

As far as I am concerned, the airplanes go too fast now.

We have supported, in principle, a taxing program. The farmers want to pay their taxes. But our Board, last September, passed a resolution that if we are going to have taxes which the middleclass is paying—parenthetically, this is the first war since I have been in Washington, and I have been here since 1935, where the middleclass is paying for the war. General Motors and these other people with billions of excess profits, with their war contracts are profiting from this war, and I do not see why the phrase “excess profits” has not been used a little bit up here around the Capitol.

I do not see why Representative Ullman’s plan of 2 or 3 years ago to put a tax on those people whose profits were excessive since the war started, that I think would be a sensible tax program.

I believe that covers the questions.

Senator JORDAN. I asked you, Would you remove the gold cover; and do you have a plan for land retirement?

Mr. McDONALD. For land retirement, well, I thought I answered that a few minutes ago. We would be for a modified system of land retirement. We think it was a mistake—of course, the Secretary could not know—to add 30 million acres to increase wheat production.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Would the Senator yield? As I recall, you said you preferred not to take whole farms out of production.

Mr. McDONALD. That is correct.

Chairman PROXMIRE. But you would save the land retirement short of that.

Mr. McDONALD. That is correct; to make ghost towns out of rural communities.

Senator JORDAN. How about the gold cover? Would you remove the gold cover from the Federal Reserve notes, the 25-percent gold cover?

Mr. McDONALD. Yes, sir; I believe I would.

It reminds me of a story. Someone got into Fort Knox one time and stole all the gold, and they did not find out about it for 20 years.

Senator JORDAN. Mr. Shuman?

Mr. SHUMAN. Thank you.

On the first question, A list of the members by States and total for the United States? We will be glad to furnish that for the committee.

(The membership list promised by Mr. Shuman was subsequently supplied as follows:)