

Humphrey for President Headquarters
1926 W. Wisconsin Avenue
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For release,
Friday p.m.'s, March 24

HUMPHREY PLEDGES FIGHT AGAINST BOOSTING REA INTEREST RATES

LANCASTER, March 24--An all-out fight against Republican attempts to increase the REA loan interest rate to $4\frac{1}{2}$ was pledged today by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Democratic Presidential candidate.

Addressing the Grant Electric Co-operative's annual meeting here, Senator Humphrey said the same kind of "firm stand" against the interest boost was needed as that which blocked past "raids" on REA.

Reviewing his own leadership in the fight for the Humphrey-Price bill divorcing the REA Administrator from political control of Secretary Benson--in which the Senate overrode the President's veto, but the House failed by four votes,--Senator Humphrey declared:

"We were not able to overcome the opposition of Eisenhower and Nixon and Benson, but we did give a ringing vote of confidence to the rural electrification program. The results are apparent every day.

"This year, for example, the Administration abandoned its ill-conceived campaign to turn the REA loan program over to the moneylenders of Wall Street. Oh, yes--they had advocated this, for three years. The Secretary of Agriculture had ordered the REA Administrator to campaign for this Wall Street deal; the President himself had made speeches about it; the Director of the Budget had gone into the heart of New York to make a speech to the money lenders in favor of it. Needless to say, the Administration had their support and help.

"But this year, after the Humphrey-Price battle last year, the Eisenhower-Nixon crowd found the REA Wall Street scheme too hot to handle. So they dropped it--for the time being. I think it is significant that the first report that the scheme would be dropped appeared in the Wall Street Journal.

"However, now the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, and the Secretary of Agriculture, and other henchmen of the Administration are trying to increase REA loan

interest rates to $4\frac{1}{2}\%$. I promise you that I will be in there opposing this all the way.

"Is not this the kind of support you need for REA? Don't you want a man in the White House who will fight for these programs that help the people? Don't you want a dynamic administration with the vision to formulate new programs, to meet new needs--and the courage to fight for them?

"I think you do. I know that I can give you that kind of Administration. That is why I am here in Wisconsin, because what you do in the primary may very well determine the course of this country for the next decade."

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**'BOLD MEN OF ACTION' NEEDED FOR CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRAMS
LIKE REA: HUMPHREY**

GAYS MILLS, March 24--Establishment of REA required "bold men of action who were not afraid to think, to speak, and to advocate a new social and economic concept," Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Democratic Presidential Candidate, declared here today in addressing the annual meeting of the Crawford Electric Cooperative.

"Because there were such men, and because they were put to work in a dynamic new Administration, REA was born," Senator Humphrey said. Without the great, progressive policies of the New Deal, REA would still be just three letters of the alphabet--and countless farms would still be in darkness.

"Because there were new people in Washington who were more concerned about people than about the power trust, the country got REA--just as it got social security and decent housing and a living wage and all the other bold new programs to benefit the people.

"Can you see Eisenhower or Nixon or Benson stumping the country, battling fierce self-interest opposition, to champion such programs? Can you see them fighting to get the REA bill through the Congress? Answer that for yourselves.

"These programs that are good, that are far-reaching in their benefits to people, are action programs. They come about only when a dynamic, progressive Administration is in office in Washington.

"They are liberal programs. They are instituted only by a liberal Democrat or a maverick Republican. They do not come into existence, they are not fostered and advanced, by men who favor them only because of political expediency," Senator Humphrey declared.

"You will find any number of men, in the Congress and elsewhere, who will ride along with these programs out of expediency. Many an ambitious politician has scented the voter appeal of the REA program, and has made a death-bed

conversion.

"Sometimes it happens that people have a choice between expediency and dedication in the choice of candidates. So far as a great many programs are concerned, I think the people of Wisconsin have such a choice right now. I think the REA program is a wonderful example.

"My REA record will stand the test of faithful service. Throughout my years in the Senate I have actively supported REA and the related programs which are so essential to its welfare. Not every candidate can honestly say that.

"I support REA because I believe in it--100%, foursquare, and without reservations. My support has not been confined to voting the politically 'right' way when an REA issue was before the Senate. I have sponsored and actively fought for much of the REA legislation that has been considered by the Senate in the past 10 years.

"Through my Committee assignments, I have carried out the investigations and hearings which have stopped short the raids of this Administration on the REA program.

"I fought for the original authorization of the Rural Telephone Program, and continue to support the expansion of the program. I insisted that the preference clause should apply to atomic-power generated by Federally-owned reactors, so that rural cooperatives and municipalities would have first call on the power.

"It is this record of support on which I ask a vote of confidence from friends of REA in Wisconsin--and ask them to compare the records of each of the candidates running in the Wisconsin Primary, before making their choice," Senator Humphrey declared.

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Crawford elect co
REAMgr
Mr
Houmerson
REA: LIBERAL HERITAGE

Remarks Prepared for Delivery

by

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.)

GAYS MILLS

Mr Gorman

X (Debate) (Issues)

"owned by these we serve" REA

This year, the rural electrification program is celebrating its twenty-fifth birthday. During these years REA has transformed life in rural America by bringing electricity to millions of farm families.

25 yrs
Birthday

You know all about REA here in Wisconsin. You know that just about every farmer in the state who wants electricity now has it. You know what the program has meant to the main street merchants in the towns of Wisconsin.

Farmers
have itMain Street
likewise!

Before the birth of this great program, less than 20 per cent of the farmers of this state had electricity, or any hope of getting it. Rural people lived too far back, the power companies said -- they wouldn't use electricity

if they had it. And besides -- they said there was no
profit in building the long extensions required to bring
electric power to the farm.

That was a familiar story in those days. Rural
people heard it all over America. Those who could persuade
a power company to build a line usually found they had to
put up the money for the line themselves -- and often
guarantee to use a large amount of power each month; or pay
for it, whether they used it or not.

So the years rolled by, and rural America remained
in darkness. Farm women rubbed the dirt out of clothes
and the skin off their knuckles on the old wash boards
that ladies in the cities had discarded years before.

Farm children read their lessons and rubbed their eyes in
the flicker of lamp light that was only a slight improvement
over the pine knot used by Abraham Lincoln or the open

oldday

*America
remained
in
Darkness*

*Kerosene
Lamp*

firelight of the Stone Age man.

Read

Years passed. Milk soured. Butter melted. New generations of young arms pulled on the rope at the well.

Farm women were old at forty. Farm men milked by hand -- turned grindstones by hand -- lifted feed by hand -- carried lanterns in their hands.

~~Farm children lived for the day they would be old enough to leave the farm. And many parents couldn't find words in their heart to try to stop them.~~

What were the power companies, with their dedication to their own self-interest, doing about this?

In 1927, they were spending \$20-million a year in advertising alone to fight the development of public power systems. They fought the installation of power facilities at Hoover Dam -- they fought TVA -- and later, they fought REA.

Power Co
Record.

L These were the days of the big utility scandals,
when investors lost millions of dollars in the watered
stock of the utilities. The days of Samuel Insull's
glittering power empire, the days of the super holding
companies and giant mergers of utilities that made a
mockery of the free enterprise system.

L Instead of building power lines to the farmers,
the utilities took millions of dollars out of the
pockets of their ratepayers to lobby against any idea
that might have produced power for the farmers.

Power Co
Lobby!

These were the years immediately preceding the
New Deal. The years of Harding and Coolidge and Hoover.
What was the philosophy of these men and their Adminis-
trations? Was there any hope in Washington that
something might be done to help the farmers?

L What about Harding? Harding believed in government

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by crony -- and his cronies were all big businessmen.

Take care of the tycoons and trust them to toss a few crumbs to the working man.

Coolidge? "Keep cool with Coolidge." Don't rock the boat. Coolidge stayed cool, the rich made cool fortunes, and the farmer's milk was so warm it soured, it was poured in the roads, while hundreds of thousands of children were hungry.

Hoover? What about Herbert Hoover? The millionaire engineer -- the great planner. He was in office when the whole house of cards finally collapsed. He kept telling us that things would be better -- that there would be a "chicken in every pot." Most of the farmers had the chicken, but not many of them could find a pot.

Why did only 10 per cent of the farmers in the country have electricity by 1935? It's more interesting to

speculate on how that meager 10 per cent got it --
considering they were up against the greed of the
power trust and the inaction of three successive
big-business-minded Republican Administrations.

There are frightening parallels between those
Republican Administrations and the Eisenhower-Nixon
regime. Today, we see the same fear of action, fear
of ideas, fear of anything new. Once again we have
a national Administration that urges us to hold back,
cut back, push back -- an Administration that lulls
the nation into a feeling of complacency, an
Administration that lashes out at anyone who questions
its policies.

"Eisenhower can't be wrong about defense or the
missile gap," they say, "he knows more about it than
anyone."

Comparison
Republican
Administration

L "Benson can't be wrong about the farmers," they
say, "he knows more about them than anyone. Just
trust Ezra, and forget that parity has hit a 19-year
low, that farm prices are at the lowest point since
1942."

Benson

L "Don't worry about the small businessman, either,
because the business tycoons that stud the executive
branch of the government know what's best for him."

(X) L Can you conceive of this Administration setting
up a program like REA? Any more than it could have
been done by Harding or Coolidge or Hoover? Can you
imagine them establishing and fighting for a program
like TVA? Or the great power dams in the Northwest?

Can you see them encouraging the formation of consumer-
owned power generation and transmission systems like
your own Dairyland Power Cooperative?

Dairyland
Power
Coop.

Well, I can't. And I don't think you can either.

These programs, which have done so much for so many of our people, still shock the old-school, 24-carat

Republicans that make up this Eisenhower-Nixon Administration.

Without the great, progressive policies of the New Deal, REA would still be just three letters of the alphabet and countless farms would still be in darkness.

The establishment of REA required bold men of action who were not afraid to think, to speak, and to advocate a new social and economic concept.

Because there were such men, and because they were put to work in a dynamic new Administration, REA was born. There were new people in Washington who were more concerned about people than about the power trust.

The country got REA, just as it got social security and

decent housing and a living wage and all the other
bold new programs to benefit the people.

Can you see ~~Franklin D. Roosevelt~~ Nixon or Benson
stumping the country, battling fierce self-interest
opposition, to champion such programs? Can you see
them fighting to get the REA bill through the Congress?

L Answer that for yourselves.

These programs that are good, that are far-reaching
in their benefits to people, are action programs. They
come about only when a dynamic, progressive Administration
is in office in Washington.

Action
Programs

L They are liberal programs. They are instituted
only by a liberal Democrat or a maverick Republican.
They don't come into existence, they aren't fostered and
advanced, by men who favor them only because of political
expedience.

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✓ You'll find any number of men, in the Congress and elsewhere, who will ride along with these programs out of expediency. Many an ambitious politician has scented the voter appeal of the REA program and has made a death-bed conversion.

*Death
bed
conversion*

Sometimes it happens that people have a choice between expedience and dedication in the choice of candidates. So far as a great many programs are concerned, I think the people of Wisconsin have such a choice right now. I think the REA program is a wonderful example.

My Record

✓ My REA record will stand the test of faithful service. Throughout my years in the Senate I have actively supported REA and the related programs which are so essential to its welfare.

✓ I support REA because I believe in it -- 100%,

foursquare, and without reservation. My support has
not been confined to voting the politically "right"
way when an REA issue was before the Senate.

L I have sponsored and actively fought for much
of the REA legislation that has been considered by
the Senate in the past 10 years. Through my Committee
assignments I have carried out the investigations and
hearings which have stopped short the raids of this
Administration on the REA program.

L I fought for the original authorization of the
Rural Telephone Program, and continue to support the
expansion of the program.

L I insisted that the preference clause should
apply to atomic-power generated by Federally-owned
reactors, so that rural cooperatives and municipalities
would have first call on the power.

④
REA
Investig

④
RTP

④
AEC

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✓ The Rural Electric Power Cooperative at Elk
River, Minnesota, at present has under construction
a nuclear reactor that will generate power for member
cooperatives and a number of municipally-owned plants
in the area. The Elk River installation was agreed
to after three long years of persistent negotiation
with the Atomic Energy Commission. I am proud of the
insistent role I played in this accomplishment.

✓ The 1960 AEC authorization provides for two
consumer-owned reactor projects principally because
of my continued championship of the right of rural
electric cooperatives and municipal plants to expand
in this area. I understand that Wisconsin's Dairyland
Power Cooperative plans to accept the invitation to
offer a reactor project under this legislation.

✓ Last year, I sponsored in the Senate the Humphrey-Price

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REA
Reactor
Project

Humphrey Price

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Bill. This measure would have returned to the REA
Administrator the loan making powers which were stripped
from him by Ezra Benson. So far as I know, my bill was
enthusiastically supported by every rural electric
system and every rural electric leader in the United
States.

My Government Operations Subcommittee held
extensive hearings on this bill. Later, I guided it
through the Senate. The President vetoed the Bill. In
one of the greatest legislative battles of this Congress
we were able to override the President's veto in the
Senate. The override attempt in the House, where the
Bill had been sponsored by Representative Melvin Price
of Illinois, failed by only four votes.

We were not able to overcome the opposition of
Eisenhower and Nixon and Benson, but we did give a

Veto

ringing vote of confidence to the rural electrification program. The results are apparent every day.

L This year, for example, the Administration abandoned its ill-conceived campaign to turn the REA loan program over to the moneylenders of Wall Street. Oh, yes. They had advocated this, for three years. The Secretary of Agriculture had ordered the REA Administrator to campaign for this Wall Street deal; the President himself had made speeches about it; the Director of the Budget had gone into the heart of New York to make a speech to the money lenders in favor of it. Needless to say, the Administration had their support and help.

Financing

Interest

L This year, after the Humphrey-Price battle last year, the Eisenhower-Nixon crowd found the REA Wall Street scheme too hot to handle. So they dropped it --

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for the time being. I think it's significant that
the first report that the scheme would be dropped
appeared in the Wall Street Journal. Now the Director
of the Bureau of the Budget, and the Secretary of
Agriculture, and other henchmen of the Administration
are trying to increase REA loan interest rate to $4\frac{1}{2}\%$.

*Interest
Rate*

L I promise you that I'll be in there opposing this all
the way. - no go!

L Isn't this the kind of support you need for REA?
Don't you want a man in the White House who will fight
for these programs that help the people? Don't you
want a dynamic administration with the vision to
formulate new programs to meet new needs -- and the
courage to fight for them?

L I think you do. I ^{*believe*} ~~know~~ that I can give you that
kind of Administration. That's why I'm here in Wisconsin,

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because what you do in the primary may very well

determine the course of this country for the next

decade. / I think you're tired of an Administration

packaged and scented and glamorized by Madison Avenue.

Now that you're getting rid of one, I don't believe

you want to take on another.

/ America is weary of seeing ^{the effect of} its President merchandized

like a bar of soap. It's tired of repeated cooings about

peace when the whole world is a tinder box and our de-

fenses have seriously deteriorated.

/ People are uneasy at hearing the siren song of

prosperity played over and over when they know millions

of people are unemployed, that farmers for the past

several years have been in a real depression.

/ The Republican slogans about "progress" ring false

when the people know that this Administration has slowed

down and held back resource development; has vetoed
constructive solutions to the pressing problems of our
cities; has slowed the development of large segments
of our economy by allowing interest rates to skyrocket.

Peace? For how long, at what price?

Progress? The Eisenhower-Nixon Administration
doesn't even manage to stand still, much less make
progress.

Prosperity? For whom? For the unemployed, for
the farmers, for the small businessmen? Or prosperity
for the big bankers and special interests?

For a long time now there has been no dedication
in this country to the interests of the people -- the
little people -- the common people.

These are my people. I know them, and their
needs and aspirations, because I have lived with them,

worked with them, all my life. They have great dreams, they have energy, and they have courage. They have always rallied strongly behind intelligent, bold leadership. In every crisis, our people have sensed the direction we should take, and have chosen leaders who expressed their conviction and determination to move forward decisively. In the great world crisis we are now in, I am convinced our people will again choose wisely and well the leaders who will bring our nation safely through the storm.



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