

Roux, retired official of the Department of Agriculture, entitled "1961 through 1965, Farmers' Worst 5 Years." Mr. Le Roux, after working over there for 5 years, made the report at his own expense and I quote from his foreword.

This report attempts no debate on the state of agriculture. It simply lays out the facts in eye opening graphic form so that you can form your own opinions. By almost every possible pertinent economic measurement that I can apply to our national agricultural situation, it all seems to come out about the same. The 1961-1965 period has been the worst five years in our modern agricultural history.

He goes on to say :

No other segment of the economy has accomplished as much in recent years as has agriculture. There is no other sector that has received so little in return.

Mr. Le Roux says all the statistics in this book he has put out are directly from or derived from Government publications. He goes into some great length. I recommend it to you because it might have been written by a Republican. It was not. It was written by a Democrat, a disillusioned Democrat who quit the administration. He says the fact is, from 1961 through 1965, instead of the farmers never having it so good, the farmer never had it so bad. He goes on to say :

By almost every conceivable standard this has been the worse 5 years for the American farmer of any administrative period regardless of party in modern agricultural history.

He said :

The farmers had the lowest share of the gross national product, the lowest return on gross sales, the lowest return on total capital investment, the lowest return on capital investment per farm, the lowest share of the consumer dollar, the lowest share of the food dollar, the lowest level of parity of income, the lowest return for farmers against the Government salaries, lowest return from farming against all other major businesses.

And so on.

And this is, I think, a serious indictment of the farm program of this administration and then you come along with your Economic Report and I cannot think my people out in my State believe that in the past 6 years we have accomplished a 50-percent increase in average real farm income, because they are going downhill pretty rapidly. So are they in many other parts of the agricultural economy of the country.

So I can think there is a great discrepancy in the data and information that comes to us from the same Department of Agriculture and the Federal Government and I wish there was some means of reconciling these differences.

Do you have any suggestions along this line?

Mr. ACKLEY. Senator, we have not studied this particular publication to which you refer. I was aware of its existence from a newspaper story. I would be very happy to undertake an analysis of these views. If the author of this publication does not question Government statistics and uses them, I find it difficult to see how he can reach the conclusion he reaches on the basis of the official statistics of farm income per farm.

I think that many figures which are cited with respect to agriculture, such as its share in the gross national product, are quite misleading. It is an inevitable law of economic development that as a society becomes richer, and incomes rise, agriculture necessarily shrinks