

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF GRAIN COOPERATIVES

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Remarks of

HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY,

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Washington, D. C.

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14 March 30, 196615
16 2:00 p.m.17
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1 (Applause.)

2 MR. THATCHER: Well, this is a great hour.

3 It is hard to speak without genuine emotion when I sit here
4 by this great man that I have had the privilege to live with
5 for years, a close personal friendship. Ordinarily it just --
6 you just follow protocol and say "The Vice President." I got
7 his permission to say a few words.

8 There is no greater man in America today than the Vice
9 President of the United States.

10 (Applause.)

11 His loyalty to his country, his loyalty to the President,
12 his service is equal to anything that I have ever read about.

13 This organization, representing farmers, is the type of
14 an institution that is as close to his heart as any institu-
15 tion in this country. If there was ever a man that rose to the
16 top level of this country that was a friend of the American
17 farmer, it is the Vice President of the United States.

18 (Applause.)

19 I think it is sixteen years -- or seventeen years --
20 straight running that he has been the principal speaker at the
21 G.T.A. annual meeting. And we have a commitment from him that
22 as long as the both of us live he will be there each year.

23 (Applause.)

24 And I am doing my best to take care of myself.

25 (Laughter.)

1 If there is ever a great emergency, if this federation is
2 up against an economic emergency, and we have to go to the top
3 of the Nation for help, the door is wide open to the National
4 Federation of Grain Cooperatives, all of its cooperatives,
5 and all the farmers who support it.

6 (Applause.)

7 So it is a great emotion, a great satisfaction that I
8 have the further experience on Minnesota Day -- we have had
9 Mrs. Jacobson with us who did a remarkable job in presenting
10 the case of food for freedom here today -- we had the
11 Secretary of Agriculture, who has just finished a most inter-
12 esting address -- and now no greater hour for us than to have
13 with us our great Vice President, Hubert H. Humphrey.

14 (Applause.)

15 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: My dear friends, I hope that
16 you are thinking what I am right at this moment -- how does
17 one proceed after an introduction like that.

18 Bill Thatcher did lean over to me before he presented me
19 to say, "Is it all right if I take a minute or so just to say
20 a few words about you?" He didn't know that if he hadn't have
21 I would have been terribly disappointed.

22 (Laughter.)

23 One of the aspects of this position of Vice President
24 that has been somewhat disturbing to me is that people feel
25 that they must be so bound by protocol that I can't get anybody

1 to brag on me at all any more.

2 (Laughter.)

3 They just get up and say "The Vice President of the
4 United States," but not my friend Bill Thatcher. He knows when
5 a fellow needs a pat on the back and he gave me a good one
6 today.

7 (Applause.)

8 But I am sure all of you of the National Federation of
9 Grain Cooperatives, all of you know that the relationship be-
10 tween Bill Thatcher and Hubert Humphrey is not political, it
11 isn't even economic; it is very personal and filled with affec-
12 tion and friendship and mutual respect. And I love it that
13 way. I have always told this good man that any time he wanted
14 to talk to me that he knew what my telephone number was, if he
15 wasn't in town. And if he was around he knew was the door
16 was and if he couldn't find the door to get int I would find
17 the door where he was to come in. And we have talked over
18 every conceivable subject. We have -- why, we have solved
19 the problems of this worold at least ten times that I know of
20 this past year.

21 (Laughter.)

22 So -- the trouble is we don't get everybody to agree with
23 us that these things should stay solved.

24 And I am very pleased to be on this platform today with
25 Roy Hendrickson, who has been a very faithful servant to you

1 and an extremely able representative of the federation here in
2 Washington, one who commands tremendous respect in the consuls
3 of this government and one who has earned every bit of it. So
4 we are in a friendly situation here.

5 I of course hoped that I might be able to be with you at
6 the banquet tonight; but one thing I have discovered in my new
7 assignment after that election in 1964 is that schedules are
8 made by your office and are unmade by events. I have a schedule
9 every day that has no more relationship to what is going to
10 happen than the man in the moon has relationship to the space
11 program. But I try my best to do something about it and see
12 what we can do to work out the mutual arrangements that will be
13 satisfactory.

14 Now Bill was disappointed because I had to tell him that
15 Mrs. Humphrey and I couldn't be with you tonight. But the
16 President has a very important meeting at the White House which
17 I must attend. We had another one this morning at 9:00 o'clock;
18 another one last night at 6:15. And these frequently are meet-
19 ings that come up because of developments in the Congress or in
20 some part of our economy and are necessary gatherings. And I
21 feel very honored that the President feels I ought to be there.
22 I suppose he feels I ought to learn so I ought to be around to
23 hear what is going on. But I also like to be there to partici-
24 pate and share in the discussion and hopefully in the resolution
25 of some of these problems.

1 Bill, you have indicated that I have a commitment, a life-
2 long commitment to the G.T.A. and I am ready to accept that
3 commitment because I wouldn't know what to do in the fall of
4 the year, the late fall, if you didn't invite me to G.T.A. I
5 just wonder around, I would be -- I am such -- I am so
6 accustomed to being there now that if I didn't get there I
7 would feel there was something really wrong. So the Lord
8 willing and health permitting and events cooperating, I will be
9 there as long as Bill and his members can take it, I will be
10 there. But surely -- they are -- I want to tell you, they are
11 the most tolerant people in the world, they have heard me hold
12 forth time after time and they still come back. It must be
13 because the patronage refunds are pretty good, Bill.

14 (Laughter.)

15 G.T.A. does all right.

16 Today I am just going to visit with you. I -- David
17 Gartner, my faithful and loyal associate and assistant that
18 works with me on these matters of agriculture, gave me a little
19 note here and he said he wanted to remind me that this is not
20 a convention, he said. He said this is a meeting of the
21 twenty-six regional cooperatives located in thirty-six principal
22 grain and oil seed producing states who make up the membership
23 of this national federation. And he was telling me in his
24 polite gentlemanly way, "Why don't you just go over there and
25 visit and don't come on in there with some great big prepared

1 manuscript to give the folks the word." Becuase I am here to
2 get the word from you and you are not to get the word from me.

3 But I have a feeling that things have gone fairly well in
4 your conference thus far. I know that you just heard from the
5 Secretary of Agriculture.

6 I was teasing the Secretary last Saturday when we had a
7 little party for Senator Mondale of Minnesota. You will have
8 to forgive us for this Minnesota orientation but we do think
9 that it is sort of the cultural hub of the universe.

10 (Laughter.)

11 And at this little gathering for Senator Mondale, which
12 had a very fine purpose, namely to gather in a few funds for
13 an important political exercise that he will be in this fall.

14 (Laughter.)

15 I noticed the Secretary of Agriculture was there and I
16 said, "My, how things have changed." Why, back in Minnesota
17 when we had parties like this it was a dollar bean feed and we
18 had some old dried up beans -- you had to really look a long
19 time to find any piece of pork in it anywhere, even at the old
20 prices.

21 (Laughter.)

22 And somebody would give us a few cartons milk and we would
23 have a few loaves of bread and that was it. We charged them a
24 dollar and bring in 15,000 people into an auditorium.

25 But I said here is my friend, Senator Mondale, now and he

1 is having a hundred-dollar brunch.

2 (Laughter.)

3 Things are really changing.

4 And then I went on to tell him that I wasn't going to tell
5 a word about this back home because in Minnesota we have break-
6 fast, dinner and supper. We didn't have brunches. But I told
7 him I wouldn't tell anybody so don't you tell anybody either
8 about that.

9 But there was Orville Freemond and I said, "Well, Orville,
10 you have lived through many a turbulent day. It wasn't long
11 ago that we were giving you the dickens over in the government
12 here because the farm prices weren't high enough. And now
13 every day that you pick up the papers somebody has got another
14 complaint saying that they are too high." And I said, "If you
15 ever find the day when everything is all right you better have
16 the President declare a national holiday."

17 But things have improved and it is long overdue. How many
18 times we have gathered together to discuss what has been and
19 was and in some areas yet is the inadequacy of agricultural in-
20 come.

21 Fortunately things are better and our task is to keep them
22 better. American agriculture is better in every conceivable
23 way. It is better managed. It is better financed. Farm co-
24 operatives are better. Surely but surely we have been working
25 out a better farm program and I think there is a better under-

1 standing of the role of the American farmer and his farmers
2 cooperative and the American economy. In other words, we have
3 improved; and there are no instant solutions to any problem,
4 there are no miracles that we can perform to bring about an
5 immediate solution to any problem, domestic or international.
6 But we have made progress, and that is the most important thing
7 of all. It is these first steps of progress that lead us down
8 the road to the achievement of our goals.

9 Not long ago I spent a day -- or I should say an hour --
10 with the National Food & Fiber Commission. You may recall that
11 I thought we ought to have that commission. Mr. Hendricksen is
12 a member of that commission. It is one that does not just
13 represent farm producers, in fact it represents finance, the
14 agri-business community, American labor and the consumer --
15 we have some fine labor representatives on it. We have our old
16 friend, Fred Hinckle of Missouri on it. I think we have got
17 some mighty good representation. We have some good economists.
18 We have Dr. Bourg of the University of Minnesota School of
19 Agriculture out there, that is the Chairman. And it has a good
20 staff.

21 And I said to this commission that a commitment had been
22 made that such a commission would be appointed to take a good
23 long look at American agriculture and its relationship to the
24 total American economy and the world scene, American agricul-
25 ture and its relationship to government, to private enterprise,

1 to the cooperative movement, American agriculture and its re-
2 lationship to the needs of the consumer, the distributive
3 system of American agriculture and how it operated, and then
4 to give the Congress of the United States, and the President of
5 the United States the findings and the recommendations -- not
6 for just tomorrow but looking down the road.

7 Now any business and any nation then has to plan further
8 ahead than just the next day. From time to time I take a look
9 at the finance page of our great newspapers and I will see
10 where the AT&T -- American Telephone & Telegraph -- are now
11 planning their program of telephonic communication expansion
12 for the next ten years. And that is why it is a good stock.
13 Beware of the fellow that just plans for tomorrow or hasn't
14 quite finished the plans that he should have had for today.
15 And in American business they do plan ahead and in American
16 government they ought to plan ahead, too. And in your pro-
17 grams, of the grain cooperatives, you have to plan ahead. You
18 have to plan the development of your facilities, the program-
19 ming of your supplies. And that is why you have built this
20 organization, this organization came into being because of dis-
21 tress. It came into being because you said you had to look
22 ahead, you had to plan ahead. And it came into being because
23 you were going to do something about American government's
24 plans for agriculture, too.

25 I know a good deal about the history of this organization.

1 And I think I know why Bill Thatcher has given so much of his
2 life and of his talent and effort to this organization, because
3 he remembers -- and so do many of you in this room, because
4 you were in it -- the terrible dark days of American agricul-
5 ture back in the thirties and the twenties, and the other
6 difficult days since.

7 And so this great federation was designed to be an inde-
8 pendent force, not a force of government but to influence
9 government, to help design policy, to promote programs, to
10 influence legislators -- all of which is the way it ought to
11 be. This is a government of the people and the representatives
12 of the people need to hear from the people and they need to
13 hear from the people that have particular concerns on particu-
14 lar matters. There is not a thing wrong with that. And every
15 Senator and every Representative -- and I served in that Senate
16 for sixteen years -- each and every one of them needs to hear
17 loud and clear what the respective groups in our communities
18 have to say, and then to try to translate that into action.

19 And I had the privilege of working with you and literally
20 having my ear bent towards you every day of my legislative
21 year and I can say without any fear of being called an agent
22 of a lobbyist or being -- any fear of successful contradiction
23 that I never once had a request from the National Federation
24 of Grain Cooperatives that wasn't in the public interest. I
25 can say that on the record.

1 You were interested, of course, in your farm producers.
2 You were interested in your cooperatives. But anybody that is
3 interested in farm producers and cooperatives is interested
4 in what I am interested in, the cause of human freedom and
5 democracy. These great institutions called the farm, the
6 family farm which indeed expands in its size today because of
7 modern needs, and the farm cooperatives -- these institutions
8 are the bulwark, they are the underpinning of what you and I
9 call freedom.

10 I want to just for a moment, just for one moment to tell
11 you a little bit about my trip into the Far East.

12 The real problem of reporting to the people about a trip
13 like this is everybody wants the dramatic rather than the hard
14 substance of what it was all about.

15 I have been into Asia three times since -- almost since
16 the first of January. And I want to tell you, that is some
17 journey. I first went on December 27th to visit in Japan, in
18 Korea, in the Philippines, and in Taiwan or Nationalist China.
19 The expressed purpose of my trip, at least the publicized one,
20 was to go to the inaugural ceremony of a new President of the
21 Philippines, and he is a fine man.

22 But I also wanted to talk with the leaders of Japan, the
23 greatest industrial nation in Asia, and I wanted to see what
24 had happened in Korea, and then I wanted to visit in Taiwan and
25 Formosa if for no other reason, to see what an industrious

1 people can do. And they are industrious and they have done
2 much.

3 That was a short trip but it was an indoctrination in a
4 sense. It gives you a feeling of it. Many people say, "Well,
5 you can't learn much in a short trip." Well, if all you did
6 was to take the trip you wouldn't learn much. But I want to
7 say that, as an old teacher, and I studied for seven years in
8 the field of economics and political science, that I learned
9 more in one year in Congress about American government than
10 in seven years of study as a graduate student and an under-
11 graduate. And everything that I had read all at once took on
12 some meaning. I had read about the committees. I had read
13 about conferences committees. I had read about joint sessions.
14 All I have taught government to thousands of thousands of
15 young people -- and I almost feel that I ought to apologize to
16 each and every one of them because I knew so little about it.

17 (Laughter.)

18 There is no -- there is nothing like being involved in it.
19 Somebody can write a book about a farm cooperative but until
20 you have helped build one and are a part of one and have had
21 to fight the battles in one, you really don't understand what
22 it is all about.

23 And therefore a journey doesn't really give you new in-
24 formation as much as it does to bring into focus and sharpen
25 the information that you already have. It makes it meaningful.

1 It makes it -- it makes it lifelike rather than just picture-
2 book.

3 So this first journey was in a sense getting acquainted.
4 Then I went secondly to -- on a very sad mission, to the
5 funeral of the late Prime Minister of India, Mr. Shastri. I
6 should tell you a little bit about that. I was in my office
7 working one night -- when I am not to a dinner or an official
8 occasion I am in that office until 1:00 and 2:00 o'clock at
9 night. I can honestly say that. I -- night after night, this
10 is not a complaint it is just a report. If I ever had a night
11 off, a free night off, I don't know what I would do with it.
12 So I try to get at least two nights a week to work until 1:00
13 or 2:00 o'clock in the morning to get caught up.

14 And I had one night, and I am sitting there about 10:30, I
15 get a call from the White House. And very prominent gentleman
16 says, "Mr. Vice President, I hope that you will be prepared to
17 take a long journey. The Prime Minister of India has passed
18 away and I want to send a high representative of this govern-
19 ment to attend his funeral and, as you know, under the prac-
20 tices and the habits of the Indian people that the funderal
21 will be in twenty-four hours and you will have to leave at
22 once. The plane will be waiting for you at the airport at
23 12:00 o'clock."

24 Well, I live thirty-five miles from the office -- I mean
25 thirty-five minutes.

1 (Laughter.)

2 And the plane was at Andrews Air Force Base and it takes
3 an hour to get out there. And I had to pack. But I made it.
4 I won't say that we didn't violate a speed law or two, but we
5 made it and we took off so fast that we really didn't have
6 time even to get bunks on the plane and really to be adequate-
7 ly prepared and we flew directly to India. I took -- I called
8 up Dave Gartner and he barely made it. I almost left him. I
9 said, I can't hold that plane and he was -- he is just newly
10 married and he had to kiss his wife good-bye about three times.
11 You know, he isn't like us old timers -- one good, fast kis
12 going out the door takes care of --

13 (Laughter.)

14 -- after twenty-five years, you know -- but David had to stop
15 for two or three more --

16 (Laughter.)

17 -- and he darn near missed that airplane. But we got on the
18 plane and we flew to India and we had a remarkable visit in
19 that great country. I have never will ever forget it. It was
20 on this occasion that of course the heads of governments from
21 many countries were there, and if not the heads of government
22 prominent representatives.

23 Mr. Kosygin, the Chairman of the Consul of Ministers of
24 the Soviet Union had been at Tashkent where the Indians and
25 the Pakistanis had been meeting under -- with the good offices

1 of the Soviet Union to try to settle their struggle. You re-
2 member just a few months back Pakistan and India at war, two
3 nations that never should go to war. They can't afford it.

4 (Laughter.)

5 And not only that, they ought not to do it anyway. And
6 our President made it quite clear to both India and Pakistan
7 that we were not going to aid in the financing of that war
8 and we cut off all aid to both countries. And our President
9 took a lot of complaints in the newspapers, but I think you
10 would agree with me that we have got something else to do
11 around here but to finance friends, mutual friends win a war.

12 And the President of the United States also asked both
13 the Indian government and the Pakistani government to accept
14 the invitation of the Soviet Union and go to Tashkent and he
15 let the Soviet Union know that we were backing that meeting
16 so no matter what you read, I was there. I know what took
17 place. And he said to President Ayub of Pakistan, "I want
18 you to go there." He said to Prime Minister Shastri by letter,
19 "I want you to go there. Our government fully supports this."
20 These two great countries got together at Tashkent, in the
21 southern part of the Soviet Union, and it is to the eternal
22 credit of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet
23 Union that he conducted these meetings fairly and objectively
24 and proved himself to be a statesman.

25 I brought the thanks of the President of the United States

1 personally to Mr. Kosygin. But at the high moment -- at the
2 moment of Mr. Shastri's glory, a man of peace, he was stricken,
3 and he died. He was preparing to come to the United States,
4 his next trip was to come and pay us a visit. And he looked
5 forward to it. I went to visit his widow. A little later,
6 Mrs. Humphrey on this last trip went to visit his widow, Mrs.
7 Shastri.

8 Well, I went to this funeral ceremony and I will never
9 forget it, in New Delhi. We didn't have any sleep for two and
10 a half to three days. It was a long trip there. It is almost
11 15,000 miles. We made one stop at Rome. We arrived at 6:00
12 in the morning and all day long we were in meetings and cere-
13 monies and memorials and then the next day, all day long,
14 calling upon cabinet officers and a long meeting with the
15 Soviets and meetings with others.

16 I can think I can say that I have had a longer discussion
17 with the Chairman of the Consul of Minister of the Soviet Union
18 than any other American. I met with him in the morning. I
19 was with him twice at the funeral, once at a memorial service,
20 and once at the time of the cremation, and then two and a half
21 hours that we had visit -- that we visited at the Soviet
22 Embassy in New Delhi. We discussed many things, but mainly we
23 tried to discuss how we can get peace.

24 These meetings are highly confidential and you wouldn't
25 expect me to tell you the details. I can only tell you one

1 thing, that they were held in the spirit of mutual respect.
2 There was no pounding of the table, there was no anger. And
3 I think that by and large they were constructive. But while
4 I was there I had a chance to talk to the Indian officials
5 and the officials of other countries, and I said to myself,
6 "How I wish I had more time to really learn." But I had to
7 return to our country.

8 A little later the President said to me, "Hubert, I want
9 you to keep your suitcase packed. I think I am going to send
10 you back to the Far East. We have got some things I want you
11 to do out there.

12 And you know about that. I went back to nine nations. I
13 went to Vietnam, to Thailand, to Laos, to Pakistan, to India,
14 to Australia, to New Zealand, to the Philippines, and to Korea
15 and back to the United States. And it is a long trip, a long
16 trip. And when I arrived back in the United States -- on the
17 morning I arrived I was promptly -- the next morning, I should
18 say, I was in a meeting with the members of Congress, and I
19 was in meeting all week long. I never went through such a
20 physical ordeal in my life. But fortunately the Lord has
21 blessed me with good strength and good health and we came out
22 of it all right.

23 But what did I learn on this? Well, I am not going to
24 discuss with you now the war in Vietnam. It is a painful ex-
25 perience and there are differences of view about it. We are

1 committed there. We think we are doing what is right. Our
2 objective is very simple: We don't seek to occupy North
3 Vietnam. We do not seek to have war with China. In fact, we
4 avoid it. Our objective is to prevent the success of
5 aggression.

6 Our second objective is to get at that peace table. That
7 is what we talked with Mrs. Ghandi about yesterday. That is
8 what I talked to Mr. Kosygin about when I was with him in New
9 Delhi.

10 Our third objective is to get out and to leave the people
11 of Vietnam, North and South, alone, to let them settle their
12 own future, to decide it by free elections under international
13 supervision, to make their own way. We want no bases, no
14 colonies, no domination. We prefer that this area be left to
15 chart its own way, its own course -- self-determination. Who
16 they vote into office, that is their business. Whether they
17 unite as one nation rather than two, that is their business.
18 And I want to make it crystal clear to you, so that you may
19 know, that our objective is to bring about a set of conditions
20 that will permit the people in that area of the world to have
21 self-determination.

22 We have gone so far as to say that once that that is done,
23 once that the fighting stops that we are prepared to aid both
24 North and South in economic development. We think that
25 economic development that ties together the whole country will

1 promote the peace. We seek to develop the Mekong River in
2 cooperation with other countries. Do realize that that great
3 river, the Divine Providence has given to humanity, has been
4 flowing there for thousands and thousands of years and to this
5 very day, until just recently I should say, man never even
6 built a dam on it, did nothing to harness those waters, to
7 curb those floods. It is like the Amazon, it is like the
8 Missouri, it is like the Mississippi. It is a fantastic river.
9 It is like the Colombia. And there it is. It is like a tre-
10 mendous stream of wealth going into the sea, no one had ever
11 touched it. Many surveys had been made, nothing had ever been
12 done.

13 And then President Johnson said last April, almost a year
14 ago in Baltimore, that he wanted to get things moving out
15 there. He asked that we develop an Asia, that we contribute
16 to an Asian Development Bank. It is now a fact. It is estab-
17 lished in Manila. Your government has made its contribution;
18 the Japanese have put in \$300 million into that bank. The
19 Indians have put in money into the bank. Western European
20 nations have put money into that bank -- a bank for Asians, to
21 be run by Asians for their oen economic development.

22 Don't tell me that some things aren't happening. I was
23 in Laos and I saw hydroelectric projects for the first time.
24 They are starting a big dam, that will generate thousands of
25 kilowatts of electricity for Laos and Northeast Thailand.

1 Eight-thousand rural families in Northeast Thailand for the
2 first time to have rural electrification, an REA cooperative,
3 the first time. You don't read about that.

4 And you are not going to have a peaceful society with
5 people living in primitive conditions. You can't have peace
6 in the world where hunger stalks the land. You cannot have
7 peace in this world where disease is the constant partner of
8 human kind. You cannot have peace in the world where there is
9 no economic opportunity, where the per capita income is \$50,
10 \$50, \$70, \$100 a year. And the per capita income of over fifty
11 per cent of the children of this earth is under \$100 a year.

12 You can't have peace in the world where we in the United
13 States have fifty per cent of everything that is produced and
14 the rest of humanity has the other fifty per cent. It doesn't
15 mean that we should have less; it means they should have more.
16 And you cannot have peace in the world where the richest and
17 the most powerful nations of the western civilization refuse
18 to take any responsibility in the Far East. That doesn't mean
19 that you control; it means you help.

20 And I want us to cleanse our thinking. There was a time
21 that whenever a country took interest in another part of the
22 world it was for the purpose of self-interest. It was for
23 the purpose of colonization, it was for the purpose of ex-
24 ploiting the resources.

25 Ladies and gentlemen, we are not going to exploit a single

1 resource. We are helping in this part of the world to help
2 people help themselves. It is going to cost you something.
3 You are not going to get anything out of it. But it is going
4 to cost you something just exactly as good medical care costs
5 you something or life insurance costs you something or your
6 membership in a cooperative costs you something. It will cost
7 you something but it will also build something for you. It
8 costs you something to pay your taxes but you have got a great
9 country. It costs you a good deal to educate your children
10 but you wouldn't want to do it any other way.

11 We are going to help people invest in themselves. That
12 is what this is all about. And when you get all -- beyond all
13 the gruesome pictures in the paper and all these miserable
14 headlines that tell you of stark death and tragedy, let me
15 tell you that there is a good deal of hope also, and I saw it.

16 Who would have dreamed twenty years ago that the Prime
17 Minister of India would come to the United States and that the
18 relationships between our two countries could be as they are
19 today? Who would have dreamed that the Congress of the United
20 States, that has been consulted now at least amongst many of
21 its individual members, with doubts that they may have about
22 certain programs but nevertheless respond in terms of their
23 religious teachings literally that we are not going to let
24 people starve.

25 And I want to let you in on a little secret. I heard --

1 I was with twenty-three Senators last night and about fifty
2 or sixty Congressmen this morning, the leaders in agriculture,
3 appropriations and foreign relations. And the President laid
4 out the program for India, the food program. We just talked
5 about the food program. And many a man got up and said, well,
6 he didn't like the way the Indians did or he didn't like this
7 or he didn't like that. But every one of them, before they
8 sat down, said we are just not going to let people starve.

9 Well, I want to tell you, every Sunday school teacher,
10 you have won your battle right there, because believe me there
11 is no nation on the face of the earth in which human dignity
12 and human life means as much as it means here.

13 And it's like an old priest once said, "You give me your
14 boy until he is twelve and you can have him from there-on out.
15 He will learn his lessons." And we have learned a lot of
16 lessons in our churches and synagogues and temples and
17 cathedrals and we have learned a lesson that we are here to
18 minister and not to be ministered unto. We are here to serve
19 and not to be served. And we have learned that he who would
20 be first, let him be last. These are fundamental lessons of
21 life and of politics. And I think it is just wonderful. I
22 have witnessed here two days a woman that is Prime Minister of
23 a nation of 500 million people, my friends, a nation of great
24 potentiality, a nation today of tremendous problems.

25 You think you have got problems? We think we have

1 problems? Imagine what the government of India faces. Un-
2 believable poverty, backwardness in many areas, the glaring
3 differences between some who are wealthy and many who are poor,
4 a drought that robbed them of 19 million tons of cereal, a
5 major drought, and another one that may very well be upon them
6 -- they have problems -- attacked two times in five years by
7 Communist China, losing two prime ministers in three years.
8 My fellow Americans, a government and a people that can stand
9 that has something to recommend them to history.

10 Here is a nation that twenty-five years ago was a colony.
11 Here is a nation that was a battlefield in World War II. Here
12 is a country that has been divided by religious dissention.
13 It has faced many a famine. The very first piece of legisla-
14 tion that I got passed as a United States Senator was emergency
15 food aid to India when we sent four million tons of it in 1950,
16 when there were people dying of starvation in India. I author-
17 ed that legislation. And let me tell you, it was more diffi-
18 cult to get that bill passed by far than it has been to do any-
19 thing of recent date. Difficult in our own government, people
20 just didn't understand.

21 But I repeat here is a nation of almost 500 million people
22 with high rates of illiteracy, with unbelievable poverty, and
23 yet with basically good resources and good people, having lost
24 its first Ghandi, the great saint and the great leader, then
25 Nehru, the successor to Ghandi, and then Mr. Shastri, the

1 successor to Nehru -- three men in a short period of time;
2 twice invaded by Communist China, having to rally its meager
3 resources to face an aggressor, a war with Pakistan, drought
4 and pestilence and democratic institutions still survive.
5 They have free elections, they have got a parliament, they
6 haven't had a resort to dictatorship and they are proud people.

7 I felt very good when I saw the representative of that
8 country come to our land and exchange views with our government,
9 not as one who is subservient to us, not indeed; very proud.
10 But we stood and talked as equals. And now where we have some
11 responsibilities and where they have some; and I know there
12 isn't a one of you here that wouldn't want us to do what we
13 have to do, namely to help. And thank God for American agri-
14 culture. And I say that in reverence.

15 At long last the people of the world are beginning to
16 understand that the real great reservoir of material strength
17 in this country is food and fiber and those who are the culti-
18 vators of it and the producers of it, and the handlers of it.
19 And you are a part of this. You know, you ought to feel that
20 kind -- with a humble pride. You have helped make this pos-
21 sible.

22 Believe me, my dear fellow Americans, were it not for the
23 farmers of America today, millions and millions and millions
24 of children would die of starvation. Were it not for the
25 farmers of America this year, more people will die of

1 starvation in India than the total population of North and
2 South Vietnam put together. We are going to see that that
3 doesn't happen.

4 As I heard our President say this morning, that we were
5 put on this earth to do something. And President Johnson said
6 this morning that he would hope that if the good Lord will
7 give him the strength and the blessing of life, that because
8 he is where he is and that he is on the job, that a few more
9 children will be able to read and write because of his service
10 as President, at home and abroad. That instead of young
11 people die off in far away places with little or no life ex-
12 pectancy, that they will live a little longer and live a
13 healthier life, that they will be education, that they will be
14 healthier, that they will have medical care and they will have
15 food. I think this is the way we ought to feel.

16 And, my fellow Americans, don't you ever think for a single
17 minute that people don't appreciate it. When I was in India,
18 not as President but only as Vice President, with people having
19 no notice at all hardly that I was going to come. They didn't
20 know Hubert Humphrey from whoever you could think of as any
21 name. But when they saw the flag of the United States on the
22 car in which I was riding, I was afraid that they were going to
23 mob our car out of affection. They crowded in upon it, and
24 believe me you have never seen -- until you have seen this and
25 experienced it you can't imagine it -- a solid wall of human

1 flesh crushed right up against your car as it is moving -- not
2 in hostility, in love and affection. It is something, believe
3 me, it is something.

4 And all you read about how we are not liked and so on,
5 that makes good copy. And there is always somebody that
6 doesn't like you. And sometimes people think that is the way
7 to get attention, but basically people respect this country
8 and they respect it. We have made our mistakes but they re-
9 spect it because of the kindness and the generosity of our
10 people.

11 Now let me just wind it up by saying this to you: I want
12 to repeat what I said earlier. You cannot have freedom and
13 poverty. Thomas Jefferson once said you cannot be both free
14 and ignorant. H. G. Wells said that civilization is a race
15 between education and catastrophe.

16 So we are deeply involved if we believe in freedom in
17 waging war on poverty, in waging war on ignorance, in waging
18 war on disease. And that is what your government is trying to
19 do, our little way. I wish that more people would help. We
20 are asking, for example, in the instance of India, other
21 nations to help. And I am happy to tell you that Canada, our
22 neighbor to the north, has pledged a million tons of grain.
23 I am happy to tell you that there are other nations that are
24 going to give help. Our Australian friends, the Scandinavian
25 countries, the Dutch, the Belgians, the Italians, there are

1 other countries, the New Zealanders, some of our South
2 American neighbors, a limited amount from some other countries,
3 the Pope made a very generous contribution, members of the
4 United Nations -- but much more needs to be done.

5 So we ought to spread the word of how much more needs to
6 be done, because this is a struggle now to see whether a free
7 country can survive. And I wouldn't want it on my record, I
8 wouldn't want my children or my grandchildren to read that
9 when the trial was on and when the difficulties were facing us
10 that we failed to meet them or that we didn't live up to the
11 standards of human conduct that ought to be ours.

12 Over two billion people in this world, my fellow Americans,
13 live in Asia and we are going to have to get to know them.
14 This is why your government today has taken great new interest
15 in this part of the world. Some people may say, "Well, you
16 should have done this a long time ago." Well, I know, I have
17 always heard those arguments. Of course we should have done a
18 lot of things a long time ago. If everybody had done what they
19 were supposed to have done a long time ago we wouldn't have any
20 problems.

21 But we haven't -- we are peculiar people and I guess we
22 are quite normal in that peculiarity. We generally learn out
23 of distress. You built your farm cooperative movement when
24 you were really down on your -- right down on your knees. I
25 gave you the advantage of what part of the anatomy you were --

1 (Laughter.)

2 You built that farm cooperative movement out of necessity.
3 And the labor leaders and labor built its funions out of need.
4 And modern American business built its corporations out of
5 need, because no one man had enough capital to be able to
6 build the kind of a plant that was needed for modern condi-
7 tions. So you group it into what we call the corporation.

8 Now we are learning something out of Asia today, out of
9 need. I am convinced that had we known what we ought to know
10 about Asia and had we had the proper policies over the long
11 period of our history we wouldn't be having any struggle in
12 Vietnam.

13 And yet, my fellow Americans, we are going to pour billions
14 into that struggle. And that struggle must be won. But had we
15 have taken the preventive measures years and years ago through-
16 out all of Asia, we might very well have avoided this struggle.
17 We will argue, fellow Americans, for months in Congress and in
18 the government about a billion dollars when nations are at
19 peace and we will vote \$10 billion dollars when we are war
20 just like that.

21 This what Bill Thatcher tells me about myself. He says,
22 "Hubert take care of your health. Don't wait 'til you get
23 sick." And you know, most of us do wait until we get sick.
24 You have to get scared half to death, you are on death's bed
25 before you sometimes even get religion. And you would be

1 surprised at how holy people can get at the last moment.

2 (Laughter.)

3 And I have heard more people resolve to redesign their
4 life after they have been critically ill than think they may
5 get over it. The question is whether they follow through on
6 the commitments and on the pledges. But I don't think it is
7 unusual to say, I don't think -- let me put it this way, it
8 is quite normal that most of us learn out of duress and dif-
9 ficulty.

10 Now we are going to learn out of this struggle in Vietnam.
11 We are learning that we have to know something about the people
12 of this world. You can't just know about the English and the
13 French and the Italians and the Norwegians and the Swedes and
14 you few Danes and Finlanders and so on. We are a European-
15 oriented civilization which represents a small fraction of
16 the total population of the world and we are going to have to
17 learn about the Chinaman, and we are going to have to learn
18 about the Filipino and the Korean and the Afghan and the
19 Iranian and the Indian and the Pak and the Ceylonese and the
20 Indonesian and we are going to have to learn all about what
21 kind of people they are, what they have been doing, their
22 history, their hopes, their ambitions, their economy, their
23 religions, their cultures -- we know all that about our European
24 relatives. We are all European stock. And there isn't a person
25 here from a Scandanavian country that can't just spend the

1 whole evening with you telling you all about Scandanavia.

2 (Laughter.)

3 Well, now my mother was born in Norway and I don't want to
4 be misunderstood. I am just as proud as can be about that
5 heritage. But I happen to think that what happens in Indonesia
6 and India may be more important than what happens in Denmark
7 or Luxemborg and Norway. That isn't to say that it isn't im-
8 portant what happens there. But the threat to the peace of
9 the world today isn't Norway.

10 Now we are beginning to learn about the Soviet Union and
11 this is one of the reasons that our relationships are better.
12 They know a lot about us and we know a lot about them and we
13 have got an eye on each other all the time and we have a pretty
14 good measure of each other and we are rather careful; even
15 when Mr. Brezhnev gave a five-hour speech, he is careful. And
16 our government is careful, our spokesman is careful. You have
17 never heard the President of the United States make a personal
18 attack upon a leader of that country. That doesn't mean that we
19 agree, that our systems -- we don't agree and the systems, we
20 have different ways of life. We have different objectives in
21 many ways.

22 But we have learned. Now you just get your children to
23 understand that we are going to have to do this through our
24 schools and through our government about that other part of
25 the world. You can't be a leader, a world leader with a half

1 world knowledge. That is just the way it boils down. You
2 cannot be a leader in this world with a blind spot and just
3 simply say, "Well, I am not going to talk about that." That
4 would be like trying to be a space scientist and say, "Well, I
5 don't believe in the sun or the moon. I just like Mars. I
6 am specializing in Mars." And somebody says, "But the sun is
7 in your eyes." "Never heard of it; just specializing in Mars."

8 (Laughter.)

9 And we have people today that say, "Well, I am just -- we
10 are a world leader but I want to talk to you about France."
11 And somebody says, "Hey, how about China, Indonesia?" "Never
12 heard of them, let's talk about France." They just keep
13 looking right on over there and that is the sure way to
14 disaster.

15 So, as your Vice President, I have been trying to learn.
16 I think I owe that to you. And I think it is important that
17 we have an open mind and I think it is very important that we
18 seek information day in and day out. And then I think it is
19 important also that we understand that we have something to
20 offer. And what do we have to offer, above all?

21 We have our experience. Remember one thing, every one of
22 you in this room came from very humble heritage. You have the
23 experience of your success to offer. We have know-how. We do
24 know. We have been blessed. And I happen to be one that is
25 religious enough to believe that God Almighty gave us these

1 benefits that we have here today so that we could help some-
2 body else. I do not believe that our wealth and our power is
3 just for ourselves. I do not believe that this wealth is for
4 merely our luxury, and I don't think this power is for our --
5 for any purposes of imperialism. I think that this power that
6 we have is to shield the weak, that is what it is for. Be-
7 cause, mark my words, there are a few giants in this world and
8 if somebody isn't willing to stand up for the little nation
9 there will be no little nations.

10 The duty of a man that is strong is to shield the weak.
11 And the duty of a man that is blessed with wealth is to share.
12 Charity, kindness, understanding, compassion -- there is not a
13 thing wrong with any of those great qualities of character.
14 Now, frankly we cannot feed the world nor should we but we can
15 help the world feed itself and that is where you come in. We
16 are going to provide enough food and fiber to get people
17 through an emergency but we are going to have to help people
18 learn how to produce much of their own. And don't worry about
19 -- somebody said to me, "Well, if you do that we are going to
20 lose our markets."

21 My goodness, me. I want you -- I want to give you a
22 little story. My father used to send a baby bottle and a box
23 of baby talcum and baby oil to every baby that was born in
24 our county -- old Emil knows that around here.

25 (Laughter.)

1 And I want to tell you something, those babies grew up,
2 and they had more babies and that is why Humphrey's Drug
3 Store is still in business.

4 (Laughter.)

5 And don't you worry about those markets. Every once in a
6 while I hear some fellow say, "Well, if we help them, my golly,
7 they may not be -- they will be competing with us and" --
8 listen, there will be a lot of customers. And I learned some-
9 thing else in the depression, the fellow that is broke is not
10 a customer, he is just a visitor.

11 (Laughter.)

12 And what we need to have, what we need to have are cus-
13 tomers in this world. You can't be a customer unless you earn
14 something, produce something. And we are going to help people
15 produce and we are going to help them learn how to produce
16 better goods for better people, because in that production and
17 in those better people is the only hope of peace. And if there
18 isn't any peace it is all over anyway, you know. Just forget
19 it, it is all over. Because we surely have perfected the ways
20 to exterminate mankind. Now we are trying to find out the
21 ways to keep them alive.

22 We did the exterminating system first. Now we have to
23 find out what we can do to keep him alive. So I come here to
24 the people that are the givers of life. The producers of food
25 are the givers of life. And I want you to take a good look now

1 in your independent capacity of what kind of a food program we
2 ought to have in this world. Now your government has a food
3 program and I am part of that government and I am for that
4 program. But I want to tell you something. Somebody said to
5 me not long ago, "Humphrey, I think you have changed." I said,
6 "I hope so."

7 (Laughter.)

8 I know I am older, I would like to think I was wiser. I
9 think old Bill Thatcher here, he would be peeved me beyond end
10 if he didn't think he changed me a little bit, to make me a
11 better man, a more prudent man, a wiser man. I haven't changed
12 in terms of my convictions or my ideals, not at all. But we do
13 change and I think we really in a very real sense ought to
14 change when the facts of life necessitate it or when the proof
15 is there that the change is needed.

16 There is no great honor, you know, in being consistently
17 wrong, if you happen to be wrong. So I just simply want to
18 say to you folks that while we have a program, and I am for
19 that program. I am a member of this administration and I have
20 done my best to get a program that you would like. You have
21 the duty to examine it independently. You belong to no man.

22 Now that is a very interesting thing for a man that is
23 out here -- that will be out many times seeking your support.
24 But what this country needs more than anything else is an honest
25 dialogue between the interests in this country, to talk about

1 the kind of an America we need. All the wisdom is not in
2 this government, not even with my addition to it.

3 (Laughter.)

4 You and I know better than that. We are just individuals.
5 We have experience. To be sure, some of us are blessed with
6 a little knowledge on a certain subject matter. But this is
7 a representative government and so we have what we call a
8 food for freedom program. I think it is a good program. I
9 think you could make it better. I think I want you to look at
10 it that way. I don't want you to tear it down just for the
11 love of kicking it around but I want you to look at it on the
12 basis of "does it meet what we really need to do; does it
13 meet our national objectives; does it fulfill the needs that
14 you see."

15 Now your vision may be a little different than mine. But
16 you are entitled to have your thoughts registered. I want you
17 to take a look at our farm program and I want you to say,
18 "Well, where does it work well and where doesn't it." And I
19 want you to tell us because we want to improve it. There
20 should be no pride of authorship here, none whatsoever. We
21 generally improve. My goodness, if the automobile companies
22 didn't improve the cars they wouldn't sell any cars.

23 Can you imagine General Motors saying, "Well, I will tell
24 you I like the 1928 Chevy and I am living and dying with it."

25 (Laughter.)

1 The Ford Motor Company almost made that mistake once.

2 (Laughter.)

3 Can you imagine the Ford Motor Company saying, "Well, we
4 put the name Edsel on it and we are sticking with it."

5 (Laughter.)

6 Do you think the Ford Motor Company would be in business
7 if it just depended on the Edsel? I will tell you they didn't.
8 When they saw that it needed to be cast aside they cast it
9 aside. When they decided they needed to make an improvement
10 and change a model or do something they change it and that
11 doesn't prove that you are disloyal to the Ford Motor Company.
12 It proves you are interested in it.

13 And I want those of you that are interested in President
14 Johnson and Hubert Humphrey and the kind of administration we
15 hope to give you, I want you to tell us what we ought to do
16 that we are not doing. You don't need to come up and kick me
17 in leg. I will listen to you without being abused.

18 (Laughter.)

19 I want you to know that the door is open and we welcome
20 your help. And I want you to take a look at our food reserves
21 now. I want you to do this. We think we have got enough.
22 But I want your judgment.

23 One of the dangers of government is that we get to seeing
24 our own stuff too often. And I have been a victim of this,
25 too. You get to reading your own reports.

1 (Laughter.)

2 And I will tell you what happens. You write the report
3 and somebody else gets ahold of it and thinks it is original
4 with him and he writes it for you and you are reading your
5 own stuff right back.

6 (Laughter.)

7 It happens in the best of governments. It even happens,
8 may I say, when you have your best friends in government.

9 (Laughter.)

10 So I want you to take a look. That is what we have got
11 the National Food and Fiber Commission for. I want them to
12 take a look. We can't afford to make any mistakes. I don't
13 want my President one morning to wake up and find out that we
14 have had a drought and we don't have enough. And I tell you
15 when I read that there is going to be a continuation of the
16 drought in the Northeast -- and I have been around long enough
17 you know, and one of the advantages of being able to live
18 fifty-four years is that you have seen a little. I want to
19 know that we have enough. This is a growing country. This is
20 a changing country. We have more, we have a bigger census of
21 hogs and poultry and cattle than we used to have. So feed
22 grain supplies must be related to numbers not just bushels.

23 I want to know that we have enough soybeans. I want to
24 know that we have enough vegetable oils. I want to know that
25 we have enough powdered milk. I want to know that we have

1 enough feed grains. I want to know that we have enough
2 cereals -- wheat. I think we have. Don't misunderstand me,
3 now. But I think you ought to take a look, and not on the
4 basis and say, "Well, I am sure going to show that Humphrey
5 how wrong he is." There may be a few of you who would like
6 to do that and by the way, that is all right, too, if it will
7 help you out. Anything to make you happy.

8 (Laughter.)

9 But I think what you really ought to be thinking about
10 and what we all ought to be thinking about is what are the
11 basic needs of this country in light of its commitments. Be-
12 cause remember this, my fellow Americans, an emergency in India
13 could be repeated some place else. Now you cannot have a nation
14 that has forty-four collective security agreements with forty-
15 four allies, a nation that has treaties that are solemn obli-
16 gations and not have all that it takes to back it up. And I
17 am here to tell you that as a man that has been in this govern-
18 ment since 1949 that it isn't enough just to have battleships
19 and bombs and tanks. You have got to have them in the kind of
20 a world that we live in. They are very expensive but this is
21 a mixed up world.

22 But I want to make sure that we have enough teachers too,
23 and enough doctors and enough food and enough textbooks. And
24 I want to be sure that we have enough people that have faith
25 in freedom to do something about it.

1 Now there is my speech. It is sort of a Minnesota
2 smorgasbord. I didn't come in here with any prepared speech
3 at all. I just wanted to tell you that there is a world here
4 ahead of us, there is a great destiny for this nation and I
5 am an optimist because I just think people want to live. And
6 I think mankind now sees that they can live. This is what
7 this restlessness is all about. People are restless today
8 and they are not only -- they are restless because they want
9 something, they want something better. And it our privilege
10 to help channel those energies in a constructive path. You
11 have done it before.

12 Look what you have done with your membership. You have
13 proved what cooperative action can mean. And just translate
14 that policy now into your civic, your citizenship responsi-
15 bilities with your government.

16 Thank you very much.

17 (Applause.)

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