

THE AVIATION CORPORATION
420 Lexington Avenue
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MEMORANDUM TO:

Mr. Carter

In case you have not seen it,
Mr. Emanuel thought you might like to see
the enclosed editorial from The New York
Times of July 5th.

Helen Evans
for
Mr. Victor Emanuel

Enc.

REVOLUTION IN FARM POWER

In spite of the shortage in iron, steel and various metal alloys, war has spurred the agricultural revolution. This revolution -- the change from animal power to mechanized farming--was gaining rapid momentum when the war began. While manufacture of many farm implements has been curtailed or even eliminated in some instances, the shortage of manpower on the farms has necessitated the making of such machines as corn pickers, combines, milking machines and tractors. The efficient use of power machinery on the farm has enabled the American farmer to perform a miracle of food production comparable to the industrial production of the nation's factories. The demonstrated power of labor-saving machines caused Sherman E. Johnson, head of the division of farm management of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, to declare recently that agriculture has gone through a production revolution in the midst of a war and that it is unlikely to go back to the comparative "handicraft" basis of the pre-war period.

American farmers are now using about two million tractors, 12.4 per cent more than were in use in 1941 and double the 1929 number. Surveys prove that tractor purchases represent approximately 50 per cent of the money spent for farm equipment. Experts estimate that within a few years the number of tractors will double. The revolution in farm power is revealed in the increased use of corn pickers, which have increased 29 per cent in number since 1942. With a machine one man can do the work formerly done by twelve. The 50 per cent increase in milking machines in the past three years has greatly reduced man-hours needed for this essential task in dairying.

The revolution in farm power is of vital concern to all of us. In a nation 80 per cent urban and industrial, our six million farms must produce food and fibers for 138 million, plus a large amount for our allies and the liberated nations. The demands for the latter will drop sharply as soon as their agriculture is restored. But as a nation we are far from sufficiently supplied with nutritious foods for all citizens in normal times. National leaders are beginning to realize that the general welfare depends in major degree upon the health of the people. The revolution in farm power now going on, and which will be sharply accelerated after victory, is an indication that the nation will have ample food. Statesmen, sociologists and agricultural leaders have been slow to see the point. But when four-fifths of a nation does not live on farms, food production is the first concern of society.