

FOR RELEASE -- 6:30 p.m. ~~4:30~~ (EST) Monday, Jan. 31, 1972

HUMPHREY PROPOSES FIVE-POINT LAW ENFORCEMENT
AND ~~REHABILITATION~~ REHABILITATION PROGRAM TO COMBAT DRUG PROBLEM

MIAMI, Jan. 31--Senator Hubert H. Humphrey today proposed a major, five-pronged offensive against drug addiction and drug abuse ~~that~~ ^{goes} ~~well~~ considerably beyond Administration proposals.

Speaking here at Concept House, a drug treatment center, Senator Humphrey called for a double-edged approach to the problem consisting of "strong and aggressive law enforcement coupled with broader and better rehabilitation and education programs."

Humphrey proposed:

--"Establishment of a Federal Drug Cure and Control Agency with authority in both law enforcement and in drug treatment ^{ment} and education." He said such an agency was needed to end the Federal government's present fragmented approach which spreads responsibility and authority across a multiplicity of Federal agencies.

--"A ~~massive~~ massive increase in Federal appropriations for drug treatment and rehabilitation."

He called the newly submitted budget allocation of \$230 million "totally inadequate" for this purpose, "particularly when you consider that hard-core addicts steal ~~more~~ more than \$1 billion in property each year to maintain their habits."

--"All-out efforts to reach international agreements that would cut off the flow of heroin into the United States

from abroad."

--"Stepped-up ~~efforts~~ Federal efforts to bring about more effective self-policing of promiscuous dispensing and prescribing of dangerous drugs, such as amphetamines, within the medical and ~~pharm~~ pharmaceutical professions."

--"The immediate convening by the President of a White House Conference and a series of regional conferences on drug abuse and law enforcement."

Senator Humphrey said the conferences would map and coordinated Federal, state, county and city strategies for law enforcement and drug rehabilitation ~~efforts~~ and catalog local and regional needs so that realistic budgets at all levels of government could be drawn up.

The Senator ~~and~~ said the Administration has failed to move ~~and~~ forcefully enough to end the ~~smuggling~~ smuggling of heroin into the United States and to negotiate the ~~total~~ eradication of opium cultivation in all nations.

"It is time we made known to our friends around the world that we will not permit the cultivation and export of a poison that destroys the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans and which is responsible for a substantial portion of American crime," *he said*

"And we ~~should~~ should enlist the efforts of the CIA in this battle. If the CIA can ferret out subversives, it can find the dope ~~smuggler~~ smuggler and put him out of business.

But even if the enforcement battle is won, he said, "nearly 200,000 hard-core addicts in this country need help and are left out of the Administration's new drug abuse program.

"And what about the millions of young Americans who are using and abusing ~~drugs and narcotics~~ drugs ?

"For these we need expanded education and rehabilitation programs. ^{Mr. Jalea} Instead of ~~the present~~ rehabilitation crisis ~~is~~ ~~due~~ because of inadequate numbers of rehabilitation centers in communities.

Drug Abuse

Concept House, FIA.

1/31/72

There is hardly an area of human activity where the government has been able to meet the needs of all Americans.

But we must recognize that if government has failed to meet our needs, ~~the~~ people don't always recognize that government can't do the job of solving the nation's problems alone.

The great problems that beset America today need to be solved by a new partnership of government and people.

Today in America there is a cancer eating away at our society that can be cured only through a new partnership of government and people.

This cancer is increasing drug abuse and drug addiction particularly among the young.

-- THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 125,000 HARD CORE NARCOTICS
ADDICTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

-- YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 21 ARE ARRESTED AT THE RATE OF ONE
EVERY 5 MINUTES IN CONNECTION WITH THE USE, POSSESSION, OR
TRANSACTION IN DRUGS.

-- THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY REPORTS
NARCOTIC ARRESTS HAVE INCREASED 322 PERCENT SINCE THE BEGINNING
OF THIS DECADE.

-- DRUG ABUSE IS A SUBURBAN AS WELL AS AN URBAN PROBLEM.
AND IT IS ALSO FOUND WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.

-- THE ANNUAL COST OF NARCOTIC ADDICTION IN TERMS OF STOLEN
PROPERTY ALONE MAY WELL BE OVER A BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR.

-- POLICE ESTIMATE THAT A HARD-CORE ADDICT MAY STEAL \$400 TO \$500 WORTH OF GOODS TO SUPPORT A \$75 A DAY HABIT. ASSUMING THAT HALF OF AMERICA'S ADDICTS STEAL TO SUPPORT THEIR HABITS, THE TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS STOLEN EVERY DAY BY HARD CORE ADDICTS IS APPROXIMATELY \$25 MILLION.

stop

THE DRUG PROBLEM IN AMERICA TODAY IS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S PROBLEM ALONE.

YES, THE GOVERNMENT MUST STRICTLY ENFORCE LAWS AGAINST THOSE INVOLVED IN THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS.

YES, THE GOVERNMENT MUST DO MUCH MORE HERE AND ABROAD TO HALT THE MANUFACTURE AND IMPORTATION OF DRUGS.

The government can and must do more to halt the importation of hard drugs and stop their distribution in the country.

It must establish a Drug Abuse Prevention Treatment and Rehabilitation Administration in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

But the real question is what are you going to do about this problem.

What are the people of Cleveland going to do about the drug problem, the hunger problem, the education problem and many other problems which affect millions of Americans.

Government alone can't do the job.

People such as yourselves--community leaders--must lead the way in making government more responsive to people's needs.

In the drug area you must urge that rehabilitation clinics be established, drug education courses started for junior high students and a renewed effort against drug pushers be led by local police.

We must all begin to think how we can fill the gap between 210 million Americans and ^a representative government staffed by a bureaucracy of millions.

I want to see government make its primary concern service and help for people.

It can and it must.

But a government that meets people's needs, that alleviates poverty, that builds homes, that educates children, that provides jobs must do these things with people--in a partnership of common purpose.

This is what I want to see happen in America.



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org