

A Program of Farm Relief

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I am not entering into these discussions with a view to win a prize. I can hardly expect that as I am no public speaker. I am here because I feel I have something to say.

I will not tire you with a lot of preliminaries. I will try to get to the point as quickly as possible. It will be necessary, however, to review somewhat the attempts made towards "Farm Relief".

Congress has spent at least fifteen years and some two billion dollars taken out of the public treasury in a futile attempt to relieve the farm situation, and the farmer is worse off today than in any other period in the history of agriculture.

I will first mention the McNary-Haugen Bill, not because it was the first attempt--it wasn't, but because I consider it first in importance. The Haugen Bill if enacted into law, would have gone far towards putting the farmer back on his feet, and I cannot to this day figure out how it could get through two Congresses when it was openly intimated by President Hoover that he would veto the Bill. It looked like a prearranged plot to me. If the President had not threatened veto, Congress would not have passed the Bill.

Next came the Export Debenture plan. The purpose was to control the local price of certain commodities by controlling the exportable surplus of such commodities. This again entailed an expenditure by the government, and the bill was laid away in the Congressional cemetery.

Then came a magnificent structure--the five hundred million dollar Farm Board, very profitable to the officers of the board, but of little or no value to distressed agriculture.

In 1932, the Domestic Allotment Plan saw the light of day, and the present plan which I call the Destruction Plan is a direct outgrowth or derivation of the Allotment Plan. Doesn't it make your head swim to keep posted on it all? It reminds me of the following riddle:

It is a little round, it is a little square
It is a little solid, it is a little fluid
It is in some respects very tall
In other respects it is flat.
What is it? I don't know.

In a press statement by Mr. Babson, the great Statistician, released January 12th, 1934, he says we would "Save". I am now quoting Babson. "The annual income of the American people dropped from eighty billion in 1929 to fifty billion in 1932." (1933 was about the same.) Then he goes on. "Actually, however, of this fifty billion, one-half is being thrown away, for which our people received

nothing in return. This one-half may be divided as follows:

Requiring only knowledge and common sense, we could save 8,500,000,000.

Under Group Two:

Requiring character and education for saving 8,500,000,000.

Under Group Three:

Requiring planning and control we would save 8,500,000,000.

A total saving of \$25,000,000,000.

Continuing Babson says, "By eliminating unnecessary waste we could pay the National and all other debts in less than ten years. (I am afraid Mr. Babson is not going along with the Administration). He also recommends a penalty for waste. I think it would be a good idea. Just think how much we would have collected for the destruction of cotton, tobacco, piggy-wiggies, etc., and we are not through yet.

Is the surplus responsible for the depression? No, the depression is responsible for the surplus, if there is a surplus. As long as there are undernourished-poorly clothed, poorly housed individuals in the United States, there is no surplus in the United States. If people had money, they would buy all the commodities on the market. There would be nothing left. Yes, you say, that's it exactly. We have no money. Why not? Who has our money?

I have worked all my life, so have the rest of you. I started on a new place, cleared the land, put up the building myself, bought machinery and livestock; and as my boys grew up, they pitched in and helped. For a while I thought I was going to make it. I am disillusioned now. I and my family have worked for a bare living all those years--so have most of you that are here today. In a year or two, the wife and I and the younger children will have to walk off robbed of the wealth that we have produced, and that by sanction of our government itself.

Why are the producers of wealth denied a share in that wealth? I will not point out the reason, and it is the reason for all depressions. It is also the reason for the fall of all civilizations since the dawn of history. Now, I am going to give you the reason for the depression. After a while I will get to Farm Relief, but first we must know what we are to be relieved from. Well, what is it? Human slavery. Yes, we have human slavery in 1934. Abraham Lincoln foresaw it during the Civil War, and prophesied that it would come. He said it would be more dangerous than the slavery of the black man. It is brought about by "paper credits".

There were no paper credits in 1865. The loans of all National Banks were roughly equal to their capital and surplus. By 1890 they were twice as much, by 1900 nearly three times as much, and now under the Federal Reserve System, credits are extended forty, and some say a hundred times more than the actual money in existence.

Credit is not money. When you borrow it you think you are getting something when, in fact, you are getting nothing.

If a bank, we will say a member of the Federal Reserve System, starts out with a capital of \$100,000, and extends paper credits of \$1,000,000, there is absolutely nothing back of the \$900,000 so extended--there can't be because there was only \$100,000 to begin with.

You go to a bank and ask for, we will say \$1,000 to put on your checking account. (You can't do it now, but it could be done during the inflation period). You sign a note for \$1,000 but no money is transferred. The fact of the matter is that the \$1,000 is not in existence yet. It is up to you to produce that amount, "By the sweat of thy face."

It is true you can check against that amount, but it is not in actual existence until you have created it by your own physical labor. You produce it and hand it over. It is a one way system.

If your time is worth, we will say one dollar per day (the majority of us are not getting that much), you sign yourself over to serve as a bound slave 1,000 days, and if you are lucky enough to get paid, you buy your freedom. If you don't get paid, you are still in servitude.

So much has been said against inflation, and those that condemn it most have enjoyed inflation since 1890. That is one class inflation, for the money class only and that, at the expense of Agriculture and Labor.

I have been trying to prove to you that we are in slavery to the capitalistic system, and it didn't just happen to come along and capture us. It isn't caused by phases of the moon or through cycles either. It is all a prearranged plot.

I want to quote a manifesto sent out by a capitalist, taken from the Civil Servants Year Book, "The Organizer", January, 1933. "Capital must protect itself in every possible way, through combination and legislation. Debts must be collected and loans and mortgages foreclosed as quickly as possible. When through a process of law the common people have lost their homes they will be more tractable, and more easily governed through the strong arm of the law, applied by the central power of wealth under the control of leading financiers. People without homes will not quarrel with their leaders. History repeats itself in regular cycles. This is well known amongst our principal men now engaged in forming an enperialism of capital to govern the world. By dividing the voters we can get them to expand their energies in fighting over questions of no importance to us except as teachers of the common herd. Thus by discreet action we can secure for ourselves what has been generously planned and successfully accomplished."

Friends, I have pictured conditions as they are. I have not exaggerated. What shall we do? Shall we acquiesce by inaction, or shall we fight the monster capitalistic greed, shoulder to shoulder? We are all affected. We can't afford to stand aloof.

I think I have proven that an emergency exists, and I will now point out the remedy.

The following six points if adopted will bring Farm Relief, and not only that, it will bring relief to ninety-five per cent of the people.

First. Repeal all present financial laws that conflict with what here follows.

Second. The government taking over the banking system. No other banks permitted.

Third. A moratorium law, giving five years to determine what shall be done with bonds, mortgages, and other interest bearing debts, the interest on which, ten billion dollars per year, is taking all money put in circulation, returning it to the money lenders; and confiscating the property of the people who are utterly unable to pay these debts.

Fourth. Opening the mints to the free coinage of all silver produced in the United States and the printing of sufficient greenbacks to put ten million men at work, at once, building roads, levies, irrigating ditches, canals and other public improvements. The money thus put in circulation, paid for by services rendered by the people, incurring no debts, and all to be full legal tender; and illegal to make a debt payable in any specific money.

Fifth. A limitation on wealth to be owned by any one, fixed as to amount, by a referendum to the people.

Sixth. Abolishing taxation by profits from government and municipal ownership of public utilities.

The government owning the banks will give absolute confidence and, forever put an end to bank failures.

The necessary amount of money put in circulation to meet the first month's payrolls, would be back deposited in the banks, in time to meet the second month's payroll.

Ten million men at work receiving \$3.00 per day would be thirty million dollars per day. For a month of twenty-five days, seven hundred fifty million dollars, in two or four payrolls per month. Add to this fifty million dollars per month for material and you have eight hundred million dollars per month; with practically all of it back in the banks in time to use it to meet the payrolls of the second month. A revolving fund. With the money thus paid to labor going in circulation among all the people creating general prosperity at once. It would not mean inflation, as generally understood, but a normal amount of money for the functioning of business, society and civilization.

As the salvation of civilization this law is imperative. On the one hand is Shylock demanding his pound of flesh, with utter ruin to the human race. And on the other hand is the happiness and contentment of the human race here on earth!