

AMERICANS URGED TO ACHIEVE IMAGE
OF 'MASSIVE COMPASSION'

By Religious News Service (4-13-59)

WASHINGTON, D.C. (RNS) -- Since there is no long-range protection in the arms race, Americans should strive to achieve the image of "massive compassion" for others, Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D.-Minn.) told a group of religious publicists here.

"It is about time we junked the theory of 'massive retaliation,'" he told members of the National Religious Publicity Council at their 30th anniversary convention. "We don't have anything to lose by being kind."

Sen. Humphrey said that Americans tend to underestimate the nature and the scope of the Soviet challenge. "We underestimate Soviet power, production, science and education," he said.

He urged that the U.S. "surround" the Soviet with friendship and "with an atmosphere of democracy and progress." The choice, he added, was "either of inching along to peace or being blown to bits." Americans, he said, should not expect any "big settlements" with the Soviet in the next 20 years.

In response to a question, Sen. Humphrey said it was "very greatly needed for church groups to take a deep interest in government and to make their views and constructive proposals known" to their representatives in government.

This was particularly urgent at the present time, he said, in order to impress upon government that "it is impossible to win a war with the Communists by military and economic means -- it has to be won by spiritual zeal."

Compassionate activity on behalf of the people of all nations could result in "a rebirth of Christianity and make us into better people," he continued. "But we should not do it just because the Communists are around. You ought to do it because it should be done. We ought to be interested in helping people because they are people. We ought to put up our spiritual leaders against theirs. We are almost hiding our light under a bushel. We ought to encourage idealism, because that is the only realism."

Delegates to the convention toured the studios of the Voice of America and were briefed by Dr. Ronald Bridges, religious affairs advisor to the U.S. Information Agency. Dr. Bridges emphasized the importance of the agency's new religious policy, which states that Communism is a current virulent form of materialism with which religious forces have been in conflict for centuries.

Dr. Bertha S. Adkins, Under Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, told the group at a session in department offices, that under the recently-enacted National Defense Education Act an emphasis will be made on broader training of high school and college students in foreign languages "so that we might communicate with others around the world."

A stepped-up government program in education will stress "the training to meet the needs of the future," she said. "It is essential that we give able students in high school the motivation to seek further training," she added.



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