

Address to be delivered by Honorable John H. Fogarty, Member of Congress from the 2d Rhode Island Congressional District, during R. I. Agricultural Conference Program over Station WPRO, Providence, Rhode Island, from 7:00 to 7:10 P.M. on Saturday, February 26, 1944.

I assure you I deem it a privilege to speak before a group of Rhode Island Farmers. I was brought up on a farm, and early in life I was made conscious of the farmer's problems. My home is still the farm, and I appreciate the problems the Rhode Island farmer faces today. I have endeavored to the best of my power to cooperate with Rhode Island farmers in working out those problems.

I can recall - in my early days on the farm - each farmer was completely independent. He was subject to no regulations - and he did just about everything according to his own intentions. In those days, too, tradesmen were completely independent. Each tradesman was as it were a law sufficient unto himself.

Every merchant was in the same position. Each merchant was subject only to the economic factors controlling competition. Each class was completely independent of every other class.

Being in Washington, in these hectic days, I can't help marveling at the great change which has taken place - even in the few short years which are within the scope of my memory.

I honestly believe it has become apparent - that in this day, no group or class, or whatever word you choose, is independent of any other class, or of all other classes. We live today in an economy which depends for success on the closest possible cooperation between all members of society.

It is true that today we have all sorts of regulations on our individual lives. No one is free from regulations of some sort. Many of them are mighty irksome. And no American can honestly say he enjoys regulation of his everyday life.

We are convinced - because of the great struggle in which our nation is engaged - that that regulation is necessary - and we look forward eagerly to the day when we can dispense with it forever.

To my mind that day will be hastened - if we shall determine to espouse, here at home, the cause of cooperation - the cause for which we plead so eloquently as a solution of the world's ills; that cooperation among all men which we believe is our sole hope for the establishment of a just and permanent peace.

Every one of us is looking forward to the day when he can resume his normal life - free from all but the absolutely essential restraints. The men in our Armed Forces dream of the day when they can return to private employment or to private business and once more undertake their old pursuits - to raise a family - to build a home - to take up once again the old place in the community.

The men in our war industries look forward to the day when they can resume the lives of ordinary humans - free from worries about their sons on the battle lines - a little wholesome pleasure at week-ends - and an end to living out of a ration book.

The merchants throughout the land yearn of the day when they can stock their shelves and again invite the trade of the buying public.

You farmers - God knows you must be weary with all the problems the war has brought you - look forward to that glad day when forms and orders and regulations and inspections and shortages and allocations and hearings and appeals and all the rest of the war shackles will be a thing of the past - and you can go to sleep at night free from worry lest the truck will not finish that trip to town in the morning - or lest the feed will not be in the barn before the cows starve - or lest those two or three men will not show up to get the seeding out - or the hay in.

We all look forward to that day. Please God it won't be long in coming.

I can't help thinking that with that glorious day will come a new crop of problems - problems of supply and distribution - problems which we all saw growing larger and larger - prior to the last depression.

I have never been a pessimist. I don't like pessimists. However, I am honest enough with myself to realize that the old order changes - and none of us can ever hope

I think I should say fear - to see the old days of untrammelled competition - the rugged individualism that encouraged men to exploit their fellow men under the guise of freedom of enterprise, and drove irreparable cleavages between different classes of our society.

On every hand today we see efforts being made to create those same cleavages.

It is very easy for a man to speak to a group of farmers and curse labor for its unbridled grasping for power.

It is easy for a man to talk with a group of union men and damn the farmer for his greedy grabbing for higher prices.

It is easy to talk to consumers and curse both - as selfish greedy groups - ever demanding more money - forcing prices up - and pinching the housewife who shops in the market place.

That type of demagoguery wins applause - but it serves only to widen the distance which exists between the various groups who must cooperate if we are to have a stable economy after the war.

The efforts to win the approval of any one group of Americans - by denying the sincerity of another group - defeats the very purpose for which we believe we are waging this all-but war - to preserve the dignity of the individual - to protect his home - to make secure his future and the future of his loved ones.

Just as it was true in the day of the great Emancipator - that no nation can exist half slave and half free - so it is true today that this nation as we have known it cannot exist half prosperous and half starved.

Just as it is important that we cooperate with the people of the world in seeking a solution to the problems which are the cause of war - so it is important that we strive to effect a genuine cooperation here at home among all classes and groups - in order that we can solve the problems which are the cause of our economic wars - and which breed only depressions and the class hatred which depressions drag along in their wake.

Regardless of any individual opinion - we are all in this thing together. We'll either hang together - and work out our mutual problems - or we'll hang separately, and our children will see the day when the State will do all our thinking for us. Then we'll do - because of regimentation - what we should have done thru cooperation.

The solution of these problems is worthy of the best efforts of all of us. We cannot solve them by promoting only the interests of any one section of our society. We can't do it by sweeping off the top - nor by kicking in the middle. We must start our job at the bottom.

The little farmer must be guaranteed a fair return for his effort - just as the little wage-earner must be guaranteed a living wage. Only then can each contribute his share to the prosperity of the Nation.

If the wage earner is without money - the farmer is without a market.

The problems of one of these groups is not problems for the other. The success of one group, of necessity, brings prosperity to the other.

I honestly believe the Nation appreciates - and is grateful for - the job you men are doing. The men in our armed forces cannot do their best unless they can feel sure their families are being properly fed. That job is all yours. You are doing it under difficulties, God knows, but don't feel the people of the country are unappreciative.

I hope your problems are of short life. I hope you'll soon be able to throw the present regulations overboard forever.

The war must be won - that must be and is our first objective. If we all work together - in winning the war - we'll also be winning the first and most important round - in our battle for the future security of the America we love, more than anything else in the world.

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