

sity for rural bankers to withdraw loanable funds from agriculture. The reason the bankers were compelled to collect farm loans at an accelerated pace was severe underpayment for agricultural raw material production.

PREVENT CATASTROPHE

To prevent a repetition of this catastrophe, we recommend that the federal government give the same attention to farm prices that it has given to civil rights, the war on poverty, tax reduction and other priority measures.

If farm prices are restored to relative balance with the rest of the economy, we can achieve a huge bonus of output and income by making full use of all of our resources and raw material, human and financial. We can provide full employment, full plant capacity, balance the budget and commence retirement of the national debt.

ECONOMIC IMBALANCE IN RURAL AMERICA

(Resolution Adopted at the 34th Annual Convention, Independent Bankers Association of America, Houston, Tex. April 6, 1968)

Whereas, the Agriculture-Rural America Committee of the Independent Bankers Association of America has for the past seven years been making an extensive study of the problems of rural America and has found that a prosperous agriculture is essential to continued prosperity in our total American economy, and

Whereas, despite the importance of agriculture, the farm segment of our economy has been sacrificed for the other economic segments, and

Whereas, in 1967 the American farmer was called on to increase production as a matter of fulfilling U.S. Government projections of increased needs for domestic and foreign markets, without being assured parity of price protection, and

Whereas, the market for the increased production failed to materialize and prices fell to disastrously low levels as our domestic markets became saturated, and

Whereas, it is now recognized that farmers are entitled to more bargaining power and legislation on this subject has been proposed, and

Whereas, the exodus from rural to urban America has caused crowded conditions in our cities resulting in extensive need in the area of public facilities, law enforcement, education, transportation, urban renewal and social problems, and

Whereas we continue to have excessive unemployment and underemployment in rural America and rural poverty is widespread and acute: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Independent Bankers Association of America urges that the Congress and the Administration give the problem of agricultural income a priority position among national issues, with the aims of restoring farm prices to relative balance with the rest of our economy; and be it further

Resolved, That the Agriculture-Rural America Committee make a study of proposed legislation to enhance the bargaining power of the farmer; and be it further

Resolved, That the Agriculture-Rural America Committee make a study of proposed legislation that would promote industrial expansion and development of rural America, and prepare testimony in support of legislation that would help to restore rural America to balance with the rest of our economy; and be it further

Resolved, That the Independent Bankers Association of America re-affirms its official position on agriculture originally adopted at the 31st annual convention on April 10, 1965, and re-affirmed at all subsequent annual conventions of this association.

THE INDEPENDENT BANKERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA POSITION ON AGRICULTURE

The need for effective action to end discrimination against the American farmer and rancher prompted the Independent Bankers Association of America to form its Agriculture-Rural America Committee in 1961. The goal of the committee has been to study the problems of rural America and to convince others of the plight of our rural people and of the rural economy.

The committee found during its seven years of study that credit has been used