

From the Office of  
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey  
140 Senate Office Building  
Washington 25, D.C.  
National 8,3120 - Ext. 881

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SENATOR HUMPHREY CALLS FOR MORE RESPONSIBLE, MORE EFFECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM

"There is no reason why this nation can not have an effective security system and at the same time protect the fundamental liberties of the individual," Senator Hubert H. Humphrey declared Friday night in an address at Kalamazoo, Michigan. "The present security regulations are shot full of holes, and their careless administration has gravely damaged the traditional American concepts of individual freedom," he declared.

"In far too many instances there has been a failure to distinguish between disloyalty and nonconformity. All too often new ideas and unorthodox expressions have been labelled suspect."

Speaking at a public affairs forum at Western Michigan College, Senator Humphrey called for a positive program to restore the "bedrock conviction" of the American people that the protections extended by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights are "equally as important as an effective defense against espionage and subversion."

"We must fight vigorously against the sinister concept of 'guilt by association', he said. "This concept is responsible not only for embarrassment and genuine suffering, but it is also the kind of thinking which obscures the realities of the Communist conspiracy. It is far more difficult to single out the guilty when a smokescreen of mistaken over-enthusiasm has been permitted to cover the whole government security program.

"The entire structure of Anglo-Saxon law is designed to guard against the uncertainties of human fallibility in matters affecting life, liberty, and property," Senator Humphrey pointed out. "But in the field of security apparently we have a government of men not of law."

As Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee that held hearings on the resolution to set up the Commission on Government Security, Senator Humphrey heard testimony from numerous witnesses on many aspects of the government's information and personnel security programs.

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Speaking of those who administer the security programs, Senator Humphrey noted: "We remove from government service those individuals who may be fallible because of indiscretions, bad judgment, or mistakes of the past, but we extol the virtues of the fallible men who are the removers.

"These men who administer the security program belong to a new profession. It has come into being within only the past decade. But as a group, they represent one of the most powerful and influential forces within the government itself and within American life generally.

"These are men, we are told, who are expected to assess the intrinsic character and value of human beings in relation to the jobs they hold, and from the standpoint of whether their activities in such jobs are consistent with the national interest. Their function requires not only wisdom, charity, patience, and intelligence but also the professional skills of the lawyer, the social scientists, the social worker, the public administrator and the psychologist, among others.

"Do we have that kind of men in the corps of our security officers today?" Senator Humphrey went on to ask. "You know the answer? We do not.

Senator Humphrey went on to say: "There is a very grave danger of establishing within the government service a corps of security officers whose affirmative qualifications for this important job are questionable and who generally lack the qualifications which thoughtful people might think they should possess."

Senator Humphrey warned, however, against rushing to the other extreme of dismantling our internal security system, for "it would be a tragic and unforgivable mistake to underestimate the sinister nature and the ever-present threat to free people of any totalitarian force.

"Surely we of this generation have learned enough about the strategy, tactics, and techniques of the Communist conspiracy to know that it is more than an ideology. It is a powerful political and military force, backed by the strength of the Soviet Empire. That system has never renounced its objectives. The Cominform still exists. The Communist, as we know him has only one supreme loyalty, namely, the Soviet Union.

"We must not ignore these facts," Senator Humphrey said. "But we have every right to establish a program both effective and responsible -- one which will preserve the security of the nation and the liberty of the individual American citizen."



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