

Representatives of the Congress of the United States, and to each of the Senators and Representatives from the State of Minnesota in the Congress of the United States.

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RESOLUTION No. 7—H. F. No. 49

*A concurrent resolution memorializing the United States Congress for fair and firm farm price supports.*

WHEREAS, Minnesota is the fifth highest state in value of farm products sold, because the farm families of this state produce such a large part of the nation's livestock, milk, poultry, grains and oilseeds, their sales ranking second in oil crops, third in poultry and eggs, fourth in feed crops, fifth in meat animals and in dairy products, and fifteenth in food grains; and,

WHEREAS, the well-being and prosperity of all the citizens of this state depend more upon the purchasing power of the farmers of this and neighboring states than upon anything else as has been proven during the past eight years in contrast to the depression years when farm commodity prices were not in balance; and,

WHEREAS, farmers by greatly increasing their equipment so as to produce more efficiently have thereby made themselves much more vulnerable to the high fixed costs charged by their suppliers, who in the past have enforced these costs by restricting production; and,

WHEREAS, farmers cannot discharge their labor force and shut down their farm plant and consequently cannot maintain a fair price unless aided by their government; and,

WHEREAS, it has been the policy of this nation to try to help farmers maintain fair prices so that farmers would be able to buy the necessary goods and provide services for operating their farms efficiently and for improving their standard of living; and,

WHEREAS, by federal law an attempt has been made to provide a standard by which fair parity prices may be determined and maintained through government-backed loans

or purchases which have been in use and of great practical value to farmers during these years; and,

*WHEREAS, greatly reduced farm income will surely be the first step into a depression, with tremendous and far-reaching effects on our economy;*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we the members of the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, hereby do urge the Congress of the United States, in its present session and without delay:

First, to provide a new formula for ascertaining the true parity price of the various agricultural commodities which will accurately reflect modern farming costs;

Second, to provide levels of price supports, based on such a modern standard, which together with conservation payments will maintain farm purchasing power at parity;

Third, to restore price supports for next year and the following years for dairy products, poultry, eggs, hogs, soybeans and flax seed;

Fourth, to provide adequate means so that such price supports may be fully effective, by providing storage facilities to qualify for and carry out the commodity loan program by construction of such facilities on the farm, by providing a depreciation period within which to charge off the cost of the storage facility as has been done in defense and war plant facilities, purchase agreements, new outlets and new uses for agricultural commodities, including consideration of the International Wheat Agreement, at least on such portion of the several products which are consumed domestically;

Fifth, to keep these programs under unified federal direction and administered by farmer-elected committeemen;—all to the end that equitable farm purchasing power be maintained as a permanent and essential need of all our people.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State be and he is hereby instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each member of Congress from the State of Minnesota.