

For Files

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REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

NATIONAL GRANGE

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

NOVEMBER 18, 1966

I am honored to be with you at your 100th annual session.

I am honored to be with men and women dedicated to service --- service to their communities, to rural America, to country, and to the cause of peace.

The good people of the Grange have known for many years what many others in America have only begun to discover: That all of us depend on each other.

I can remember growing up around my father's drugstore in South Dakota. In our drugstore, you could tell how the whole community was going.

There was one thing we knew: That when the farmers were having a bad year, the townspeople would have a bad year. The doctor, the grocer, the hardware merchant --- yes, the druggist --- were likely to be paid once a year. That was at harvest time. If the harvest was poor, so were we.

We used to know these things by personal observation. Today it's all been scientifically charted out.

Some of the land-grant college people calculated not long ago that the average farmer depends on 16 different commercial, service, and sales organizations to stay in business. By the same token, the average farmer supports 16 concerns who need his business in order to live.

On a larger scale, we know that the well-being and prosperity of rural America benefits our cities and our industry, just as national well-being and prosperity benefits rural America.

I wonder if our citizens know just how much they owe to the American farmer and our agricultural abundance?

The American family's market basket is still the best bargain in the world. Our citizens spend a smaller share of their income for that market basket than those of any other major nation.

The children of all America benefit from the School Milk Program and the School Lunch Program, under which almost 20 million children today enjoy nutritious lunches which they would not otherwise have. They will benefit from the new Child Nutrition Program, which will permit breakfast at school for the hungry child and food for the needy preschool child.

More than a million Americans benefit from the Food Stamp Program.

Three out of every 10 jobs in private employment are related to agriculture.

Eight to 10 million people have jobs storing, transporting, processing and merchandising farm products.

American farmers spend over 40 billion dollars each year to produce their crops and livestock and to buy consumer goods.

Yes, America has a big stake in the prosperity of the American farmer.

But the American farmer has just as big a stake in the prosperity of America.

Our country is today in its 69th straight month of economic growth and prosperity. (A period of expansion, I might add, in which our record of price stability has been better than that of any other industrialized nation.)

In this expansion all parts of our economy have benefited.

Wages are up, investment is up, profits are up, and -- at long last -- farm income is up.

Today total farm income is up almost 25 per cent over what it was only five years ago.

And that increase in farm income would not have been possible --- we all know it --- without growth in buying-power in the rest of the economy, along with our government programs to directly help American agriculture.

But it has not just been a matter, in these past few years, of building an America just of more dollars and bigger paychecks and a larger variety of luxury goods.

We have gone about the business of making America a place where there is opportunity for the young ... care and compassion for the elderly, sick and needy... incentive for all.

We are building an America:

Where every child can get a first-class education.

Where every grandparent can get good medical care and the chance for a happy retirement.

Where our people can drink clean water and breathe clean air.

Where neighborhoods will again be filled with neighbors. Where our Negro citizens will have an equal chance for a decent job, a decent home, a full stake in our society.

Where there can be a richness of ideas and ideals, as well as a richness of things.

And these efforts are for all of us, whether we live on city streets or on the soil. For our country will not be one America so long as some people, and some places, in it are without work, without hope or without justice.

We all bear responsibility toward each other.

This is true throughout America. This is true throughout the world.

I have never believed -- nor have you -- that our nation could live in splendid isolation while trouble swept the world outside. There were times when many Americans thought that we could. But those were times when we found ourselves face-to-face with depression, aggression and war.

I believe, as our President does, that our foreign policy is only the longer reach of what we do and stand for at home.

I believe that, if we strive for full and free life here in America, we can strive for nothing less for men and women elsewhere.

I believe we were right to have a Marshall Plan. I believe we were right to build a NATO and an Alliance for Progress. I believe we were right to have a Peace Corps and a Food for Peace. I believe we were right to support a United Nations and a Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

I believe we were right to stand up to aggression in Europe ... in Berlin ... in Greece and Turkey ... in Korea. I believe we are right to stand up to aggression in Viet Nam.

The age of nuclear weapons has impressed on us the fact that annihilation can be the price of mindless isolation.

It has equally impressed on us the fact that a threat to the human family in one place is a threat to the human family in all places.

Today the men and women of rural America -- as few people in the past -- have the chance to build the peace and security not only of America, but of all peoples.

The world is running out of food.

It took from the beginning of time until the twentieth century to put the first billion people on this earth. But it has taken only 66 years to add two billion more.

World food production has not increased in the past two years. And in that two-year period, the world has added nearly 140 million people. Some 80 per cent of these hungry new mouths have been added in lands least able to feed them.

We have adopted a new approach to meet this challenge.

This approach is embodied in the new and broadened Food for Peace legislation.

Since 1954, we have exported over 15 billion dollars worth of farm products to needy people in developing nations under the Food for Peace program. Food for Peace helps millions of people every year in more than 100 countries. Some of these countries have developed with our help to the point where they now are commercial markets for our farm products. Nations whose people we were helping with food and

other forms of aid ten or twenty years ago now are among our best dollar customers for farm products. And there is good reason to believe that other nations will move from the aid category to the commercial trade category in a very short time.

But, behind the statistics lies the full impact of our food aid. Let us think of those to whom the Food for Peace program is directed in our attack on hunger and malnutrition, still the most serious health problem of the world. Let us recognize that food deficiencies are most serious in infants, the pre-school age, and to a lesser degree in school-age children. And let us remember that malnutrition results not only in high child death rates and widespread disabling diseases, but in permanent mental and physical retardation.

We will continue to provide emergency food aid to our hungry friends under the Food for Peace program.

But, under the new program, our emphasis will be on self-help -- on assisting the hungry nations to develop sound agricultures upon which to build their own economic growth and social progress.

In this effort the American farmer will be challenged to undertake an entirely new dimension of effort.

In a very real sense, our hope for peace will lie with the American farmer's ability to furnish food for hungry people... and to help them learn to produce to meet their own needs.

Today the American farmer can draw from a new strength -- a strength based upon the elimination of the surpluses of the 1950's... a strength based upon the first balanced state of agriculture in a half century ... and a strength based on his own economic gains of recent years.

On June 30 of this year we closed the books on an almost incredible export year. The total value of American farm products exported came to 6.7 billion dollars. This was a gain of 2.2 billion dollars -- almost 50 per cent over the exports of fiscal year 1960.

In this new fiscal year, we are doing even better.

If the present expanded rate continues, the value of American farm products exported during the year which will end next June 30 will reach 7 billion dollars or more.

Today nothing is more obvious than the failure of Communist societies to meet the food and fiber needs of their own people -- much less the needs of others in the world.

As a result, the developing nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America look increasingly to America and other free nations -- not just for food and fiber, but also for answers as to how they can do more to feed and clothe themselves.

That is why I believe that, in the long run, our food power --- far more than military power --- can be the critical factor in the achievement both of democratic institutions and of safety in the world.

Food power is our secret weapon. Food is life. Food is strength. Food is hope and compassion.

Food is the giver of health and vigor to children. Food is the vital ingredient of social stability and peaceful change.

Let us use that power wisely and well.

Let us, in the world, act in the same spirit that today is everywhere in our society at home -- a spirit of building, or progress, of commitment to equality and justice.

Let us use the tremendous resources at our command to bring health, education, food and the techniques of modern agriculture to struggling nations living in the shadow of famine and outside aggression.

It is today our challenge and our responsibility -- to replace, throughout the world, the blind stare of hunger and poverty with the clear vision of a freer and happier day ahead.

I have faith that we Americans -- and especially those Americans who draw their strength from the rich earth -- will prove equal to that responsibility.

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ADDRESS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY AT THE
NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION ON
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1966

National Master Herschel Newsom introduced the Vice President.

Thank you very much my good friend Herschel Newsom, Mrs. Peck, Mr. Pearson and all of the delegates of this 100th National Meeting of the National Grange. I gather, Herschel, that you can claim the distinction of being the oldest in years, but certainly not in spirit of all the farm organizations in America. I am so pleased and delighted that it is possible for Mrs. Humphrey and myself to be here today.

We were with the Johnson family at the celebration of their 32nd Wedding Anniversary and we told him of our engagement here, the President said, "Well, what are you doing here?" The President of the United States is deeply devoted to this good man Herschel Newsom, and he asked me, Herschel, to extend to you his very warm personal regards. If I had to name the ten most important men in the United States, I would put in that list Herschel Newsom. Because he serves his country and he serves you. I have never gotten around to asking his politics. All Presidents spoke well of him and the National Grange. Now - Blanche, if you know something that I ought to know, too - but I understand that you spoke well of him also.

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Miss Rural Electric brought me a contribution to light the playgrounds of the Nation's Capitol. There was only one playground in the Nation's Capitol that was illuminated. We changed that. We didn't get the government to do that I am sorry to say. I went out and organized a substantial amount of money for lights. Bought all the lights out of the old Griffith Stadium and got the Potomac Power Company to put them up.

I'm so happy to see the National Grange Prince and Princess here, the National Reporter of 4-H Clubs, Mr. Swan, the National President of the Future Farmers of America. I am an honorary member of FFA - I'm even an honorary member of the Girl Scouts. Muriel and I were Scout Masters for years. Just wanted to take a moment to express our thanks to these young people. "Isn't it too bad that great organizations like FFA don't get the kind of copy that some of the rascals get?"

Adali Stevenson once said about flattery: "It's all right as long as you don't inhale it."

Someone said we had a donkey, well we keep that donkey out there so that no one will have any doubts as to our politics. I might have known how the election was going to come out this year - that donkey just didn't look right! We also have three horses.

We lived in an apartment when we were the original candidates for the poverty program. I am allergic to debt - private and public, but more seriously private. As my wife has told you she just moved us to another apartment - I want you to know that we did not go to the top - the ninth floor. Vice President's are not supposed

to go to the top. We took the one below - the eighth floor.

I have come to talk with you a little bit about what the Grange means to us and to our country and what we are to do as citizens. (Showing the Luncheon Program) I know that everyone of you are going to read the Oath of Service either now or when you get home today. An Oath of Service - that's what public life means. Public life today has many demands upon us. Just as your life has many demands.

Politics come and go. The people who serve you in public life give more than a full measure of service. Hard to be both a husband and a good U. S. Senator - impossible. Public life is just like any other calling - rewards are there and the joy of knowing that you are a part of service. You understand why people give of themselves. Everyone in this room is a leader or you wouldn't be here. Many people think that leadership is a great privilege, yea, a great privilege. Sometimes it's a painful duty. Feeling that you are a part of making the community, the Nation a little better, but whatever you lead at, you pay a price. One thing Muriel didn't tell you that I have to thank her for - she raised my children, because, again, it was impossible to be a good family man and a good public servant.

America today is a leader, and every day of the week we pay a terrible price. In money, men and heartaches. But it is far better to be guilty of the sins of comission than of omission. It does little good to pine about the yesterdays. Hopefully we can think ahead a little bit for tomorrow.

The Grange is more than an economic organization, it is more than a social organization, it is even more than a fraternal organization - it is an organization of people. When I was a professor, I used to tell my students that the first few days we are not going to clutter up our minds with all that book reading, so close your books -- What is a democracy? Don't say that it is a body of formal law. It is not only the rule of the majority but it respects the minority. "The majority today may be the minority tomorrow." Why the respect for the minority? Because God created man in his own image. That's what differentiates democratic government and its institutions from any other kind. And that's why the constitution lays down just two mandates: 1. To promote the general welfare and, 2. To provide for the common defense. Thomas Jefferson once said that the only legitimate objective of government is to serve God's finest creation - human beings. That's what the Grange does. I think that you have something that is unique. You have a quality of character. In your purpose, your by-laws, your ritual - all manifest in your people. These are good people -- plain good people.

I think the Grange, as much as any institution in this country, symbolizes the pledge of allegiance. Plenty of people that are cynical; we need a few people that are sentimental.

No Nation on the face of the earth has done so well in such a short time. No Nation has so clearly understood its responsibilities to their people and the Nation's of the world. We have helped hundreds of millions of people live. America is known as a country that saves lives, and we want to be known as a life giver

-- a life saver -- one who helps feed the hungry, helps the blind to see, helps the poor to live a better life -- because, my fellow Americans, you cannot have a better America in a world of destitution.

I want to tell you what you have done for this Nation, but I guess it's redundant. I want to see this rural America preserved. This last exodus from the rural areas to the city needs to be reversed. Want to make America a place where the rural areas are as attractive as the cities, more attractive, where there are community colleges available. Doesn't need to be just farming, needs to be a living - because you are families, people. People are beginning to go back to the rural areas. We need better housing, poverty is the worst in our rural areas. All over the world people are moving to the cities, mass poverty, mass ignorance, mass starvation gathering in the cities of the world. Filled with diseases, troubles, tension, and crime.

I wonder if you people realize that the food you have sent to India this year will save more lives than the total lives of all of the people combined in North and South Viet Nam.

We all hate war, but I wish that somehow, some way we could get people to understand.

The first three steps to food for freedom and hunger are Herschel Newsom's three steps:

1. Prevention of mass starvation anywhere.
2. Development of the will to produce by education and demonstration of know-how in the developing countries of the world.
3. Increasing domestic agricultural production in all

countries of the world.

You don't need to read any government messages, just read your National Master's message from the National Grange Magazine. He has all the answers.

The business of this Nation is peace, but I want to remind you -- blessed are the peace makers - not the peace sayers - not the peace wishers - not even the peace pickets - the scriptures say: "Blessed are the peace makers." And, when you make peace, you work at it. How do we make peace? Make peace just like you build a great cathedral or great ediface, build peace with education, free democratic institutions, enlightenment of the people. Each generation has to make its own contribution.

Terrible cost - 170,000 men since World War II. We haven't sought one single inch of anybody else's territory. No desire to dominate. "When a bully is at large any place - no one is safe. We know that where there is lawlessness, disorder, aggression, no one is safe, so we have had to take our stand. That is the price of leadership. Build peace with an example of how we live here at home. And above all by sharing because that is the moral lesson of our time. If there is anything that is worth remembering, it is to serve and not to be served. To administer and not to be administered to. The day you forget your moral lessons, your political lessons are noneffective. This great organization (The Grange) has helped us to build a farm program that shares.

The Grange is a constructive force - has been an advisor, a constructive force and not a destructive force. Mr. Newsom has understood the importance of domestic policy as it relates to foreign

policy.

My fellow Americans, if we can't help each other at home, what makes you think we can help others abroad? Your Food for Peace Program, Food for Freedom Effort, is the greatest. Food is strength, and it's our secret weapon. Let's use it carefully and let's use it imaginatively. This organization, more than any other Organization I can think of, really understands what food for peace is - what it means. You understand that it is a part of our national defense as well as our National substance. I am proud to have had the privilege of your company and I can tell you that the nicest Christmas gift we can have is to share in the presence of your company.

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