

100

For Release: 7:00 p.m., Monday,  
February 14, 1972

**HUMPHREY**

Contact: Jack McDonald (202) 872-1600

HUMPHREY DEFENDS SPACE PROGRAM AGAINST CRITICS  
WHO MAKE IT SCAPEGOAT FOR DOMESTIC FAILURES

1225 19TH ST. N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

PHONE: 202-872-1600



MELBOURNE, Florida, February 14--Senator Hubert H. Humphrey today lashed out at political critics of the space program who seek to make the program a scapegoat for America's failures to solve its domestic problems.

"Let's get the facts straight," Humphrey said in remarks prepared for delivery at the Florida Institute of Technology here.

"We have the resources, the skills and the talent in this Nation to move ahead on our domestic agenda. But we need the will, the vision and the leadership of a committed national administration to do so.

"That's where the blame lies, not with the space program."

Humphrey said the space program has been the cutting edge of technological innovation in the Nation, and pledged his continuing support to "the challenge and opportunity of future space exploration with this Nation in the vanguard."

Following are additional excerpts from Humphrey's prepared remarks:

After more than a decade of great advances in space exploration and aerospace technology, our space program is in danger.

You know it and I know it. You and I know slowdown leads to shut down.

You and I know the space program is the spearhead of all our technological efforts -- and if the spearhead is blunted, the dream of a better world through science and technology will not be realized.

Humphrey for President

(more)

You and I know the vital role you play in making that dream come true.

I am proud, ladies and gentlemen, very proud, of my support of the space program. As Vice President, I served as Chairman of the National Aeronautics and Space Council and helped solve the problems and achieve the possibilities of space research and exploration.

We all know scapegoats are easy to attack. It's been this way for a long, long time. Right here and now we must call a halt. We cannot let our tradition of technological progress and advancement be labelled a scapegoat.

We have a duty to reply to our critics. They mean well and are concerned for this nation's future. We must directly and honestly answer their questions and erase their doubts.

We must answer the question, "Is our space program worthwhile?" We must answer with a resounding "Yes."

--It would be worth every dollar if it has just provided information to advance our national security. Our satellite systems, such as ~~NERVA~~ <sup>VELA</sup>, have allowed us to observe the status of possible threats to our country. Satellite surveillance to protect a trillion dollar economy is a sound investment.

--It would be worth every dollar if it has just brought the countries of the world closer together through the global communications satellite system. Bringing the peoples of this shrinking world into direct and immediate sound and sight contact is a sound investment.

(more)

--It would be worth every dollar if it has just given us an earth satellite system that predicts hurricanes and floods and protects lives and property. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is a sound investment.

--It would be worth every dollar if it has just helped the struggle to protect the environment and the search for the Earth's resources. The development of the Earth Resources Technology Satellite (ERTS) is a sound investment.

--It would be worth every dollar if it has just awakened us to the fragile future of the world's ecology. Understanding the precarious condition of "Spaceship Earth" is a sound investment.

--It would be worth every dollar if it has just produced medical devices for use in surgery and contamination control. The development of The Biomedical Communications Network, linking doctors and hospitals across the country is a sound investment.

--It would be worth every dollar if it has just provided jobs and income for men and women throughout the nation. Producing over \$3 billion dollars in space industry corporate and individual income tax in the 1960's is a sound investment.

For today and tomorrow we must move forward with the space shuttle program. The shuttle will provide this nation with a reusable manned space system at a reduced cost. It will have a tremendous impact on space exploration and the utilization of space for earth related needs.

(more)

But we must recognize -- as you well know -- that the development of a space shuttle is not a complete answer to the critical problem of aerospace unemployment. It is only a step. There is an urgent need for realistic programs that redirect the talents and skills of the unemployed aerospace workers and scientists to other industries.

We must also recognize -- as you well know -- that the Nixon Administration's performance in the area of providing jobs for highly skilled workers and scientists follows a pattern which we find in other areas: There is much rhetoric and fanfare, with little substance and great tendency to use the budgetary scalpel to kill worthwhile endeavors.

We must go forward on the technological frontier -- in space and here on Earth. But I submit to you that we will not go forward, we will not meet the challenge of transportation, housing, and industry without the lead of the space program.

-- HHH --

001047

# Biology Science

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

OUR SPACE PROGRAM  
IT IS WORTH EVERY DOLLAR

COCO BEACH, FLORIDA

FEBRUARY 14, 1972

Jim Thomas (Pres)  
Skip DeCantu v. P  
Mike Clancy - chief justice  
Dean Ross

001048

L AFTER MORE THAN A DECADE OF GREAT ADVANCES IN SPACE  
EXPLORATION AND AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY, OUR SPACE PROGRAM IS  
IN DANGER.

L YOU KNOW IT AND I KNOW IT. YOU AND I KNOW SLOWDOWN *can*  
LEAD TO SHUTDOWN.

*Spearhead*  
L YOU AND I KNOW THE SPACE PROGRAM IS THE SPEARHEAD OF  
*our*  
~~ALL OUR~~ TECHNOLOGICAL EFFORTS -- AND IF THE SPEARHEAD IS  
BLUNTED, THE DREAM OF A BETTER WORLD THROUGH SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY WILL NOT BE REALIZED.

YOU AND I KNOW THE VITAL ROLE YOU PLAY IN MAKING THAT  
DREAM COME TRUE.

-2-

I AM PROUD, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, VERY PROUD, OF MY  
SUPPORT OF THE SPACE PROGRAM. As VICE PRESIDENT, I SERVED  
AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTIC AND SPACE COUNCIL  
AND HELPED SOLVE THE PROBLEMS AND ACHIEVE THE POSSIBILITIES  
OF SPACE RESEARCH AND EXPLORATION.

I I AM ALSO PROUD OF MY RECORD AS A PROGRESSIVE SENATOR  
WHO HAS DEDICATED HIS CAREER TO THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE. If I  
HAVE LEARNED ANYTHING IN MY PUBLIC CAREER, IT IS THAT PROGRESS  
DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN. IT MUST BE ACHIEVED, PIECE BY PIECE.

I AND AS SOMEONE WHO BELIEVES IN PROGRESS, I ~~WILL~~  
SUPPORT OUR SPACE PROGRAM. It IS THE VERY ESSENCE OF PROGRESS  
AND ADVANCEMENT IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

-3-

L MEETING THIS NATION'S NEEDS IS A HARD, ON-GOING TASK,

L WE CAN'T STAND STILL AND EITHER CHASTISE OR CONGRATULATE

OURSELVES. L AS DR. GLENN SEABORG, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE ATOMIC

ENERGY COMMISSION HAS SAID, "WE MUST VENTURE, WE MUST DARE,

AND WE MUST GROW MENTALLY AND SPIRITUALLY TO SURVIVE."

L CRITICIZING THE SPACE PROGRAM SEEMS TO BE IN STYLE TODAY. *But,*

I DON'T BUY THAT. ~~MY FRIENDS~~ L I DON'T BUY IT AT ALL.

L LET ME BE FRANK WITH YOU. I AM SICK AND TIRED OF SOME

OF MY COLLEAGUES WHO BLAME THE SPACE PROGRAM FOR THIS NATION'S

ILLS. L WE CANNOT AND MUST NOT LET OUR SPACE PROGRAM BECOME

A SCAPEGOAT FOR FAILURE TO ATTACK OUR PRESSING NEEDS AT HOME,



-4-

~~WE ALL KNOW SCAPEGOATS ARE EASY TO ATTACK. IT'S BEEN  
THIS WAY FOR A LONG, LONG TIME. RIGHT HERE AND NOW WE MUST  
CALL A HALT. WE CANNOT LET OUR TRADITION OF TECHNOLOGICAL  
PROGRESS AND ADVANCEMENT BE LABELED A SCAPEGOAT.~~

LET'S GET THE FACTS STRAIGHT. WE HAVE THE RESOURCES,  
THE SKILLS, AND THE TALENT IN THIS NATION TO MOVE AHEAD ON  
OUR DOMESTIC AGENDA. BUT WE NEED THE WILL, THE VISION AND  
THE LEADERSHIP OF A COMMITTED NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION TO DO SO.

THAT'S WHERE THE BLAME LIES, NOT WITH THE SPACE PROGRAM.

WE HAVE A DUTY TO REPLY TO OUR CRITICS. THEY MEAN WELL AND  
ARE CONCERNED FOR THIS NATION'S FUTURE. WE MUST DIRECTLY AND  
HONESTLY ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS AND ERASE THEIR DOUBTS.

-5-

WE MUST ANSWER THE QUESTION, "Is OUR SPACE PROGRAM  
WORTHWHILE?" WE MUST ANSWER WITH A RESOUNDING "Yes."

←-- IT WOULD BE WORTH EVERY DOLLAR IF IT HAS JUST  
BROUGHT THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD CLOSER TOGETHER THROUGH THE  
GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE SYSTEM. BRINGING THE PEOPLES  
OF THIS SHRINKING WORLD INTO DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE SOUND AND  
SIGHT CONTACT IS A SOUND INVESTMENT.

←-- IT WOULD BE WORTH EVERY DOLLAR, IF IT HAD JUST GIVEN  
US AN ~~ARTIFICIAL~~ WORLDWIDE SATELLITE SYSTEM THAT PREDICTS HURRICANES AND NUMBER  
FLOODS AND PROTECTS LIVES AND PROPERTY. THE NATIONAL OCEANIC  
AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) IS A SOUND INVESTMENT.

L-- IT WOULD BE WORTH EVERY DOLLAR IF IT HAS JUST HELPED  
THE STRUGGLE TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE SEARCH FOR  
THE EARTH'S RESOURCES. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EARTH RESOURCES  
TECHNOLOGY SATELLITE (ERTS) IS A SOUND INVESTMENT.

L-- IT WOULD BE WORTH EVERY DOLLAR IF IT HAS JUST  
AWAKENED US TO THE FRAGILE FUTURE OF THE WORLD'S ECOLOGY.  
UNDERSTANDING THE PRECARIOUS CONDITION OF "SPACESHIP EARTH"  
IS A SOUND INVESTMENT.

L-- IT WOULD BE WORTH EVERY DOLLAR IF IT HAS JUST PRODUCED  
MEDICAL DEVICES FOR USE IN SURGERY AND CONTAMINATION CONTROL.

It would be worth every Dollar  
if it had just provided for  
the Computer -

It would be worth every Dollar -  
if it had just given us the  
new insights into the  
- Medical field.

- new materials <sup>metals,</sup> + fabrics

- Oceanography - Aqua nauts  
ASTW Nauts

- Study of the Sun

- Project Vela (Arms Control)

-7-

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BIOMEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK,

LINKING DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, IS A SOUND

INVESTMENT,

← L-- IT WOULD BE WORTH EVERY DOLLAR IF IT HAS JUST PROVIDED

JOBS AND INCOME FOR MEN AND WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE NATION.

PRODUCING OVER \$3 BILLION DOLLARS IN SPACE INDUSTRY CORPORATE

AND INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX IN THE 1960's IS A SOUND INVESTMENT.

←-- WE UNDERSTAND, AND WE MUST MAKE ALL AMERICANS UNDERSTAND,

THE VITALITY AND NECESSITY OF TECHNOLOGICAL LEADERSHIP, TODAY

AND IN THE FUTURE WE MUST MEET THE TECHNOLOGICAL CHALLENGE

PRESENTED BY SPACE.

*Space Science  
Research is the Science of  
Tomorrow -*

001056

-8-

WE CANNOT SIT BACK AND SAY, "WELL DONE, BUT THAT'S ENOUGH,"

WE MUST MOVE FORWARD.

FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW, WE MUST MOVE FORWARD WITH THE SPACE SHUTTLE PROGRAM. THE SHUTTLE WILL PROVIDE THIS NATION WITH A REUSABLE MANNED SPACE SYSTEM AT A REDUCED COST. IT WILL HAVE A TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON SPACE EXPLORATION AND THE UTILIZATION OF SPACE FOR EARTH-RELATED NEEDS.

BUT WE MUST RECOGNIZE -- AS YOU WELL KNOW -- THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SPACE SHUTTLE IS NOT A COMPLETE ANSWER TO THE CRITICAL PROBLEM OF AEROSPACE UNEMPLOYMENT. IT IS ONLY A STEP.

001057

THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR REALISTIC PROGRAMS THAT  
REDIRECT THE TALENTS AND SKILLS OF THE UNEMPLOYED AEROSPACE  
WORKERS AND SCIENTISTS TO OTHER INDUSTRIES.

WE MUST ALSO RECOGNIZE -- AS YOU WELL KNOW -- THAT THE  
NIXON ADMINISTRATION'S PERFORMANCE IN THE AREA OF PROVIDING  
JOBS FOR HIGHLY SKILLED WORKERS AND SCIENTISTS FOLLOWS A  
PATTERN WHICH WE FIND IN OTHER AREAS: THERE IS MUCH RHETORIC  
AND FANFARE, WITH LITTLE SUBSTANCE AND GREAT TENDENCY TO USE  
THE BEDGETARY SCALPEL TO KILL WORTHWHILE ENDEAVORS.

WE MUST GO FORWARD ON THE TECHNOLOGICAL FRONTIER -- IN  
SPACE AND HERE ON EARTH.

BUT I SUBMIT TO YOU THAT WE WILL NOT GO FORWARD, WE WILL NOT  
MEET THE CHALLENGE OF TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, AND INDUSTRY  
*+ Since*  
WITHOUT THE LEAD OF THE SPACE PROGRAM.

WE MAY LOOK BACK WITH PRIDE ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE  
PAST DOZEN YEARS. AND WE MUST LOOK FORWARD TO THE PROMISE OF  
THE CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY OF FUTURE SPACE EXPLORATION WITH  
THIS NATION IN THE VANGUARD.

AND WE MUST REMEMBER THE WORDS OF PRESIDENT JOHN F.  
KENNEDY, WHOSE LEADERSHIP BROUGHT THE SPACE PROGRAM ITS  
FIRST GREAT SUCCESSES: "NOW IT IS TIME TO TAKE LONGER  
STRIDES ... TIME FOR A GREAT NEW AMERICAN ENTERPRISE ... TIME  
FOR THIS NATION TO TAKE A CLEARLY LEADING ROLE IN SPACE  
ACHIEVEMENT, WHICH IN MANY WAYS MAY HOLD THE KEY TO OUR FUTURE  
ON EARTH."





# 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](http://www.mnhs.org)