

Release: 9:15 AM Friday,
February 27, 1959

*Dean Howard
Prof. Humphrey*

Excerpts of Address
Prepared for Release by
Hon. Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.)
Before Alpha Omega, Alpha Chapter
and
The Student Council, University of
Minnesota

SENATOR HUMPHREY EXPECTS HEARINGS IN SEVERAL CITIES
ON INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL RESEARCH: URGES MORE BASIC
RESEARCH AT GRASS-ROOTS.

International Medical Research is an ideal "Bridge of Peace," a bridge over the gulf - the chasm - that separates Nations, especially between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.

The bridge already exists, has always existed, because medicine per se has always been international, as science itself is international.

Research draws from the world "pool" of knowledge and contributes to that "pool." irrespective of national boundaries or ideology.

Medical research is an ideal bridge too, because of its universal appeal to laymen -- the well-being of the whole human family. That means the reduction of pain and suffering, disability, and premature death. -- the real universal enemies of man.

Hearings on Research in Several Cities

Commencing in the Spring of this year, there will be extensive Hearings on International Medical Research problems. They will be conducted by the Senate Government Operations Subcommittee of which I am privileged to be Chairman, in its study of world health problems.

These hearings will be held, not simply in Washington but, I hope, in several leading cities across the Nation.

The exact sites are still to be determined by my colleagues and myself and will have to be fitted in carefully with the schedule of the Senate and other Committee responsibilities.

The Hearings will supplement the splendid Hearings which have been held during the past week and which will occur next week in the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare under Senator Lister Hill, Chairman.

Those Hearings concern one Bill, S.J. Res. 41, to create a National

Institute of International Medical Research. I am pleased to cosponsor this vital Bill, as offered by Senator Hill.

Our own Subcommittee's scope is, however, much broader. It concerns not one Bill, but the vast range of problems and opportunities in world health.

Purposes of our Study

The purposes of our International Health Study are as follows:

1. To report on what is being done by the United States Government and privately in the field of international medical RESEARCH.
2. To report on what is being done by our Government and privately in the field of international medical ASSISTANCE - notably among the developing areas of the globe.
3. To make SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS for improving both of these phases - research and assistance.

Diverse Groups Contacted

We have set the widest possible "dragnet" for usable ideas and information.

We have contacted every conceivable qualified source at home and abroad, public and private. This includes, among others:

1. All United States agencies engaged in medical research, directly or indirectly.
2. All Inter-Governmental Organizations interested in research - W.H.O., F.A.O., UNICEF, and others.
3. The Dean of every medical school in the United States and of every school of Public Health.
4. The pharmaceutical industry of our country - all major companies and associations interested in international research.
5. Every national voluntary health organization, active in research and rehabilitation.
6. Overseas assistance organizations - Church and non-sectarian.
7. The national medical association of every nation in the world, affiliated with the World Medical Association.

8. Every Health Minister of every country of the world.
9. Every United States Ambassador accredited to a foreign country.
10. All U.S. professional groups involved in the healing arts - medical, dental, nursing, pharmaceutical, and others.
11. Specialized medical groups, e.g., anesthesiology, pediatrics, obstetrics, etc.

Our contacts have necessarily been principally by correspondence and reports. In addition, however, we have had many conferences in person in Washington.

And, as you know, in November-December 1958, I traveled abroad visiting eight European countries, including the Soviet Union.

I spoke with Premiers and Health Ministers, with Nobel Award-winning scientists and young researchers, with M.D.'s, biologists, chemists, and physicists. ~~France~~, ~~Germany~~, ~~Denmark~~ ^{Turkey} ~~Slovak~~, ~~Poland~~ ^{Prof. Kravtsov},

I held a formal Hearing in Paris and informal discussions in Geneva; Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki, Oslo, Moscow, and London.

Publications to Date

Our Subcommittee is issuing a whole series of publications:

1. Our first publication was entitled "International Medical Research."

It documented the indebtedness of the people of the United States to the scientific talent of every country which has contributed to the great discoveries of medical science.

2. Our second document sets forth the many laws of the United States under which medical research is conducted. It points out the need for more authority for international research.

3. Our third document is entitled, "Status of World Health." It presents in chart form a picture of the world's diseases; where they occur; what medical, nursing, and other resources are available to combat them.

⑤ U.S. Grants - for facilities
✓ P.L. 480 Funds - for Symposia + congresses
✓ Scholarships -

Publications
Translation
& changes

Notable Contributions of University of Minnesota

Needless to say, I am especially delighted that our great University of Minnesota has contributed as much or more helpful information and suggestions than any other university in our land.

In the coming weeks we are going to publish extracts from many of the reports which have come to me. Without attempting to be inclusive, let me refer to just a few invaluable highlights of the responses:

1. Dean Robert B. Howard, of the Medical School, pointed out many helpful facts with promptness and thoroughness. He cited, for example, that there are more than 60 young men and women from all over the world taking graduate training in the various clinical and basic science departments of our Medical School. He documented Minnesota's pioneering achievements of the past including great research contributions ranging from Dr. Wesley Spink's work on brucellosis, Dr. J. T. Syvertson's work in the Department of Bacteriology and Immunology (which has been of such importance in the development of an oral vaccine against polio), and the studies of Dr. Cecil W. Watson on metabolism of bile and blood pigments.
2. Dr. Stewart C. Thompson, Associate Director of the School of Public Health, pointed out that in the last four years, students in that school have come from no less than 36 countries.

On the research phase, he pointed to the esteemed work of Dr. Ancel Keys on the problem of atherosclerosis, including his recent work in Yugoslavia, where he has headed a team of 20 from six different countries.

He has pointed out, too, the very considerable number of faculty members of the School who have become consultants to a great many foreign countries.

*the
Gaylord
Anderson*

3. Dr. Keys, incidentally, in a letter to me, pointed to the important recommendations which have been filed by the Research Committee of the International Society of Cardiology, of which Dr. Paul Dudley White and Dr. Keys are Co-Chairmen. This research program contemplates what I, too, regard as a "must" -- a vast epidemiological program involving examination, follow-up, and reexamination five years later of men age 40 to 59 in fifteen to twenty areas, in order to get a graphic picture and understanding of the incidence of heart disease.

I can cite many other instances from Minnesota, as well.

4. Dr. Robert J. Gorlin, Chairman of the Division of Oral Pathology, School of Dentistry, who has done very fine work in the field of mouth cancer, has pointed up the great international possibilities for further constructive work along this line. In many areas of the world -- India, China, and even within our own Western Hemisphere (Cuba, for example) -- oral cancer, for unexplained reasons, amounts to 40 per cent or more of all body cancer. The question is, Why?

5. Dr. John A. Anderson, Head of the Department of Pediatrics, wrote on a subject of special interest to me - expanding world collaboration in peri-natal research. This was one of the points of the 5-point health program which I took up with Premier Khrushchev and on which he indicated warm accord.

6. Director Katherine J. Densford, of the School of Nursing, has pointed out the great international challenges in the nursing field.

Dr.

7. Our famous/Bill Kubicek ^{and Dr. Kortke} of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has been of tremendous aid to us in pointing up the great opportunities and needs in his specialty for additional work throughout the world.

And, of course, each of these distinguished leaders has given all due credit to colleagues of the persons named for indispensable collaborative work.

International Medical Year

As our Subcommittee proceeds, we are all looking ahead to the International Public Health and Medical Research Year, which is scheduled, tentatively, to start in mid-1961.

The Director General of the World Health Organization, Dr. M. G. Candau, with whom I conferred in Geneva, is now preparing extensive recommendations which he will submit to the WHO at its meeting in Geneva in May.

Need for Basic Research at Grassroots and Abroad

I will not attempt to touch upon other phases of our International Health Study.

I do, however, want to mention ^{one} other particular point:

It is familiar, I know, to every member of the Faculty and to every member of the student body.

I refer to the need for more basic research.

I refer to the need for more incentive for scientists to participate in basic research and to make a career of it.

I do not for one moment underestimate all of the other worthy phases of medical careers into which you in this audience may choose to enter.

I will only affirm, that, until we increase the reservoir of basic knowledge, we will hardly be able to make new advances in applied medicine.

Naturally, there is a universal desire in the heart of the American people for the answers to specific diseases like -- CANCER, CARDIOVASCULAR AILMENTS, MENTAL DISORDERS, or MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS, MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY, HUNTINGTON'S CHOREA -- and a vast range of other diseases which are mysteries, in whole or in part.

I, for one, want to see every one of these riddles solved.

So far as I am concerned, I would like to see in tomorrow morning's newspaper a 2-line headline, the first line reading:

"CANCER CONQUERED." The second line might read:

SCIENTISTS FIND THE ANSWER."

You and I would naturally prefer and expect Americans to make the discovery. But we would rejoice irrespective of the nationality of the scientist who might find the final answers to cancer.

But you and I know that the man who does ultimately find not just the one answer to cancer, but the many answers -- may be studying an entirely different problem. He may be, for all we know, finding indispensable clues in a study, say, of marine micro-organisms, or in some other field which might to a layman, seem unrelated.

What I suggest, therefore, is strengthening all along the line of our groundwork in the fields of basic research -- not just against one disease, but to find answers which may, across-the-board, be helpful in conquering an entire spectrum of diseases.

The University of Minnesota has contributed superbly to basic and applied research. I want to see this great institution strengthened in its capacity.

I do not believe in excessive concentration of research work at any single Federal institute, as such, anywhere in the country, as great as may be its record.

I say: -- It is here in Minnesota, and on other great campuses of the country, that we may expect and should expect a preponderance of notable future advances in both basic and applied research. So, too, there is foreign talent in many countries that we must tap to the fullest.

In so doing, we will build a bridge to a happier, healthier, more peaceful world.



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