

IOWA FARMERS UNION
Lobby Plaza Hotel
Des Moines, Ia.
December 14, 1949

Dear Fellow Farmer:

Our pig crop will "wind up" at the market. BUT will we "wind up" at the "cleaners"? The livestock farmer was left out of the "Agriculture Act of 1949". IT IS TIME TO DO SOME STRAIGHT THINKING ABOUT A FARM PROGRAM.

What level of price supports or income supports
MUST we have to continue farming?

Hogs under the Brannan Plan would be supported at.....\$19.00
Hogs at 90% of parity under plan for December\$14.20
Hogs if supported at 60% under present plan for December..... \$9.47

Under the Farm Act just passed by Congress hogs will be supported at from 0 to 90% of parity IF FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE. Present supports for hogs expire next March 31st. It is extremely doubtful if the Secretary of Agriculture will have funds to support hogs after March 31st at a level which will keep the hog raiser in the business.

THE FARMERS UNION is the ONLY farm organization for the BRANNAN PLAN. The FARMERS UNION was the ONLY farm organization which refused to compromise for less than 100% of parity or for that matter no other farm organization even came up to the 90% mark. Some organizations would have you raising hogs at \$9.47 (60% of parity) at the present time.

Can the present method of supporting the price
of hogs be carried out effectively?

No. Look at other perishables, potatoes and eggs. The same thing will happen with pork. Under the present plan surplus commodities cannot move into the consumer's breadbasket. We need production payments directly to the farmer and lowered prices to the consumer such as the Brannan Plan offers and which will eliminate Government subsidies going through the hands of the big packers and processors. Wallaces' Farmer and Iowa Homestead said in their August 6, 1949 issue: "Many Farm Bureau members in the corn belt will regret that some of their leaders in the American Farm Bureau Federation have also helped to block production payments for hogs". It concludes, "If your returns from hogs should fall below support levels this fall, remember who is responsible".

IOWA FARMERS ARE LEFT OUT. Do you know Iowa farmers are "caught" with their parity down on about 85% of Iowa farm income?

Under the new law only six commodities must be supported at 90% of parity--wheat, cotton, tobacco, rice, peanuts and CORN. All of these crops except CORN are "cash crops". But the IOWA CORN farmer is a livestock farmer and most all of his corn is marketed through livestock or livestock products. Yet, under the new law, the ONLY provisions for supporting any livestock products (except milk and milk products and butterfat at from 75 to 90%) is an ambiguous provision whereby the Secretary of Agriculture may support these prices IF FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE. Congress has not made adequate funds available to support these products at 90% of parity.

(continued)

The Department of Agriculture just announced that the present level of parity on all farm commodities now stands at just 100% even.

For the year 1949 it is safe to say that parity will be above 100%. BUT are you going to make too much money in 1949? Could you get by on 60% of this years income or even 75%? There is a farmer-banker-businessman organization which poses as a "farm organization" which has consistently advocated first 60% and now a 75% flexible, sliding scale price support program. From 1930 to 1934 we received 66% of parity. The 60% or 75% flexible sliding scale is a trap door which will drop farmers into depression and disaster. The FARMERS UNION was the ONLY farm organization which stood in Washington last year and said "we must have 100% of parity--100% of equality--60% of parity is 100% wrong--we are 100% opposed to 60% of parity". THE 60 PER CENTERS WERE BEATEN. THANKS TO THE FARMERS UNION THE IOWA FARMERS WILL AT LEAST HAVE A 90% OF PARITY SUPPORT ON CORN IN 1950.

BRANNAN PLAN would give the Iowa farmer income supports on livestock--our principle income.

The Brannan Plan makes as basic crops: Corn, cotton, wheat, tobacco, whole milk, eggs, farm chickens, hogs, beef cattle and lambs. These commodities would get 100% income support.

We are sending this letter to you because the Farmers Union is going to organize around here. We have not pulled any punches in this letter and there might be some who will say that what we have said is not true. THE FARMERS UNION CHALLENGES ANY PERSON OR ORGANIZATION TO PUBLICLY DEBATE THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN THIS LETTER.

We support the Brannan Plan as the best way of getting that 100% of parity for the family type farmer. We believe we must have a program designed for the people living on the land, not for the landlords living off the land. We advocate farm income for farmers. We need a graduated land tax to arrest the increasing growth of corporate agriculture and absentee ownership. This land should be owned by the man who farms it. We support REA just as we support parity--100%. We support the AAA (now FMA) and believe it is doing and has done a real job of helping farmers through both good times and bad times. We believe we must stop big business from taking the driving reins away from the people. We believe organized people must become stronger than organized money. We believe in the little people getting together and therefore we support organized labor.

We could say a lot more, but this should give you an idea of what we believe and work for. Our dues are \$7.50 a year. We think we're twice the organization for only half the money. If you want to join before we get around to you send your dues to the Iowa Farmers Union, Lobby Plaza Hotel, Des Moines, Iowa. JOIN THE FIGHT FOR THE FAMILY TYPE FARMER. JOIN THE FARMERS UNION.

Sincerely yours,

IOWA FARMERS UNION

Merle Hansen, Fieldman