

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON

February 20, 1974

Mr. Ferdie J. Deering  
Editor, Farmer-Stockman  
500 North Broadway  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125

Dear Ferdie:

Thanks a million for your thoughtfulness in giving me a copy of "USDA--Manager of American Agriculture," which you authored in 1945.

I look forward to reading this. I am sure many of the ideas in that will be applicable today.

But more than that, I appreciate your giving me a copy of what must now be a very limited supply.

Ferdie, we appreciate the great leadership you have given to Agriculture through the years, as well as leadership you continue to give.

With warm personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Earl", with a stylized flourish at the end.

EARL L. BUTZ

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON

February 22, 1974

Mr. Ferdie J. Deering  
Editor, Farmer-Stockman  
500 North Broadway  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125

Dear Ferdie:

This letter is dictated after the one I dictated earlier thanking you for your book "USDA - Manager of American Agriculture."

Over the week end I read your book.

Ferdie, great parts of that are just as applicable today as they were when you wrote it. Indeed, I'm going to ask some of my staff to read it -- particularly those who are concerned with our current efforts to consolidate our field offices into one-stop service centers.

You very wisely pointed out as long ago as 1945 that this very badly needed to be done. I regret to say that not enough progress has been made on this front in the intervening thirty years. And it's not going to be easy to do it now.

There is another obstacle to effective organization of the Department of Agriculture -- or of any governmental department for that matter. I feel you gave it insufficient attention in your book. And that's the Congress.

2--Mr. Ferdie J. Deering--2/22/74

At the present time we are having to go before Committee Hearings to explain our efforts to consolidate field offices. Pressure develops in the field against any change, especially that that might involve consolidation of offices, combination of functions, and of course elimination of personnel. That pressure comes before Congressmen, and they in turn want to have public hearings on it. That means we have to go slower than we had initially contemplated, and indeed slower than we should.

This pressure has always been present, but I think it goes worse as time passes.

Ferdie, may I tell you again how much I enjoyed being with you. And I doubly appreciate your giving me a copy of the book now that I have read it.

With every good wish, I am,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Earl".

EARL L. BUTZ