

COPY
Telephone Remarks
of Vice President
Hubert H. Humphrey

Speeches

American School Food Service Association

Seminar For School Administrators

Vail Village, Colorado

December 7, 1967

I am pleased to see that the education leaders of our nation are finding time for a short recess in those beautiful Colorado mountains. I wish I were there with you, since I share both your interest in scenic beauty and the School Lunch Program.

But I am particularly pleased that you have decided to become students for a few days, taking time from your busy schedules to learn more about a most important topic -- the health and well-being of our children through better nourishment.

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Since it began more than 20 years ago, the School Lunch Program has grown until today it represents a daily participation of more than 18 million children. It not only provides nourishment for their growing bodies, but is one of our very best means of distributing the tremendous agricultural output of the nation.

History has taught us that hunger is one of the cruelest of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. Hunger and malnutrition drain the incentive to learn, thus destroying the ability to reason and subverting the application of justice.

Food provides strength for the body and enlightenment for the mind. And an enlightened citizenry is the keystone of our form of government.

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School Lunch programs not only contribute to the strength and vitality of the nation, but to the individual child as well.

Through the program he is taught what foods to eat and in what proportion. This is knowledge that will help him to remain healthy and vigorous throughout his life.

I commend you for your interest in the important work of those who are dedicated to the simply premise that "you cannot teach a hungry child."

And on behalf of the millions of mothers whose children you nourish, the farmers whose products you buy and serve, the manufacturers whose equipment you purchase, and the children who benefit by it so much, I say thank you.

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With these thanks, however, comes an earnest plea:

Please re-double your efforts to increase the knowledge and skills necessary to equip our youth mentally and physically for the challenges of the future.

Take an active interest in your local School Lunch program. And remember what contributions it has made in the past and what it must do in the future to develop our children to their maximum potential.



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