

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

For Release; Thursday A.M.  
September 15, 1955

GREATER ATTENTION URGED TO MORE ADEQUATE CARE FOR NATION'S AGED

Adequate care of the Nation's aged confronts the country with an increasingly serious problem, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey declared last night in an address before the Lake Nokomis Lutheran Brotherhood's Dinner in Minneapolis.

Increasing percentage of our population in the "senior citizen" brackets, Senator Humphrey said, "presents a challenge that cannot be ignored."

"It is becoming one of the areas of social welfare that will require greater attention on the part of federal, state, and local governments, along with private welfare agencies," he declared.

"I am convinced that an important factor in America's greatness today is the willingness of the strong to share part of the burden of the weak. We have made a good start in overhauling our social security system. But we cannot be content with what we have done so far. I believe we can provide a more generous, a more adequate, a more comprehensive social security system which will really bring security to the American people.

"But there are still other areas that need to be explored, in regard to treatment of the aged. We need to see that more decent housing is placed within their reach, and that they have access to hospital facilities and medical care. We need even more to recognize their importance as fellow human beings in our midst, utilizing their skills and talents to the utmost rather than relegating them to the back shelf of life. We need to provide them with social, recreational, and cultural activities geared to their later years in life.

"We have learned to prolong human life, but have not yet adjusted our economic and social patterns to properly utilize the extra years gained."

Senator Humphrey predicted expansion and liberalization of the social security program during the next half of the 84th Congress, outlining suggested changes for which he has introduced legislation to:

1. Reduce the age at which women may retire and become eligible for benefits from 65 to 60 years.
2. Increase benefits from 50% to 75% for wives, and from 75% to 100% for widows.
3. Allow benefits for the permanently and totally disabled.
4. Continue the present \$5 increase in public assistance for another two years, instead of letting it expire in 1956, and providing an additional \$5 across the board for old age assistance and to the blind and disabled, with an additional \$3 for dependent children.
5. Provide a \$5 increase in the minimum old-age and survivors insurance benefits to raise them to \$35.
6. Provide a 2% postponed retirement benefit to each worker who continues to work past 65.
7. Provide for the coverage of dentists under the federal old-age and survivors insurance program, and for the voluntary coverage of lawyers who wish to come under the OASI system.

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SENATOR HUMPHREY URGES DIRECT POPULAR ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

It is time for the United States to make its democratic processes more effective in the choice of the nation's chief executive, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey declared today in a luncheon address before the Usadian Club at the Curtis Hotel in Minneapolis.

Senator Humphrey urged adoption of a constitutional amendment to abolish the present electoral college system and substituting instead direct, popular election of the President and Vice President, for which he now has a resolution pending before Congress.

"For 160 years, the United States has been hampered by an obstacle in the path of democratic selection of the Chief Executives," Senator Humphrey said. "The system has persisted in spite of oft-repeated efforts to substitute more rational and democratic methods.

"Now, in a time when democracy is enduring its severest trial before the peoples of the world, the United States must perform the duties which it has assumed and lead the free nations of the world in demonstrating that democracy is the best way.

"The fundamental principle on which any democracy is founded is that the people governed shall have a voice, a controlling voice, in their government. This means that they shall elect their public servants by popular vote, so that the servants are responsible to the people in the most direct way possible. It is also inherent in any democracy that all citizens shall have an equal voice in choosing their public servants. It is inconsistent with our principles that the votes of some of our citizens are worth twice, five times, or ten times as much as others, merely due to their geographic distribution. The United States should meet the challenge, and reform its outmoded election system in order that it may better reflect the will of the people."

Senator Humphrey called attention to the fact that three times in our history men have been elected to the Presidency despite the fact that their opponents received more popular votes.

"The best way to eliminate the possibility that a man will be elected President in spite of the will of the people is to conduct a general popular election for the position," Senator Humphrey said. "This does away with all the factors which might contribute to the election of a man who has lost the general election. Under the constitutional amendment which I introduced, every vote casts one vote, a whole vote, which is just as good and just as important as the vote cast by any other voter in the country. This is the democratic way. This is what we are trying to convince the people of the world to do.

AP

EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH DELIVERED BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY AT POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE 32ND CONVENTION BANQUET - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1955 at 8 P.M.

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Senator Humbert H. Humphrey (D.Minn.) tonight called for revision and liberalization of two key acts affecting immigration: the Immigration and ~~Nationality~~ <sup>Naturalization</sup> Act and the Refugee Relief Act of 1953, in an address before the 75th Anniversary Convention of the Polish National Alliance meeting in Minneapolis.

Commending the Alliance for its vigorous and loyal dedication to the principles of freedom and democracy, Senator Humphrey recalled the important contributions of Americans of Polish extraction in building and maintaining the vigor of our political and social and economic institutions. "The Polish people have been lovers of freedom through the ages," he declared. "They have faithfully served America in peace and war - from the time of the Revolution through the present and we need more than ever today their courage, their energy, their talents, their unswerving dedication to freedom".

"Yet the present Immigration and Naturalization Act and likewise the Refugee Relief Act, do injury to the good name of America and constitute a timid and shameful turning-back from the great tradition which has enriched our nation with new blood and new ideas and new strength."

Senator Humphrey pointed out that he was proud to be a cosponsor of two bills in the last session of Congress which would lead to a more humanitarian, a fairer and more intelligent immigration and refugee policy for America.

"The bills do not constitute a complete revision of the present acts, but they do remedy some of their inequities and weaknesses" he said. "They do not go as far as I would like them to go. However, they give us a fair beginning. They will help us in carrying out our immediate foreign policy objectives, and, perhaps most important, enable us to present a better face to the world. We must demonstrate that we are concerned, that we are troubled, that we are willing to do something for the thousands and hundreds of thousands who look today across the Iron Curtain towards the United States for help and for hope."

Senator Humphrey listed ten key changes in the two acts:

1. Pooling of unused immigration quotas.
2. Restoring to professors and scientists eligibility for nonquota status if a University requests their services.
3. Granting certain adopted children the immigration status enjoyed by natural children in order to avoid breaking up families.

4. Eliminating prolonged "Mortgaging" of quotas for future decades when they are now urgently needed.
5. Providing preference rights to protect family unification.
6. Creating Visa Review Board to grant prospective immigrants the right of appeal.
7. Restoring discretionary authority to suspend deportation in deserving cases to provide for "justice tempered with mercy."
8. Vigorous and sympathetic administration by a full-time Refugee Administration, responsible solely to the Secretary of State.
9. Re-allocating unused visas and extending time of termination dates to make possible full utilization of existing authorization with reference to refugees.
10. Permitting voluntary agencies to help people qualify under the refugee program by providing assurances of suitable employment and housing.

"America must once again stand boldly for sanctuary and freedom" Senator Humphrey declared. "We must take positive steps to build a program of justice and compassion, and in the best sense of the word, one of enlightened self-interest for America."



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