

But let us assume that the big man can care for himself, and let us assume that you have in this bill exempted all small farmers. Now, he understands that you probably are relying upon the same kind of situation that we have at the present time whereby the Department makes determinations as to how low it is going to go, rather than writing it into the bill. Maybe you have some considerable discussion within your own committee about what figure you will fix.

But let us assume that you have exempted all small farmers, how long will they remain exempt? Undoubtedly you will tell us that you are sincere men and that you will never allow any perversion of your expressed purpose, and I would unhesitatingly accept your assurance as to your purpose and as to your intentions. But if I have learned any one thing since I have been in the Congress, it is that no one of us can rely on our continued membership. Therefore, while I readily accept the assurance of any member of this committee as to his own actions, I recognize that no one of you nor all of you collectively can give any assurance as to future committee actions or future actions by this Congress.

I think, and the members of my committee think, that the history of legislation rather clearly indicates that regardless of the provisions of this bill, that upon its passage complete control of every detail of the employer and employee relationship upon every farm in the United States will be certain to pass to a Federal board—a board which may not be unfriendly, but which will certainly be unfamiliar with problems of the farmer.

You say, and I recognize your sincerity, that you are not going so far. Gentlemen, some of you doubtless read an editorial in last Friday's Washington Post, and that newspaper is not entirely a mouthpiece for the forces of reaction. True, the Post was speaking of other legislation before another committee of this Congress, but I feel its comments rather clearly reflect my fears. The editorial said in part: "But 'temporary controls' tend to grow tighter and exceptions to rules become fewer. So in the end those who follow the paths of expediency will regret that they did not stand firm on the rock of principle."

My friends, I am imposing too long on your gracious hospitality. I have taken advantage of your generous hospitality. Again I thank your chairman and the members who have borne with me, and may I also suggest from time to time it will be inevitable that our committee will consider matters in which you will have a proper interest. Our viewpoints may differ, but let me assure you that so long as I remain as chairman of the Agriculture Committee, you will be very welcome to meet with us and to express your viewpoints.

I appreciate this opportunity, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you very much, Chairman Poage, for a fine statement. The circumstances that bring together the distinguished members of our committees are rare; as a matter of fact, they are extremely rare. It would be useful at this point, I think, to make a comment or two.

Despite the unprecedented nature of this morning's meeting, I think it is very welcome. It affords us an opportunity to emphasize once again, if indeed the point needs emphasis, the interdependent nature of our economy. You know, the economists used to think, back in the 1920's, that there was no necessary relationship between the welfare of farmers and the welfare of people in nonagricultural sectors of the economy.