



SENATOR HUMPHREY

# FOOD CAN FIGHT FOR FREEDOM!

(Excerpts from Senate Speech July 8, 1953, by  
MINNESOTA'S SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY)

"AT THIS VERY HOUR, if this country were on the job, if we were doing what we ought to do, we would send word to Germany that some of our agricultural surplus would be sent to the starving people of East Germany.

"There are ships in the harbor in the Hudson River loaded with wheat ready to go, or which could be made ready to go in short order, to be sent to Berlin.

"The people of East Berlin, who have had the courage to revolt against their bosses and their Communist masters and tyrants, are hungry.

"Nothing could be more important to American foreign policy tonight than to send the word through Europe that the President of the United States, supported by the Congress, is sending wheat which could be milled into flour and made into bread, which could be made available to the people of East Germany who are hungry tonight because of the outrageous policies and programs of the Soviet Union in that beleaguered area of the world.

"IT IS A SHAMEFUL AND SHOCKING DISGRACE THAT WHEAT LIES ON THE GROUND TONIGHT IN THE UNITED STATES, SPOILING, WHEN PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE COURAGE TO FIGHT COMMUNIST TYRANTS ARE HUNGRY.

"A nation which can afford to send billions of dollars in military assistance can afford to send some bread and butter. WHAT THEY NEED IN SOME PARTS OF THE WORLD TONIGHT IS HOPE OF BREAD AND BUTTER.

"When the President CAN COMMIT THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF YOUNG MEN and women in this country, without any complaints from Congress, he ought to be able to commit a FEW BUSHELS OF AMERICAN WHEAT which we do not even know what to do with, and a FEW POUNDS OF BUTTER which we cannot even eat.

"What it amounts to is an application of Christian Democracy. What it amounts to is an application of applied Christianity AND A LITTLE COMMON SENSE, all of which we can well use in this country.

"Wherever patriots raise their voices and their hands against tyrants, America ought to be prepared, whenever it is in her interest and whenever it is in the interest of security and peace of the world, to offer food and fiber to people who need it."



(It was following SENATOR HUMPHREY'S  
APPEAL from the Senate floor that PRESIDENT  
EISENHOWER immediately ordered food  
aid dispatched to the East Germans.)



BREAD AND BUTTER FOR FREEDOM

3478  
1953

Remarks of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D.-Minn.) on Food for East Germany.

(Excerpts from Senate Speech)

At this very hour, if this country were on the job, if we were doing what we ought to do, we would send word to Germany that some of our agricultural surplus would be sent to the starving people of East Germany.

There are ships in the harbor in the Hudson River, loaded with wheat ready to go, or which could be made ready to go in short order, to be sent to Berlin.

The people of East Berlin, who have had the courage to revolt against ~~their bosses and their~~ <sup>the</sup> Communist ~~masters and~~ tyrants, are hungry. Nothing could be more important to American foreign policy ~~tonight~~ than to send the word through Europe that the President of the United States, supported by the Congress, is sending wheat which could be milled into flour and made into bread, which could be made available to the people of East Germany who are hungry tonight because of the outrageous policies and programs of the Soviet Union in that beleaguered area of the world.

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I am unhappy that our President must wonder whether or not he has such authority. That is why the junior Senator from Minnesota believes that the Mutual Security Act should include within its provisions an extra arm of American strength -- the arm of American strength which Americans love and which the world loves, namely, American production, not only of military equipment, but of food and fiber.

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Food and fiber are needed tonight. Wherever patriots raise their voices and their hands against tyrants, America ought to be prepared, whenever it is in her interest, and whenever it is in the interest of the security and peace of the world, to offer food and fiber to people who need it.

The people behind the Iron Curtain are in trouble. Yet, as a corridor into the Iron Curtain area, we have the city of Berlin. How happy the Mayor of Berlin would be tonight if the word were flashed to him that the city of Berlin, which has had to receive hundreds of thousands of hungry refugees, was to receive American food and American aid.

It is <sup>a</sup>shameful and shocking disgrace that wheat lies on the ground tonight in the United States, spoiling, when people who have the courage to fight the Communist tyrants are hungry. I submit that no Congress can defend such a situation.

\* \* \* \*

A nation which can afford to send billions of dollars in military assistance can afford to send some bread and butter. What they need in some parts of the world tonight is the hope of bread and butter.

When the President can commit the lives of millions of young men and women in this country, without any complaints from Congress, he ought to be able to commit a few bushels of American wheat which we do not even know what to do with, and a few pounds of butter which we cannot even eat.

\* \* \*

There will never again be an opportunity like this one. This is a fast-moving world. Tonight Poland is in revolt. A short time ago it was Yugoslavia. Last week it was East Germany. Three weeks



ago it was Czechoslovakia. The Soviet Empire is in trouble, and  
this is no time for ~~the American Republic and the American Government~~

*America to hesitate or fail to act.*

~~to be dilly-dallying.~~ This is the time to take the initiative with  
everything we have -- propaganda, information, economic aid, military  
assistance, military alliances, and above all food and fiber. I  
believe that is one of the most important things we can do.

\* \* \*

What it amounts to is an application of Christian democracy.

What it amounts to is an application of applied Christianity and a  
little common sense, all of which we can well use in this country.

I do not think anyone in America can defend the situation in  
which we now find ourselves, running over with an abundance of food  
and concern about its use, yet unwilling to apply <sup>it</sup> to the great  
programs of international policy which we support at tremendous  
costs.



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