June 28, 1950

Honorable Charles F. Brannan
Office of the Secretary
Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am greatly concerned over the reorganization of the offices of the Federal Milk Marketing Administration which has been ordered from Washington. From our standpoint here in New York State it is thoroughly bad.

I can't impress upon you too strongly the high regard in which the Order is held by the milk producers of New York State. Any tampering with the Order, and particularly a major reorganization of this kind, is bound to have serious repercussions from one end of the milkshed to the other.

Only this past June 12th, Dewey was foolish enough to attach the order in a speech at Watertown. (Copy of his remarks enclosed.)

I immediately accepted this attach as a challenge and publicly declared that the Democratic Party was willing to make the Milk Marketing Order a number one farm issue in the campaign this fall. (Copy of my statement enclosed.)

That Dewey made a tremendous mistake in attaching the order was shown by the immediate reaction in powerful Republican farm publications.

I am enclosing an editorial from the Watertown Daily Times, which, although a Republican paper, has been a strong advocate of the Milk Order as written.

Also, I am enclosing an editorial from the Rural New Yorker, which, as you also know has powerful support among the dairymen of our state.

Also, I am enclosing an editorial from the Metropolitan Milk Producers Bargaining Agency News for June, 1950.

This reorganization, as I see it completely cuts the ground from under us by our own Democratic administration and would substantiate to the hilt Dewey's charge of "bureaucracy," "centralization in Washington," etc. etc.
My sincerest advice to you is to rescind the order immediately and forget that it was ever issued and by all means avoid any mention of it in the press as a leak that such a move was even contemplated would create havoc in the New York milkshed.

If you feel this cannot be done then I suggest that you postpone enactment of the order and call for hearings on the reorganization plan. This is far from the desirable course of action however, and can serve absolutely no good purpose but certainly it is preferable to jamming such an order down the throats of our milk producers.

In the event of such hearings I must tell you that the Democratic Party of the State of New York will have no choice but to oppose the Department, much as I would regret it.

I feel so strongly about this that if the Department goes ahead with its plan without at least resorting to hearings then I will have no alternative but to seek Congressional action to reinstate the milk marketing order program to its former quasi-independent status.

It seems to me that we have never had a Secretary of Agriculture more concerned with the every day problems of the farmer than yourself. I am proud of the support and help you have given the farmers of New York State. In you, they know they have a good and true friend.

If I seem heated about this subject it is only because I do not want to see the Department make a mistake that will destroy the good work you have carried on since becoming Secretary.

You have never failed us in the past and I know you will not fail us now.

My deepest thanks and gratitude for your always ready willingness to listen and help in solving our farm problems.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Fitzpatrick

CHAIRMAN

Enclosures