

Statement relative to the Food Situation issued by Hon. John E. Fogarty, Member of Congress, Second Rhode Island District, May 19, 1946.

Both from the standpoint of Christian Charity and for reasons of hard-headed, realistic, international politics, it is vital to the future peace of the world that we take whatever action is necessary to implement the policy of the Administration which is aimed at preventing suffering and death due to hunger in Europe and Asia.

The implications of this problem have caused me a great deal of concern. I believe we must encourage the production of all food items and at the same time enlist the enthusiastic cooperation of American families if we are to approach the goals which have been set. It is my opinion that regulations which have been issued by the various agencies which influence food production and distribution - no matter how much justification can be adduced for a particular regulation - are hampering maximum production. It is also my opinion that existing shortages of various items of food are preventing an enthusiastic response on the part of many a person who would, otherwise, be willing to make sacrifices in order that less fortunate people could get enough of the necessities of life to keep body and soul together.

I have long been a staunch defender of OPA. I think a lot of the criticism directed at Price Control is unwarranted. There is still a big job to be done but new elements force us to adjust our methods of operation. The present food situation is such an element and I am inclined to think that most of the trouble here arises from the confusion which results from too many conflicting rules and regulations. I believe production would be stimulated and distribution made more uniform if all the necessary regulations were intergrated. An outstanding problem is that involving grain. Wheat is needed at home and abroad in large quantities. Barley and Corn are in great demand. The various controls over these commodities affect not only shipments to stricken countries abroad but they also affect the production of beef, of butter and other dairy products. They affect the feeding of cattle and poultry. They affect the Textile and other industries. All these regulations and orders should be brought into line.

I fully appreciate the efforts which are being expended by the men charged with the responsibility of working out a solution to this complex problem. However, I feel compelled to suggest that the problem could be solved more easily if all its phases were under the jurisdiction of one agency. I think that would eliminate most of the causes of conflict.

I am, therefore, suggesting to the President that whatever controls are necessary - over food production and distribution - should be vested in the Department headed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Mr. Anderson should be given complete authority to handle the matter. His is an old line agency. Its men and women know farming. They know and understand the

problems of farmers and processors of food. They have had long and intimate knowledge of the production and distribution of food. I have had the privilege of knowing the Secretary of Agriculture when he was a Member of Congress. I know how hard he works. I have the greatest of faith in his ability. I know Mr. Anderson will produce confidence. He will get enough to satisfy our actual needs. He will enable us to carry out President Truman's program by producing plenty and providing everyone with a fair share of that production. Then all of us will be willing to give a little longer to help our friends abroad to live a little longer.

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