

*Sp. File - March 10th
Faribault*

From the Office of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
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National 8-3120, Ext. 881

RELEASE FOR THURSDAY A.M. PAPERS

MARCH 11, 1954

Deeds rather than words toward making any changes in agricultural policies more gradual in their impact upon farmers were called for by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey yesterday (Wednesday) in an address before the annual meeting of the Faribault County Co-op Oil Association at Blue Earth.

President Eisenhower's assurances that any changes would be "gradual adjustments do not jibe with Secretary Benson's drastic actions, Senator Humphrey told the farmer

"What's gradual about abruptly dropping dairy price supports from 90% to 75% of parity, wiping out \$600,000,000 in dairy farm income -- \$2,500,000 per month in Minnesota alone?" he asked.

"What's gradual about leaving corn entirely out of the set-aside program outlined by the President to ease the impact of the so-called sliding scale of lower price supports, and provide instead for speeding up rather than slowing down the forced drop in corn prices?"

Secretary Benson's claim that he had to cut dairy supports to 75% of parity under the existing law "is just a political alibi", Senator Humphrey said.

"If it isn't, why hasn't he shown any willingness to support the change in the law we have proposed, to modify any reduction to not more than 5% per year?" Senator Humphrey asked.

"If the present law is all that stands in Secretary Benson's way, I invite him to make known his support for our constructive effort to prevent discrimination against the dairy industry", he added.

Senator Humphrey referred to S. 2962, which he is sponsoring with Senator Thye and 24 other Senators to prevent Secretary Benson's drastic slash from going into effect on April 1st.

Office of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
Room 429, Nicollet Hotel

FOR RELEASE:
Saturday a.m., March 13

Democrats in the Congress are putting the nation's interests foremost and working as a responsible minority toward constructive objectives rather than being content to "sit back and criticize", Senator Hubert H. Humphrey told the Hennepin County DFL Convention in Minneapolis last night.

Such objectives, Senator Humphrey declared, include:

1. Halting recessionary trends, through tax reduction "where it is needed the most" to stimulate the country's purchasing power and aid America's small business.

2. Ending the uncertainty now demoralizing agricultural markets through extending continued fair and effective price protection to farmers coupled with sound approaches toward "making wiser use of our abundance for the benefit of all the people."

3. Protecting the nation's security against any internal threat of Communists without undermining the democratic processes and civil liberties that Communism itself seeks to destroy, through a "fair play" code of rules and procedures for investigating committees, and by centralizing security inquiries in a joint committee of the House and Senate adequately staffed by experienced security investigators, "to serve the nation, rather than headline hunters".

4. Conservation and development of the nation's natural resources for the benefit of all the American people, "instead of allowing them to be either neglected or exploited for private gain".

Highlights of Senator Humphrey's comments on each of those objectives included:

Taxation: "We're going to see that the country gets the kind of tax reduction needed to stimulate purchasing power for the broad base of the American people, instead of just tax relief in the upper brackets in any 'trickle down' theory of aiding our economy... Since introduction of my own bill calling for raising individual personal tax exemptions from \$600 to \$800, united support has been developing behind such a program through the leadership of Senator George, foremost authority in the Congress on tax and fiscal policies, along with Senators Hill and Douglas... ..As a result I am confident that the Senate will vote a tax reduction program that really means something to the average individual, coupled with easing or elimination of excise taxes to aid American business and tax policies that would encourage use of investment capital for business and industrial expansion."

Farm situation: "We're trying to get the cart back in front of the horse..offering programs to use our abundance, instead of complain about it, and continuing fair protection to American agriculture when it needs it most, instead of endangering our entire economy by further pulling the rug out from under our great farm economy".

Senator Humphrey emphasized the vital role of America's plentiful food supplies as a "positive arm" of foreign policy, declared that abundance rather than scarcity was the best protection for America's consumers, and insisted that farmers should be "rewarded rather than penalized" for providing such abundance.

Since their inception 20 years ago, Senator Humphrey said, farm price supports have only cost the American people an average of 35 cents per person per year--"mighty cheap insurance for abundant food, and a stable farm economy".

He called attention to the fact that the Joint Committee on the Economic Report, "watchdog" for the Congress on the nation's economic trends, voted 12 to 2 against the President's recommendations to lower farm price supports because of the detrimental effect of such action on the country's entire economy.

Internal security: "It's time we raised our internal security safeguards to a higher level than headline-hunting competition between rival committees."

Senator Humphrey outlined the bill he is co-sponsoring with Senator Douglas (D., Ill.) for creation of one joint committee on internal security in the congress to avoid the multiplicity of investigating committees, providing for a "fair play" code of committee procedures to protect civil rights, preserve democratic processes, and safeguard against abuses.

Natural Resources: "America's future is closely linked with proper care and use of its great natural resources...Concern is growing in Congress over trends to either neglect such resources or give them away for private exploitation."

Senator Humphrey warned of the drastic slashes in appropriations for forestry programs, national park development, and soil conservation work, and called attention to his proposal that Congress establish a Joint Committee on Natural Resources to serve as a watchdog of the public's interest in resource protection and development.



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