Correspondence – American Soybean Association

Folder Citation: Collection: Records of the 1976 Campaign Committee to Elect Jimmy Carter; Series: Noel Sterrett Subject File; Folder: Correspondence – American Soybean Association; Container 77

To See Complete Finding Aid:
http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/library/findingaids/Carter-Mondale%20Campaign_1976.pdf

August 1, 1974

Mr. Everett G. Royer,
Ohio Director
American Soybean Association
P.O. Box 158
Hudson, Iowa 50643

Dear Everett:

Thank you for your letter of July 27. As a peanut farmer, I am familiar with the specific concerns which were forwarded to me by Mr. Ralph Jackson. I have asked my staff to carefully review the information he sent.

I appreciate your support and thought you would be interested in the enclosed issue analysis papers on agriculture and rural development. Please let me continue to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Carter

JC/scg

Agriculture
Rural Develop.

American Soybean Association

P.O. Box 158
Hudson, Iowa 50643
(319) 825-3296
Cable USBEANS
Telex 465637

Irwin, Ohio 43029
July 27, 1974

Governor Jimmy Carter
1974 Campaign Chairman
Democratic National Committee
P. O. Box 1524
Atlanta, Georgia 30301

Dear Governor Carter:

Since I am a director of the American Soybean Association, representing the state of Ohio, a copy of your July 16th letter to Ralph Jackson, executive vice president of the American Soybean Association, was sent to me.

I very much appreciate the interest in U.S. agriculture that you expressed in your letter.

U.S. farmers should be very grateful for the efforts and support of southern senators and congressmen during the past 35 to 40 years. It may further be said that the Democratic party was the farmers better friend during all those years.

Farmers should further find themselves elated that you are the campaign chairman of 1974 Democratic National Committee, with a decided interest in U.S. agriculture.

Sincerely,

Everett G. Royer

EGR/jh

Everett G. Royer
Director from Ohio

August 1, 1974

Mr. Ralph T. Jackson,
Executive Vice President
American Soybean Association
P.O. Box 158
Hudson, Iowa 50643

Dear Ralph:

Thank you for your letter of July 25. As a peanut farmer, I am familiar with the specific concerns you expressed. I have asked my staff to carefully review the information you included.

I am enclosing our issue analysis papers on agriculture and rural development which may be of interest to you. Please let me continue to have the benefit of your thinking.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Carter

JC/scg
Enclosure

Agricul. Rural Develop.

american
Soybean
association

Post Office Box 158
Hudson, Iowa 50643
Tele (319) 825-3296
Cable USBEANS Telex 465637

July 25, 1974

Governor Jimmy Carter
1974 Campaign Chairman
Democratic National Committee
P. O. Box 1524
Atlanta, GA 30301

Dear Governor Carter:

We appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing the American Soybean Association concerning ways organizations such as ours might make a contribution to better government and better understanding between representatives of government and agricultural groups which are so vital to the nation's economy.

In response to your request to help inform Democratic candidates on the issues of concern to ASA and soybean farmers, I will attempt to outline the Association's views on several key issues we feel are quite important. First, let me give you a little of our organizational background and philosophy.

We are now a 23-state organization representing the interest of the American soybean farmer. These state associations ranging from Minnesota to Florida are affiliated with the American Soybean Association. Georgia is one of the active state associations and Mr. Bill Prichard of Louisville serves as the state association president. He is also a member of the National Board of Directors and a member of our Committee on Government Relations. ASA policies are developed by the state associations who submit resolutions to the ASA for consideration and action. Each state association president serves as a member of the Resolutions Committee. Through this process of the state presidents making recommendations to the national board and then to the voting delegate body, policy for the year is adopted, usually in mid-August. I am enclosing for your information a copy of the 1973-74 policy resolutions adopted at the ASA convention in Des Moines, Iowa in August of 1973.

You will note that ASA has since its existence, maintained a philosophy of self help in concentration on market development to expand the markets for soybeans and soybean products rather than a government supply management technique to limit production and to regulate prices through production payments to either plant or not to plant. Soybeans have consequently been the only major crop that has never had acreage controls so the grower has always had the freedom to plant as many acres as he chooses. His choice is an economic one of whether to grow soybeans, corn, cotton or other crops. This choice depends on his ability to make a profit from his land, management and labor. This philosophy we feel should be maintained at all cost. Georgia farmers as well as 13 other states are doing something about expanding the self-help program by initiating $\frac{1}{2}¢$ per bushel checkoff programs. These programs are for the sole purpose of developing overseas markets and sponsoring research through the land-grant college system aimed at increasing yields per acre and profit to the grower.

A few specific issues of vital concern to us are the so-called strategic grain reserves, either national or international, which would be controlled by government. While we are not opposed to a reasonable carryover of soybean stocks from one crop year to the next in order to keep the pipelines filled and customers satisfied, we are opposed to these stocks of beans being held by the U. S. government or some international government body. Reserve stocks should be held by the farmers and the private trade, both domestic and overseas. The soybean grower is a business man and has now built adequate storage facilities. He can do his own job of orderly marketing based on his own decisions of when to sell or buy.

Another issue we feel is of vital concern is the action our government took last year in placing an embargo on soybean exports. This was done because of a so-called temporary shortage of supply, which incidentally turned out to be a situation of inadequate reporting of stocks on hand, rather than a short supply. This action did great damage in destroying confidence on the part of overseas customers in the U. S. farmer as a reliable supplier and it could take years to restore this confidence. We certainly hope action can be taken to prevent this ever happening again.

Other issues include the need for better legislation to prevent crippling dock and transportation strikes that hurt agriculture first and to the greatest degree. These strikes put the farmer at the mercy of a few longshoremen and powerless to do anything significantly about it. Dock strikes also affect the lives of many millions of people around the world.

ASA is supporting the Trade Reform Act of 1973 which is now before the Senate. This one needs passage in order for the U. S. to have the necessary tools in the upcoming round of GATT negotiation.

On research, soybean farmers are helping themselves but this is an area where greater research appropriations are needed by the Federal government, aimed at developing higher yielding varieties in order to get maximum production on our acreage and the need to produce for an ever growing demand of soy protein and oil. Soybeans have never gotten what we feel like is a fair shake in comparison to its economic importance to the country.

Governor Carter, I hope this will assist you in making these views known to Democratic candidates. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues with you and am taking the liberty of asking Bill Prichard to set up an appointment in order for the two of us to meet with you at your convenience.

Thanks again for allowing us to express our views.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph T. Jackson

Ralph T. Jackson
Executive Vice President

RTJ/klb
Enclosure

1973 Resolutions



American Soybean Association

Hudson, Iowa