

# NEWS RELEASE HUMPHREY FOR PRESIDENT

1225 19TH ST. N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036  
PHONE: 202-872-1600

FOR RELEASE 2:30 p.m.,  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1972

CONTACT: JACK McDONALD

HUMPHREY SAYS ADMINISTRATION TURNS ITS  
BACK ON AMERICA'S POOR AND HUNGRY

GAINESVILLE, Fla., March 8--Senator Hubert H. Humphrey said today the Nation is losing ground in the battle against poverty and hunger "because a callous Administration has turned its back on 25 million Americans who are ill-fed, ill-housed, ill-clothed and ill-cared for."

Humphrey said that after a steady decline in the number of Americans living in poverty, the number of poor people actually increased last year for the first time in a decade.

"Does this Administration really care about the poor and hungry in America?" Humphrey asked an "Accent '72" symposium at the University of Florida here.

"The Administration slashed needed funds for the anti-poverty program.

"It tried to torpedo the Food Stamp Program.

"It tried to cut back on school lunches for millions of children.

"It has failed to move on welfare reform.

"It has callously tied up billions of dollars appropriated by Congress that could be used in the battle for decent housing, improved transportation and a wide range of other programs that could improve the lives of the American poor.

"It stood idly by for two and a half years and permitted unemployment to climb well over the five million mark. And still it has failed to take the bold steps necessary to put America back to work."

(more)

HUMPHREY - PAGE TWO

Humphrey said the time has come to put the elimination of poverty and hunger back at the top of the American agenda.

"There are those who say the war against poverty has failed, that it raised expectations too high, that it wasn't worth the effort.

"I couldn't disagree more. In the last ten years, one-third of the American poor--14 million people--were lifted above the poverty line.

"And the war on poverty created an awareness in the American conscience that the national tragedy of poverty simply cannot be wished away, a recognition that poor people have rights, and a resolve that they have much to contribute to the American future.

"We can end hunger and poverty in America. But not by closing our eyes as this Administration has done.

"We can succeed only with bold leadership--leadership that resolves to cut unemployment, expand the Food Stamp Program, create day care centers for mothers who want to work, and provide decent income levels for those who cannot work."

--HHH--

Walt Wurfel  
Jack McDonald

Deleg. Sect.

Dan Spiegel

Dan Hackle

Jay Fahn

State Books

Betty South/Pat Gray

Senate/Ken

Neal Peterson

Labor Desk

CHECK LIST FOR SPEECH FILE

Date & Time: March 8, 1972 - 2:30pm  
Event: Sponsored by Action Forum Univer. of Florida  
ACCENT '72 Symposium  
Place: Plaza  
City: Gainesville, Florida  
Local Contact: David Aarons, Speakers Chairman Tel. 904 392-1613  
'72

Letters mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

Acceptance: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrangements \_\_\_\_\_

Key People \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation: \_\_\_\_\_

Advance: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_

SPEECH INFORMATION:

*Memo*

Staff Notes

A BABY CRIES IN MISSISSIPPI BECAUSE HE HAS NO MILK.

A CHILD IS THIN AND LISTLESS IN NEW YORK BECAUSE  
THE EVENING TABLE IS BARE.

A MOTHER IN FLORIDA SOBS BECAUSE HER CHILDREN HAVE  
NO SHOES.

AND A FATHER IN CALIFORNIA IS GUILT-RIDDEN BECAUSE  
HIS FAMILY LIVES IN A HOME THAT LACKS HEAT, IS OVERCROWDED,  
AND IS WITHOUT PLUMBING OR RUNNING WATER.

IT IS ALL PART OF A SUBJECT I WANT TO TALK TO YOU  
ABOUT TODAY--A SUBJECT THAT IS THE SHAME OF A RICH AND  
POWERFUL NATION: HUNGER AND POVERTY IN AMERICA.

TO MANY OF YOU HERE, YOUR PERSONAL CONTACT WITH  
POVERTY IS MINIMAL. YOU DID NOT LIVE THROUGH A DEPRESSION.  
~~SO~~ YOU CAN ONLY READ ABOUT THE BREAD AND SOUP LINES,  
THE FEELINGS OF RESIGNATION, THE LOST HOPES THAT ARE  
SO MUCH A PART OF BEING POOR.

<sup>I hope that</sup>  
AND YOU WILL NEVER HAVE TO GO WITHOUT <sup>food</sup> ~~EATING~~, OR LACK  
THE MONEY FOR DECENT SHELTER AND ADEQUATE CLOTHING, OR  
TO SAY TO YOUR CHILDREN: "NO, WE CANNOT BUY A NEW PAIR OF  
SHOES OR A NEW TOY."

BUT THE DEPRESSION WAS VERY REAL FOR YOUR PARENTS.  
AND POVERTY IN THE U.S. IS VERY REAL FOR YOU. <sup>AS LONG AS</sup>  
ONE CHILD GOES TO BED HUNGRY WE ARE ALL A LITTLE POORER.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IS A NATION OF GREAT WEALTH, GREAT RESOURCES, AND GREAT GOALS.

BUT IS ALSO A NATION OF 25 MILLION AMERICANS ILL-FED, ILL-HOUSED, ILL-CLOTHED AND ILL-CARED FOR.

AND, IF THERE EVER ~~WAS~~ A NATIONAL TRAGEDY IN OUR NATION, IT IS THE HUNGER AMONGST US. WE CAN CLOSE OUR EYES AND HOPE IT WILL GO AWAY--BUT IT WON'T.

WE CAN PRETEND WE DON'T SEE IT, BUT IT WILL REMAIN.

WE CAN SAY IT IS SOMEONE ELSE'S PROBLEM, BUT ~~IT~~ IS NOT.

IN THE 1960'S OUR NATION PUT THE WAR ON POVERTY AT THE TOP OF ITS AGENDA.

NOW IN THE 70'S SOME HAVE SAID THAT THE WAR WAS A FAILURE, THAT IT RAISED EXPECTATIONS TOO HIGH, THAT IT WAS NOT WORTH DOING.

I SAY IT WAS WORTH DOING. IN THE LAST 10 YEARS, ONE-THIRD OF ALL THE POVERTY IN THIS NATION WAS ELIMINATED. OVER 14 MILLION CHILDREN, MOTHERS AND FATHERS ESCAPED THE CLUTCHES OF BEING POOR. ✓

AND THE WAR ON POVERTY CREATED A CONSCIOUSNESS IN OUR LAND--A RESOLVE THAT POOR PEOPLE HAVE RIGHTS, THAT <sup>THE</sup> POOR HAVE A LOT TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NATION. ✓

TODAY ALL OF US SHOULD BE TROUBLED, ALL OF US SHOULD BE CONCERNED BECAUSE WE ARE LOSING THE STRUGGLE TO ELIMINATE HUNGER AND POVERTY IN AMERICA.

NO ONE SEEMS TO CARE ANYMORE.

--THE ADMINISTRATION SLICES THE ANTI-POVERTY BUDGET.

--TRIES TO TORPEDO THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM.

--IT CUTS BACK ON SCHOOL LUNCHES.

--IT FAILS TO MOVE AHEAD ON WELFARE REFORM.

--AND LAST YEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A DECADE, THE NUMBER OF POOR PEOPLE ACTUALLY INCREASED.

ONCE MORE THE POOR ARE BECOMING INVISIBLE.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

WILL WE BE ABLE TO SAY IN OUR LIFE TIME THAT THERE WILL BE NO MORE POVERTY, NO MORE HUNGER, NO MORE ANGUISH?

I REJECT THOSE WHO SAY IT IS NOT POSSIBLE BECAUSE IT IS.

BOTH OF US--YOU AND I HAVE A ROLE IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST WANT.

WE CAN END HUNGER AND POVERTY IN AMERICA BY A GREATLY EXPANDED FOOD STAMP PROGRAM, JOBS, DAY CARE CENTERS FOR MOTHERS WHO WANT TO WORK, AND ADEQUATE INCOME FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT WORK.

AND YOU CAN HELP. JUST DON'T TALK ABOUT IT; DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. [GO INTO YOUR COMMUNITIES, [JOIN COMMUNITY ACTION

PROGRAMS, GET ACTIVE IN THE MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM, TAKE  
A YEAR OF YOUR LIFE AND JOIN VISTA, TELL YOUR PARENTS AND  
RELATIVES THAT THEY HAVE TO CARE ABOUT THIS PROBLEM. PLAN  
FOR CAREERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH, IN POVERTY-LAW, URBAN AND  
RURAL PLANNING.

BUT DON'T STAND IDLY BY WHILE THERE IS POVERTY IN THIS  
NATION.

THE WAR ON POVERTY CAN'T BE WON FROM WASHINGTON.

BUT IT CAN BE WON IN GAINESVILLE, TAMPA, AND MIAMI.

IF THERE EVER WERE A CHALLENGE FOR YOU, IT IS THIS:

TO JOIN HANDS IN A COMMON CAUSE THAT WILL END THE  
SHAME OF HUNGER AND DEGRADATION OF POVERTY IN AMERICA.

Student Sen  
Peace Corps

001296

001296 MARCH 8, 1972

HHH VISIT TO UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
PROGRAM - ACCENT 72

I. ON STAGE WITH HHH

HHH  
MRS. HUMPHREY  
LORNE GREENE  
BOB SHEVIN

JOE RIZZOTTO (STUDENT): PRES. OF Y.D.'S UNIV OF FLA  
CO-CHAIRMAN OF HHH IN ALACHUA COUNTY  
DAVID WINTON (STUDENT): VICE CHAIRMAN ACCENT 72

ALSO MENTION:

TOM PORTER WITH "STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICE" (FOR HIS HELP)  
DAVID AARON WITH ACCENT 72

II. UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA (FLORIDA GATORS)

23,000 ENROLLMENT

STUDENTS HAVE BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN LOCAL CITY ELECTIONS  
RECENTLY. THERE IS A CITY ELECTION MARCH 21st.

III. SPEECH

- (1) YOU ARE GLAD TO BE IN GATOR COUNTRY
- (2) TAXATION WITH REPRESENTATION
- (3) HATE AND YESTERDAY VERSUS LOVE AND TOMORROW
- (4) MENTION THAT IF YOU ARE ELECTED YOU PLAN TO HAVE  
A YOUTH AFFAIRS CABINET POST TO REALLY GET YOUTH  
INVOLVED AND NOT JUST TOKENISM.
- (5) MENTION THE YOUTH OPERATION IN YOUR CAMPAIGN.  
(I HAVE BEEN HERE FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS WORKING  
WITH STUDENTS ON THIS CAMPUS.)

Gator Country

Here to  
Speak  
and  
Listen

Not Follow  
Dem

McGraw  
Hill

Regulation

Hate & yesterday

Love & Tomorrow

Youth Affairs Cabinet Post  
Women in Gov't

Future

Careers in  
Public Health -  
Poverty Law

Rural & Urban  
Planning

Frontier

Hunger, Poverty  
Educ. - Health



REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

001297

ACCENT '72 SYMPOSIUM

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

MARCH 8, 1972

---

L A BABY CRIES IN MISSISSIPPI BECAUSE HE HAS NO MILK.

L A CHILD IS THIN AND LISTLESS IN NEW YORK BECAUSE

THE EVENING TABLE IS BARE.

L A MOTHER IN FLORIDA SOBS BECAUSE HER CHILDREN HAVE

NO SHOES.

AND A FATHER IN CALIFORNIA IS GUILT-RIDDEN BECAUSE

HIS FAMILY LIVES IN A HOME THAT LACKS HEAT, IS OVERCROWDED,

AND IS WITHOUT PLUMBING OR RUNNING WATER.

L IT IS ALL PART OF A SUBJECT I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT

TODAY--A SUBJECT THAT IS THE SHAME OF A RICH AND POWERFUL

NATION: HUNGER AND POVERTY IN AMERICA.

Confucius-

- " In a country well governed,  
Poverty is something to be ashamed of.
- " In a country badly governed  
wealth is something to be ashamed of.

TO MANY OF YOU HERE, YOUR PERSONAL CONTACT WITH  
POVERTY IS MINIMAL. YOU DID NOT LIVE THROUGH A DEPRESSION.

YOU CAN ONLY READ ABOUT THE BREAD AND SOUP LINES,  
THE FEELINGS OF RESIGNATION, THE LOST HOPES THAT ARE SO  
MUCH A PART OF BEING POOR.

AND I HOPE THAT YOU WILL NEVER HAVE TO GO WITHOUT FOOD,  
OR LACK THE MONEY FOR DECENT SHELTER AND ADEQUATE CLOTHING,  
OR TO SAY TO YOUR CHILDREN: "NO, WE CANNOT BUY A NEW PAIR  
OF SHOES OR A NEW TOY."

BUT THE DEPRESSION WAS VERY REAL FOR YOUR PARENTS.  
AND POVERTY IN THE U.S. IS VERY REAL FOR YOU.

Gandhi - "To the millions who have to go without <sup>most</sup> ~~two~~ meals a day, the only acceptable form in which God can appear is food."

AS LONG AS ONE CHILD GOES TO BED HUNGRY WE ARE ALL 001300

A LITTLE POORER.

II.  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IS A NATION OF GREAT WEALTH, GREAT RESOURCES, AND GREAT GOALS.

BUT IT IS ALSO A NATION OF 25 MILLION AMERICANS ILL-FED, ILL-HOUSED, ILL-CLOTHED AND ILL-CARED FOR.

AND, IF THERE EVER WAS A NATIONAL TRAGEDY IN OUR NATION, IT IS THE Poverty ~~HUNGER~~ AMONG US. WE CAN CLOSE OUR EYES AND HOPE IT WILL GO AWAY--BUT IT WON'T.

WE CAN PRETEND WE DON'T SEE IT, BUT IT WILL REMAIN.

WE CAN SAY IT IS SOMEONE ELSE'S PROBLEM, BUT IT IS NOT.

IN THE 1960'S OUR NATION PUT THE WAR ON POVERTY AT THE

TOP OF ITS AGENDA.

J.D.R. "The Test of our progress is not whether we add to the abundance of those who have much; It is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."



001301

Now in the 70's some have said that the war was  
 a failure, that it raised expectations too high, that  
 it was not worth doing,

I say it was worth doing, in the last 10 years,  
one-third of all the poverty in this nation was eliminated.

Over 14 million children, mothers and fathers escaped  
the clutches of being poor.

(X) And the war on poverty created a consciousness in  
our land--a resolve that poor people have rights, that

the poor have <sup>much</sup> ~~lot~~ to contribute to our nation.

that the  
 poor can through community action  
 do much for themselves - that they  
 can ~~and~~ make decisions - &  
 Participate.

L TODAY ALL OF US SHOULD BE TROUBLED, ALL OF US SHOULD  
 BE CONCERNED BECAUSE WE ARE LOSING THE STRUGGLE TO ELIMINATE

HUNGER AND POVERTY IN AMERICA,

~~NO ONE SEEMS TO CARE ANYMORE.~~

--THE ADMINISTRATION SLICES THE ANTI-POVERTY BUDGET,

~~IT TRIES TO TORPEDO THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM.~~

--IT CUTS BACK ON SCHOOL LUNCHES.

~~IT ASKS FOR DELAY~~  
~~IT FAILS TO MOVE AHEAD ON WELFARE REFORM.~~

~~IT VETOES CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM~~

--AND LAST YEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A DECADE, THE

NUMBER OF POOR PEOPLE ACTUALLY INCREASED.

ONCE MORE THE POOR ARE BECOMING INVISIBLE.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

\* New ideas cannot be  
 administered successfully  
 by men of old ideas, for  
 the first essential of doing  
 a job well is the wish  
 to see the  
 job done  
 at all.

- and why

001303

The aged, the sick, and the disabled -  
30% of the Total on Welfare -

To get all of these over the official  
Poverty level - would cost perhaps  
\$4 Billion.

{ minimum monthly Soc Security  
payment ought to be raised to  
\$150 a month for individual  
\$250 for a couple

---

Old Age Assistance - about the  
same -

this would lift out of poverty  
5 1/2 million



WILL WE BE ABLE TO SAY IN OUR LIFETIME THAT THERE  
WILL BE NO MORE POVERTY, NO MORE HUNGER, NO MORE ANGUISH?

I REJECT THOSE WHO SAY IT IS NOT POSSIBLE ~~BECAUSE IT IS.~~

BOTH OF US--YOU AND I--HAVE A ROLE IN THE STRUGGLE

AGAINST WANT! *old Samuel Johnson once said -  
"a decent provision for the poor is the  
true test of civilization."*

WE CAN END HUNGER AND POVERTY IN AMERICA BY A GREATLY  
EXPANDED FOOD STAMP PROGRAM, JOBS, DAY-CARE CENTERS FOR  
*We can greatly expand job training -*

MOTHERS WHO WANT TO WORK, AND ADEQUATE INCOME FOR THOSE

WHO CANNOT WORK. *We can provide a minimum income  
for the elderly poor - We can increase  
Soc. Security*

AND YOU CAN HELP. JUST DON'T TALK ABOUT IT: DO  
SOMETHING ABOUT IT.



GO INTO YOUR COMMUNITIES.

*Speak up for the facts*

↳ JOIN COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS.

GET ACTIVE IN THE MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM.

TAKE A YEAR OF YOUR LIFE AND JOIN VISTA.

TELL YOUR PARENTS AND RELATIVES THAT THEY HAVE TO CARE

ABOUT THIS PROBLEM.

↳ PLAN FOR CAREERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH, IN POVERTY-LAW,

URBAN AND RURAL PLANNING.

↳ BUT DON'T STAND IDLY BY WHILE THERE IS POVERTY IN

THIS NATION.

↳ THE WAR ON POVERTY CAN'T BE WON FROM WASHINGTON.

↳ BUT IT CAN BE WON IN GAINESVILLE, TAMPA, AND MIAMI.

IF THERE EVER WAS A CHALLENGE FOR YOU, IT IS THIS:

↳ To JOIN HANDS IN A COMMON CAUSE THAT WILL END

THE SHAME OF HUNGER AND <sup>the</sup> DEGRADATION OF POVERTY IN AMERICA.

MEMORANDUM

March 7, 1972

TO: Senator

FROM: Dan S.

SUBJECT: Accent '72 - University of Florida, Gainesville

Bob and I worked on this poverty speech. We think a student audience will be quite receptive to this theme.

I talked to the organizers of the Accent '72 program. They gave me one warning based on the Muskie and Lindsay appearances at the university.

They said that in the Q and A when you respond to questions on abortion and marijuana, don't say that it's up to the states to decide these issues. Apparently, this was the essence of the Lindsay and Muskie responses. It turned off many students.



# 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)