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PRESS RELEASE ON SPEECH BY
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY (D. MINN.)
BEFORE RALLY OF GOVERNMENT WORKERS
July 13, 1950

"You, as government workers, have a responsibility to look upon yourselves as citizens" and to maintain a "broad viewpoint" rather than act as "special pleaders", Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D. Minnesota) told two hundred government workers last night at a meeting sponsored by the Government and Civil Employees Organizing Committee of the CIO.

He urged the government workers: "Do not be content with just criticizing the Congress. Many members of the Congress are your friends. Join with them in an effort to run an efficient government operation which is both businesslike and human at the same time."

"This objective is particularly vital today", he said, "with the developing international crisis. Unfortunately, we are entering a period which will force our government to spend increasing amounts in defense armaments and we hope in economic and social programs such as those of the Point 4 program," he continued.

Senator Humphrey warned that this will mean increased pressure for economy in non-defense government operations and for increased efficiency in government.

"Reckless curtailment of funds, however, may not produce real economy or efficiency at all," he stated. The Senator pointed out that increased efficiency in government does not always result from the curtailment of expenditures. He pointed to the defeat of five reorganization plans submitted by the President as an example of how the Congress frequently placed "special

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interests" and "pet projects" above government economy, He urged the President to examine some of the reorganization plans which were defeated by the Congress and submit them in modified form.

The Senator also pointed to the need for an increase in postal rates as a way of meeting a substantial part of the postal deficit. He urged government workers and their unions to present to the Congress constructive proposals for further reorganization of the federal government and for increased postal rates as examples of the ways the Congress could help economize constructively and not at the expense of the government worker.

Senator Humphrey summarized the position of the appropriations bill in the Senate and criticized attempts made by the "so-called economy bloc" to curtail total appropriations on an "across-the-boards" formula.

"It may be," he said, "that there is some waste in the operations of government, just as there is waste in the operation of a business enterprise and just as there is inefficiency in the operation of any human enterprise." He added, however, that "it is the responsibility of Congress to minimize that waste", and continued, "We can do so, however, only ~~by~~ intelligent planning and careful study" and ~~by~~ ^{not} by a "meat-axe approach."

"The United States government has an obligation and responsibility to be a model employer," Senator Humphrey declared. "Our government has a responsibility to take the lead in developing a pattern for democratic labor relations by setting an example" in those relations with government workers. He pointed to the experience of the TVA and its collective bargaining practices with scores of crafts and industrial unions.

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"Government workers do not have the right to strike" Senator Humphrey said. "But they do have a right - just as every other American has a right - to join a union of his own choosing for purposes of democratic collective bargaining as to fair conditions of employment."

"There is no reason at all," he continued, "why government workers should not have a right to join unions to represent them before Congressional Committees and in their own agencies to settle grievances. The essence of democratic government is to preserve the human element in government service."



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