

Political Farm Planks Are Reported

Republicans
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farmers, from taxes paid by consumers, have far from offset this loss.

INFLATIONARY policies of the administration and its Congress have contributed greatly to increased costs of production. Using 1958 as a base year with an index of 100, prices paid by farmers in 1967 had risen to a weighted index of 117, whereas the prices they received were at a weighted index of only 104. From the 1958 index of 100, interest was up to 259, taxes 178, labor costs 146, and farm machinery 130.

THE COST-PRICE SQUEEZE has been accompanied by a dangerous increase in farm debt — up nearly 24 billion dollars in the last seven years. In 1967 alone, net debt per farm increased \$1,337 while net income per farm went down \$605. While net farm equity has increased, it is due mainly to inflated land values.

WITHOUT ADEQUATE net income to pay off indebtedness,

the farm owner has no choice but to liquidate some of his equity or go out of business. Farm tenants are even worse off, since they have no comparable investment for inflation to increase in value as their indebtedness increases.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY is committed to the concept that a sound agricultural economy is imperative to the national interest. Prosperity, opportunity, abundance, and efficiency in agriculture benefit every American

TO PROMOTE the development of American agriculture, we pledge:

—Farm policies and programs which will enable producers to receive fair prices in relation to the prices they must pay for other products;

—Sympathetic consideration of proposals to encourage farmers, especially small producers, to develop their bargaining position;

—Sound economic policies which will brake inflation and reduce the high interest rates;

—A truly two-way export-im-

port policy which protects American agriculture from unfair foreign competition while increasing our overseas commodity dollar sales to the rapidly expanding world population;

—Reorganization of the management of the Commodity Credit Corporation's inventory operations so that the Corporation will no longer compete with the marketings of farmers;

—Improve programs for distribution of food and milk to schools and low-income citizens;

—A strengthened program to export our food and farm technology in keeping with the Republican-initiated Food For Peace program;

—Assistance to farm cooperatives including rural electric and telephone cooperatives, consistent with prudent development of our nation's resources and rural needs;

—Greater emphasis on research for industrial uses of agricultural products, new markets, and new methods for cost-cutting in production and marketing techniques;

—Revitalization of rural America through programs emphasizing vocational training, economic incentives for industrial development, and the development of human resources;

—Improvement of credit programs to help finance the heavy capital needs of modern farming, recognizing the severe credit problems of young farm families seeking to enter into successful farming;

—A more direct voice for the American farmer in shaping his own destiny

Democrats
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wages rise with productivity. At the same time, market prices should continue to reflect supply and demand conditions and American farm products must continue to compete effectively in world markets. In this way, markets at home and abroad will continue to expand beyond the record high levels of recent years.

TO THESE ENDS, we shall

—Take positive action to raise farm income to full parity level in order to preserve the efficient, full time family farm. This can be done through present farm programs when these programs are properly funded, but these programs will be constantly scrutinized with a view to improvement

—Actively seek out and develop foreign commercial markets, since international trade in agricultural products is a major favorable factor in the nation's balance of payments. In expanding our trade, we shall strive to ensure that farmers get adequate compensation for their production going into export.

—Expand our food assistance programs to America's poor and our Food For Peace program to help feed the world's hungry

—Establish a strategic food and feed reserve plan whereby essential commodities such as wheat, corn, and other feed grains, soybeans, storable meat and other products will be stockpiled as a safeguard against crop failures, to assist our nation and other nations in time of famine or disaster, and to ensure adequate supplies for export markets, as well as to protect our own farm industry. This reserve should be insulated from the market

—Support the right of farmers to bargain collectively in the market place on a commodity by commodity basis. Labor and industry have long enjoyed this right to bargain collectively under existing legislation. Protective legislation for bargaining should be extended to agriculture

Continue to support and encourage agricultural cooperatives by expanded and liberal credit, and to protect them from punitive taxation

—Support private or public credit on reasonable terms to young farmers to enable them

Pequea FFA Has Truck Use For Activities

The Pequea Valley FFA Chapter has received a Chevrolet 1/2 ton pick-up truck from Shirk Chevrolet in Paradise. The truck is for use in all FFA activities

Ralph Horchler, Voc Ag teacher, reports they have used the truck to take hogs and other exhibits to shows, transported projects to and from school and gone to sales to purchase student's projects

Each year a new model will be given to the school when the used one is returned. They expect to use the trucks about 10,000 miles per year

Shirk Chevrolet also supports Pequea Valley High School with two cars for their driver training course. Dave Shirk is president of the Paradise auto dealers

In America, we have the right of free speech, whether we say anything worth saying or not

to purchase farms on long term, low interest loans.

—Support the present federal crop insurance program

—Reaffirm our support of the rural electrification program, recognizing that rural America cannot be revitalized without adequate low-cost electric power. We pledge continued support of programs to assure financing to meet the growing generating and distributing power needs of rural areas. We support the rural telephone program

—Support a thorough study of the effect of unlimited payments to farmers. If necessary, we suggest graduated open-end limitations of payments to extremely large corporate farms that participate in government programs

—Take a positive approach to the public interest in the issue of health and tobacco at all levels of the tobacco economy. We recommend a cooperative effort in health and tobacco research by government, industry and qualified scientific bodies, to ascertain relationships between human health and tobacco growth, curing, storage, and manufacturing techniques, as well as specific medical aspects of tobacco smoke constituents

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