

MINNESOTA RADIO TAPE OF OCTOBER 15, 1963

FOR BROADCAST WEEK BEGINNING OCTOBER 20

Ladies and gentlemen---

This is Senator Hubert Humphrey, reporting to you
from my office on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C....

In recent weeks, there have been two international developments which have required prompt and well-informed judgments by the United States government.

The first was the question of sale of American wheat to the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries, which suddenly came under intense discussion with the announcement of sale of \$500 million worth of Canadian wheat to the Soviet Union.

The second was the growing concern about the situation in Viet Nam, and questions about U.S. policy toward Viet Nam.

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The Executive Branch of the government, under the direction of the President, is able to keep well-informed on such issues and is equipped to make prompt judgments for U.S. policy.

But the Congress, which also has a responsibility for shaping American policy on international affairs, does not have an efficient system through which it can reach sound decisions on such issues.

Take the issue of East-West Trade and the question of sale of U.S. wheat to Soviet bloc countries. One of the reasons there was a delay in the President's announcement of U.S. approval to such a sale was that there was no clear expression of Congressional thinking on the question.

Yes, individual members of the Senate and the House expressed their view. (I was one of the first to urge a decision to allow our private traders to sell wheat to Soviet bloc countries.) But no collective decision could be reached---becuase Congress does not have the means or the structure to express itself on issues of international trade.

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This is why I have recommended the establishment of what I call a "Joint Committee on International Trade." This committee would include members of both the Senate and the House and representatives of such standing committees as Foreign Relations, Ways and Means and Interstate and Foreign Commerce. It would allow Congress to play a significant role in shaping U.S. trade policy.

My second suggestion is to establish a "Joint Committee on National Security Affairs." This committee could examine---and provide advice to Congress on---such vital security issues as Viet Nam, disarmament, the work of the Central Intelligence Agency and U.S. policy toward Cuba.

Right now the Executive branch of the government is fully prepared to handle such questions through the National Security Council. The joint committee I propose would play the role of a Congressional National Security Council.

It would also provide the means by which Congress could seek to

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resolve the questions many members raise about the work of the C.I.A. in such areas of the world as Viet Nam. A Joint Committee on National Security Affairs could handle what we call the "watchdog" function in relation to the Central Intelligence Agency.

I do not suggest that Congress take over any of the traditional functions of the Executive Branch. What I do suggest is that Congress equip itself to ^(HANDLE) ~~handle~~ its own responsibilities in shaping this government's policies on matters of international trade and national security. The two Joint Committees would offer the means to fulfill those responsibilities.

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