

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

JUNIOR HEREFORD ASSOCIATION

FIELD DAY, MURDOCK, MINNESOTA

JULY 2, 1971

It's always a delightful experience for me to be around young people . . . especially young people nurtured in the traditions of rural life.

Too many like you have been leaving our farms and smaller communities . . . too many of you have forsaken the promise of rural America for the bright lights and lure of the big city. The main reason: lack of opportunity in our rural areas.

So many of our young people have joined the exodus from the countryside that 73 per cent of our country's population today lives on just 2 per cent of our land.

Within 30 years, if this trend continues, over 50 per cent of our people will be living in just three huge metropolitan regions . . . one along our upper Atlantic seacoast . . . one around our Great Lakes . . . and another along our Southern California coastline.

Some say this concentration of people in the cities is desirable. Many others say it is inevitable.

I say it is neither.

I say this rural-urban imbalance is occurring because we lack a national policy to guide our country's growth and development. This lack of direction and goals is leading our cities into decay and bankruptcy. It is stripping our countryside and our smaller communities of their promise and their people . . . especially their young people.

But I believe we can do something about it.

This Nation was born as a nation of farmers. But it was, in fact, the very genius and productivity of these farmers which spurred the ensuing exodus from the land to the cities.

As the farmer began to produce more than enough for his own needs, some were freed for other pursuits. The technological advances later made in agriculture made it possible for fewer and fewer farmers to feed more and more people.

Let's look for a minute at what's happening right here in our own State of Minnesota.

During the sixties our population in Minnesota grew 11 per cent -- about the same as the growth rate for the Nation as a whole. But, 95 per cent of that growth occurred around the Twin Cities.

And what happened in rural Minnesota during this period? It lost 150,000 people. Between 1960 and 1970, 44 counties in the State lost population, all of which were rural in character, where mining, forestry or agriculture are the main industries.

In 1950, we had 184,000 farms in the State. Today there are only 122,000. This means that we have been losing over 3,000 farms per year. If this trend continues, we will have only 30,000 farms by the year 2,000, or one-sixth of what we had in 1950.

This loss of our most valuable resource, namely, people, from our rural areas must be stopped. Neither our cities nor rural America can afford to pay the high price related to such rural-urban migration.

According to one study, the dollar burden of in-migrants on the population of our large cities is nine times greater for migrants than for residents . . . 9 times greater!

And, what about the places where these migrants came from? As people leave the rural countryside or a small community, they take with them the leadership that they otherwise might have provided their community . . . the professional skills they might have applied . . . in educating the young . . . in improving local government . . . in curing the sick . . . in expanding business and job opportunities.

I hope many of you young people will remain to take on the challenge of building a better rural America.

"Almost everything that is great," Benjamin Disraeli once said, "has been done by youth."

-- Blaise Pascal wrote a book on geometry by age 16 and invented the adding machine at 19.

-- Thomas Edison patented the first of his many inventions, an electrical vote recorder, at 21.

-- Alexander the Great ruled as King of Macedonia at age 20, and had conquered the civilized world by the age of 27.

-- Albert Einstein had mastered the works of Euclid, Newton and Spinoza by the age of 15, and began work on his theory of space-time relativity at age 26.

-- Michelangelo sculpted his "Battle of the Centaurs" at 17 and had completed his famous "Pieta" and "Bacchus" sculptures by the age of 26.

By mid-1980, 35 per cent of all the people alive in the world will be under 15 years old . . . and even today, China has more children under 10 than the entire population of Russia.

You are now in the process of formulating your own futures. You are reflecting on your own objectives and goals.

Some of you may be planning to go into other professions while others of you may be planning to remain in agriculture and be the cattlemen of tomorrow.

But, whatever your career decision, I urge you to remain here in the heartland of our Nation. Remain here and guide the changes that are needed to redirect the manner and quality of our country's future growth and development.

Remain here to provide the leadership that your community and your industry will require to meet the challenges of our changing times.

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Larry Mattress - President

Julie Fredericks

Benson Rural Elect Coop

Don Fredericks
Harvey Werk

Speaker
Byron Bayers

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*Rural
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The Outlook for the Beef Cattle Industry

The record of the cattle industry in the United States is one of the most exciting in the history of American agriculture. The long cattle drives over such routes as the Chisholm and Santa Fe Trails to railheads in Abilene and Dodge City mark a famous chapter in the westward march of the Nation.

The story of recent years, though less colorful, is not less significant in terms of economic changes. Since 1950, developments in the beef industry have been more favorable to both producers and consumers than in any other part of the livestock economy. Per capita consumption of all red meats rose from 145 pounds per capita in 1950 to 185 pounds in 1970. ~~Beef accounted for all of this increase by rising from 71 to 116 pounds~~ Beef now provides nearly two-thirds of all red meat consumption in the United States. In total quantity, more than twice as much beef was produced in 1970 as in 1950.

Projections of U.S. beef consumption to 1980 based on expected trends in population and consumption indicate an increase of about a fourth above the 1970 level. Projections of production capacity suggest that production of cattle and calves will increase accordingly if producers take advantage of what appear to be favorable opportunities.

The rapid increase in beef production in recent years was achieved through a combination of increases in number of beef cows and a rapid shifting to the feedlot of a high proportion of the cattle formerly slaughtered as nonfed beef, In 1950, only about half of the beef consumed in the United States was from fed beef. Now it is nearly three-fourths.

An important question facing cattle producers now is how the industry can supply the larger beef requirements of the 1970's. The potential for getting more pounds of beef per animal from cattle slaughtered as nonfed beef is virtually exhausted. Alternatives such as increasing the calving rate, multiple calving, crossbreeding, and marketing at heavier weights all appear to have major constraints. Increasing cow numbers to produce more feeder cattle appears to be the most likely alternative.

Between 1950 and 1969 the national inventory of beef cows increased nearly a million head a year. If demand and production materialize as expected, the average annual increase in number of beef cows will have to be at least 1.5 million head between 1970 and 1980 to meet anticipated needs.

If the cattle industry places major emphasis on increasing cow numbers and producing feeder calves, there will be an opportunity for all regions of the United States to contribute to the increase in breeding herds. The Plains States are presently the major beef cattle-raising region, with 40 percent of the total beef cows. The Plains region is likely to retain this leading position

although the rate of growth is dependent on the relative profitability of wheat production and shifts in land use. The traditional range areas of the Western States are likely to produce to their capacity with some increase over present production, but these States have a limited potential for increasing cattle inventories.

The potential for expanding cow numbers seems to be greatest in the Corn Belt, southern, and southeastern States. These regions, particularly those in the South, already have significant numbers of beef cows and there are substantial resources available for increased production.

Beef feedlot finishing is presently concentrated in the Plains States and the western Corn Belt. These areas will continue to be important feeding centers. Significant expansion of feeding is expected in the Southeast and mid-Corn Belt.

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