

From the Office of
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America must refuse to accept all-out war as inevitable, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D.-Minn) told the annual Minnesota Welfare Conference in Minneapolis today. Speaking before the All-Conference Luncheon in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Nicollet, he called upon the state's social workers to exert their influence toward "keeping alive the positive and constructive paths to peace."

Senator Humphrey, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, far from minimized the threat of war "still hanging grimly over us."

"As realists, we fully recognize the perilous path ahead. None of us minimize its dangers, nor the sacrifices it may require," Senator Humphrey said. "But we are more than just realists. We are human beings. And as human beings concerned with human values, we must, and can, refuse to accept all-out war as inevitable."

"For even war, if it comes, will not bring the answers the world seeks. It hasn't brought them before, and it won't bring them now."

Instead, he said, the task of building a peaceful world "must be tackled at the roots of the world's troubles, not just on the surface." And those roots, he added, "are imbedded in misery, wherever it exists."

"You can't wipe out the world's misery and suffering with guns," he declared, in calling for vigorous support of what he termed "positive, humanitarian approaches" to a peaceful and stable world.

"It means continuing and strengthening our Point IV work, and our other programs of technical and economic assistance. It means emphasizing through such programs that we want to help the peoples of the world to help themselves....it means that we must make sure we are always counted on the side of the people in any land, not on the side of oppressors of people."

To wipe out fertile seedbeds for communism among peasants of the world, he said, "we must assure those governments willing to develop land reforms or other social reforms on an orderly and fair basis that they will find us both sympathetic and cooperative."

"We must go still further, and encourage other governments to recognize the inevitable necessity for charting such a course for their people before communist agents make further headway," he declared.

"We can also share our blessings of food abundance with the less fortunate,... we can emphasize to the whole world that the United States is concerned with empty stomachs, not just with full cartridge belts."

Senator Humphrey explained the proposed creation of an International Food Reserve which he and 21 other Senators are co-sponsoring, to absorb temporary market surpluses of agricultural products and make them available wherever they are most needed in the world to prevent famine and starvation.

"It's our chance to seize the initiative in the cold war, and assert our leadership by bringing a positive, humanitarian force into the world's ideological struggle," he said. "In such a struggle, a million dollars for food might equal ten million dollars for ammunition."

"Among the masses of underprivileged people in many parts of the world who may eventually sway the balance between freedom and communism, such a single positive act of leadership toward a world of plenty could win more friends for democracy than all the armed might we could assemble."

We must push forward such humanitarian actions, Senator Humphrey said, "to prove that democracy actually provides the means for living the kind of decent, free and secure life that the communists merely promise--and with their tongues in their cheeks."

By our deeds as well as our words, the Senator added, we must show that "our objective is the eventual realization of mankind's aspirations for human justice, freedom from want, freedom from fear, and a decent standard of living that can be shared by all people everywhere, regardless of race or color or creed, and regardless of any accident of geography that gives rich resources to some and limits the opportunities of others."

But if democracy is to be a source of hope to others, he cautioned, "our democracy must continue to advance in our own country."

"We must all work to further wipe out intolerance and discrimination in any form. We must vigilantly safeguard the protections we now provide for our underprivileged, our unfortunates, our handicapped."

"We must practice what we preach. If we are to show our concern for our fellow man in other lands, we must make sure we are not overlooking our fellow man here at home. We still face the challenge of doing something about the plight of agriculture's 'second class citizen'--the migratory farm worker. Such a blot on the face of democracy must be wiped out."

Senator Humphrey said he was introducing a bill in the present session of Congress to create a new Federal Committee on Migratory Workers to provide a coordinated, organized approach toward solution of the complex migratory labor problems.

"We are still on trial before the world," he cautioned. "The course we take on such problems as these may strengthen or weaken the free world's chance of survival."

Every citizen shares the responsibilities for determining the course we take, Senator Humphrey said. "In the final analysis, public opinion formulates our national policies; the Congress just reflects that public opinion. Every citizen can and does help mold public opinion, thereby contributing to our national decisions."

Social workers should have a special concern toward making sure "that a human approach is retained in the great policy decisions of our nation," he told the conference.

"You who have dedicated your lives to careers of public service in the field of social work exemplify to a high degree America's concern for human justice and the dignity of the individual--the basic concepts of our democracy," Senator Humphrey said.

"Those basic concepts of democracy are today on trial before the entire world."

"If freedom is to prevail, the concepts of democracy must be proven meaningful, not meaningless. Democracy must be proven to offer mankind its greatest hope--by deeds, not by mere words."

"All of us have the constant responsibility to make democracy work in every walk of life. But to you who exemplify democracy's faith in the daily tasks of your vocation falls a particular responsibility. You serve to keep alive the spark of hope among the hopeless--a hope of things better to come. Without that hope, man's individual dignity shrinks and dies."

"It is that same spark of hope that is America's greatest export today to the world's underprivileged."



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