

We now know otherwise. We now realize that we all rise and fall together, rich and poor, producer and consumer, businessman and labor, farmer and city dweller. But I'm happy to report that nobody is more aware of this basic economic interdependence than the Committee on Education and Labor is.

The members of this committee are not only aware of this interdependence. They have become accustomed to acting on the basis of their awareness; that is, they have come to see that the political leaders of the different economic sectors of the Nation must engage in political relations with a healthy sense of reciprocity if the Nation is to prosper.

And the members of this committee have set aside a very special place in their hearts for the American farmer.

Now, I don't presume to speak for the members of the minority side, but I do know that the American farmer has no better friends than my colleagues on the majority side of this committee and most of these majority members, I would hasten to point out, serve districts containing relatively few or no farmers.

In my case I happen to have a district of four counties, three of which are agricultural. The agriculture is very largely dairy farming and before I got this new district, I had two counties, one of which was almost exclusively in truck farming, producing tomatoes for the Campbell soup people and other garden vegetables.

I look with considerable pride, despite some criticism that I have had from my city dwellers, on my record of voting for a majority of all of the agricultural legislation.

So I do quite agree with your statement that there is a need for cooperation and there is an interdependence. There is a relationship in the economy between the consumer and the producer, in this case the farmer, and the city dweller.

Mr. O'Hara, you are the author of the bill in question. Would you like to discuss this matter with Chairman Poage?

Mr. O'HARA. Yes, Mr. Chairman, but to follow on your comments I would like to state for the record that I am very much aware of the necessities of agriculture in this country. In fact, I was trying to remember as I came to the hearing this morning when I had voted against one of Mr. Poage's bills. I seem to recall back in the early 1960's there was one bill where I felt very strongly that the producers of soft wheat, winter wheat, were not getting a fair break and I do recall voting against one of the Agriculture Committee's farm bills on that occasion. But I cannot recall any other instance. I think in that regard that I'm in the majority on this side of the committee.

We did some research on this question and I find, for instance, that on the feed grains bill in 1963 which passed the House by only 13 votes, the Democratic members of this committee supported the bill by a vote of 17 to 1. The body of northern Democrats, mostly from non-farm areas, supported the bill by 103 to 10. The wheat-cotton bill in 1964 which I recall caused quite a struggle, and I'm sure the chairman recalls that, too, passed the House by eight votes. The Democratic members of this committee supported it by a margin of 13 to 3, northern Democrats from nonfarm areas generally by a margin of 92 to 21.

The same with the tobacco bill, 13 to 3 for Democratic members of this committee; 99 to 28 for northern nonfarm Members of the House generally.