

**If you attended** a run-of-the-mill local meeting of a Farm Bureau for the first time, you would be struck by the mixture of public affairs and simple sociability which seem to comprise most of its activities. After the Department of Agriculture's field agent reported on pending state and national farm legislation, you might hear reports on the Bureau's efforts to improve rural school or local library facilities, plans for 4-H Club young people's work, etc.

Depending upon the locality and season, Farm Bureaus hold suppers, and their summer picnics are often among the county's leading social events. In some areas the Farm Bureaus also have formed coöperatives for purchasing or distributing such commodities as oil. Such grass-roots activities you might expect to add up to a national organization advocating healthy, progressive policies for the benefit of the nation's farmers, large or small.

However, the Atlantic City reso-

lutions quickly dispel such illusions. Coming shortly after the Democratic victory, when the vote in farm areas had a great deal to do with the election of a candidate running on a platform the exact opposite of the American Farm Bureau resolutions, you would be entitled to wonder how the Bureau became so large and influential.

One of the remarkable aspects of the Farm Bureau is that it was built and maintained in very considerable part by people on the public payroll. That is because workers on the federally supported Agricultural Extension Service run Farm Bureaus in many states. Despite a specific and long-standing directive from the Secretary of Agriculture against such practices, they find time to run Farm Bureau membership campaigns, collect dues, keep records and conduct daily business.

The other large farm organizations—the National Grange with 800,000 members and the Farmers' Union with 500,000—point out that the Farm Bureau's preferential arrangement with the Department of Agriculture can be compared to the Department of Labor's going out to organize workers for the CIO against the AFL, or vice versa.

**The historical** beginnings of the Farm Bureau-Department of Agriculture tieup go back to the years prior to World War I. Agricultural income was extremely low. Colleges and experiment stations had learned a lot about testing seeds and new methods of fertilizing, scientific breeding, controlling insect pests and other agricultural practices. But such information wasn't reaching the farmers.

In New York State, agricultural "information" offices were opened in two

counties in 1911 and 1913 by Farm Bureau associations. Farmers, a group notoriously difficult to organize, heard about the helpful services available to them, and the Farm Bureau idea began to catch on.

In 1914 Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act, authorizing federal funds for agricultural extension work done through the land-grant colleges and universities. Rapidly, several states passed laws which authorized county agents in counties where 200 or 300 people would associate themselves together in a "farm bureau" or "farm-aid association" to sponsor the extension educational work. Julius Rosenwald, mail-order-house executive, offered \$1,000 to the first 100 county farm bureaus organized.

Development came rapidly. Chambers of Commerce and commercial clubs helped build the Bureaus, recruiting as many members on Main

### **The Farm Bureau's Stand**

"The American Farm Bureau Federation is strongly opposed to price controls and rationing under present conditions. . . .

"The American Farm Bureau Federation favors legislation which will quit claim to all coastal states' areas seaward to the three-mile limit. . . .

"We recognize that existing utilities, generally, can most economically supply generating and high-voltage transmission lines.

"We stand ready to cooperate with the rural health committee of the American Medical Association and other groups in providing better voluntary medical care for rural people. . . .

"We do not believe it necessary for the federal government to embark upon a prodigious expansion of credit for the purpose of promoting housing construction. . . ."

(Excerpts from resolutions passed December 16, 1948, at the Atlantic City convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation.)



Street as on the farms. County agents quickly recognized that their jobs depended on keeping the legally required number of members in the sponsoring association or farm bureau.

In 1919 after many of the associations had been set up, county farm bureaus federated into state organizations, and the state organizations set up the American Farm Bureau Federation. It was recognized then that the development of the associations from local organizations devoted entirely to sponsoring an educational program into the broader political and lobbying fields, had changed their whole nature and made their quasi-public status untenable.

**In 1922** a "treaty" was negotiated between the US Department of Agriculture and the American Farm Bureau Federation providing that certain proper relationships should be maintained between the public Extension Service and the private organization. The Secretary of Agriculture subsequently issued a statement to Extension Service employees, warning that "as they are public teachers," it would be improper for them to conduct membership campaigns, edit publications, sell, solicit or do any other of the work of the private farm organization.

If anyone paid any attention to the Secretary's memorandum, nobody ever heard of him. The county agents continued to enroll the members in most states. The Farm Bureau continued to grow, mostly at taxpayers' expense.

The Agricultural Extension Service's affiliation with the private farm organizations has tended to limit its services to its farmer-members. During the depression, the Extension Service ignored the plight of hundreds of thousands of poor farmers. Relief agencies and the Farm Security Administration tried to cope with the situation. The Extension Service was preoccupied with helping the more "efficient" farmers.

The number of family farms in the nation is declining. Big farms are growing bigger. The Agricultural Committee of the US Chamber of Commerce has held that one-half to

two-thirds of all the people in agriculture should no longer be treated as a part of the farm problem, but as welfare cases.

The separation of the Farm Bureau and the Extension Service, as well as the recasting of the Extension's educational program to give equal service to poorer farmers, is consequently much more than a jurisdictional dispute between farm organizations. It is part of the struggle between family-type farming and large, commercialized operation.

The building of the Farm Bureaus generally started with a misuse of the franking privilege to call Farm Bureau organization meetings. The Bureau's secret of success and growth in the forties was disclosed by the Farmers' Union in Arkansas, which amassed documentary evidence to show that the Bureau's organizational work was of two kinds. First, there were letters signed by county agents and mailed free, calling farmers together to build the Farm Bureau chapters. Second, there was a systematic solicitation of businessmen.

A newspaper story from the Helena (Arkansas) *World* revealed that chain stores in the town had taken 24 Farm Bureau memberships in one year's drive. An appeal made to the businessmen told them that the Farm Bureau functioned in their interest. A letter sent by an organizing committee to Little Rock businessmen said:

Recently we wrote you about what the Farm Bureau Federation is doing for YOUR benefit. . . . The fight which the Farm Bureau is making against newfangled, socialistic agricultural ideas coming out of Washington and against improper demands of labor organizations is distinctly for your benefit. . . . You and your pocketbook are being helped by the Farm Bureau Federation because it has influence and political power in places where business organizations do not.

The Farm Bureau solicitors were not kidding. What they claimed was true, as subsequent clippings and letters showed. After the membership campaigns were over, the Farm Bureau helped to pass so-called "anti-violence" legislation through the Arkansas State

Legislature, to help control the labor unions. Farm Bureau members received a letter and a pamphlet from the Christian American Association "explaining" the necessity of the labor controls. The envelopes were stamped with a rubber stamp: "Your name obtained from Arkansas Farm Bureau." After the legislation was passed, the secretary of the Arkansas Farm Bureau wrote to Pappy O' Daniel's Christian American Association headquarters at Houston, Texas, that the Bureau had been "pleased to cooperate" in getting the measure passed.

Such practices have not been restricted to Arkansas. The Farm Bureaus have cooperated on anti-labor legislation in many of the Southern states, as well as in California, Colorado, Kansas and elsewhere. A mass meeting was once called in Iowa, and Ed O'Neal, then president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, laid all the blame for inflation at labor's door.

"Why, in World War I the working man had a silk shirt and a quart of whisky," Ed told the audience of county agents and members. "In this war, he's got a dozen silk shirts and a case of whisky."

**For many years** the Federation has cooperated closely with business interests. The Farm Bureau opposed the Norris resolution for federal operation of Muscle Shoals although the resolution proposed low-cost fertilizer for farmers. A congressional investigation later disclosed that some Farm Bureau officials were getting money from fertilizer interests. At about the same time businesses such as the shipping interests and the chain stores were being solicited to use the Farm Bureau machinery to further their causes.

The Farm Bureau cooperates regularly in farmer-industry conferences held on state college campuses by the Agricultural Committee of the National Association of Manufacturers. NAM speakers develop the thesis that agriculture is an industry, that farmers are businessmen and their interests are consequently identical to those of



the NAM, including the food-processing and distributing industries. Other farm and labor organizations are not invited to the conferences.

In politics, the Bureau also has been useful to its allies. Last October, President Kline advised his members that farmers had found their true friends in the 80th Congress and that it would be wise to put those true friends in full charge of affairs in Washington.

In Minnesota, the Farm Bureau had a big part in Senator Joe Ball's campaign against challenger Hubert Humphrey. Large newspaper ads, signed by prominent state Farm Bureau leaders, endorsed Ball at the very time that the publicly paid county agents in the state were devoting their time to building Farm Bureau membership.

**Senator Elmer Thomas** of Oklahoma introduced a bill in Congress in 1945 to stop payment of federal funds to states where the county agents and Extensionists do Farm Bureau work. It got nowhere.

A similar measure is scheduled to be introduced in the present Congress, with powerful backing. Since the 1945 measure was introduced, a joint committee of the US Department of Agriculture and the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities has made a two-year study of the Extension Service. Its report concluded that the relationship between the public agency and the private organization is "not sound public policy." It urged the Farm Bureau and the Extension Service to correct abuses. To date, no such action has been taken.

The Farm Bureau Federation, in its annual convention at Atlantic City in December, ignored the committee's report. Instead, it suggested a Labor Extension Service exactly like that for agriculture.

Perhaps the American Farm Bureau Federation couldn't find the time to take steps to clean up its own house. From the record it made at its Atlantic City convention, it seems as if it spent most of its time passing resolutions which prove that it hasn't changed its conservative, tax-supported spots.



# PATTON <sup>A</sup><sub>N</sub><sub>D</sub> KLINE ON THE STAND!

## Supplement to NFU in *Washington*

Vol. 2

No. 2

May 20, 1949

- \* Farm Bureau Says Brannan Family Farm Plan Not a Farm Program
- \* Farmers Union Demolishes FB Argument Against Full Parity Prices
- \* Farm Bureau Charges "Regimentation"; FU Says Brannan Plan Would Not Regiment
- \* Farmers Union Favors Equality for Commodities to Bring About Shifts
- \* Farm Bureau Favors Starving Out Farmers To Bring About Shifts
- \* Farm Bureau Calls Helping Family Farmers Stabilizing Agricultural Poverty

\* \* \*

### FARM BUREAU POSITION <sup>1/</sup>

### NFU POSITION

#### THE BRANNAN PROGRAM

A proposal has been made recently to this Committee by the Secretary of Agriculture. So far it is a statement of politico-economic philosophy -- not a farm program.

The National Farmers Union is strongly back of the Secretary's proposals and urges this committee to place them before the House in legislative form.....The proposal of the Secretary can be regarded as a milestone both in the struggle to maintain and preserve the family-type farm, and in the effort to tie together the interests of producers and consumers.

#### THE AIKEN 60% LAW

The American Farm Bureau Federation views Government price supports as appropriate and necessary protection to farmers against unreasonable price declines. We want to preserve and increase the productive efficiency of American agriculture. We want to fit a workable price-support program into a free competitive enterprise system.... we support the basic principles of the Agricultural Act of 1948....We believe the price-support program provided in the Agricultural Act of 1948 to be sound and workable.

Of the other major alternatives before Congress, one would mean severe contraction of farm income. This is the alternative of letting the Title II "sliding scale" provisions go into effect on January 1st. The severity of this impact upon farmers' incomes has not been generally realized....to let Title II of the 1948 Farm Act go into operation for a year would be a great tragedy.

<sup>1/</sup> Statements made by Farm Bureau and NFU before House Agr. Committee April 27, 28 1949.



## FARM BUREAU POSITION

## NFU POSITION

### PARITY CONCEPT

The parity price approach to a fair exchange value for farm commodities is discarded. This concept has been the basis for agricultural unity for the last 20 years.

It repeals, in effect, the philosophy of fair farm prices in the marketplace which is contained in the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 and the Agricultural Act of 1948.

Parity, as I understand it, and as it has been sold to the American people as a concept, is that price for agricultural commodities which is supposed to be fair.

I know of no basis, Mr. Chairman, from an ethical standpoint, from a moral standpoint, and certainly not from an economic standpoint, by which we can justify any drop in parity for family-type farms. Parity is supposed to be parity....I know of no justification to talk about any fraction of parity.

### REGIMENTATION

It means Government-administered farm prices and farm income, with government control of all land and livestock production.

It is our belief that if a farm program treated all commodities on a comparable basis that with a few exceptions and in a reasonably short period of time we could get the adjustment of production within agriculture and get them with less so-called regimentation than with any other device that has as yet been proposed.

### EQUAL TREATMENT OF COMMODITIES

The American Farm Bureau Federation last spring recommended to Congress that cotton producers be authorized to vote on marketing quotas when cotton supplies are normal or above and the price is 90 percent of parity support whenever production controls are effective..... Farmers in the South, where agricultural income is lower, are more anxious to use marketing quotas as a means of adjusting production to market demands, than are producers in other regions. This affords them an opportunity to adjust supplies to demand before their industry is in trouble, and if successful, maintain conditions which would bring about a balance between supplies and market requirements. If these programs fail to accomplish their purpose, then according to the variable schedule, loans would decrease.

We believe that all commodities need to be treated on an equal basis in order to effectuate democratically the necessary shifts into and out of production of various kinds of crops..... a program should be worked out so that all commodities in agriculture can receive comparable treatment.....so that a farmer can see that he can come out just as well from a cold blooded financial economic standpoint with changing commodities.



## FARM BUREAU POSITION

## NFU POSITION

### FARM SUPPLIES AND PRICES

We are convinced that the level of price support should be tied to farm supplies, and that farm prices should be used in helping to guide farm production.

Without a program where a farmer knows he can work in cooperation with all other farmers, the only answer that an individual farmer could possibly have to low prices for his crop is to do everything within his power to increase production so that the multiple of increased production times lower and lower prices might, he hopes, yield him enough revenue to enable him to stay in business.

### GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE FARMER

Two principal viewpoints prevail with regard to the role of farm price supports in our economy. Some people view support prices as "fair" prices -- that is, as "profitable" prices for producers. These people appear to view the Government price-support level itself as the objective of farm price policy. If price supports are to be used to guarantee farm income rather than as a protection against unreasonable price declines, it follows that the Government must assume responsibility for determining what is a fair level of farm income.

We as farmers look to God for seasons to grow our crops. We also look to our national Congress for laws to assure us a fair price for our crops.

We farmers must have laws to protect us from the short comings in our economic system. We must have stable prices to make a living and to have the necessities of life. The farmer had much fear last year that the Congress would not give to us a new farm program to continue some protection on prices.....

There are at least four million of us farmers producing food for sale. We are not organized. We have no marketing organization strong enough to market our products on a stabilized basis. The world, and surely America, needs our food. We produce in abundance, or try to, no matter what we get for it. We believe in abundance. So after the bitter experience of the past we have arrived at the conclusion in which nearly all farmers concur -- that it is a proper function of Government to help stabilize agriculture in the public interest.



## FARM BUREAU POSITION

## NFU POSITION

### AIKEN LAW AND HIGH SUPPORTS

I should like to point out that the Agricultural Act of 1948 provides, on a permanent basis, for the highest level of price supports we have ever tried to operate in peace time.

The farmers have much fear today that under the Aiken bill farm prices may drop to 60 percent of so-called parity. We as farmers know what that means. It means losing our homes and having our families be in great need. I have talked with hundreds of these farmers and this is their feeling. These small farmers do not write to the Congress very often. They have no organization to speak for them. But I assure you that they are now and have been, living in fear of the outcome of the farm program.

### BENEFITS FOR CONSUMERS

It introduces a cheap food philosophy. It seeks to establish the principle that taxpayers should pay a considerable portion of the grocery bill of consumers.

We thoroughly agree with the theory of production payments or compensatory payments because I think in the long pull the consumers have to have some kind of a break out of this. It relates to their living costs and their income.

### UNIT SYSTEM

The proposal would place a ceiling on opportunity in agriculture. This in turn, would result in penalizing efficiency.....We view any unit limitation as a dangerous precedent -- an opening wedge which eventually would result in government supervised and stabilized agricultural poverty.

Never before has a Secretary of Agriculture in a general farm program suggested that special consideration be given family-type farmers as distinguished from large "factory farm" operators. Congress for many years has sought a means whereby its often expressed sentiments favorable to family farms could be translated into actual program terms. The Secretary has suggested such a device and principles which can be followed..... Let me beg you to use this unit system or one similar, to insure the existence of the family-type farmer. History both recent and ancient, tells us that when nations let the big farmers eat up or crowd out the small farmers, these nations fail. One of the three main causes of the fall of the ancient Roman civilization was that big, forced-labor farms could produce cheaper than the small farmers; therefore pushing the small farmers out of business. The family farmer and his farm have meant much to America and our way of life through the years and at the present time. We plead with you to make secure the family farmer on his land.



# Action Letter—

**A Guide for Farmers Union  
Leaders in Planning Their  
Local Meetings.**

## A Message To the Locals

Dear Friends:

This Action Letter is one of the most important that you as family-type farmers have ever received.

It is the last Action Letter from your national office until this fall. Our busy season is here, or I should say our busiest season, for there is no time when there isn't farm work to be done.

However, I must urge you as strongly as I know how to take two or three hours of your precious time to hold a meeting of your Farmers Union Local, and as individuals and as a group let your Senators and Congressmen know that you want a new farm bill passed this year. You can adopt resolutions, write, telegraph and sign petitions to your representatives in Washington.

Congress probably will adjourn and go home sometime in July. It does not meet again until January. By that time, unless a new farm bill is passed, such as the one proposed by Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan or the bill sponsored by the Farmers Union, the Agriculture Act passed by the old 80th Congress will go into effect.

This law, with its sliding scale of farm price supports, can mean the end of family farming as the foundation of the nation's agricultural economy. Indeed, it almost seems now that the bill was purposely designed to do just this.

Last month Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan proposed a new farm bill based on a philosophy of abundance. It would assure family farmers parity of income. It would assure consumers all the food they need, at prices within reach of their pocketbooks.

The hue and cry that went up against Secretary Brannan's plan surprised all of us, even those of us who ought to know better by now. The plan was attacked in most daily papers, hammered by the big, slick magazines, denounced by boards of trade and industrialists, and ridiculed by some officials of big farm groups.

They called it regimentation and Socialism. They said it would bankrupt the country.

But those were not the real ideas in their minds. These came out later when they started talking about subsidizing inefficient producers—a million or more small farmers that didn't contribute but little in the way of farm produce.

Mr. Brannan's program smoked the advocates of scarcity and factory farming out into the open. The big operators can make it on 60 per cent of parity, at least until they can shove a couple of million farm people off their land and into bread lines. Then they would be in the saddle—economically and politically.

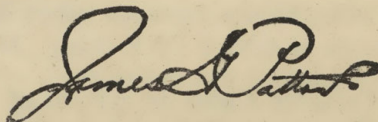
The industrialists would love this new supply of labor which they could use to beat down standards of work and pay won by the labor unions.

This fight over a new farm program is basically the fight to save the family-type farm. This year and next may determine who wins out.

Secretary Brannan's plan is a milestone both in the struggle to maintain and preserve the family-type farm, and in the effort to tie together the interests of the producers and the consumers.

It deserves every ounce of support from every member of the Farmers Union.

My best wishes to all,



JAMES G. PATTON,  
President, National Farmers Union.



America today is face to face with the question of what it WANTS in the way of RURAL COMMUNITIES, and what SYSTEM should be USED to PRODUCE the food and fiber we need.

It is a QUESTION of whether FAMILY owned and family operated FARMS, producing in abundance, shall be maintained as the MOST DESIRABLE system of agriculture, or whether SUPER FARMS and LAND COMPANIES, operating on the scarcity principles of our factory system, SHALL BECOME the DOMINANT form of agriculture.

It is a question of whether the COMMUNITY LIFE and SERVICES that were CREATED by FAMILY-TYPE FARMING shall be the PATTERN of rural America, or whether the BARRACK-ROOM and HONKY-TONK EXISTENCE surrounding FACTORY FARMS is the PRICE worth paying for EFFICIENT scientific AGRICULTURE MANAGED by a FEW EXPERTS.

If we want family farming, then we MUST have a PROGRAM that will SAVE it from bankruptcy through CHEAP PRICES. We MUST have a LAND POLICY that will ENCOURAGE it and PROTECT it from being swallowed up.

If we think it is OLD FASHIONED, UNWORKABLE and UNDESIRABLE in this modern age, then this attitude calls for NO PROGRAM, or for a type of program that won't give the so-called inefficient family farmer ENOUGH PROTECTION for him to SURVIVE. The latter is what we have now—it's the 60 per cent of parity price support system that goes into EFFECT the FIRST of the YEAR.

The big operator can make out at 60 or 75 per cent of parity, but the small farmer CAN'T. That's why such strong objections are being made to the plan proposed by Secretary of Agriculture Brannan.

Secretary Brannan's plan is what the family farmer MUST HAVE—what the country must have if we avoid a cycle of SCARCITY, reduced production, low prices, FARM FORECLOSURES and great unemployment.

Many magazines, newspapers, industrialists and even some farm officials are boldly saying that we have about 2 MILLION FARMERS that SHOULD BE ELIMINATED.

A farm editor of a conservative midwest daily paper has written that "Evidence continues to grow that there's a drive underway to knock out all farm price protection and thus 'pull the plug' on farm prices the same as in 1921 and 1932."

The spokesmen for factory farming strongly defend 60 to 90 per cent price supports and ALL the CONTROLS that go with the system. But they call Secretary Brannan's parity of income program regimentation.

Actually there AREN'T any MORE CONTROLS needed for 100 per cent than there are for 60 per cent. ANY PROGRAM administered by FARM COMMITTEES can be DEMOCRATIC, and any program WITHOUT THEM CAN'T BE DEMOCRATIC.

They say it would cost too much, but in practice it would probably COST the Country LESS.

And there is one thing we know for sure and that is Brannan's program would NOT COST a FRACTION of what would be NEEDED to buy our way out of a DEPRESSION that will come if we sit idly by and let agriculture crash.

An Oregon newspaper said editorially that "Secretary Brannan's new farm program bears a label for all to see.

"Some call it a union label, because the National Farmers Union calls it a 'milestone' in national agriculture policy."

The resemblance between what Mr. Brannan proposed and what the Farmers Union asks for comes about because of ONLY ONE thing. We are BOTH INTERESTED in the FAMILY FARMER.

The Farmers Union is critical of the Brannan plan because it DOESN'T DRAW a sharp enough line between BIG FARMING and FAMILY FARMING. We believe family operated farms should get AT LEAST 100 per cent of parity, and big operators a GOOD DEAL LESS.

But Secretary Brannan's plan CAN BE pushed through this session of Congress. However it is going to take A LOT OF PUSHING.



## **WHAT SHOULD ACTION OFFICIALS DO?**

**ACTION OFFICIALS** should all combine their efforts behind the parity price issue.

The problem of farm prices and income directly concerns not only the **PRESIDENT** of the Local and the **EDUCATION** and **LEGISLATION DIRECTORS**, but the **COOPERATIVE** and **ORGANIZATION DIRECTORS** as well.

The discussion of farm prices could be divided up among all the Action officials. You can get plenty of material from your state and national Farmers Union papers.

The **EDUCATION DIRECTOR** could bring out the position being taken on the Brannan plan by other groups, especially other farm organizations.

The Education Director also might use local home conditions to point out the lack of parity of living of farm people—lack of telephones, bathrooms, and condition of houses and schools.

The **RECREATION DIRECTOR** will find good material directly related to the parity question in the winter issue of the Quarterly Program Service on Basic Economics. You also will find several appropriate numbers on pages 3 to 9, and on 40, 47, 48, 49 and 54 of the new book "Programs with Punch."

The **LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR** could discuss the hearings on the proposed bill in the House Agriculture Committee. He could bring out the difference between this plan and the 60 per cent program passed by the 80th Congress.

The **PRESIDENT** could lead the discussion of what declining farm prices will do to the family farmer, and what a depression like in the 30's would do to agriculture.

The **ORGANIZATION DIRECTOR** has a particularly important job to perform in relation to the fight for fair farm prices. It is the best organizing issue that we have had in a long time.

A farmer in Crystal Lake, Iowa, his name is Leo Paulson, has signed up over 300, yes 300 of his neighbors, since February—mostly because of the price question.

Mr. Paulson organized a new local in his county—the first FU Local to be set up—and the Charter carried some 270 charter members. It is called **PARITY LOCAL 1471**. We got a letter from him May 3 in which he told of signing up 26 new members the preceeding week—and the farmers were all out in the field.

Every FU Local should develop now an organizing campaign. Unless farmers are organized there will be no parity.

The **JUNIOR LEADER** will have important announcements about plans, dates and places for camps. Where camps already have been held, be sure to ask for reports from those that attended.



## **One Last Item**

It comes last but it is a big one. This fight for parity cannot be won without money. The Farmers Union doesn't need a million dollars but it does need \$50,000, the **GOAL** of our **BUDGET FUND THIS YEAR**.

Our leaflet and radio expenses are running higher. Our expenses in Washington are running higher. We are throwing everything we have into the fight for 100% parity, and in our drive to organize family farmers a million of them so we will have the power it takes to put our program across in Congress.

Our members, our Locals, our county organizations and our co-operatives must make new and greater efforts to raise contributions to put the **BUDGET FUND** over the top of the goal.



*Here's Your Farmers Union*

# *Action Letter*

*for June, 1949*

## **Brannan's Farm Bill "Smokes Out" Enemies of Family-Tye Farming**

### **What to Do Before the Local Meets**

All OFFICIALS of the Local should get together about a week before the Local meeting. There are things to do. One person should be in charge of getting word of the meeting, the time and the place, to all members—send out postcards, use the telephone, send notices to the local paper and radio station.

The OFFICIALS should decide who is going to lead the discussion on the various subjects you want to consider. Plans for refreshments or entertainment should be made and someone put in charge. All these details should be worked out before the Local meets.



### **Here's a Suggested Program for Your Local Meeting**

1. June meeting is called to order by the PRESIDENT of the Local.

2. Group sings Farmers Union songs led by RECREATION or PROGRAM DIRECTOR.

3. SECRETARY reads minutes of last meeting; TREASURER makes report; all old business taken up and settled.

4. The President or one of the ACTION OFFICIALS reads President Patton's Message To The Local which appears on page one of this letter.

5. Discussion of the parity issue begins under the direction of the President or one of the Action Officials. All Action Officials should have something to say on this subject.

6. Adopt a resolution and have the Secretary send copies to your Congressman and Senators, and it

would be good to send one to Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan, Washington, D. C.

7. Organization Director should present plans for a membership drive by the Local. Divide members who will take part into teams of two or three. Many of your neighbors will join if you just ask them.

8. Contributions to the Budget Fund are still greatly needed to carry on the fight for parity and to push the organization drive. Since most Locals don't meet during the next couple of months, a big effort should be made at this time to get new or additional contributions.

9. The meeting is adjourned and the rest of the evening can be given to entertainment and recreation.