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NOTE TO EDITORS: The following abstract of an address on Agriculture to be delivered by United States Senator Harry S. Truman of Missouri at New Franklin, Howard County, Mo., Thursday night, June 27th is for automatic release in newspapers dated Friday, June 28th, 1940.



Truman for Senator Executive Campaign  
Committee

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NEW FRANKLIN, MO., JUNE 27-- United States Senator Harry S.

Truman told the Howard County Young Democratic Club tonight that his work as a member of the Senate Agricultural Sub-Committee convinced him that the gradual abolition of farm tenancy demanded immediate attention and reviewed the wide scope of relief afforded agriculture by the New Deal.

Tonight's address was the first campaign speech delivered by Senator Harry S. Truman since the formal opening of his campaign for renomination at the Sedalia rally, June 15, which has been described as the largest and most enthusiastic Democratic rally ever held in Missouri. Senator Truman has remained in Washington because of the national emergency occasioned by the European crisis, and he is in Missouri now only because of the week's recess of Congress. Convinced that Missouri sentiment is overwhelmingly in favor of American preparedness and non-entry into war, Senator Truman will be back at his desk in Washington, when the Senate reconvenes, next Monday.

"I have no intention of neglecting my duty as a Senator from Missouri even though a political campaign is under way," he emphasized.

"No nation, whether agricultural, mercantile, or industrial, has yet emancipated itself from the soil," Senator Truman told his audience here. "Man has not reached the point where he can live abundantly and virtuously in stone and macadam, clustered around elevator shafts, in the midst of a synthetic flora and fauna created by the captains of industry. Humanity cannot leave the land, and for this reason the men of the soil limit the level to which a civilization may rise.

"Our present Administration realizes this point and has done more for the farmer in the past seven years than any other Administration at any time -- Democratic or Republican. In the very early years of the Roosevelt Administration, the plight of the farmer was one of the first problems to be considered. The primary need was

more money for the farmer. The prosperity of the farmer depends upon the relation of the prices he obtains for his produce to the prices which he has to pay for the things he needs.

"Always the story of the downfall of nations has been connected with failure to conserve the soil. A nation's land is its greatest resource. When we ruin the soil, we ruin the nation. Men, who have studied the problem, find that a worn-out soil is followed closely by a depleted citizenship.

"With very few exceptions it has been found that marginal lands are held by marginal people and sub-marginal lands by sub-marginal people. Permit the soil to deteriorate, and proportionately the quality of citizenship will do the same.

"By 1930 more than 100,000,000 good American acres were seriously damaged by erosion. To meet this situation, the present Administration passed legislation establishing a national farm program. Through the Agricultural Adjustment Administration this legislation gave the farmers the help they needed in their fight to save the nation's soil.

"1938, the last year in which complete records are available, shows that farmers in cooperation with the AAA shifted more than 30,000,000 acres from soil-depleting crops to soil-conserving crops such as alfalfa, and clover. They terraced 400,000 acres to stop run-off and applied five and one half million tons of fertilizer and lime."

Taking up the problem of foreign tenancy, the Senator, who worked with his father on their farm from 1906 until he entered service in the World War and rose to the rank of Major, continued:

"From my work on the Agricultural Sub-Committee during the past five and one half years, I know that in addition to the efforts toward greater equality of income for agriculture as a whole and for effective conservation of natural resources, special attention has been given to the problems of rural poverty and tenancy.

"In my mind the gradual abolition of farm tenancy should be given immediate attention. Since the beginning of our country the typical farmer has owned his land and cultivated it with the aid of his own sons and a few hired hands. I, for one, along with the rest of the Administration, do not wish to see this type of farmer supplanted by one who holds his land as a tenant. I do not wish to see the farmers absorbed by the big land holders to the detriment of our best farming interests. The tenant farmer should be encouraged through a liberal system of credit to buy his own land.

The tenant farmer generally takes too much out of the soil and puts in as little as he can. The result is a falling off of production from that serious cause I mentioned earlier -- deterioration of the soil.

"I favor maintaining the traditional type of farmer -- the man who owns the land he lives upon. To do this, it is the duty of Congress to make the farmer's life as attractive and comfortable as possible. With pardonable pride I say that my every effort has always been in this direction. The man who owns the land and tills it is the man who stands for good government, conservation, the rights of property, law and order -- in fact, for those basic principles which give a nation stability and life.

"The Farm Security Administration in cooperation with various departments and committees has done much toward increasing interest in agriculture and taking intelligent steps to remedy discontent. The increase in urban population at the expense of rural and agricultural means unrest, increased cost of living, and diminished stability. We must give the agricultural class the attention it deserves."

Senator Truman quoted statistics showing that in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1939 expenditures for related farm programs amounted to 8 per cent of the total Federal budget. Unemployment relief accounted for 29 per cent in 1939 and National Defense 12 per cent.

"In some quarters there are complaints about the tremendous amount of money this program has cost," he added, "but such complaints can only be the cries of unscrupulous politicians, who will use any issue to aid their cause even though it may mean suffering and misery to thousands. To the farmer the issue is not political; it is concrete aid which he so sorely needs."

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