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Former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, speaking at a 7th Congfressional District DFL Bean Feed in East Grand Forks on Wednesday night, accused the Republican administratic of callous indifference to the needs of the family farmers of America, "the truly forgotten people of this administration."

Humphrey said, "While farm costs grow, interest rates soar, farm credit virtually disappears, medical costs go upjy and unemployment increases, the Republican administration seems to take pleasure in the largest flrop in farm prices in 22 years. Not since 1948 has there been so great a drop in one month of the prices for cattle, hogs, and eggs.

"And the Republican administration has the callous indifference to call that "fairly dramatic" evidence that they are winning the war on inflation. The victims, unfortunately, of the Republican effort are the farmers of Minnesota and America."

Humphrey continued, " Over and over again, our farmers have learned the hard and costly way that they have no spokesman in the present administration. For the first time in almost a decade, the administration refused to permit advance payments under the feed grain program. This lack of action did not save the government or the taxpayers one cent, yet it cost Minnesota farmers dearly.

"Last year Minnesota feed grain producers received \$31 million in advance payments. Many farmers depended on those payments to finance the costs of their summer operations as well as their spring planting. But this year, Minnesota farmers, the victims of Republican indifference and political manipulations, were driven to borrow at high interest rates enough money to get along, or they had to ask their suppliers, the small businessmen who could least affort it, to carry their debts until harvest time."

Humphrey said, "That is not only bad economics, it is inhuman without conscience. The only reason for denying the advance payment was for selfish political purposes. The political manipulators of the Republican administration wanted their fiscal books to look good for public relations purposes. Farmers suffered an unnecessary and expensive hardship for a political gimmick.

"As Senator, I will join with Senators Walter Mondale and Quentin Burdick in^Surging legislation to prevent this phony shell game from being played in the future. We shall demand that the Secretary of Agriculture make those advance payments to both feed grain and wheat producers, a practice which has proven beneficial to family farmers since 1961."

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