



For Release: Sunday A.M.
JUNE 5, 1955

NEWS RELEASE

from the Desk of SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

140 Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D.C., National 8-3120, Ext. 881

SENATOR HUMPHREY PLEDGES IMPROVED FARM PROGRAM IN 84th CONGRESS

Before the 84th Congress is over, farmers of the country will have a new and improved farm program, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) predicted last night in an address before a statewide DFL Farm Conference at Moorhead, Minnesota.

"Just in case there is any doubt, let me assure you tonight that a majority of Democrats in both the House and the Senate are FOR restoring 90% of parity, and a majority of Republicans in both the House and the Senate are for Benson's sliding scale of lowered supports.

"We ARE going to revise the price support bill, and improve it upward," Senator Humphrey pledged.

"The Senate Agriculture Committee has already agreed that the Eisenhower-Benson program is inadequate. If it did not think so, it would not be holding hearings on revision of the price support bill."

Senator Humphrey revealed for the first time that field hearings of the Senate Agriculture Committee in connection with improvement of the price support bill would be held in Minnesota at his request, with the dates not yet established.

"Recalling the favorable impact of the Minneapolis hearing by the House Agricultural Committee, I am convinced that bringing the Senate committee out here in the Midwest to see and hear about agricultural conditions from our own farm people will go a long way toward stimulating early action for higher price supports".

Because of the narrow margin of the Democratic majority in the Senate, Senator Humphrey said, "We are anxious to include new improvements in the price support bill rather than just restoration of 90% support on basic commodities, in the hope of picking up additional votes."

Such improvements will most likely include premium support levels for higher quality production, and may also include "cut off" of support to farmers over a fixed size of gross marketings, Senator Humphrey indicated.

Senator Humphrey warned wheat growers that "Congress is watching the approaching wheat referendum", and that if growers reject marketing quotas "the uphill fight will be all the more difficult for those of us in Congress seeking to restore 90% of parity."

He criticized Secretary Benson's "silence" on the wheat referendum, saying:

"Secretary Benson knows that the danger of the referendum failing is the direct result of his own policies of lowering future price supports. Yet he seems to lack the courage to speak out and ask farmers to support the quotas he has asked for. Why is the voice of Benson now stilled, at a time when the future of wheat growers hangs in the balance? Oh, I know he professes 'neutrality', and says he does not want to interfere with the free choice of farmers. But where was that 'neutrality' when Congress was debating price supports? Did he remain silent then, and let farmers speak for themselves? It is regrettable that Secretary Benson, so vocal in speaking out against every constructive effort of farmers to help themselves, is so silent now at such a critical time."



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