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BASIC PRINCIPLES
for which

FARMERS MINUTEMEN OF NEBRASKA

stand associated and believe can be realized through NON-partisan, NON-commercial, and NON-profit organization.

Farmers Minutemen of Nebraska are organized under the laws of Nebraska as a non-commercial, non-profit, and non-political organization. Its membership is made up of actual farmers and businessmen who realize the source of their income comes from the farm. Its administrative business is conducted by a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, and one Director from each of the five Congressional Districts.

In striving for the achievement of the principles of the Farmers Minutemen of Nebraska, we realize that we have men in every locality who recognize that through unity of organization farmers will more nearly command their share of the National income but, until that command comes, farmers must continue to accept whatever payments for their labor that speculation deals out to them, and pay for their necessities of farm and home whatever price organized capital, industry, and labor charges them.

It is the purpose of the Farmer Minutemen of Nebraska to organize such men in each locality, thereby concentrating brains and backbone enough for the purpose of thinking out that which is best for farmers' interests and concentrating their best efforts on how to get action. It is a further purpose of the Farmers Minutemen of Nebraska to affiliate with any and all other farmers' organizations that are making efforts to get the same results that we are and, through our combined efforts, achieve the most that we can for the most possible number and regardless of who gets the credit.

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH WE STAND

1. Agricultural income derived on a basis of "cost over production" and not "volume over needs".

2. Parity prices based on ample production and not over-production, and not dependent on sympathetic deficiency payments from the public treasury. Production prices must stand on the cost of production, plus a reasonable profit.

3. Payments from public funds to be made for soil conservation benefits which are justifiable because soil conservation guarantees future support to the public treasury.

4. Continuance of and improvement on the several different farm programs which have proven a benefit to farmers' interests, including the stabilization of farmers' markets through commodity loans, and the improvement of farm homes through rural electrification.

EXPLANATION OF PRINCIPLES

1. When agricultural income must be increased by excessive volume, it tends to lower the price without reducing the cost. Two bushels produced where only one is needed forces both bushels to be sold for the price one should sell for, and speculation takes advantage of the situation. Allotments to take care of consumption's demands and a reasonable carry-over for drouth or flood years assures stabilized prices to both producer and consumer.

2. Legitimate market price to meet the cost of production, plus a reasonable profit, need not be made from public funds, subjecting the farmers' income to the whims of legislation. To follow the example of all other well organized manufacturers, by building for the market's demands and demanding a reasonable profit on the cost of article offered for sale, is practical "parity payments".

3. Conservation of the soil's fertility is the duty of any well organized government for the purpose of insuring its own support through the support of its people in generations to come. No Government is stronger than the strength of its natural resources; consequently, to preserve natural resources not needed in this generation for the use of the next generation is a governmental duty and payments for the same conservation is justifiable.

4. Congressional action in making certain programs available to rural people are to be commended, maintained, and improved on. Rural electrification, wherein it is possible to have the benefits of electricity in farm homes at a cost of distribution encourages farmers to modernize their homes. Agricultural Adjustment Act which balances production to the needs of consumption and, through commodity loans, stabilizes prices to producers as well as consumers and discourages speculation with the proceeds of the

5. Re-adjustment downward of farm mortgage valuations to a point where the actual income from the farm can hope to liquidate the debt and at the same time furnish a decent living for the family who must live with the debt while they are paying it.

6. Re-arrangement of agricultural credits and reduction of interest rates that will encourage individual ownership of farms by operative farmers, through legislative action which will put agricultural interests on an equality in borrowing and repaying with industry.

7. Further development of farmer leadership through encouragement of farmers to continue to administer their own programs through democratic elective and not bureaucratic selective administrators.

8. Encourage farmers to stand as a body on legislative affairs which benefit their best interests and regard farmers' best interests as their politics.

9. A realization that farmers are justly entitled to the benefits of many comforts of a home which they produce for others but never have for themselves, some of which can be obtained through organization for a fair share of the agricultural income.

5. Many farms were valued unreasonably high during the 1918-20 inflation period. Debts incurred against that valuation should be revalued to meet the farm's ability to permit some hopw of liquidating the debt during the debtors active lifetime and furnish a decent living for his family while he is giving his best efforts to meet the demands of the obligation.

6. When farm prices are stabilized through commodity loans and all hazard insurance reduces losses from crop failures, land valuations should not radically change over a period of years; therefor, rural credits should be recognized as par with any, and interest rates should be as low as industry pays.

7. It has been proven that farm leadership is capable of directing farm interests but we recognize that too few farmers have confidence in their own ability as leaders; therefor, it is our hope to develop more leadership by calling for more farmers to represent farmers' interests in matters of legislation and administration of all bodies governing farmers' interests.

8. Until such time as farmers realize that partisan politics are only "monkey wrenches" handed to them to be thrown at each other in order to scatter their efforts in legislative matters, farmers will be used by politicians to defeat their own purposes. When farmers' best interests are their politics, laws concerning farmers interests will be made and enforced for them instead of against them.

9. Every town and city in a ny farming area shows the accumulation of wealth through substantially built business blocks, fine homes with modern lighting, heating, and sanitation and their business heads and office help have the privilege of shorter and more regular hours than farmers, yet it all must be maintained from the labor applied to the soil by the farmer. Is it because there are too many farmers or are they too dumb to share in the wealth which they create for others but never have for themselves.

10. An understanding that farmer people have always made their homes and spent their active life on their farms and hope to return to a better fulfillment of a hope of an institution that began with Time itself.

We believe that farmers realize now more than ever before that through their own efforts they must protect their own interests.

We believe that farmers can attain these objectives through an organization working collectively for them and when any or all of these objectives are permanently assured, farmers will be stronger factors in helping to build a more prosperous country, town, and city.

We believe that to achieve any, or all, of these objectives is possible and within the reach of farmers, and will not inconvenience any legitimate business.

We believe that agriculture is the creative power behind all prosperity and that to limit the sharing of the prosperity to few, instead of a fair distribution to many, works a hardship on all.

10. Conditions over which farmers have had little or no voice in bringing about have forced farm home after home to be vacated, the buildings to stand empty or torn down, and the land farmed under tenancy or hired by one who lives in town and never contributes to that country home life which was the very foundation of hopes of the founders and protectors of our democracy.

With thirty million people engaged in American agriculture and only 11% of them organized for their own interests, is it any wonder that farming is a hand to mouth business?

With bankers organized for the protection of money interests, and farmers one of their largest customers, can 11% of us speak loud enough to have any voice in rural credits and reasonable interest rates?

With industrial manufacturers organized to control prices of their products of which we are heavy buyers, can we hope to help set the cost of our production?

With Labor organized to get their share of the National income, are we in position to say their share is too high when compared to that portion we get for our labors?

The answer to all these questions is not to fight any organization, but to organize our own efforts to protect our own interests.

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