

SENATOR HUMPHREY CHARGES ADMINISTRATION WITH "SOCIAL BLINDNESS", URGES ACTION
TO REVITALIZE ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREAS

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) accused the Republican Administration

~~XXXX~~

last night of "social blindness" -- a failure to "see or feel the plight of

America's unemployed workers and their hungry families, and to understand the

~~criminal~~ waste of *skill, talent,* ~~good brains~~ and hands in the many areas of chronic unemployment

throughout the country." (X)

Speaking to an audience in ~~Charleston, West Virginia,~~ Charleston, West Virginia,

Senator Humphrey said that "Administration leaders are trying to gauge the

economic health of the nation by watching the stock market, corporation profits,

and by golf-link discussions with representatives of the great corporations and

financial insitutions."

"What the ~~adminx~~ President and his advisers need to do is to get around the

country and talk to the people in West Virginia and northern Minnesota mining

towns, or in any of a hundred areas where *thousands of* ~~XXXX~~ families are trying to hold on

without jobs, without hope, and often *adequate* ~~even~~ without food," Senator Humphrey

declared.

"I can't believe that the President would oppose our Area Redevelopment

legislation, our Democratic program for extending unemployment benefits, our

efforts to expand the school lunch program, and our attempts to expand public

works projects in economically depressed areas, if he only understood the truly desperate economic situation in these areas."

"The trouble with the Republican Administration," he charged, "is that they put dollars before people, balancing the budget before balancing the nation's economy, and ^{fat} corporate profits before full employment!"

"This is a ~~do-nothing~~ care-nothing, do-nothing, backward-looking, budget-preoccupied Government that is letting our nation slide into a secondary position in world power and permitting economic conditions to exist ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~United States~~ ~~that~~ are intolerable and disgraceful ~~in~~ in a country of such wealth and resources."

Senator Humphrey said that an Administration that understood and gave importance to the problems of chronically depressed areas would take vigorous and immediate steps to cope with them. "It would recognize that such areas are a cancer in the economic ~~life~~ and social life ~~of~~ the nation, draining away the strength and vitality of our nation, and that to remain indifferent is to court national disaster!"

He said that the Democratic Congress, hampered and blocked by "obstinate ~~and~~ opposition from the President and the Bureau of the Budget", is attempting

to provide both temporary relief for the "appalling conditions which find wives and little children living on the ragged edge", and at the same time searching for methods of "revitalizing and reinvigorating the economies of areas which have been subjected to great changes due to technological development and fundamental patterns of consumption."

Senator Humphrey predicted that the Democratic Congress would pass -- "if necessary, over the President's veto" -- the bill to extend and expand temporary ^{benefits} unemployment benefits, giving temporary ~~relief~~ immediately to nearly 2 million jobless Americans who have either exhausted their benefits, or who are not eligible under present law.

He said that "there is no excuse for the failure of the Administration to *under conditions where children are actually* provide as much food as is needed to families who have need of it in the depressed *gain without adequate clothing and food"* ~~are~~ and that ~~the~~ Congress would provide as ~~many~~ many funds as the President would request for this purpose.

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"These, of course, are short-term palliatives," Senator Humphrey said.

"They can ease the pain, but they ^{cannot} ~~do not~~ in themselves, cure the economic illness of these depressed areas."

Senator Humphrey described the Area Redevelopment Bill already passed once and vetoed by the President, and "soon to be passed again by the 86th Congress",

as a ~~xx~~"sound and constructive attempt to focus on the long-range needs of
distressed
the economically ~~depressed areas~~ areas."

"This legislation would provide two badly-needed programs -- one to
retrain unemployed workers to take new kinds of jobs in new industry, and the
other to encourage new industry to establish itself in the distressed areas
through long-term, low-interest government financing," he explained.

"There is even more that the Federal and State Governments can do
together -- basically financed with Federal funds drawn from the healthier
sections of the nation," Senator Humphrey said.

~~the~~ He proposed that ~~the~~ government undertake ~~the~~ broad programs for the
restoration of basic health to the distressed areas:

1. Concentration of ~~public~~ authorized public works programs designed
lay the base for greatly expanded future
to ~~basically stimulate the~~ productivity of the areas -- to provide
unequipped
~~the~~ transportation facilities, more and cheaper power sources,
better school buildings and laboratories, and *greatly expanded* timber management
practices, in appropriate areas. *public works* "Such projects," Senator Humphrey
noted, "would also ~~have~~ act as ~~an~~ immediate stimulants in the area
by providing additional *for workers* jobs and markets for *businessmen* the production of the
area."

2. Intensified Government-financed research into the ways of

making greater use of the raw materials and natural resources of

the distressed areas, ^{and} "to find additional outlets for existing

industry and new outlets for the latent wealth of the area."

3.

~~3.~~ Government assistance to families in areas of low natural-resource

potential, ~~for~~ to aid them in moving to other areas ~~which~~ of

~~higher~~ the country which have better employment

opportunities.

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URGES ACTION TO REVITALIZE ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREAS

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) accused the Republican Administration last night of "social blindness" -- a failure to "see or feel the plight of America's unemployed workers and their hungry families, and to understand the waste of skill, talent, and hands in the many areas of chronic unemployment throughout the country."

"The seeds of recession and unemployment were planted on the date that the Eisenhower-Republican Administration started tight credit its hard-money, high interest rate policy. The responsibility for the slow-down in our economy and the continuation of unemployment along with the rising cost of living rests squarely with the Republican Administration. No single factor has added to inflation more than the rise in the interest rates. The American people, both as tax payers and consumers, are being

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victimized by the Republican Administration.

"Yes, its policies have failed to halt inflation, have resulted in retarded economic growth, serious unemployment, and promoted dangerous imbalances in our economy."

Speaking to an audience in Charleston, West Virginia, Senator Humphrey said that "Administration leaders are trying to gauge the economic health of the nation by watching the stock market, corporation profits, and by golf-link discussions with representatives of the great corporations and financial institutions.

"What the President and his advisers need to do is to get around the country and talk to the people in West Virginia and northern Minnesota mining towns, or in any of a hundred areas where thousands of families are trying to hold on without jobs, without hope, and often without adequate food," Senator Humphrey declared.

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He said that the Democratic Congress, hampered and blocked by "obstinate opposition from the President and the Bureau of the Budget", is attempting to provide both temporary relief for the "appalling conditions which find wives and little children living on the ragged edge", and at the same time searching for methods of "revitalizing and reinvigorating the economies of areas which have been subjected to great changes due to technological development and fundamental patterns of consumption."

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"There is even more that the Federal and State Governments can do together -- basically financed with Federal funds drawn from the healthier sections of the nation," Senator Humphrey said.

He proposed that government undertake broad programs for the restoration of basic health to the distressed areas:

1. Concentration of authorized public works programs designed to lay the base for greatly expanded future productivity of the areas -- to provide more efficient transportation facilities, more and cheaper power sources, better school buildings and laboratories, and greatly expanded timber management practices,

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in appropriate areas.

"Such public works projects," Senator Humphrey noted, "would also act as immediate stimulants in the area by providing additional jobs for workers and markets for businessmen of the area."

2. Intensified government-financed research into the ways of making greater use of the raw materials and natural resources of the distressed areas, and "to find additional outlets for existing industry and new outlets for the latent wealth of the area."

3. The immediate consideration by the Federal Government of an export subsidy on coal where foreign competition and cut-rate prices injure American producers and shippers.

4. A determined effort to find greater uses for our vast coal resources in our foreign aid program, particularly to the underdeveloped countries that are beginning their industrialized programs.

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5. Government assistance to families in areas of low natural-resource potential, to aid them in moving to other areas of the country which have better employment opportunities.



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