

the national welfare and to the stability of the free world depending on American agricultural production.

We hope that future reports of the council will give increasing attention to the means that may be found within the market system or within Government programs for further reducing the inequality between the farm and nonfarm sector in terms of returns for the same factors of production.

This commentary on the report of the council is not to be interpreted as an indictment of the council or question of their good faith. It is rather a question of whether or not adequate consideration has been given to the importance of the agricultural sector in terms of our own national prosperity, in terms of our relationship to a hungry world and in terms of the dependence of the markets of the free world upon the markets of American agricultural products. The enormous amount of our agricultural exports must have a decisive effect on world prices, and the fact that we are also the largest importer of agricultural products means that we have the possibilities of great good or evil in terms of the markets of those who depend upon us and other nations similar to us for the markets for their products.

We believe that the time is far past when the relative importance of the agricultural plant and producer must be recognized and that the superiority of the American system which we already have established in this country has been adequately proven which in turn would direct our efforts toward the preservation of the best of American agriculture, the adequate protection which it needs being promptly and quickly afforded to it, and the day hastened when our agricultural producers can become a vital and integral part of our American economic life, free from the obligations that come from special favors, and fully able to require and receive for their services, a comparable return to those of the rest of our economic society.