THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF AGRICULTURE IN CALIFORNIA

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1976

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, the following study is published in the "California Agriculture in 1974" report by the California Department of Food and Agriculture. This report examines the impact of agricultural activities on the State's economy.

The study concludes that California's agricultural sector has grown rapidly in recent years, with significant contributions to the State's gross domestic product (GDP). The report also highlights the importance of agriculture to California's economy, accounting for a significant share of the state's employment and income.

In this context, I wish to draw attention to the significant contributions of agriculture to California's economy and to the challenges faced by the industry in the face of increasing global competition.

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As is clear from the table below, average farm size has grown rapidly in recent years. The average farm size in California was 150 acres in 1974, compared to only 75 acres in 1965. This trend is likely to continue as technology advances and agriculture becomes more efficient.

In conclusion, agriculture remains a vital component of California's economy, providing significant contributions to the state's GDP and employment. It is crucial that we continue to support the industry and ensure its continued success.

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There are very few items that are under $50.00 of retail value, and this is the result of the efforts of the manufacturers and the retailers. Just how much of a reduction in prices there will be when these items are sold at retail, no one knows. But it is evident that there will be a considerable reduction in prices, and this will be beneficial to the consumer.

Another interesting point is that the prices of most of the items listed are only about 50 per cent of the cost of the materials used in their manufacture. This is because the manufacturers have been able to reduce their costs by utilizing new processes and better materials. The result has been a reduction in the cost of production, and this has been passed on to the consumer in the form of lower prices.

The policy of the manufacturers has been to keep the prices as low as possible, and this has been accomplished by a combination of factors. The manufacturers have been able to reduce their costs by utilizing new processes and better materials, and they have also been able to take advantage of the economies of scale.

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