

From the Office of
Hubert H. Humphrey
429 Nicollet Hotel
Minneapolis, Minnesota

For Release On Delivery
Sunday, August 9, 1953

Food, not bullets, has struck freedom's most potent blow against Communism in Europe, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey declared Sunday.

America's gesture of sharing its abundance by shipping food to hungry Germans has created a greater crack in the Iron Curtain and caused more trouble for the Kremlin than all the threats of military destruction have seemed to accomplish, Senator Humphrey declared in addressing a Waseca County Farmers Picnic and Rally at Clear Lake Park in Waseca.

"Hope, not fear, is democracy's greatest weapon in the world struggle for survival of freedom", Senator Humphrey said. "For people already living in a constant atmosphere of fear and oppression behind the Iron Curtain, even the threat of the massed military might of the free world holds little additional terror. If you are already starving, you don't worry too much about what an atom bomb might do. But let a glimmer of new hope seep into that atmosphere of fear, let it be known that the free world is as concerned with full stomachs as it is with full cartridge belts -- then you are going over the heads of the ruthless Kremlin dictators and stirring resistance among the people themselves behind the Iron Curtain, the kind of resistance and rebellion exemplified so dramatically recently in East Berlin."

Senator Humphrey said democracy must make the utmost use of both military might and Christian human kindness in its war on Communism -- "the kind of might the Kremlin bosses understand and respect, and the kind of humanitarian concern the people themselves can understand and respect."

"We need to push firmly ahead in both directions - mobilizing our strength to throw fear into Communist rulers, but at the same time offering hope instead of fear to the people themselves," Senator Humphrey said.

Such hope is now being dramatically exemplified by "the mere pittance of food" made available for distribution in Berlin, according to Senator Humphrey, who has vigorously pushed use of America's food abundance in support of our foreign policy throughout the session of Congress just recessed and voiced the first demand in the Senate that America exploit the German hunger riots by offers of food.

Senator Humphrey declared the role food could play in strengthening America's hands in foreign relations emphasized the need for regarding our farm abundance as "a real blessing, not just a headache."

"It is time we quit complaining about having too much, and stopped to think how much worse off we would be if we had too little," Senator Humphrey said.

"It is time we quit trying to make it appear that the farmer had performed some disservice for the nation by providing us with an era of plenty, and realized once and for all the great contributions of agriculture to our national strength and security."

He recalled how former REA Administrator Claude Wickard had originated the slogan "Food Will Win the War and Write the Peace" back near the start of World War II.

"We learned how important our food abundance and our food reserves were toward winning the war - we were thankful to have such abundance then. But we seem to forget the role food abundance can and is playing in the more difficult task of restoring peace to the world. We need to turn back to that slogan, and remember that Food Can Win the Peace."

For that reason, Senator Humphrey emphasized, every American has a stake in protecting the ability and prosperity of our agricultural economy and seeing that the current downward plunge of farm prices is halted.

"If steel plants, plane factories, munitions makers are called upon to provide us with weapons of war, the nation makes sure they are paid fairly, and risk no personal loss. What about the farmer? Just because he produces a little more than we might immediately have a good market for in his determination to assure the country of abundance, must he be penalized? Must he absorb alone, out of his own pocketbook, the cost of making sure we have enough food and fiber? That is what is happening today."

Senator Humphrey deplored what he termed "the failure of many in high places to stand up and fight" for agriculture's protection against the inroads of forces seeking to exploit farmers for the personal profit of speculators, regardless of the consequences to the entire economy and strength of the nation.

He outlined his own efforts in the Congress to assure continuation of price protection, to extend it to other crops and products, and to seek new outlets rather than be compelled to invoke curbs on production.

United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

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August 10/53

From the office of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
420 Nicollet Hotel
Minneapolis, Minnesota

FOR RELEASE

Tuesday, August 11, p.m.

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Big Government doesn't "just happen" - it stems from inability or failure of local and state governments "to provide the services people need and demand", Senator Hubert H. Humphrey told the Optimist Club at a luncheon meeting in Minneapolis today.

"We must begin to strengthen our local governments and prevent undue centralization if we are to strengthen our democracy and if our system of government is to serve properly the needs of our people," Senator Humphrey declared.

"The great challenge today for better government means government at all levels, not just at the top," he said. "We must all be concerned with good government on the local level if we expect sound government on the national level."

Senator Humphrey, named last week as a member of the President's Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, told the Optimists that study of present relationships among federal, state and local government units with a view toward eliminating duplication and waste while strengthening service to the people presented "one of the most challenging opportunities of our time." Among tasks to be undertaken by the group, Senator Humphrey said, will be a thorough review of workings of more than 30 grants-in-aid programs through which the federal government now contributes more than two billion dollars a year to the states. Senator Humphrey proposed creation of a commission for such studies at each of the last two sessions of Congress, as well as introducing bills to correct tax inequities between state and federal governments.

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"Minnesota, as the 'most governed' state in the Union due to its multiplicity of political subdivisions, has a vital stake in the outcome of the Commission's investigations and recommendations," Senator Humphrey declared. He called attention to the increasing financial difficulties of local governmental units, pointing out that many school districts were already bonded to their legal limits and municipalities had reached their limitations on tax rates.

"It is time a thorough look was taken at the relationships between local and national governments in the field of raising revenues, as well as in the field of performing essential services," Senator Humphrey declared.

He said he had "always been a staunch advocate of keeping government as close to the people as possible.

From the Office of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
Room 429, Nicollet Hotel,
Minneapolis, Minn.

For Immediate Release

Aug. 11, 1953

Need for adequate food and fiber reserves to protect the nation against nature's hazards and other uncertainties of agriculture will be discussed by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey Saturday night at the Martin County Fair at Fairmont.

Senator Humphrey will discuss the importance to consumers as well as farmers of safe "stockpiles" in the nation's food lifelines, with adequate and proper storage facilities and the incentive of fair returns to assure abundant production.

Senator Humphrey insists that our agricultural abundance is part of our national strength, and that farmers should be rewarded instead of penalized for creating a land of plenty.

Senator Humphrey will be guest at a dinner given by the fair board, then speak to the grandstand crowd prior to the evening's entertainment at the fair. He will also report on farm legislation considered during the recent session of Congress.

From the office of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
429 Nicollet Hotel
Minneapolis, Minnesota

FOR RELEASE:
August 16, Sunday, A.M. editions
(Saturday night TV - Radio)

Russia's concern over low farm production should emphasize for the American people "the full significance of our blessings of abundance", Senator Hubert H. Humphrey declared Saturday night in addressing the Martin County Fair at Fairmont.

Two significant news dispatches of the past week should "drive home a lesson" for all of us to "quit worrying about surplus production and give thanks we have it," Senator Humphrey declared. He said these dispatches were:

1. Russian Premier Malenkov's announcement that "drastic measures" are to be taken to increase production of food by increasing rewards to farmers.

2. The U. S. Department of Commerce announcement that the United States has passed the 160 million mark in its population, an increase of 8,868,000 since the April 1950 census.

"Russia's open worry about failure of farm production confirms our belief that the Achilles heel in the Russian system may be its agriculture," Senator Humphrey said. "Instead of being worried about surplus food here in America, we should be taking off our hats to the American farmers for creating a land of plenty.

"We are going to need abundant production to keep pace with our growing population. The new figures announced by the Department of Commerce shows our population is increasing at the rate of 12 each second, 300 each hour, 2,700,000 each year. That's a lot of new mouths to feed."

"We don't worry about having a 'surplus' of tanks, guns, planes, and critical materials needed to produce them," Senator Humphrey said. "We just hope we can maintain a surplus -- keep ahead of the Russians."

He called attention to another Russian announcement that the Soviet now possessed the H-bomb.

"We would feel mighty insecure if we didn't feel we were ahead of the Russians in atomic development, and had a surplus of A-bombs or H-bombs on hand for any eventuality", Senator Humphrey said. "We should feel the same way about our food reserves -- and be thankful our farmers have produced in an abundance no other country can equal.

"While others are concerned with hunger, our challenge now is learning to live with that abundance -- to make the fullest and wisest use of agriculture's ability to produce.

"We should thank God that America's farmers have more than kept pace with our population, and kept away from our doors the kind of food shortages that have

created hunger and chronic starvation in many parts of the world.

"It is a reflection upon our wisdom that we permit need to exist in the midst of plenty; that we do not find a way to make sure everyone has the opportunity to obtain the essentials of a healthy diet, as long as we have ample food to provide it."

Farmers, Senator Humphrey said, should "be rewarded, instead of penalized, for creating a land of plenty".

That can be achieved, he insisted, by focusing our attention on ways of "bringing our food abundance within closer reach of low income families most urgently needing improved nutrition", and exploring possibilities of greater use of food instead of guns in "our fight for freedom abroad". Such twin approaches on the domestic and international "food fronts", Senator Humphrey said, could "develop adequate outlets for America's mounting farm production and avoid the government being compelled to ask farmers to turn off their know-how and curtail their ability and desire to produce in abundance things people need and want".

"If Americans want assurances of adequate food for generations to come, they should be concerned now with seeing that opportunities for fair reward are continued in agriculture -- and that farmers share justly and equally with other segments of the economy in return for their toil and investment."

Senator Humphrey described the Martin County Fair as a "real show window of Minnesota's agricultural wealth", and exemplified the kind of productive ability that should be encouraged rather than curtailed.

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

FOR RELEASE:
August 17, Monday A.M. Editions
Sunday P.M. radio

Nature's hazards emphasize the necessity for maintaining adequate reserves of food and fiber in the nation's stockpile" for protection of our economic stability and the lifeline of our food supply, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey warned Sunday in two addresses before the Meeker-Kandiyohi County Farmers Union Picnic at Diamond Lake Community Park and the Pope-Swift County Farmers Union Picnic at Starbuck.

America must never forget, Senator Humphrey said, "how slim the margin can be between too much and too little".

"Weather and disease can wipe out crops overnight, turning us suddenly from over-abundance to scarcity", Senator Humphrey declared, calling attention to the recent examples of wheat stem rust that has drastically reduced the durum wheat crop and adverse weather conditions of too much rainfall that have handicapped farmers in many areas.

"Drouth in the south, floods in Minnesota, and outbreaks of stem rust in many wheat areas should dramatically remind us of the ever-present uncertainties of agriculture beyond control of the farmer," Senator Humphrey declared. "For the protection of the entire nation, we need to plan on producing more than might be needed in any one year to make sure we have enough and never too little.

"But to do that, agriculture is entitled to protection against depressed prices such abundant production sometimes brings -- the depressed prices we are now experiencing.

"Farmers alone should not have to bear the cost and burden of assuring our nation of an adequate food supply at all times, good weather or bad; farmers alone should not have to pay out of their pockets to keep our stockpiles full of food and fiber so essential to the nation's economic strength and security."

That is why government farm programs are for the benefit of all the people and not just farmers, Senator Humphrey declared.

"It is time we recognized the wisdom of keeping safe reserves on hand at all times, and quit worrying so much about over-production," Senator Humphrey said. "It is time we provided better storage facilities -- and more of them -- to prevent waste and deterioration, protecting our food reserves so they can be available when they are needed.



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