

From the Office of  
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey  
Hotel Dyckman  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

For Release: Monday p.m.  
November 18, 1957

NATION FACES CHALLENGE TO VASTLY IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The nation must look beyond immediate urgency mobilization of scientific resources to longer-range improvement of our entire educational system, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) declared today in an address before the student body of Rochester High School.

"More serious than our lagging behind the Soviet in conquest of space is our lagging behind the U.S.S.R. in educational opportunities for our young people," he declared.

"One Hundred and fifty thousand students out of the top echelon of their classes in high school did not go on to study in college this year -- just because of a lack of means to pay for college.

"How many of those who did not go to college ten years ago, for that same reason, would now be available to help our country in its desperate shortage of scientists and engineers -- had they had the chance?

"Everytime a gifted young man or woman fails to go on to college, or has to drop out of college because of a lack of financial support, we lose part of the battle in the cold war. For in this total struggle between ways of life, we must engage the enemy in depth -- and on every front. We must have reserves -- not just in uniform, but in our laboratories, in our classrooms, in our hospitals. We must look far into the future.

"Americans have been shocked by Sputniks in the sky -- but they should be even more shocked by learning that the number of college graduates with

math preparation declined 37.4% in the United States in the last seven years, and the number of college graduates with science preparation declined 44.5%.

"We need to look long and carefully about what is happening in our educational system, and wake up to what needs to be done.

"We need a broad program of national scholarships, to permit us to make better use of the bright young men and women now deprived of an opportunity for higher education.

"We need greater incentives for teachers. We need to modernize our textbooks, many of which are completely outdated in this era of space conquest. We need to expand and improve our building facilities, and provide better equipped laboratories.

"But most of all we need to change our national viewpoint toward intellectuals -- and give the scholars and thinkers, the teachers and the scientists, the recognition of importance in our society that they deserve," Senator Humphrey said.

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MISSILES RACE SHOULD NOT BLOCK OTHER PROGRESS, SENATOR HUMPHREY WARNS

Increased pressures for expanded defense expenditures will demand "closer scrutiny of what we are spending now and greater efforts to eliminate waste and duplication -- but should not be used as a smokescreen to abolish other essential services or curtail continued social progress," Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) declared today in an address before the Rochester Chamber of Commerce.

"Catching up in missile development can not be allowed to hold us back in improving educational opportunities or moving ahead in health research as well," Senator Humphrey said.

"When we discuss ways and means of paying for the complacency of these past several years in matters of national security, let us approach the problem with an eye to tax loopholes, with an eye to excess profits of some large defense manufacturers, and with an eye to tightened-up-procurement procedures as well as in the spirit of common sharing of the added burden.

"It is probably going to cost more money to catch up in missile development, but just spending more money is not really getting at the heart of the problem. There must be a new determination to get the job done in the most efficient way possible, a new sense of urgency, and above all a new sense of leadership on the part of those who are responsible for the nation's security. If all these are seriously accomplished, it may well reduce the amount of additional funds actually necessary."

In most instances, Senator Humphrey said, "the stretch-out of defense contracts, supposedly as an economy move, has cost us more money for less defense material as a result of costly re-programming of contract schedules and longer periods of carrying high interest charges -- all absorbed by the government under cost-plus contracts."

Senator Humphrey cautioned that however urgent it was to regain leadership in armed strength, "we must be ever watchful that we do not destroy the very underlying health and strength of our own society in this effort."

"We are in more than a missile race with the Soviet Union," he declared. "We are confronted with all-out competition in every field -- and if we intend to compete, we are going to have to prove that our social system can bear defense burdens and still take care of our own people."

"I am opposed to any proposal to pay for increased government missiles expenditures just out of the pockets of farmers and laboring people and pensioners as suggested by the President of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce."

"There are already many soft spots in our society which we would do well to remedy as we look forward to perhaps generations of competition with the Soviet system. Our farm people, our pensioners, our small businessmen are all in trouble. It would be sheer folly to impose additional lop-sided penalties on the sections of our economy which are already suffering."

"We must maintain a strong, healthy society in this competition with the Soviet -- a society in which the average family can maintain itself in dignity and comfort and freedom."

"We in the West can win such a competition hands down -- if we are intelligent enough, determined enough, organized enough, to bring our superior potential fully to bear.

"But it is not a case of first winning the missile race, and then setting out to win the peaceful competition. The Soviet is running in both races -- and we can not afford to get left at the post in either," Senator Humphrey said.



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