

[See also May 19] ?

SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
TV PROGRAM

MAY 15, 1963

THIS IS WASHINGTON AND THIS IS SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
OF MINNESOTA.

Today, the Assistant Majority Leader reports on his work
and the work of the Congress. Now, here is Senator Humphrey.

SENATOR HUBERT HUMPHREY: THANK you, yes, and we have a
good report on the work of the Congress, because much has
been happening in the Congress of the United States since
I last reported to you two weeks ago. First of all, I want
to call to the attention of the listeners and viewers that
on Tuesday, May 21, the wheat farmers of the United States
will go to the polls so to speak to cast a vote either
for or against the Administration's wheat program. This is
what we commonly call the wheat referendum. Now last year
the Congress adopted a proposal outlining a program for better
production controls along with a better price for the farmers
production of wheat. And, at the same time, to reduce the
cost to the taxpayer. This is what we call the wheat program.
And that wheat program is now up for a vote. Let me just give

you a detail or two about it because its a rather important issue. We have been accumulating wheat in large amounts in the Commodity Credit Corporation, we call it our wheat surplus. We have well over a billion bushels of wheat in storage. Now some of that wheat obviously is needed for a national security reserve. Some of it is needed just to stabilize the market, and surely with our overseas commitments and the kind of a world in which we live, we want to have at least some inventory of wheat over and beyond what is needed for each month or each year. But frankly, things have gotten out of hand, and the wheat surplus has accumulated at ever increasing proportions. Therefore, we took some rather, I think, far-reaching action and constructive action. We established a fair price for the farmer if he were willing to accept a reasonable degree of management of his production, so we establish a ceiling on wheat production of one billion bushels. At one billion bushels, the farmer guaranteed two dollars a bushel for each bushel he produces. Anything above that one billion must be sold at world market prices ~~which~~ with no help from the Government in terms of price support. Now the farmer is going to have to determine on Tuesday, May 21 whether they want the Administration's farm program or not. I'm recommending, of course, that they vote for it. Not because it's the Administration's program, because very frankly, I voted for much the same program during the Eisenhower Administration.

I think the program just makes sense. It's what we call the two price system , a fair price for what we consume domestically, and what our normal cash exports would be, and over and beyond that if you produce more than that, you accept the price that the world market offers. So we keep that date in mind now, Tuesday, May 21. That's first item on Agriculture. Well, now even as I'm doing this film and reporting to you, the Senate of the United States is acting on what we call the feed grains program. We've had good results with the program, advanced by the Administration relating to feed grains. The first program was an emergency program, and in the winter of 1961. The program in 1961 and 1962 has resulted in substantial savings to the taxpayer. A better price to the farmer and a sharp reduction in the surpluses which in turn means a sharp reduction in the cost of storage. Actually, it does work well, and I appreciate the fact that last year, when we were discussing the feed grains program, that we had support from both sides of the isle, as we say, Republican and Democrat. Now, we are renewing that program with a two year renewal on it for the crop years of 64 and '65. The program will be adopted, I go out on a limb here to tell you that by the time you see this film and hear this report, the program will have been adopted. It will be over to the President for his signature, and we will have what

we call a permanent feed grains program that do what?? That will put into better balance our supply of feed grains in terms of our needs. That will reduce the cost of the feed grains program to the American consumer and the American ~~MARKET~~ taxpayer. That will sharply reduce the surpluses and at the same time will provide a fair and equitable price to the producer. Now actually we are able to accomplish all of those worthy objectives in the feed grain program and I am very pleased with it. Can I just add one other word about Agriculture? It isn't really the problem, you know, that many times we are led to believe. We're mighty lucky in the United States. If we had a shortage of food, that'd be a problem. And about 2/3 of the world has that problem today. The shortage of nutritious, wholesome food. We have it in abundance. Our problem if we have any at all, I would say our challenge is the better use of our food. The better distribution of it, not only here at home and in the areas where we can sell it abroad, but also a better distribution in the areas of need throughout the world. The American farmer, well he really represents the success story of our nation. It's phenomenal what he's been able to do. This farmer of ours is the most efficient producer, ~~XXXXX~~ the finest businessman in the world. Just let me just give you a few facts. I've looked up these in the record, by the way, in any one of the encyclopedias. A hundred years ago, one farm worker produced food for 5 persons; today he

can produce enough food on an American farm for 30 persons. No other country equals that, not even close. In 10 years farm production per man hour has increased 77%, name me any other industry that can claim such a record. In two years, the percent of take home pay required for food has dropped to the lowest point in history, 19%. In other words 19% of the take home pay of the factory worker is spent for food in the U.S. In other countries of the world it runs 25%, 35%, 50%, 80%, 90%, of the take home pay for the food. We get the best food at the most reasonable prices in the abundant quantities of any nation on the face of the earth. So let's quit complaining about our farmers. Let's quit complaining about our agriculture, it's a blessing. Now I have a couple of stories about Minnesota that I think are interesting.

First of all, Mrs. Humphrey and I were at home the past weekend, and we privileged to visit the Guthrie Repetory Theatre, in Minneapolis. This is an amazing cultural institution, first of all the architecture of the building is beautiful. It is different, it's unique, it's exciting. But the Theatre itself consists, of course, of more than just the physical properties. It consists of the management, it consists of the actors and all of those who plan and develop the play. This is a remarkable, exciting cultural development for our city, and it demonstrates that cultural development is much appreciated

by the people. The critics from New York City, the Broadway critics, those who you know who write about these things say that Minnesota has proven to the world that culture has really taken hold in the mid-West. And they have complimented us on the, as they said the elegance of our ladies. And the quality of gentlemanliness of our men. And the appreciation that we seem to have of the arts. And I think it's all there, and the Guthrie Theatre is a great institution; it's a tremendous development for the entire mid-West of Minneapolis, St. Paul and Minnesota. We're deeply indebted to everyone who has had a part in it, and many people have. I want to put in a commercial. I hope that the people of our area visit the Guthrie Theatre. We saw the great Shakespearean play "Hamlet", It was actually four hours long, but it seems as if it was ~~X~~ but a fleeting moment. It was brilliant, gripping; you couldn't take your eyes away from the actors and you were held spell-bound by the dramatic perfection of these who were the actors and ~~XX~~ the participants. I know you are going to enjoy it. I looked forward to getting back to that theatre as often as possible. Of course, we have many other cultural attainments that we are very proud of. Colleges, universities, institutes of fine art, the Walker Gallery, the Minneapolis Symphony, all the many choral groups and bands and orchestras that characterize the state of Minnesota and the mid-West. We're very pleased.

And I want to add too that we're very pleased with the Twins, even when we don't win the game. This is still a great baseball club and it adds to our, it adds to the enjoyment of living out in beautiful Minnesota. Now I had a great Minnesotan a distinguished Minnesotan visit us this past week. And I'm going to take just a moment of your time to tell you about him.

He went over to the White House with me and we had a picture taken over there with the President and the Vice President. I refer to Dr. E. E. Novack. Dr. Novack of New Prague, Minnesota. Now, Dr. Novack is a part of the history of our state, and a wonderful part, too. He's been in politics, and he's been a leader of civic affairs, he's been a regent at the University of Minnesota, he's 90 years "young". He came down here to visit his son-in-law, Mr. Molette, who is a foreign service officer with the Information Agency of the United States Government. We went over to see President Kennedy and the Vice President. As the photo indicates that we had a good visit with him. President Kennedy greeted this distinguished Minnesotan with his charm and with his friendliness that is so characteristic of our President. And I had the privilege of telling the President just a little bit about Dr. Novack. 90 years "young", 68 years a practicing physician, and Dr. Novack told me that

he delivered over 4,000 babies and he said that most of them not in hospitals, at home. And I found out that President and myself were not born at hospitals, but born at our respective homes. The President gave Dr. Novack a wonderful greeting and I know that the people of Minnesota are very pleased that this distinguished Minnesotan who still is full of the vigor and the vitality of life, had a chance to visit the White House to see the President of the United States and the Vice President. He came here by the way to attend the meeting of the Minnesota bankers who were here in Washington and I had a chance to visit with him at that time. Now, quickly, back to the business of our Congress.

I have introduced a resolution in the Congress calling for a White House conference on the effect of our anti-trust laws on small business. We need to constantly keep in mind the importance of the private entrepreneur, the private independent businessman. And we need to strengthen the small business administration, to help our small businessmen compete more successfully.

I've introduced legislation to make sure that the Federal Trade Commission did not deny our independent small business men the right to run what we call cooperative advertising, where several business firms get together and put in a large ad to be able to compete more effectively and more fairly with the large chain operations. I think it is time that we take a good look at the

whole area of independent business enterprise. And I have asked for a White House Conference to take a review of the economics of business and the effect of our anti-trust laws. Now let me conclude by saying that only this past week I introduced a number of other resolutions which I have a feeling may add something rather significant to our governmental structure. I've introduced a resolution to establish a joint Committee in the Congress on National Security Affairs. One Committee to equal or to work alongside of the national security council that coordinates all of our defense and security and foreign policy activity at the Executive level. I want a similar committee here at the Congressional level. So that when the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, or the Secretary of Commerce, or some of our generals or the Secretary of the Army, Navy, or Air Force come here to the Congress, they can come to one committee made up of the senior members of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, and they talk to us in terms of their policies and their attitudes and their programs for national security. I wouldn't want ~~XXXX~~ this committee to take over the functions of the Committee on Foreign Relations or Armed Services or Atomic Energy, but I do think we need such a committee to coordinate policy, to coordinate the thinking of Congress, to give a sort of forum also for the responsible officials, on security matters and defense matters in the Executive branch. Keep your eye on that resolution, will you. I think it has some real meaning for the future.

One other little item that we offered was a resolution on the Middle East, the critical situation in the M. E. in the area of Israel, and the Arab countries. We've got to keep an eye on that, this could explode, it could be the hottest and the most dangerous spot of the world, we're going to see to it that that does not happen within the power of this government. There is much more to say, but I must leave you now. Thank you for listening and looking.



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