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NOTES FOR

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

DEDICATION OF SHAKOPEE PUBLIC LIBRARY

SHAKOPEE, MINNESOTA

SEPTEMBER 27, 1970

✓ Mr John Metcalf  
✓ Mr Conrad Suel  
✓ Jim Bailey - DFL

✓ Community Library  
city - county  
Children's Encyclopedia  
Annals of America  
Negro in American History

I was serving in the United States Senate when my father died some years ago. The bulk of his estate went to support my mother but he left his library to me. I learned about the League of Nations and about President Woodrow Wilson from my father's library and about many, many more wonderful ideas and people.

Poland

Although it was a small rural community my horizons stretched to the limits of imagination on the pathways of the printed page.

My Father + Books

Television is a great and wonderful technical tool --- not unlike the printed page. In some ways we are still more infatuated with its technology than we are concerned with its quality. However, just as we reward excellence in the books we purchase for our children so should we demand excellence through the choice of television programs they view.

Books remain keys to knowledge --- keys to the future. It is our responsibility to provide the discipline and inspiration for our children and teach them how they can --- through books --- unlock the gates of knowledge.

This nation of ours has been a leader in the development of libraries. From 1957 through 1969, 85 million people received new and improved public library services, and of these, 15 million Americans received public library services for the very first time. During this period we modernized the

Bookmobile

library --- put it on wheels in the bookmobiles and toured the neighborhoods, the countryside, the ghettos and our rural towns --- making available and more accessible the wonders of the library --- and we did this by adding over 650 new bookmobiles. /

And into the new libraries and bookmobiles, we placed in excess of 45 million newly purchased books.

Now as amazing and rewarding as these figures seem --- they still leave a great story untold. The battle to bring the library to everybody is far from over --- in fact, ~~as we sit here this afternoon, we can find no better dedication to see that the past efforts are continued and accelerated, to realize that there are still almost sixteen million Americans without public library services.~~ 16,000,000 16,000,000

But Libraries don't just happen --- they take money and a commitment from your government to invest that money in

these badly needed libraries. There has never been a society that has become insolvent because of its investment in books, learning or education. None. Many a society has destroyed itself through wasteful spending, arms and wars, and indulgence. There has never been a society that has not profited industrially, economically, and culturally by investments in learning and education; in books and libraries. And there has never been a time that any society has over-funded itself in the fields of cultural attainment, education, or libraries.

Pal. Action  
 This is where we are in Minnesota and America today --- we have to stand ready to make the necessary monetary investment in our educational and cultural institutions. To do this you must make yourselves heard, not only in St. Paul, at the capitol building, but more importantly and urgently in Washington.

During the Johnson-Humphrey administration, we were aware of the vital role being filled by our schools and libraries --- after all, we were both a couple of old school teachers. I am proud that more public funds were allocated to schools and libraries during our administration than at any time previous in the history of this great nation.

During 1966 to 1968 alone --- 11,680 new school libraries were established --- with over 10,000 of them going for the little kids in the elementary schools. That, my friends, is commitment --- but not completion. There are still 40,000 tax supported elementary school buildings without libraries or even a semblance of library services we've learned to take for granted. Imagine that --- forty thousand --- that's almost half the public grade schools in this country!

In the State of Minnesota a full 10% of the elementary schools are without libraries. In Iowa, it's 42% --- Wisconsin,

1970 Budget - Library Reduction \$90,000,000  
1971 " Library Reduction \$2,500,000  
below 1970

000388

50% and --- hardest of all to believe --- Montana, where an astronomical 90% of their elementary schools function without a library.

Veto That's one of the reasons I am running in this election. My opponent in this election recently voted to sustain a Presidential veto that deprived the Twin Cities of \$175,000 in funds for library construction.


↳ The nation needs an expanding library system if we are to make ideas freely available to all of our people.


People needs  
Social  
Scientific  
Economic  
↳ Libraries are one of the few places that have part of the answer to the people's needs standing on their shelves in their file cabinets, on their films and tapes. But libraries are in trouble too.

↳ They have been on the threshold of moving out of their nineteenth century seclusion into vital and meaningful

"Right to Read" Program - 200,000,000  
\$5 per student - 6 but no new money

(Pledge of Allegiance)

service.  They had just began to profit from a decade of investment of federal and state aid which allowed them to spruce up a bit, build a brighter, newer collection, and find out what they were needed for and what they were going to do. But very few of them are going to get much of a chance.

 We need an immediate reversal of the present administration's tendency to abdicate its responsibility to assure that every child in this nation will have the best education that our wisdom and schools can provide.

I support President Nixon's \$200 million "Right to Read" program, which is aimed at ten million American children who today are headed toward functional illiteracy because they lack the simple skills they need in order to cope with everyday realities. But I am disappointed that the funds for the program are not new funds, but rather taken from

programs to aid school libraries and innovative educational projects which we desperately need.

The current administration began back in April of 1969 by calling for a reduction of almost \$90 million in federal support for library programs for 1970. That was one quarter of the entire Office of Education's proposed budget reduction. And now for the 1971 fiscal budget there is a recommendation for \$2.5 million below their recommended cuts for 1970. Somebody up there doesn't like or understand libraries. It sounds like they are trying to do away with libraries.

It is all a matter of commitment. We have been hearing the administration beating the drums for the equivalent of a massive moon shot in education. This Administration tells us that the 1970's are going to see a program to correct the



situation we find today where 60 percent of the students graduating from our schools can NOT read. And how do they propose to do this? With volunteers. That's right, with volunteers. Let's you and I get on the phone later today and call up Washington and ask how many volunteers it took for NASA to put men on the moon. Maybe they will let the educators borrow a few. Maybe I'm being unkind. They have asked Congress for \$200 million for the program. \$200 million to guarantee the children of this country will be able to read --- and all this money to be taken from other programs. And the Department of Defense gets 73.5 BILLION. Yes, we need to be secure from foreign enemies, but we also need libraries.

We have to make certain that the dignity of life and education and the joy of discovery and enlightenment is readily available for all.

000392

Poverty, Hate, Prejudice and Dispair feed on  
ignorance.

We need food for the hungry in this country.  
But we also need food for the soul of America.

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