

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 22, 1953

C  
O  
P  
Y  
United States Senator Hubert H. Humphrey will be a guest of honor and speaker at Minnesota's "Question Mark Day", Thursday, August 27.

The occasion is a community festival sponsored by Minnesota's businessmen to entertain farmers of the surrounding area, at which a name will be chosen this year to designate the annual event in years to come.

Competition for choice of a name for the businessmen-farmers festival is the reason for the unique "Question Mark Day" designation, according to Mayor Kerr of Minnesota.

Senator Humphrey will be honored at a community luncheon, following which he will address a public gathering at 2 o'clock on current farm problems and farm issues, emphasizing the need for protecting agriculture to avoid upsetting the rest of the economy.

Upon being informed of the name of the community celebration, Senator Humphrey said: "Question Mark Day seems an appropriate time to ask some searching questions about where we are headed in agriculture, for I'm sure there are plenty of questions in farmers minds these days. I hope we can help answer some of them."

Senator Humphrey will be accompanied by Mrs. Humphrey on his visit.

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 22, 1953

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey will be a visitor at the Otter  
Tail County Fair at Fergus Falls on Friday, August 28.

Senator Humphrey will be the guest of Theodore M. Thompson,  
president of the Otter Tail County Fair Board, for his visit to the  
Fergus Falls community event. He will arrive in the afternoon, and  
remain for evening festivities at the fairgrounds.

Senator Humphrey has been a guest-visitor at several of  
Minnesota's county fairs this year, speaking at a number of them on  
current agricultural problems. An enthusiastic fair booster, Senator  
Humphrey calls county fairs "a real show-window of democracy, displaying  
America's friendliness, neighborly spirit, good natured competition,  
community teamwork, family participation, and both agricultural and  
technological progress."

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 22, 1953

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey will be a visitor at the Swift  
County Fair at Appleton on Saturday, August 29.

Senator Humphrey will arrive in Appleton during the afternoon  
for the annual community event, remaining throughout the evening for  
festivities at the fairgrounds.

Senator Humphrey has been a guest-visitor at several of  
Minnesota's county fairs this year, speaking at a number of them on  
current agricultural problems. An enthusiastic fair booster, Senator  
Humphrey says County Fairs "are typically American -- displaying our  
friendliness, neighborly spirit, our keen rivalry in good natured  
competition, community teamwork, family participation, and both  
agricultural and technological progress."

C  
O  
P  
Y

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

FOR RELEASE  
Wednesday P.M.  
August 26, 1953

United States Senator Hubert H. Humphrey will visit four western Minnesota communities Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (August 27, 28, and 29) to participate in community festivals and gatherings as speaker or guest of honor.

Senator Humphrey will address a community "Question Mark Day" festival Thursday at Minnetonka, at the invitation of citizens of that community. The occasion is sponsored by Minnetonka's businessmen in honor of farmers in their surrounding trade area.

From Minnetonka he will drive to Sauk Centre, where he will address a public meeting at 8 o'clock Thursday night in the Sauk Centre City Hall. Senator and Mrs. Humphrey will be overnight guests at the home of Ben DuBois, President of the First State Bank of Sauk Centre.

Friday afternoon and evening Senator Humphrey will visit the Otter Tail County Fair at Fergus Falls, as the guest of Theodore M. Thompson, President of the Otter Tail County Fair Board.

On Saturday, Senator and Mrs. Humphrey will visit the Swift County Fair at Appleton to exchange greetings with friends and participate in the community's fair festivities.

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

FOR RELEASE  
Thursday P.M.  
August 27, 1953

American agriculture must make its own voice heard from the "grass roots" to keep years of effort in the building of sound farm programs for the good of the entire nation "from being recklessly cast aside during the coming session of Congress", Senator Hubert H. Humphrey declared today (Thursday, August 27) in an address at a businessmen-farmers' community festival in Minneota, Minnesota.

As guest of honor and principal speaker at the "Question Mark Day" sponsored by Minneota's businessmen in tribute to the area's farmers, Senator Humphrey voiced this note of warning:

"Make no mistake about it: a powerful bloc of processors, speculators, food brokers and other middlemen is determined to pull the rug of price supports out from under America's farmers.

"Battle lines are being drawn, with agriculture's future at stake. It's not just a political battle -- it's a bread and butter battle that involves us all. Some of us from farm states, Democrats and Republicans alike, are trying to keep the protection experience has proven agriculture needs and deserves. Unfortunately, powerful forces within the Republican Party are on the other side of the fence -- and seem to have the Administration's ear so far".

As evidence of "forces outside agriculture" seeking to undermine farm programs, Senator Humphrey called attention to a front page editorial in a recent issue of Barron's Financial Weekly calling for elimination of all supports for farm commodities.

"Wheat farmers showed in no uncertain terms how they feel in the recent referendum for marketing quotas, voting overwhelmingly to keep supports at 90% of parity even if it meant temporary production restrictions", Senator Humphrey said.

"That vote should make the Administration pause and take a new look at the direction it has been taking," Senator Humphrey added. "But the pressures against agriculture won't give up so easily. There's plenty of evidence of deliberate efforts to stir up city residents against farm programs.

"The only answer is for the farmers themselves to insist upon being heard -- to raise their own voices until they are heard all the way to Washington," he said.

Senator Humphrey said the House agricultural sub-committee hearing scheduled for Minnesota on October 17 "offered a chance for Minnesota's farmers to speak out" against attempts to do away with existing farm programs.

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

FOR RELEASE  
Friday A. M.  
August 28, 1953

Protecting agriculture is protecting America's lifeline of food and fiber, and protecting strength of our entire economy, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey declared Thursday night (August 27) in an address at the City Hall in Sauk Centre, Minnesota.

"Price supports don't serve the farmer alone -- they guarantee the nation an adequate food supply at all times, good season or bad", Senator Humphrey declared. "Congress has had the wisdom and foresight to protect the public's stake in food by encouraging agricultural abundance, and by seeking to provide workable means whereby the burden of serving the public interest through abundant production doesn't fall upon the farmer alone."

Senator Humphrey said criticism against farm price supports was "short-sighted and unfair", in view of similar protective devices provided for other segments of our economy.

"Industry has cost-plus contracts, tax amortization benefits, and many other forms of subsidy to prevent risk of loss in meeting the nation's stepped-up demands. Our merchant marine is subsidized, to make sure we'll have ships when we need them. Similar subsidies are provided for airlines. Labor has minimum wage laws, as protection against exploitation.

"The farmer should certainly be entitled to similar safe-guards as long as he is serving the public interest with his production -- and the farmer is entitled to such protection without being continually castigated as though he were on 'relief'", Senator Humphrey declared.

Senator Humphrey outlined the measures he has introduced to strengthen and improve present price support programs, saying they would "carry out every request of Minnesota's State Legislature, every campaign promise of President Eisenhower that now seem to be forgotten."

"We hear quite a bit about 'flexible' supports to adjust production, but the 'flex' is always downward", Senator Humphrey said. "My price support bill has adequate provision for flexibility to obtain adjustments, but that flexibility is upwards -- a sensible way to seek adjustments by higher incentive supports on the commodities we need most, instead of the 'starve 'em out' theory of withholding any realistic price support in an attempt to get production shifts."



# Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



[www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org)