We appreciate the opportunity that you have given us for the Grange, and I am sure this is shared by the rest of the Grange organization, to appear before this distinguished committee of the Congress and the Senate, and we appreciate the concern which you have had which motivated the panel meeting; of the graciousness which you have extended to us in this invitation to appear before you.

There are many parts of the President's report that we would like to talk about, but none of them, obviously, we can go into in detail in this time limitation which, I think, is very reasonable.

I would say, first, though, that the letter of transmittal which the President sent along with the report of the Council, that the President pointed out some very substantial and spectacular gains in the general prosperity of the Nation during the last 7 years.

They show up in almost all areas, with the highest number of employed people with the highest average earnings on record.

It shows an unemployment rate of 3.8 percent, a rate that has not been lower except twice in 169 months. With total employee compensation up $33 billion, and total consumer income after taxes up $35.5 billion, combined with an alltime high in industrial production with a yearly rate of growth in the gross national product of 4.5 percent, this is a continuation of the longest period of uninterrupted growth in our history.

We see undistributed profits in the nonfarm corporate businesses of $20.5 billion, and net working capital of $196.3 billion. This is after bond yields have increased for the triple A bonds by 38 cents, and for the triple B bonds by 60 cents during the last year, with total liquid assets up $47.1 billion.

These are solid economic accomplishments, but they leave some problems.

One is the relaxing of, in our opinion, the wage-price guidelines which were solidly based on productivity.

In the farm sector, we are concerned because the agricultural sector has not shared equitably in the returns for the contribution that they have made toward the total growth of our economy, both in GNP and also almost of as much importance to the contribution we make to the net balance of trade by the extremely high level of agricultural exports, which have been based primarily on the ability of the American farmer to produce in competition, through their technology, with almost any country in the world.

This, in turn, gives us another concern. If I go back for a minute in the relationship of the farm dollar to the rest of the economy, that is one of our concerns. Only the dairy industry showed an improvement in their parity ratio last year, it being up from 114 to 119. The Senator from Wisconsin, I am sure, is interested in that one. From previous experience I know of his concern.

Poultry and eggs were down from 102 to 84; food grains were down from 87 to 84; feed was down from 112 to 108, while tobacco was up to 114, its highest level.

The result was that cash receipts were down 17 points and net farm income was down $283 million, while the output was up from 113 to 117, with output per man-hour up 6 points to 167.

I wanted to particularly emphasize this one because if we are going to talk about income on the basis of production and the increase in