

# **An Urgent Message**

## **AN APPEAL FOR SUPPORT**

**TO: AMERICA'S WORKING CONSUMERS**  
**FROM: AMERICAN AGRICULTURE MOVEMENT**

Most of you can trace your "roots" back to a family farm somewhere. If you once lived on a farm you know in your heart what's happening.

There are only 2,800,000 family farms left. If things continue, in 10 years there will be 300,000 family farms left.

We are on **STRIKE** because farm income dropped \$6 billion in 4 years. We are on **STRIKE** because monopoly profits rose \$6 billion in 4 years. We are on **STRIKE** because in 1978 27% of us will be forced off our family farms unless we get 100 percent parity. We are on **STRIKE** because now we only get an average of 65 percent parity.

Parity is simple: It means the prices we get for our farm products should be equal to (1) our cost of production, (2) the cost of living index, and (3) a fair return on our investment to maintain the family farm. Parity by law should be adjusted monthly. It has not been adjusted since 1967. We cannot live on 1967 dollars in 1978!

James Earl (Jimmy) Carter and the food monopolies say 100 percent parity will increase food prices 30%. This is a lie! We know that the \$10 to \$20 billion needed to achieve 100 percent parity will result in a 3 percent increase in food prices.

Farmers are consumers too and we don't want an increase in food prices! We know where the largest part of our food dollars go. In 1977 consumers spent \$180 billion on farm produced food. Farmers got \$56 billion, middleman monopolies got \$124 billion!

One middleman monopoly food processor, General Mills, Inc., reported record profits for the first half of 1977 — \$88 million. On the same day the Federal Government reported that higher food prices pushed the cost of living index to its highest level in 5 months — 6.7%.

General Mills was hauled into Federal Court on an illegal monopoly charge on April 28, 1976, but James Earl (Jimmy) Carter called off the Justice Department. Why?

Another illegal monopoly, ITT, now owns Continental Bakeries (Wonder Bread, Hostess). Farmers who raise wheat get 3 cents out of the price of a loaf of bread. ITT helped overthrow an elected government in Chile, South America. How long before they are big enough to try it in the USA?

The monopolies have the money and the best politicians that money can buy. However, a united alliance of America's farmers and consumers can throw the rascals out!

**JOIN** America's striking farmers for 100 percent parity! **JOIN** us as we eliminate the monopolies greed! **JOIN** us for lower food prices! **WE ARE ALL CONSUMERS**. We need your help to change America's economy to meet human needs instead of monopoly greed.

Remember the words of our beloved Thomas Jefferson, a true son of Virginia, "I hold it that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing. It is a medicine necessary for sound health of government."

**CALL US AND VOLUNTEER YOUR SUPPORT:**

<b>DINWIDDIE PARITY</b>	<b>469-3981</b>
<b>SUSSEX PARITY</b>	<b>246-5511</b>
<b>GREENSVILLE PARITY</b>	<b>643-9039</b>
<b>FRANKLIN PARITY</b>	<b>562-3412</b>
<b>BRUNSWICK PARITY</b>	<b>634-9039</b>

Call your Congressman and Senators and demand an investigation of the monopolies. Ask them to support 100 percent parity for farmers:

James Earl (Jimmy) Carter, White House	(202) 456-1414
Rep. Robert Daniel	(202) 225-6365
Sen. Harry F. Byrd	(202) 224-4024
Sen. William Scott	(202) 224-2023