

policy with underdeveloped countries if workers adversely affected by imports were protected against financial loss and retrained for as good or better jobs. Union households were no more protectionist on trade issues than non-union households. Strong public support therefore is possible on specific issues where the interests of developing countries are not regarded as conflicting with domestic needs.

**Responsiveness of Public Opinion to New Information.** The survey results show that unawareness and misinformation account for some of the negative opinion and for a large share of the uncommitted opinion on U.S. assistance to the poor countries. For example, when respondents learned that 95 percent of the world's poor live outside the United States, they were willing to allocate more for overseas poverty programs than they were before having been made aware of this fact.

**Public Opinion on Importance and Credibility of Various Sources of Information on World Poverty and Development.** The survey results show that Americans—both those informed and uninformed on poverty and development issues—consider television the single most important source of information on world problems. Newspapers, radio, school, books, and magazines were rated next in importance and reliability among the thirteen information sources that respondents were asked to rank in terms of these two criteria. The churches, pamphlets and newsletters, and special meetings ranked lowest on the list.

# FERDIE DEERING'S VISION COMMENDABLE

## HON. PAUL FINDLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Tuesday, December 11, 1973

Mr. FINDLEY. Mr. Speaker, as a rural newspaper editor, I have the highest regard for one of my fellow farm journalists, Mr. Ferdie Deering, who is well-known as editor of the Farm-Stockman magazine and for his regular column which appears in the daily Oklahoman in Oklahoma City.

The recent announcement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture establishing U.S. Agricultural service centers at the local level throughout the country in order to provide one-stop service to farmers, ranchers, and rural residents makes Ferdie Deering look like a genuine prophet. In 1945 in a book entitled "USDA—Manager of American Agriculture," Mr. Deering recommended doing exactly what the Department of Agriculture now proposes to do with the establishment of these service centers.

As explained by Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz, these centers will bring together at one location the services of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, Soil Conservation Service, and Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. These four agencies together have some 7,800 local offices throughout the country. While most of these county-level offices are located near one another—and sometimes in the same building—a farmer has to run from one place to another to do business with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

When Ferdie Deering looked into this problem in 1945, here is what he said:

Local representatives of USDA should have no option except to work together to serve the farmers. These local functions should be grouped under a single administrative officer in the county, who would be responsible to the farmer committee. Thus the workers would have time to serve the farmer instead of spending most of their time administering. All offices should be grouped at a central location, so that farmers will not have to visit five or six places to transact their business with government farm agencies.

Elsewhere in the same book Mr. Deering also said:

When representatives of these various offices go to see the farmer on his farm, one to advise him on one phase, one to discuss another, and then he has to go to town to a couple of different offices to see about something else, all in the USDA operations, the farmer is apt to say: "To heck with it all. I'll just go along and do the best I can as I have been doing."

As far back as 1945, interviews with people who used the services of the Department of Agriculture indicated that the majority of them felt "that USDA is too complicated, too confusing, and too clumsy in its present organization. They would like to see it continue its needed services to the farmer but work in a manner that will minimize duplication of effort, and overlapping of authority and eliminate unnecessary functions and controls."

In that book Mr. Deering pointed out that a report had been prepared by the USDA Office of Plant and Operations with the help of State and county agricultural interest from 36 States. This report said that in a great majority of our 3,074 counties there were representatives of from 4 to 12 of the agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The report said that available space was generally inadequate and unsuitable and that offices of the several agencies were usually widely separated and all too frequently poorly housed in basements of public buildings or in lofts over grocery stores or garages.

Now some of this has been corrected. In 1951 Secretary Brannan initiated a move to bring together the offices of the old Production and Marketing Administration and the Soil Conservation Service. Eleven years later in 1962 the Secretary of Agriculture issued a memorandum calling for co-location of county offices. As a result some co-location was achieved in 54 percent of the counties where USDA has offices. This new program to establish service centers is a revitalization of that same program but this time gave it national implementation and support.

Mr. Deering in his book of 1945 said that a center of the type proposed in this latest program—

Would do more than any other one thing to consolidate the efforts of the Department in a unified working program. It would provide the farmer a center for information and service that would mean greatly increased farmer participation in all agricultural programs.

These thoughts were put together by a man who thoroughly believes in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In fact, he stated elsewhere in his book:

I believe in the work of all these agencies and think their work should be carried on. I do not like to see some evidences of petty jealousies and do not like lost motion and extra expense due to lack of co-ordination of effort.

These prophetic words have provided the Department of Agriculture with good direction for its present program. The Secretary of Agriculture has announced that State administrative committees composed of the heads of these four agencies will develop plans for each State to establish these agricultural service centers at the local level. Their aim is just what Mr. Deering envisioned, to provide better service to farmers and people in rural America. There is no sinister effort to wipe out jobs and services. The program is just what Mr. Deering recommended 28 years ago. I understand that the chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture has been trying to get something like this done for 30 years and I think it is time that something is done.

I commend Mr. Deering's book and his vision to all Members of this body.

## OUR NEW VICE PRESIDENT

### HON. PHILIP E. RUPPE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Tuesday, December 11, 1973

Mr. RUPPE. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday's confirmation of GERALD R. FORD as Vice President was not only a great day for the Vice President's home State of Michigan, but for the entire Nation as well. The Evening News of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., has noted this fact with a most perceptive editorial about the strengths which GERALD FORD brings with him to the Office of the Vice-Presidency. I would like to share The Evening News editorial with my colleagues today:

#### OUR NEW VICE PRESIDENT

Today Gerald R. Ford will be sworn in as vice president of the United States. This is a historic occasion. Importantly, it is one that could give some renewed strength to our belief in the integrity and effectiveness of our government.

During the past two years we have seen two candidates for our second highest elective office be less than open with the public, let alone with their own political associates.

For the first time in the history of the country we will have a vice president who has experienced a grueling examination of his qualifications and fitness to hold that office. These examinations have taken place in open meetings of the authorized committees of the United States Senate and House. They have taken place after weeks of presumed detailed investigation by various agencies of the federal government.

Gerry Ford responded openly to all questions, methodically, thoughtfully and with tolerance.

At the same time during the past weeks, a series of events have occurred which will affect all of our lives for years. If these had not been receiving first attention in the news, probably we would all have been much more aware of the steadiness and candid qualities of Gerald Ford during the time of

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