

STATEMENT BY
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
ON A. B. C. -T. V. PROGRAM
"MEDICARE -- THE AMERICAN WAY"
VIDEO-TAPED TUESDAY, 10 A. M., JUNE 15, 1965

Life has many blessings. Few are more precious than good health.

We seek good health for ourselves and for our family.

But as we grow older, illness strikes more often. Persons over 65 require three times more hospitalization than younger Americans.

With sickness come pain and suffering and medical bills -- often very big bills.

One sickness can wipe out the savings a family has accumulated in a lifetime, and this tragedy has overtaken thousands of American families.

To meet this great National problem, President Johnson has proposed an historic bill -- a humanitarian bill. It is popularly known as Medicare.

Medicare has already passed the House of Representatives -- by a very sizeable vote. The Bill is now under consideration in the U. S. Senate.

The Bill makes possible many important health benefits. Most of the provisions are overwhelmingly endorsed by all segments of American society, including doctors, nurses, and other members of the healing arts.

The "heart" of the Bill provides basic protection for hospital care.

This protection would be paid for by the pay-as-you-go principle. Each of us would contribute from our paycheck a small amount, so that later on, when we

retire, hospital costs would be automatically covered.

This idea is not new. Our late President, John F. Kennedy, fought hard for it.

As far back as 1949, when I became a Member of the Senate, the very first Bill I introduced was to meet the health needs of the elderly.

The reason President Johnson's proposal is so strongly supported is clear. The principle works. It is the Social Security principle -- tested successfully for 25 years.

What Medicare does is merely extend the sound principle and practice of Social Security to another area -- covering the costs of health.

The need for Medicare is great.

Without Medicare's protection, the average citizen risks medical and financial disaster.

But with Medicare, the healing services of medical science become available to all the aged -- and without causing financial distress.

We are grateful to American medicine for its high professional standards.

Medicine will be further strengthened by Medicare.

Medicare will help bring the genius of American medicine into the lives of more of our elderly people.

"Honor thy father and thy mother" is the oldest moral law known to man.

In enacting Medicare, we will honor our fathers and mothers -- by our deeds. We will help them to live in happiness and in health.

And we will be making an investment for the time when we, too, are senior citizens -- in need of hope and self-respect.

From the Desk of

WILLIAM R. HUTTON

July 14, 1965

Herewith text of Vice President's
talk in ABC Television Network
program "MEDICARE THE AMERICAN WAY"
-- produced by the National Council
of Senior Citizens, 1627 K St., N.W.
on June 18, 1965.

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey in a telecast over ABC network presented by the National Council of Senior Citizens on June 18, 1965 had the following to say about the Medicare Bill:

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Medical science has advanced more rapidly in our lifetime than in all of previous history. But unfortunately not all patients have uniformly benefitted -- especially the poor, the elderly poor. And many Senior Citizens even in middle income brackets have not uniformly benefitted either. Medicare will, therefore, help bring the miracles of medical science to Americans who too often have been bypassed because of financial limitations.

We are counting on our doctors to help make it work.



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