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From the Office of
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Rahman-Peterson

SENATOR HUMPHREY CALLS FOR U.S. - SOVIET WAR AGAINST CANCER

Mobilization of greater international cooperation in medical research to "unlock the riddles of the killing and crippling scourges of our times" was called for by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) last night in an address before the State Convention of the Wisconsin Pharmaceutical Association at the Schroeder Hotel in Milwaukee.

Health problems "surpass any national boundaries", Senator Humphrey declared, adding that "effective help in mankind's war on disease is welcome whether it comes from the United States or the Soviet Union."

Senator Humphrey, Chairman of the Senate's International Health Study Subcommittee, told of his own visit to the Soviet Union last year in an attempt to gain increased cooperation through more U.S.-U.S.S.R. medical exchange programs, faster translation and freer dissemination of biomedical information, and genuine two-way collaboration on individual research projects.

"If we can get that kind of cooperation, we can be certain that the pace of discovery will tend to accelerate," Senator Humphrey said.

"So far as we are concerned, American medical science is regarded by virtually all objective review as far in advance of Soviet standards. But I know of no observers who dispute that in selected fields -- notably neurology and psychology, for example -- we have much to learn from the Soviets.

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"But whether one or the other nation is 'ahead or behind' the fact remains that no man can predict whether tomorrow or next year an epochal discovery on cancer or some other killer-disease may come from a Soviet or French or British or American or other laboratory.

"No matter who wins the race against cancer, no one will lose.

"In time of war, when a killer-power roams throughout the earth, mankind is willing to mobilize every possible resource to bring the killer to bay.

"Yet there rages today a killer-power in every country in the world, the killer of malignant growths. As you know, it will strike down a quarter of a million of our own and of Soviet citizens respectively this year. This killer destroys an American and a Soviet on the average of every two minutes of every day of this year. This killer will cost this nation alone \$5 billion in direct and indirect costs this year.

"I fervently hope that Mr. Khrushchev will join hands with us on specific plans to prosecute the war against cancer by a program of unlimited Soviet-U.S. cooperation.

"Let him announce that he will send over in his big new Soviet TU-114 jets, planeloads full of Soviet scientists who will work in the U.S. hospitals and laboratories -- and we will gladly reciprocate with our medical scientists and researchers in our Boeing 707's.

"Let the Soviets and ourselves both 'bombard' each others' sick citizens with rays that heal, rather than rays that kill. Specifically, let us each learn and teach about bombing cancer with radioactive cobalt or any other U.S. or Soviet product which can destroy malignancy," Senator Humphrey declared.



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