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Brannan Farm Plan

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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THE BRANNAN FARM PLAN

Lately, I have been doing some thinking about the farm plan put forward by the Honorable Charles Brannan, Secretary of Agriculture and have been relating its various provisions to the operation on our own farm. It is my conclusion and firm conviction that the Brannan plan would work better than any farm program we have ever had in this country -- and for the great benefit of the whole nation, consumers as well as farmers.

I have done some comparing between the Brannan plan and the Aiken farm law passed by the last Congress. The Aiken law, passed about a year ago in the last-minute rush before Congress adjourned, will go into effect next January unless the new Congress passes something better in the meantime. I think we should pass something better and that is the Brannan Plan.

Under the Aiken law, prices for farm products may or may not be supported, and the support level could be anywhere from 90 per cent of parity down to nothing. Under the Brannan plan, however, just about all farm commodities would be supported if market prices fell below an income standard equal to about 100 per cent of present parity.

What does the Brannan plan mean to the consumer? Actually, it will save him money -- both in food prices at the store, and in taxes. The reason is that perishable commodities would be supported through direct production payments to farmers, instead of by government purchases on the open market which tend to keep retail prices high. Also, there would be big savings for all tax payers because the government would not have burdensome surpluses to dispose of -- which can cost up to billions of dollars, as already has been demonstrated in the case of potatoes.

Let me repeat that I am firmly convinced the Brannan farm plan would work better than anything we have ever had in this country -- and that I will work hard and long in your behalf to have it adopted by this Congress.
I believe that every man is entitled to a job, but conversely if jobs are obtainable a man won't work. Society should do nothing for him.

I believe prosperity is only possible if production is high and the national income is equal to the cost of purchasing its maximum production.

I believe that every human being is entitled to a decent roof over his head.

I believe there is no argument for poverty.

I believe in the U.N., a firm bi-partisan foreign policy, an mild police force, the abolishing of the veto, the creation of a real world court to hear civil disputes.

I believe that the contest between labor and employer is wasteful and that within the framework of a free-enterprise system labor must be accorded not the minimum wage necessary merely to survive, but a wage high enough to enable labor to buy the goods produced by capital.

I believe that capital should be guaranteed profits but I do not believe in profiteering.
Like the great Irish patriot, Daniel O'Connell proclaimed—"I take my religion from Rome, but my politics from home."

There is no such thing as a Catholic Communist.

No man can make truck with Communism and still be true to the traditions, the ideals, the spiritual heritage of America.

I care not for the arrogance of the extreme left or the stubborness of the extreme right, nor do I care for arbitrary or dogmatic attitudes. I do not know all the answers, neither does anyone else.
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

I'm in favor of a sensible farm program. What a gem.

He is in favor of the Hoover Commission recommendations. I am completely in favor of them. I am, with one exception, that is, I am not in favor of transferring veterans hospitals and medical facilities out of the V.A.

He says he's against socialism at home and the appeasement of Commies abroad.

What specific legislation passed by the Congress do you consider socialism? What legislation now on the books would you repeal? Why do you talk in generalities — they mean nothing. Why not be against communism at home as well as abroad and why not tell the people that you are when you say we opposed communism abroad?
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