

**STATEMENT OF HARRY L. GRAHAM, LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT TO
THE MASTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE**

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, may I express the appreciation of the National Grange for the opportunity of discussing with you for a little while this morning this extremely important and far-reaching legislation which has been proposed to meet the needs of one of the most pressing problems that faces America today, not only in terms of her inward problems but in terms, also, of her relationships to the peoples around the world.

May I express the regrets of the national master that he could not be here? It is just one of those situations where one man can't be in two places at the same time. It is not because of a lack of interest in this program that he sent me. He asked me to assure you that one of the reasons he sent me is because he was interested in the program and you can judge his decision when I am done with the testimony.

We, like Mr. Johnson, distributed copies of our testimony a week ago and copies again are placed at the desks of all of the members of the committee. I do not think it would be the wisest use of your time for me to try to read this whole statement.

Mr. PERKINS. Without objection, your statement as prepared will be inserted in the record at this point. You go ahead and summarize it.

Mr. GRAHAM. Thank you.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT BY HERSCHEL D. NEWSOM, MASTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

On December 4, 1867, the National Grange was formed here in the Nation's Capital. In 1967 we shall return to the Nation's Capital for our 100th anniversary celebration and convention. During these intervening years, the National Grange has written a record of which we are proud. Most of that record has been in direct relationship to the problems which this distinguished committee is considering today. Our founders recognized that if they were to carry out their stated objectives of "educating and elevating the American farmer," it was necessary to improve his income and to sustain his purchasing power if the citizens of rural America, who were proportionately greater in number then than now, were to have a reasonable share of the fruits of their labors and the abundance of the American way of life.

We have been coming to this Congress now for almost a century, asking for laws to provide the basis for improving the income of farm people. For many years the Granger laws took the form of Government regulation and restraint upon those who would concentrate the monopolies of their wealth in order to control markets—who would reduce or eliminate competition—and thus deny to the farmer, in his wide and diverse private enterprise structure, a reasonable return for his production of new wealth, a return that would give him purchasing power sufficient to eliminate the poverty which had reduced, or sometimes destroyed, his opportunity for improvement in accord with his productive output—his contribution to the general welfare. When our cause was just, and we think it usually was; when our suggestions were reasonable, and we have tried to keep them so; when our interest rose above sectionalism, and we have tried to keep national welfare paramount in our thinking; the Congress has heard our cry and often has taken action to expand opportunity and extend the individual enterprise structure and its benefits to increasing numbers of people and of families.

History clearly records that it was the Granger movement that induced the Congress of the United States to rescue our rural areas from a direction that was clearly establishing itself prior to the influence of the Granger movement itself. That direction was one of complete dependence or materialistic concepts that had, in other parts of the world, generated a type of capitalism which, during the past century, has proven to be so vulnerable to socialism