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"KHRUSHCHEV VISIT MAY HAVE HEALTHY REPERCUSSIONS HERE, TOO," Senator Humphrey comments 001608

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) said last night in Baltimore that "the Great Exchange between President Eisenhower and Premier Nikita Khrushchev may have some healthy repercussions here, too, as well as contributing to a better Soviet understanding of the United States." Reflecting on the record of the just concluded first session of the

both Congress, which he termed hardworking but largely frustrated, Senator Humphrey told a Democratic Party audience that the visit of Mr. Khrushchev to the United States this week "may jar us into a realization that there are some holes in our socks, that our shirt-tail is hanging out here and there, and that this great and wealthy nation of ours muchoto guide the source of th

"If the exchange of visits between our President and the Soviet leader do nothing more, it may help to put into perspective some of the truly glaring gaps in our society," he said. "Maybe it will make us a little more aware and ashamed that we are still permitting slums, still tolerating overcrowded schools and hospitals, still getting along with polluted streams still not doing everything we humanly can to guarantee the equal rights of all our citizens."

"Perhaps this Great Exchange between the leaders of the most powerful nations in the world will be 'good for the soul,' in that the Soviet leader may gain a new respect for the strength and wealth and capability of our nation, and we, on the other hand, may be sufficiently sensitive about our own shortcomings to at last do something about them!" he declared.

The Minnesotan, one of the original sponsors of the Cultural Exchange Act which laid the groundwork for the present broadened U.S.-Soviet exchange programs in the arts and sciences, in athletics and the professions -- went on to list the concrete benefits which the exchange programs thus far have obtained.

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"Despite the very deep gulf which persists today between our country and the Soviet Union," he pointed out, "at least we have provided an opportunity to seek out small areas of agreement, and to lessen fears and tensions caused by sheer misunderstanding and lack of knowledge."

"It would be sheer folly to expect that a mere exchange of views between the two leaders of our respective nations will usher in a new era of peace and tranquility," Senator Humphrey said. "But like every exchange program -- whether it be students or artists or high level political leaders -- it can contribute something to a better perspective, a better understanding, and perhaps lay the groundwork for further discussion and even cooperation."

"Not the least of the benefits from such an exchange is the possibility that we may come to see ourselves as others see us, to be less complacent about our condition, and that we may decide to undertake some of the tasks which the faltering leadership of the past few years has literally blocked us from doing -- building an adequate educational system, cleaning up our slums, eliminating distress among our elderly and our families living in areas of chronic unemployment, taking major steps to prevent delinquency among our young people, moving to conserve our precious natural resources

for the coming generations."

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Senator Humphrey pointed out that the Congress had passed much major legislation in the just-concluded session which had to be "trimmed and tailored to a timid Administration concept of American <u>power and American responsibility</u>," and expressed the hope that in the second session of the 86th Congress the White House would "perhaps examine the proposals of Congress with a new perspective, a new eye to our role in the world, and the fact that we live in a world which may include 'co-existence' -- but it is and will continue to be competitive co-existence!"

"Let us hope that we can reduce the number of Soviet vetoes in the UN, .. and also the number of Presidential vetoes in the White House," Senator Humphrey concluded.

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