

From the office of
Citizens for Humphrey Committee
1625 Hennepin Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Federal 9-0521

For Release: Monday p.m.
September 12, 1960

HUMPHREY HITS GOP USE OF FOOD ABUNDANCE

Litchfield, Minn. - Senator Hubert H. Humphrey today charged that the present Republican Administration "has barely scratched the surface" of potential uses for the Nation's food abundance.

Humphrey, a ranking member of the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee, ripped into a recent Department of Agriculture report which outlined surplus food programs now in effect.

"They pride themselves on having some 14,000,000 school children participating in the school lunch program," he said, "but they don't tell you that there are 26,000,000 more elementary and secondary school children who are not included.

"Right now, as the new school term opens, almost half of the school children in Minnesota and over 60 per cent of our students across the Nation are in schools which do not offer the lunch program."

Senator Humphrey has been instrumental in gaining increases for school lunch appropriations in recent years over the opposition of the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of the Budget.

Minnesota's senior Senator also criticized the Administration for "ignoring" the food stamp program he authored, which was adopted by Congress last year.

Humphrey cited the USDA report's figures that last June 21, 551 needy persons in Minnesota and some 3,282,000 nationally were receiving surplus food assistance.

"That means that in Minnesota only 7 per cent of our senior citizens and families on Social Security are getting any surplus food.

"This doesn't even take into consideration the thousands of families struggling for survival on incomes of less than \$3,000 a year," he continued. "Obviously there are more than 21,551 persons in Minnesota who need this assistance."

On a national level, Humphrey said, it is "shocking" that while there are over 13,800,000 persons receiving social security benefits, the Department of Agriculture reports

(over)

"our nation of abundance can offer food to only one-fourth that number."

"We need these food distribution programs not just for the farmers," he declared, "but for the aged, the needy and the disabled. We need these programs to insure adequate diets for our school children and for our citizens with low incomes."

"Let's show that we care about people," Humphrey urged.

"Let's be as concerned about full stomachs as we are about full cartridge belts."

"Let's rejoice in the bounty our farmers produce for us. Let's use that bounty for the good of all of our people and for all people who live with hunger around the world."

Litchfield
Farmers Produce

8:20

THE WORST KIND OF WASTE - FOOD

Litchfield Luncheon
Monday, September 12, 1960

A week ago, the Department of Agriculture sent out a press release which talked about distribution of America's food surplus.

Let me quote to you the first paragraph of that release:

"Great quantities of surplus foods are being provided by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, continually and without charge, to people who can put these foods to good use."

Now I do not like to see a statement misunderstood, and I am afraid that readers might get the wrong idea from this proud paragraph.

The Agriculture Department does, of course,
administer the programs to distribute food surplus.

It does help set the policy on surplus food programs.

But the Department doesn't exactly "provide"
food for people who need it.

Let's be fair about this. The farmers of
America have something to do with the task of
producing food.

└ If any credit is to be given for "providing"
abundant food for a growing America, that credit
belongs to the farmer - not to the Department of
Agriculture.

└ The Department is quick enough to blame the
farmer for what it so frequently calls "the food
surplus problem."

But apparently when it is willing to recognize that America's abundant food supply is a blessing, the Department itself wants the hero's role.

Now it is true that "great quantities of foods" are being used to feed the needy, the sick and the young of the Nation.

But I say that the Department of Agriculture and the present Administration has barely scratched the surface of potential uses for our food abundance.

This new press release boasts that some 14 million school children benefit from the school lunch program.

It doesn't tell you that there are 26 million more elementary and secondary school children who are not included in the program.

✓ Right now, as the new school term opens,
almost half of the school children in Minnesota
and over 60 percent of our students across the
nation are in schools which do not offer the
lunch program.

The release doesn't admit that the current
Administration is ignoring the food stamp program
which I successfully sponsored in Congress last year.

Food
Stamp

The Department was given the authority in
the Humphrey program to establish a food stamp
method of getting surplus food to needy Americans.
The Department refused to act.

This new report tells us that last June
21,551 needy persons in Minnesota and some
3,282,000 nationally were receiving surplus
food assistance.

That means that in Minnesota only 7 percent
of our senior citizens and families on social security
are getting any surplus food.

This doesn't even take into account the
thousands of families struggling for survival on
incomes of less than \$3,000 a year.

Obviously, there are more than 21,555 persons
in Minnesota who would be helped by food surplus
assistance.

The national picture is as bad. It is shocking
that in a Nation of our abundance, only one-fourth

of the 13,800,000 persons receiving social security benefits are helped by surplus food.

We need not just boasts, but action to use America's agricultural abundance to help all persons in need. It is the worst kind of waste to allow food to sit in storage when human beings are hungry or undernourished.

America must expand its food distribution programs - for the aged, the needy, the disabled, the young.

America must show that it has a Government with a heart - a government which cares as much about full stomachs as about full cartridge belts.

America should rejoice in the bounty produced
and provided by the nation's farmers.

We must use that bounty for the good of all
our people, and for all people who live with hunger
around the world.

9/10/60

✓ Cong. Marshall

WELFARE
Father Minnet

Mayor Mealy

Mayor Ringmuth

HEALTH CARE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

United Labor Committee Dinner

St. Cloud, Minnesota

Monday, September 12, 1960, 5:30 P.M.

Our Nation has solved many social problems in recent years. Our Nation is close to solutions on many continuing problems which plague parts of America or millions of her people.

But one problem - one critical problem - has been almost ignored by America and its government.

Despite all the talk, discussion, study and debate - America has done almost nothing for its elderly citizens who are living on small incomes and suffering from lengthy illness.

The average retired person on social security receives only \$73 a month. That's \$16.85 a week.

Is that enough to pay for rent, food, clothing and still provide a margin for medical and hospital needs?

Social Security pensions now go to more than 11 million Americans. Many millions more have pathetically low incomes. No token program will do much to meet their health needs.

But a token program is all we have. The watered-down program approved by Congress this year is - frankly - totally inadequate.

And it ignores this basic fact:

Any plan to provide effective health care for senior citizens can not be responsibly financed or effective unless it is administered through the Social Security system.

America does not want a charity-type program of hospital aid for the elderly. America does not want a program which will do only part of the job of solving the critical health needs of millions of senior citizens.

I have sponsored and worked for legislation which would establish a health care program which will work, a program which is financed and administered through the Social Security system.

My bill would allow each person to pay for medical insurance over a lifetime of earnings through fractional increases in Social Security payments.

This is the only responsible way to finance an effective program. And this bill would not just toss out a few dollars to a sick individual requiring hospitalization. It would provide up to 90 days of hospitalization, 135 days of nursing home care and 185 days of supervised care at home a year. And it would pay for part of the cost of very expensive medicines and offer such preventative services as X-Rays and diagnostic tests.

This Administration - which has opposed health care under the Social Security system - may feel that a token effort is enough.

I believe that for the millions of Americans chained by low incomes and billed for high costs of illness, a token "charity" effort is an insult.

9/10/60



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