

SENATOR HUMPHREY'S FIRST 15-MINUTE WASHINGTON TV REPORT  
JULY 19, 1961

This is Washington. And this is Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota ready to give the first of a series of reports from the nation's capital. As Assistant Majority Leader of the Senate, and a top ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Humphrey is in the center of the news and the decisions now being made in Washington. Right now here he is on top of the news. He just returned from the White House where he reported to the President on his fact finding tour of Europe.

Senator Humphrey:

SENATOR HUMPHREY: Ladies and Gentlemen, the first thing I want to do is to thank this station for making available this public service time so that I might be able to discuss with you some of the developments here in the nation's capital. It's very important that our people be informed as to the policy decisions being made in the legislative program underway. Now, I recognize that in these discussions we have our point of view. But I shall try to respect the opportunity which has been given to me to help in a sense of providing information. My reports to you shall be, so far as it is humanly possible for one to make them, objective and to the point and not partisan.

Now let me tell you just a little about my work as a United States Senator and as the Assistant Majority Leader of the Senate. This responsibility of being the Assistant Majority Leader takes a good deal of time and attention, but it is a rewarding experience. It brings me into close contact with my colleagues in the Senate

on every important legislative issue. It also gives me the opportunity to meet regularly with the President of the United States, the Vice-President, with members of the President's Cabinet and with those officials that are responsible for the administration of our government.

Every Tuesday morning at 8:45 I journey to the White House for what we call our Congressional Leaders Legislative Breakfast. It is at this particular meeting, which by the way is very enjoyable, informal, friendly, that we discuss in considerable detail the legislative program for the coming week and, indeed, for months ahead. As a result of these meetings, we proceed to try to pass the legislative recommendations of the President and, of course, we always reserve for ourselves and the Congress the right to make adjustments and amendments to those recommendations as we see fit.

This past week I had the privilege of lunching with the President and discussing in some detail my observations relating to Berlin and some of the discussions that are taking place in Geneva, Switzerland. You may recall by reading the press or through your radio programs or television that in the past two weeks I've journeyed to Western Europe. I want to tell you just a little bit about that trip and primarily about West Berlin and what I saw there and what I believe the future has in store for us. Before I do that let me just identify this area a little more clearly.

West Berlin is not in what we call West Germany, it's in

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the Eastern Zone. It's in East Germany, Germany today being divided. It's in a hundred miles back into the Communist area of Europe -- Soviet troops encircle West Berlin so to speak. Communist influence is around West Berlin and yet West Berlin stands there a city rebuilt out of the ruins of World War II, prosperous, thriving, full employment, 26% increase in production last year in West Berlin -- people at work; savings are at an alltime high; investment -- it's a mecca of freedom, it's a -- really it's an island of freedom in a sea of totalitarianism. Now, Berlin was once one city after World War II, and we're there because of our being a victor in World War II. We're there along with the French and the British, the Russians, because of a four-nation agreement as to the governing of West Berlin or Berlin I should say. In 1948 the Russians divided Berlin into a Western and Eastern Sectors. The East Berlin today is under Communist domination; West Berlin has American, British and French troops -- a small garrison of approximately 11,000 troops. It has an elected government; it has a brilliant, courageous, freedom loving Mayor, Mayor Willy Brandt, who by the way is a good friend of mine. I have a picture of him here. This particular photo if you can see it -- this particular photo shows Mayor Willy Brandt and myself standing near the Brandenburg gate which separates West Berlin from East Berlin.

Mayor Brandt is looked upon as one of the great patriots of freedom in the Western world, and I discussed with Mayor Brandt some six hours on my most recent trip there the situation that now prevails. As you know, Premier Khrushchev of the Soviet

Union has said that he is going to sign a separate peace treaty with East Germany; that no longer will he recognize our rights in West Berlin. In other words, he has told us in so many words to get out. Well, we don't intend to do that, because if we were to do that we would leave West Berlin at the mercy of the totalitarian, the Communist. What is more, we would violate an agreement that we signed and that the Soviet's have signed; and what is more I am afraid that no one again would ever believe anything that we said. This is the situation.

Well, I visited East Berlin as well as West Berlin, and I saw the difference as I told you before between totalitarian government and free government. East Berlin is drab; it's dull; it's poor; it's still shows the ravages of war; it's people look sullen and unhappy. West Berlin is gay; it's thriving; it's prosperous; it's employed. In fact, 58,000 East Berliners come across to West Berlin every day just to get jobs. Khrushchev wants to end all this. He wants to seal off this one escape valve, so to speak, from the totalitarian world from the Communist areas. And we have made up our mind that this will not be the case. Therefore, just let me say a word or two to you about it.

What's our position on West Berlin? Why are we there? I think I've told you. We are there because of World War II. We are there by right. We are there by duty, by obligation. We're not there by the Soviet's invitation or even the German's

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invitation. The German people want us there. The people of West Berlin look to us to keep our commitments to protect the freedom of that city and to protect access so that they can get in and out, otherwise they would be sealed in, because they are surrounded by Communist dominated territory. Therefore, as the Mayor of Berlin told me, he said, "Senator we must be militarily strong, but recognizing that the military has no solution to this problem; but that military strength is a part of the total diplomacy which is needed to protect the freedom of West Berlin. We must be militarily strong and then seize the political and the diplomatic initiative; and I think we can do this. We ought to talk about free elections, self-determination -- one Berlin, not two -- one Germany. We ought to remind the people of Western Europe and of the world of what the Soviets have done. They've violated their contracts, their agreements. Keep telling them so. And then I think it's about time we recognized that this isn't a hopeless cause at all that we're involved in. Sometimes we must become rather discouraged. You hear that we're weak. You hear that the Russians are strong. Now they are not ten feet high, and we're not two feet; we're not pigmies and they're not giants. We have many assets. Western Europe is prosperous. It's strong. From a point of political **strength** and moral strength and economic **strength** the United States and Western Europe is much stronger than the Soviets, by far. Militarily we're strong too.

And the Russians know it. Now what are some of the liabilities of the Russians? Of course they have strength; I understand that, and so do you. They're powerful. But the Russians have some problems. Mr Khrushchev in the Kremlin has plenty of problems. Do you think he can trust the East German troops? Not on your life. They don't want to be for the Russians. Do you think he can trust the Polish troops that he has mobilized? No! The Poles want their freedom and we ought to help them get it. His satellites are his first area of weakness. Then there are food shortages, political difficulties galore -- Albania for example, Bulgaria, in the Soviet Empire, are in a sense in revolt. Khrushchev has problems with them. He has problems with Communist China too -- plenty of them. Now, I mentioned food shortages here the other day, and you ought to see the letters I got. Some of the people, they wrote in to me and they said, "Senator, are you trying to tell me that just because there is a shortage of food in East Germany and Russia -- and there is of course, you know; and because there has been some famine and shortage of food in Communist China -- Senator," these letters say, "are you telling us that this means that the Russians are weak, and that they won't move against us?" No, that is not what I am saying at all. Let me answer those letters right now. I merely said that food shortages had to be taken into consideration. This weakened the Soviets somewhat. It doesn't mean that they couldn't move militarily. It means, however, that when a nation



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contemplates a major military operation it generally looks to see whether it has adequate food. Now, there are many other weaknesses that the Soviets have that I have mentioned. But even then they are strong and they are formidable, and they are determined. Khrushchev is determined, if he can, to take all of Germany -- all of Western Europe. And that's why I say that we must be strong. We must have closer unity in our NATO Alliance; more frequent meetings; meetings of our foreign ministers so that our policies are united; meetings of our defense ministers, so that we have a more unified defense structure; meetings of our economic advisers so that we don't go in different directions, that we work together economically; and meetings of our information and propaganda officials, so that we have a story to tell and a way of telling it that doesn't contradict one another. This is very vital. And by the way, I think that we must launch a tremendous propaganda offensive against the Soviet Union in this area. Not a propaganda offensive to stir up trouble or war, but to set the record straight; to point out the violations of agreement; to call upon the Soviet Union to give free elections that it promised; to give self-determination to Europeans. They are always talking about self-determination for Africans and Asians and Latin Americans -- and indeed, we support that. But let's remind them of self-determination for the Poles,<sup>the</sup>/Czechs and Hungarians, the Rumanians, the Bulgarians, the Albanians -- yes, the Ukrainians and the Latvians, the Baltic

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States, the Estonians and the Lithuanians. These are some of the captive nations. Keep talking about it -- keep repeating our story, because after all, repetition is the essence of education. Sometimes we forget to repeat the very obvious truths. So just let me make the record manifestly clear. There are food shortages in Eastern Europe, in the Communist Empire. This doesn't mean that they couldn't strike at us. It merely means that it's one of their problems. We don't have that. We have an abundance of food -- thank goodness. Our surplus of food today is one of our greatest military, diplomatic and economic assets. We can be humbly grateful for this abundance of food and fiber that is ours. And that reminds me now that the drought is taking its toll. I just want to conclude by saying that we have taken some steps, too, here in Congress, and I have tried to be of help, to bring to bear the services of the federal government in the assistance for the drought stricken areas -- allowing grazing and cutting of hay on soil bank lands and disaster counties. We approved recently here in the Senate a bill that would permit grazing and cutting of hay in soil bank areas adjacent to disaster counties. We have authorized the sale of government owned feed grains to growers of livestock at lower prices in the drought areas. We have made available other feed grains for the drought areas, and we have taken steps to grant emergency credit. So, food today is an instrument of strength and an instrument of peace for free people. Just keep that in mind, will you. That's all the time we have. Thank you.

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