

Question No. 2, land retirement, it is beyond me how anyone can figure that taking all of our land out of our retirement programs, phasing this program out, and expecting to put all of this land back into production, how in the world we can think this is going to cause higher prices, I cannot figure that out.

This last year is a good example of what increased production can do to farm prices; and without some way of keeping the added production from coming on to the market, I fear that prices would be much, much lower than they are today.

As far as additional credit is concerned, with the cost-price squeeze that has been on the farmers now for several years, and continues to get worse every year, the more money we can make available to the farmer—and the cheaper the rate of interest—the better position he is going to be in. Certainly this would help.

Sure, we are in favor of Public Law 480. We think it ought to be expanded to take up some more of the additional surplus, particularly in wheat, some of the feed grains, and so on, that this country is able to produce. Why not feed it to a hungry world? It seems to me that this is the logical approach.

No. 5, I am not acquainted with the Metcalf bill, but from what I have heard here today, we would be in favor of this approach, yes, to eliminate the tax writeoff of some of our other segments of our economy that come into farming.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Thank you. My time is up. I want to come back to that question.

Before I do, if Senator Jordan will permit, I would just like to ask Mr. Shafer—I missed because I was getting something from a member of the staff—did you say you are in support of both titles of the Mondale bill?

Mr. SHAFER. I said that I was not familiar with the Mondale bill, the proposal, yet. I believe that our position would be similar to the position expressed by Mr. Graham. I think that—

Chairman PROXMIRE. In favor of two but not one.

Mr. SHAFER. From what I understand. I would not say we would not support No. 1, but we are strongly in favor of No. 2, let us put it that way, from what I understand of the bill.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Senator Jordan?

Senator JORDAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I, too, have several questions, if you will use your scratch pads again, please, and I will not have to ask them of each one separately.

First of all, would you please supply for the record a list of your membership; that is, total membership in the United States and by States, if you will, please, for the record. You do not have to reply to that now.

Do you believe that Federal spending should be cut, and if so, where and how much?

Do you believe that we need a surtax and, if so, how much?

Do you believe we should remove the gold cover?

Most of you spoke briefly about land retirement, but you did not get into what incentives should be offered for further land retirement, if further land should be retired, and how should this be implemented.