

HOUSE No. 1342

By Mr. Andrews of Clinton, petition of Theodore Andrews for the appointment of a special commission (including members of the General Court) to study the distribution of federal funds to persons engaged in farming within the Commonwealth. Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-One.

RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR THE PRESENTATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION AS TO THE CONDITION OF MASSACHUSETTS FARMERS AND AS TO A DISPARITY IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL FUNDS TO AGRICULTURE BELIEVED TO EXIST, AND FOR THE PRESENTATION OF A REQUEST TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION REQUESTING MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH FUNDS, IN SO FAR AS THE MASSACHUSETTS FARMER MAY BE CONCERNED.

1 *Resolved*, That an unpaid commission, consisting of
2 one member of the senate to be appointed by the
3 president of the senate, of one member of the house of
4 representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the
5 house, the commissioner of agriculture, and two per-
6 sons to be appointed by the governor is hereby estab-
7 lished for the purpose of effecting a study of the
8 distribution of Federal funds distributed or to be
9 distributed to agriculture and the relation thereof to
10 those persons engaged in farming within the common-

11 wealth, with a view to effecting a more equitable
12 distribution of such funds as to such farmers within
13 the state. Said commission to request the president
14 of the United States and the agricultural adjustment
15 administration to direct the attention of Secretary of
16 Agriculture of the United States to the distress among
17 farmers of this state, whose incomes are and have been
18 impaired and whose need for an equitable share of
19 said federal funds to agriculture, be cited and in con-
20 nection therewith, it is recited: It is generally con-
21 ceded that the number one economic problem of the
22 nation is that of restoration of farm income. The
23 problem of the nation is similarly a problem within
24 Massachusetts. Many farmers are faced with finan-
25 cial ruin. Many have already been driven from their
26 farms. There can be no real solution of the nation's
27 economic problems until the farm income is upon a
28 normal basis. This is also true with Massachusetts.
29 Until the farmer is enabled to purchase the products
30 of the manufacturer in our cities, the solution of our
31 unemployment problem, other than through tempo-
32 rary employment occasioned by National Defense re-
33 quirements, cannot be solved. It is essential and of
34 dire necessity that farmers of Massachusetts receive
35 their full share of such federal funds as are or may be
36 appropriated for or tending toward agricultural parity.
37 It is recorded that for the fiscal year ending June
38 thirtieth, nineteen hundred and thirty-nine Massa-
39 chusetts received a total of but six hundred and sixty-
40 four thousand dollars from such funds. In comparison
41 therewith there was paid to Texas ninety-five million
42 dollars, to Iowa, sixty-one million dollars while to
43 Illinois forty-two million dollars. For the year ending
44 June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and thirty-eight such

45 disbursements included to Massachusetts, five hundred
46 and twenty thousand dollars while to Texas went nine-
47 ty-five million dollars; to Mississippi, thirty-six million
48 dollars. Few states received a lesser share. Few states
49 contributed greater sums by way of taxation than did
50 Massachusetts. Massachusetts farmers, already hard
51 hit by the depressive factors which have submerged
52 agriculture for the past ten years, by reason of that
53 circumstance which results in but ten per cent of the
54 nation's gross income reaching the pockets of those
55 twenty-five per cent of the nation's people living upon
56 the farms, now face new invasions of their incomes.
57 Prices for essential materials needed to produce farm
58 commodities are rising. There is a shortage of labor
59 by reason of the needs of national defense and labor
60 costs have already risen and will continue to rise.
61 Farm markets have been lost by reason of the war
62 abroad. The prospects of increased taxation occa-
63 sioned by our own national defense are likely. An
64 additional number of farmers have become forced to
65 participate in federal programs as a means of obtain-
66 ing funds. And that Congress be also asked to enact
67 such legislation as may be necessary to insure parity
68 for dairymen, and for other farmers engaged in the
69 production of other needed food stuffs.

