Provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Phases

of the Farm Relief Act

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(Copy of talk not available)

The Necessity for a Control Program, and
Its Application to Corn and Hogs

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If you face the economic facts today, with relation to our vast production of dairy products, other foods and clothing stuffs, with foreign markets fallen off and no outlet for surplus farm products, what would you do to improve these conditions, if given authority?

This is not a political question, as regards party politics. Certain conditions have developed during the years since the World War which were beyond the power of most of us to foresee. It is too late now to change or to turn those conditions to our own advantage.

Years ago we borrowed great sums of money from European countries for the building of railroads and other great enterprises. In turn we traded and supplied the people of those nations with grain, meat, and fabrics. We have paid back the borrowed money and loaned them billions more. They now owe us, but are producing their own supplies.

During the past decade, most of these countries have increased their crop production. They are now able to care for the millions of acres taken out of production at the time of the World War and have, in addition, developed 52 million acres of new land which is now producing staples.

It is impossible now for us to export 50% of our cotton, 50% of our tobacco, 15% of our wheat, pork, butter, cheese, and other products as we formerly did. These markets for our exports are gone. Reduction in pork and lard exports, alone, is equivalent to eight million hogs a year. England permits us to sell her only 6% of her pork and lard imports, as compared with 25% from 1920 to 1930. Germany formerly our best lard customer, levies a tariff of 15% a pound on imported lard. Italy has stopped all wheat and flour imports, and France is exporting wheat for the first time in years. Total exports of farm products to Nov. 1 this year are 14% below 1932 and 33 per cent below 1929.

In this country we are farming more land than formerly. At the time of the World War and for a few years following, when our export demand was so great, about 40 million acres of new land were developed. Improved farming methods, the extensive use of fertilizers and improved machinery enable us to produce more grain per acre and to farm more acres per man than ever before. In olden days, when a man sowed his grain by hand and harvested it