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James O. Eastland Executive Branch Correspondence

10-14-1977

Senator James O. Eastland; Herman E. Talmadge; Bob Dole; George McGovern; James B. Allen; Milton Young; Jesse Helms; Patrick Leahy; Henry Bellmon; S.I. Hayakawa; Carl T. Curtis; Richard Lugar; John Melcher; & Dick Clark to President Jimmy Carter, 14 October 1977

James O. Eastland Herman E. Talmadge Robert J. Dole

George S. McGovern

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WU INFOMASTER

EASTLAND WASH

026531C287 1558EST 001 WASH DC 14 OCT 77 PMS

THE PRESIDENT THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

THE NEW ORLEANS LOCAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMAN'S ASSOCIATION IS ON A WILDCAT STRIKE AGAINST LOADING OR UNLOADING ANY SHIPS OR BARGES WITH ANY CARGO FOR EXPORT IN THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS. THIS LOCAL IS IN DEFIANCE OF THE NATIONAL UNION. IT MIGHT APPEAR THAT A ONE PORT STRIKE IS UNIMPORTANT, BUT APPROXIMATELY THREE-FOURTHS OF THE \$24 BILLION IN AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS POUR THROUGH THE FUNNEL OF THIS PORT. NINETY PERCENT OF THE GRAIN MOVING THROUGH NEW ORLEANS COMES BY BARGE. ALL OTHER PORTS COMBINED ARE NOT EQUIPPED TO HANDLE THE VOLUME OF BARGES NECESSARY TO MOVE THE GRAIN.

GRAIN ELEVATORS ARE NEARLY FULL OF CARRYOVER GRAIN AND THE WHEAT CROP. THE CORN AND SOYBEAN CROPS ARE BEING HARVESTED NOW.

COMMERCIAL AND ON-FARM STORAGE WILL BE FULL IN A VERY SHORT TIME AND GRAIN WILL HAVE TO GO ON THE GROUND OR REMAIN IN THE FIELDS WITH TREMENDOUS LOSSES TO FARMERS AND OUR WORLD FOOD NEEDS.

AGRICULTURE PROVIDES A MAJOR PART OF OUR EXPORTS TO BALANCE OUR PAYMENTS WITH IMPORTS. A DELAY IN FARM EXPORT DELIVERIES WILL CAUSE PURCHASES IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND A LOSS TO OUR ALREADY ECONOMICALLY DEPRESSED FARMERS. LOWERED FARM PRICES WILL INCREASE GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS UNDER OUR TARGET PRICE AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS.

MR. PRESIDENT, I CONSIDER THE EMINENT CROP LOSSES; THE REDUCED FARM INCOME; THE LOSS OF FOREIGH EXCHANGE; THE INCREASED GOVERNMENT OUTLAYS TO FARMERS; AND THE WEAKENING OF THE DOLLAR IN WORLD MARKETS DUE TO A WIDENING OF OUR IMBALANCE IN TRADE TO CONSTITUTE A NATIONAL EMERGENCY.

I URGE YOU TO USE YOUR POWERS UNDER THE TAFT-HARTLEY ACT TO REOPEN THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

SINCERELY,

JAMES O. EASTLAND PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE, UNITED STATES SENATE

ACCEPTED

TELEGRAM

THE HONORABLE JIMMY CARTER THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON, D. C. 20500

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JOE: TM

HERMAN E. TALMADGE, GA., CHAIRMAN

JAMES O. EASTLAND, MISS. GEORGE MC GOVERN, S. DAK. JAMES B. ALLEN, ALA. HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, MINN. WALTER D. HUDDLESTON, KY. DICK CLARK, IOWA RICHARD B. STONE, FLA. PATRICK J. LEAHY, VT. EDWARD ZORINSKY, NEBR. JOHN MELCHER, MONT. ROBERT DOLE, KANS. MILTON R. YOUNG, N. DAK. CARL T. CURTIS, NEBR. HENRY BELLMON, OKLA. JESSE HELMS, N.C. S. 1. HAYAKAWA, CALIF. RICHARD G. LUGAR, IND.

MICHAEL R. MC LEOD GENERAL COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 14, 1977

Argued

The President The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We, the undersigned members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, are greatly concerned over the impact on farm exports of the work stoppage by members of the International Longshoremen's Association in the New Orleans port complex.

About two-thirds of all U.S. grain exports flow through Gulf Coast ports and about one-half of this volume is loaded through the New Orleans port complex. As the strike goes into its third week, we understand that over 1,000 barges carrying export grain are in the New Orleans port complex with loads which they cannot discharge. The loading of up-river barges is being slowed down because of the stoppage in New Orleans, resulting in marketing and storage problems all the way back to the farm level.

We would like to see the strike ended against all cargoes, but we are especially interested in keeping open the flow of exports of farm commodities and products because of the adverse effect that the interruption of their flow will have on farm prices, grain storage problems, and the U.S. balance of trade.

Mr. President, we urge you to use your good offices and all appropriate measures at your disposal to keep U.S. farm exports moving.

Sincerely,

BOB DOLE Ranking Minority Member

DAILY MEMO

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TO: MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY FROM: NELSON C. DENLINGER, CHIEF CLERK AND PRESS SECRETARY DATE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1977

1978 WHEAT PROGRAM PROPOSALS -- The Department of Agriculture Friday called for comments on its 1978 wheat proposals, published in the Federal Register, to be received by November 14.

NOVEMBER FEED GRAIN SET-ASIDE DECISION -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture is still considering a feed grain set-aside, and an announcement is likely around the first of November.

USDA BUYS FLOUR BLENDED, FORTIFIED FOODS -- The Kansas City Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Commodity Office announced Friday the acceptance of offers on large quantities of blended and fortified foods and flour products for distribution under Title II of the P.L. 480 program.

AUSTRALIAN WHEAT ESTIMATE DOWN -- Continuing dry weather throughout most of Australia has reduced 1977-78 wheat crop estimates to 10 million tons which is 2 million tons below the estimate of four weeks ago.

JAPAN RECORDS \$1 BILLION TRADE SURPLUS -- Japan's trade on the customsclearance basis in September recorded a surplus of more than \$1 billion according to the Finance Ministry. Preliminary data showed exports totaled \$6.777 billion, up 10.9 percent over September last year while imports rose only 1.8 percent to \$5.706 billion.

USDA SEEKS END TO DOCK STRIKE -- Agriculture Secretary Bergland indicated that the Department of Agriculture is continuing to press for an end to the dockworkers strike affecting U.S. grain exports at New Orleans. USDA is very concerned about the situation because agricultural exports are backing up.

MILK PRODUCTION UP 3.0 PERCENT -- Milk production of 9.907 billion pounds during September was 3.0 percent above a year earlier and 9.2 percent more than September 1975. The production level for January through September was 93.994 billion pounds. 2.4 percent ahead of those months in 1976 and 6.9 percent above the corresponding 1975 level.

BILLS INTRODUCED -- S. 2195, by Mr. Bumpers, to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921, and S. 2201, by Mr. Bayh, entitled "The Alcohol Fuel Incentive Act of 1978". Both referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

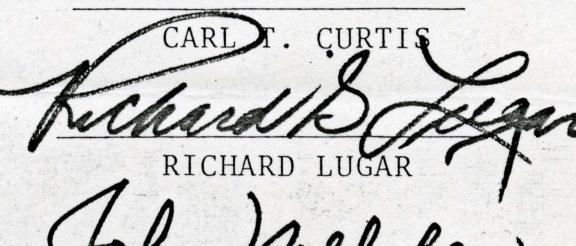
The President Page two

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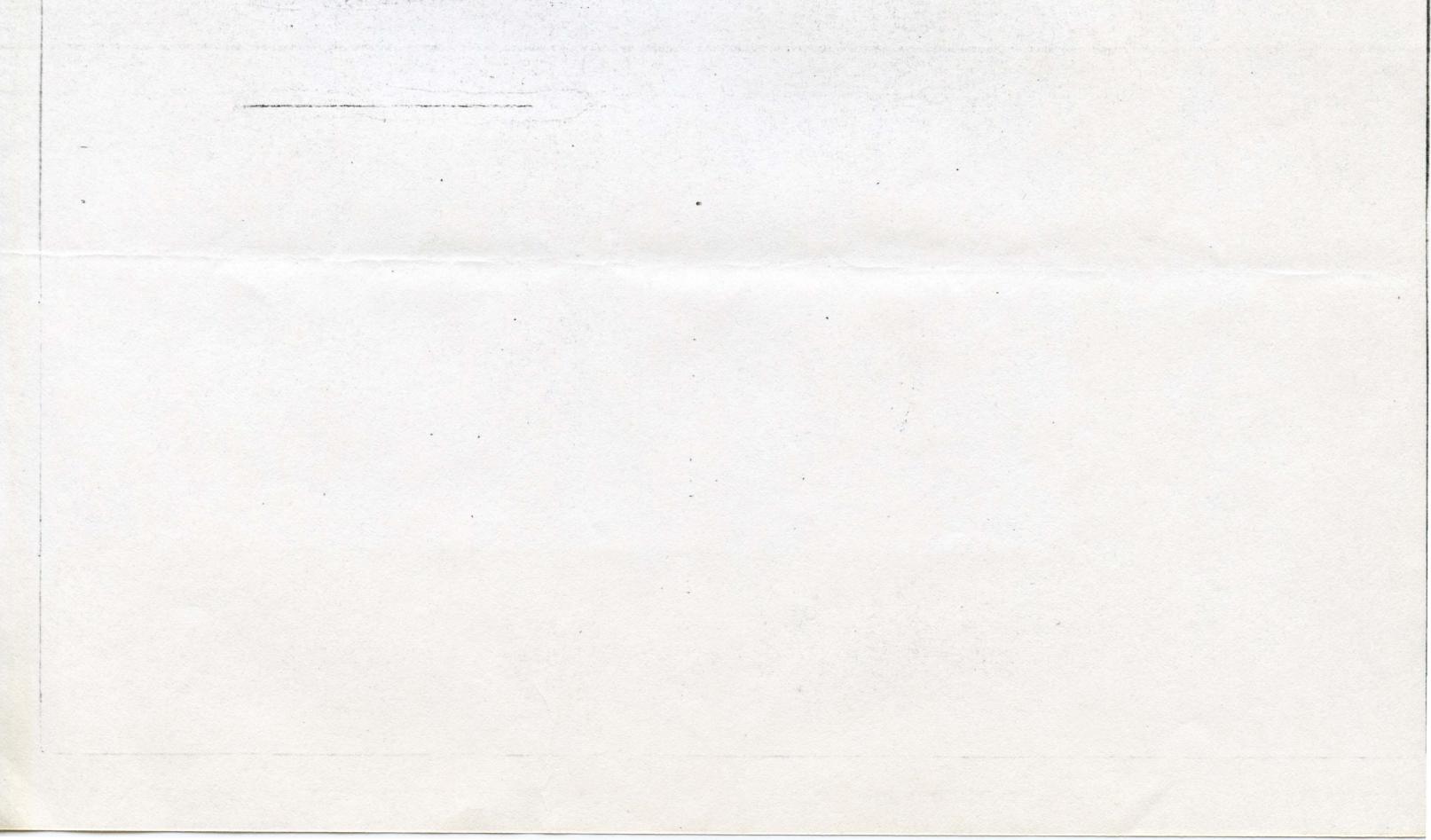
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malcante HAYAKAWA



JOHN MELCHER

DICK CLARK



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TALMADGE Chairman

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