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Excerpts of Address Prepared for Delivery
By Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
Before Convention of Animal Health
Institute
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NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN ANIMAL HEALTH

It is a real pleasure to join with you in looking ahead to what I regard as "Opportunities Unlimited" in animal health.

I should like to make five major points: - both domestic and international in character.

(1) The genius of American veterinary science and industry are opening up the greatest opportunities in American history. You are going to elevate still further the already high nutritional standards of the American people through improved animal health.

(2) Looking for the moment, abroad, hundreds of millions of people in the Emerging Nations are, as you know, mal-nourished and under-nourished. You of this audience play a vital role in enabling our Country to make possible higher standards of protein

nutrition among these famished peoples. This is an important factor in the international arena.

(3) There is one international phase in which we are, fortunately, far advanced. I refer, of course, to our clear superiority over the relatively primitive state of the Communist Bloc in veterinary science. This is an advantage which we should capitalize on, to the fullest extent. ~~It, too, is a crucial aspect,~~
~~in the international arena.~~

(4) In one overseas area, we do face a severe challenge. I refer to the need of Animal Health leadership to enable our farmers to compete successfully in the European Common Market.

(5) Finally, back on the domestic front, there is a great need, as I see it, for full speed ahead in public-private cooperation in veterinary medical research, both for purposes of animal and human health.

Let me refer, briefly, to each of these points in turn.

1. EXCELLENT AMERICAN DIET

No one here need be reminded that the American people enjoy the highest standards of protein nutrition in the world.

You in this room deservedly share in the credit for our high levels of achievement. American scientists in the laboratories of the veterinary biology industry have written almost incredible chapters in assuring healthier, more nutritious, disease-resistant poultry, swine and live stock.

You have made possible better food - and at the most inexpensive levels attainable for the American dinner table.

STUDY BY REORGANIZATION SUBCOMMITTEE

You are, I believe, familiar with the work of the Senate Reorganization Subcommittee in recording

some of the achievements in veterinary pharmaceuticals.

You will recall, for example, that we had published a Committee Print exclusively devoted to "Veterinary Medical Science and Human Health."

This was but one phase of our overall study of international medical research.

In recent months, our Subcommittee has been examining a related area: Federal drug activities.

1360 N.D.A.'S IN 12 YEARS

We have found certain problems within Government Agencies, notably the Food and Drug Administration. Many of these problems arise from the fact that science has thrust us into a Chemical Age. Yet, there has been a lag in Federal programs to "catch up" with the realities of this Age.

Consider the rising Federal workload alone.

From the 1950 to 1962 Fiscal Years, the Food and Drug Administration made effective no less than 1360 Veterinary New Drug Applications, over and above

New Drug

-5-

3183 "N.D.A.'s" for human use. This massive output (from a still larger input) has inevitably greatly strained the Agency's limited manpower resources.

Both F.D.A. and the Department of Agriculture have not had the benefit of the men, money and material which they need, as I see it, in this area.

Our Subcommittee has not had the opportunity or time to examine F.D.A.'s veterinary phases, as such.

I would, therefore, only say, in general, this about the Agency ~~as a whole~~: -

F.D.A. has rendered great service to this Nation. It can and should render still greater service.

without a Director
F.D.A.'s Bureau of Medicine - Director-less -
unfortunately for over a year - needs to be upgraded
in every respect.

Let this point, however, be clear. I am sympathetic

with the Agency's problems.

I have been glad to go out of my way to pay a well-merited tribute to the spirit of devotion to duty of many of F.D.A.'s personnel. Under-paid, under-manned, under-appreciated by many ~~folks~~^{people}, they have carried on their heavy duties.

Such criticisms as I have voiced have been constructive. They have been solely directed toward strengthening existing standards and improving the Agency for the good of all concerned.

CHEMICAL RESIDUES IN FOODS

There is one particular additional problem confronting the Government regulatory and scientific community which bears mention: the problem of chemical, including drug and other, residues in animal products.

No one here need be reminded of the significance of this problem. It, too, is a by-product of the Chemical Age. The great good from chemicals has

inevitably involved a need to minimize any potential harm - from antibiotics or any other residue.

The President's Science Advisor's Office has been examining the pesticide problem, in particular, through a Committee of the Federal Council for Science and Technology. I am sure that we can anticipate an orderly program in the Executive Branch in cooperation with industry and agriculture so as to meet the problem - further - head on.

Will
make
announcement
Guthrie!

Let me turn briefly now to the second phase.

2. PROBLEM IN EMERGING COUNTRIES

You are all aware of the struggle between ourselves and the Soviet Bloc for the minds and hearts of hundreds of millions of uncommitted people.

One of the phases of this struggle is through the stomachs of these people.

The fact is that the United States is in
a superb position to fulfill its highest humanitarian
~~obligations~~ ^{aspirations} and, at the same time, do more good for
itself by antidoting Communist propaganda. How??

As you know, by helping these emerging countries
~~Further~~ ^{better} to feed themselves.

We have shipped healthy, disease-resistant animals
to the furthest ends of the earth. We have helped
train animal husbandry technicians as well as
assisting animal health in the other ways through the
Food and Agriculture Organization, U.S.D.A., and the
Agency for International Development.

In effect, we have obtained valuable "dividends"
on the overseas scene from the great advances which
you of the Animal Health Institute have helped make
possible in our own Country.

3. SUPERIORITY OVER COLLECTIVIZED FARMING

Mention of Communism recalls this fact:

L Collectivized agriculture cannot "hold a candle" to what the private American farmer can do and has done.

Mr. Khrushchev's No. 1 failure is Soviet Agriculture. America's No. 1 success is American agriculture, including animal husbandry. It is $4\frac{1}{2}$ years since I visited Moscow, in November 1958. At that time, one of the members of the Soviet hierarchy whom I had met was the then Minister of Agriculture, V. Matskeyvich. He has since been replaced and his successors have been replaced. Soviet Ministers of Agriculture play "a game of Musical Chairs" in which the "end" Chair may be in Siberia.

I discussed briefly with Mr. Matskeyvich - veterinary science and, in particular, veterinary medical science. He was deeply interested in American skills.

Time was not available to visit Soviet agricultural areas. But I do know from a variety of evidences that in animal health, the Soviets are "^{many}~~15~~ years" behind us.

now, That may not seem a major point to us ~~Americans~~, except as a matter of pride. But the fact is, that to the humble peasant of Asia or Africa or Latin America his animal - his ox, donkey, cow, horse, or other animal - is not only wealth, it is life itself.

Animal veterinary skill is therefore a God-send to the under-privileged millions abroad. Communism cannot hope to match this skill. It is America which can provide the answer to the health of the Emerging Areas' swine, poultry or live stock. We must maximize this great advantage, capitalize upon it to the fullest possible extent in our international information program "beamed" to the tillers of the world's soil - on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

4. EUROPEAN COMPETITION

Meanwhile, our greatest customer and the greatest seller to us is, of course, the European Common Market. You are all familiar with the stiff economic challenge which American agriculture faces because of the rising tariff barriers being erected against our farm sales.

More than ever before, the American farmer is going to have to be able to produce and distribute at the lowest possible costs if he is to compete for that great market. You will play a vital role in this process.

5. VETERINARY MEDICAL RESEARCH

Finally, I turn to the great horizons in veterinary medical research. In our Subcommittee publications, we have stressed that there is no such thing as a "boundary line" between study into disease in animals and in human beings. Nature has made all life alike - in a great many respects.

The annals of medical history are full of magnificent contributions by veterinary-oriented researchers. Time after time, in solving a problem of animal disease, they have come up with answers which have literally transformed the lives of millions of humans.

A great challenge continues to exist in what the scientist calls "zoonoses" - those 100 or so diseases, like brucellosis, virus encephalitis, etc., which are transmissible from animal to man. Fortunately, those diseases are in a small minority in the spectrum of animal diseases. Nonetheless, the National Institutes of Health should, in my judgment, greatly expand its existing modest support of veterinary research.

A NATIONAL DRUG CLEARING HOUSE

I should like to turn in conclusion to one particular phase.

You are probably familiar with an effort I have carried on for 5 years in one area - improved scientific communication.

Sometimes this effort has been likened to "a voice crying in the wilderness." Sometimes, more caustic observers have said "it sounds like a broken record."

Actually, there is some "good music" starting to emerge from the record.

I refer to the "melody" of a coming National Drug Information Clearing House. Veterinary biological information should play a key role in such a Clearing House, or, actually, system of clearing houses. We need a "network" of veterinary biological information centers throughout the United States. One "station" in that network should be the National Agricultural Library; another should be the National Library of Medicine; still others should be in specialized Information

Centers among the 50 States. Each should use a reasonably "common language" of a reasonably uniform dictionary of index terms. Each should use the latest data processing methods. In that way, we would bring greater efficiency not only into the discovery of new knowledge, but the retrieval of old knowledge - its evaluation and dissemination.

Industry can help in this Clearing House. Without in any way abridging its rights to its own proprietary information, it should help to maximize the input and output from the scientific community. The "open literature" - U.S. and foreign - must be brought under far more effective bibliographic management. This can be done. It will be done.

"Information Unlimited" is a cornerstone of "Opportunities Unlimited" for Animal Health.



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