REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY MORGAN PARK HIGH SCHOOL Duluth, Minnesota

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February 17, 1972

Duluth is an iron ore town, and I want to talk about iron ore and what it means to America.

Steel has much to do with our nation's strength -- with our nation's productivity. We all know this.

Steel production is one measure of our nation's greatness -- of our nation's power. Steel goes to build the great things of an industrial society -- our ships, cars, factories, office buildings, schools, hospitals.

And here in Duluth all of us know what happens when steel production begins to decline, when this country becomes second best.

It's a tragic fact of life in the 1970's -- we are becoming a nation that is only second best in too many things. America is no longer Number One across the board in industrial production, in the quality of life we provide our people.

We keep hearing that the U.S. is Number One. I say we're

not and we ought to begin doing something about it. We must get this nation moving again.

This is not just a question of pride and honor. Being Number One means that there are good jobs, good schools, lower taxes, enough food and a vibrant and healthy society.

The U.S. is Number Two in its steel production. We have fallen behind the Russians in steel production for the first time in our history. We have the capacity to produce over 200,000 tons of steel a year, but last year we produced only 120,000 tons. -- The U.S. is Number Two in the production of iron ore.

- -- The U.S. is Number Four in the size of its merchant fleet.
- -- The U.S. is Number Three in the size of its fish catch.
- -- The U.S. is Number Fifteen in our infant mortality rate.
- We are even behind Taiwan in this tragic statistic.
 -- The U.S. is Number 25 in life expectancy for men and Number Eleven for women.
- -- The U.S. lags far behind other nations in providing adequate mass transportation systems for our cities.
- -- The U.S. is the only major industrial nation in the world without a comprehensive national health care system for its people.
- -- Cities in the U.S. have higher murder and street crime rates than Tokyo, Ottawa, and Rome.
- -- Of the major nations of the world, the USA is Number Three in the percent of its (ross National Product it spends on education -- the Soviet Union is first.
- -- The USA is behind many nations of the world in providing decent housing for all of our citizens.
- -- And for the first time in the century we have a trade deficit.

These are the economic and social facts of an America that needs to do better. There is the challenge of the 1970's -- to do better -- to be best.

As young people, you have a responsibility to change these facts and figures -- to make the USA Number One again.

When the USA falls behind, the people of Duluth suffer. You

and your parents suffer.

As your Senator I have endeavored to help make Duluth a better place in which to live.

Whether I serve you as your Senator or your President, I pledge myself to do everything I can to make this community an economically viable one and a good place to live.

All of us know what unemployment has done to this community, what a corporation more interested in profits than people has done to this city.

Too many people are out of work today. Too many families are hard hit and are having a difficult time making ends meet.

I want to ask some questions:

Was it right for the U.S. Steel Corporation to close down the hot side of its plant and throw 1,600 people out of work? No, it wasn't.

Was it right for the U.S. Steel Corporation to shut down instead of modernize?

No, it wasn't.
Is it right for an Administration to be committed in principle to full employment and in fact tolerate an unemployment rate of over 8 percent here in Duluth?

No, it wasn't.

I say that it's time for both big corporations and big government to begin caring about the people they are supposed to serve.

If you believe we must work for change, that our system of government and industry must work for people, then all of us here today must form a coalition for change.

A coalition of young with old -- not young against old.
A coalition of black with white -- not black against white.

And in this coalition we must have the full support of labor -- of the American working man. This is the coalition that can prevent this country from being relegated to second place. This is the coalition that will not let the U.S. Steel Corporation abandon Duluth. This is the coalition that will not let government in Washington forget the needs of the people of Minnesota.

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Morgan Park High School

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AND WHAT IT MEANS TO AMERICA.

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STEEL PRODUCTION IS ONE MEASURE OF OUR NATION'S GREATNESS

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WE HAVE FALLEN BEHIND THE RUSSIANS IN STEEL PRODUCTION FOR

THE FIRST TIME IN OUR HISTORY, WE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO PRODUCE

OVER 200,000, TONS OF STEEL A YEAR, BUT LAST YEAR WE PRODUCED

ONLY 120,000, TONS.

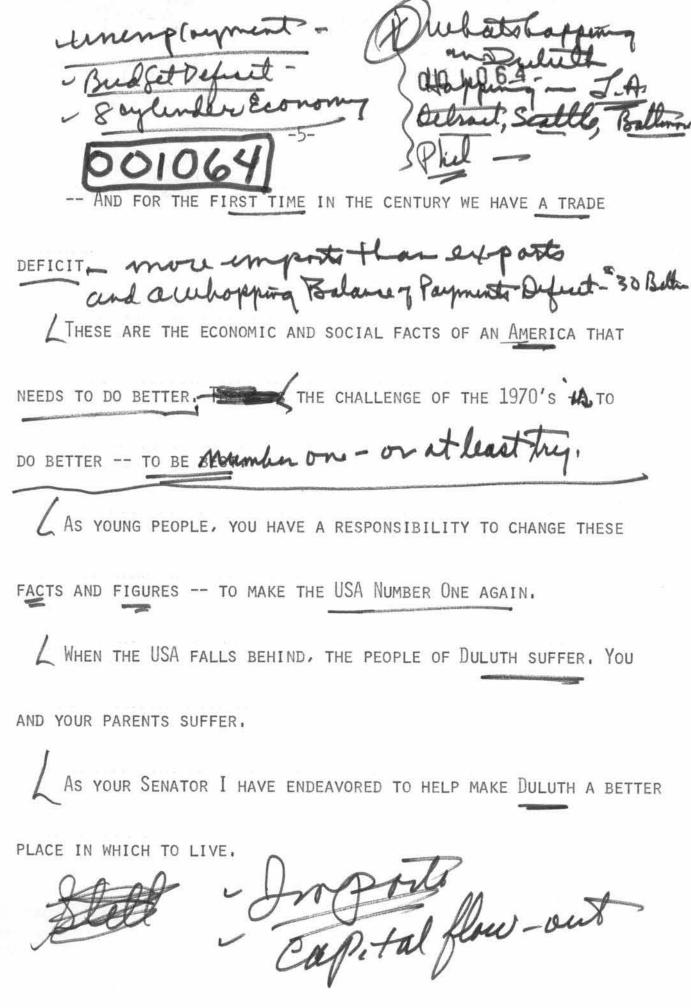
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OF GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY MUST WORK FOR PEOPLE, THEN ALL OF US

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MORGAN PARK HIGH SCHOOL

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

February 17, 1971

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It's a tragic fact of life in the 1970's -we are becoming a nation that is only second best in too many things. America is no longer Number 1 across the board in industrial production, in the quality of social services we provide or our people.

When xandxax we fall behind, other countries of the world this means that there

are fewer good jobs here and that the quality of American life suffers.

And we ought to begin doing something about it. We must get this nation moving agains.

(Kennedy Said it better)

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FOR RELEASE -- 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, 1972

HUMPHREY SAYS U.S. FALLING BEHIND IN
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, SOCIAL PROGRESS

ABC trouble forty Economic win Labor Gallery

DULUTM, Minn., Feb. 17—Senator Hubert H. Humphrey said today that the United States has fallen behind other nations in some of the key areas of industrial production maker and social services alike and urged a high school convocation here to help make the Nation number one again.

"This is not a question of national pride and honor," Humphrey said at Morgan Park High School, "What is really at stake is the quality of American life. Being number one means jobs for all who want to work, good schools, decent housing, health care for all, an end to hunger.

"But it is a tragic fact of life in the 1970s that we are becoming a nation that is only second best in too many things.

"We are number two in steel production; number two in the production of iron ore; number four in the size of our markets merchant from fleet.

"We rank 15th in our infant mortality rate. We are 25th in life expectancy for men and 11th for women.

"We lag far behind other nations in mass transportation in our cities. We the only major industrial nation in the world without a comprehensive national health care system. And we have higher murder and street crime rates than Industrial such cities as Tokyo, or Ottawa or Rome.

"We are only third in the per cent of gross national product devoted to education—the Soviet Union is first. We rank behind many nations in providing decent housing for our people.

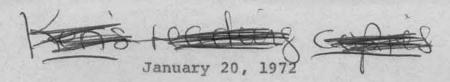
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"This is the coalition that can prevent this country from being marked relegated to second place "either in its economic who well-being or its social progress."

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MEMORANDUM

FOR:

Dan Spiegel

cc: Bob Healey

FROM:

Ken

At Max Kampelman's request I talked with Myer Bernstein (638-6929) of the Steelworkers.

Myer wanted to suggest a line of speech making for Senator Humphrey. He says President Nixon keeps saying that the USA is number one. He would point out that now in the third year of the Nixon Administration, the Russians have exceeded the United States in steel production and by a substantial margin. Last year the Russians produced 132,800 tons, and the US only 120,590. This is the first time the Russians have exceeded the US in steel production. By contrast, the previous year, the Russians produced 127,727 tons and the US 131,500 tons.

I asked what he thought the reasons were, in order to test whether this was simply more protectionism. He said the number one reason of course would be the overall drop in the US economy, but of course the second reason would be increasing imports.

The US has the capacity to produce 200,000 tons.

This might be a good lead in a speech of this sort asking the question is the USA number one really, and maybe we could point out some other areas in which we have declined relative to other nations.

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