

**The original documents are located in Box 43, folder “1975/04/14 - Republican Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee” of the James M. Cannon Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

5PM - Meeting with Senator Bob Dole  
and Minority Members of Senate Agr.  
and Forestry Commission - Friedersdorf  
Monday, April 14, 1975

Oval Office - President

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 14, 1975

MEETING WITH REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF  
THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Monday, April 14, 1975

5:00 p.m. (30 minutes)

The Oval Office

Through: Max L. Friedersdorf *m.l.f.*

From: William T. Kendall *WTK*

I. PURPOSE

To meet with five Senators to discuss the pending farm legislation

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background: Senator Dole called to request a meeting to discuss the farm bill which is presently in conference. Senator Dole knows the President is opposed to the bill but wants to talk to the President about it. Senator Bellmon also called. He and Senator Young feel strongly that the bill does not go far enough. We have informed all conferees that the President will veto the bill in its present form.

B. Participants:

Senator Dole  
Senator Young  
Senator Curtis  
Senator Bellmon  
Senator Helms  
Max Friedersdorf, staff  
William Kendall, staff

C. Press Plan: Meeting announced. David Hume Kennerly photo only.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. There is a legitimate concern about farm earnings and food supplies now that farm prices have receded from record levels, and farm production costs have mounted. I am concerned. Farmers are concerned. And you are concerned.

2. Farmers and consumers alike should resist with all their might any attempt to slide back into the outmoded, thoroughly discredited farm policies of the past.
3. Farmers and consumers alike need to understand that these former policies were responsible for the disastrous failures of the past; that unless we exercise good judgment in resisting a revival of such policies, we will create an even more disastrous economic failure in the future.
4. I believe in reasonable earnings for farmers and in reasonable food prices for consumers. The question is: Will price relationships be allowed to work themselves out through the intelligent guidance of millions of decisions made by buyers and sellers daily--or will the Government decide what farmers' earnings will be and what price level consumers must pay?
5. If the Government makes the decisions, experience shows that we will have a cheap food policy that in the long run will serve neither farmers nor consumers.
6. I am adamantly opposed to disruptive modifications in present agricultural policy which would rescind the decision-making freedom restored to farmers by the Agricultural Act of 1970 and strengthened by the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973.