

MEMORANDUM

FOR: SENATOR

FROM: DAN

SUBJECT: ELDERLY NUTRITION REMARKS

They have planned some very brief remarks for you on the subject of elderly nutrition for the Robert King High Towers appearance.

We have prepared a brief statement for this informal visit.

FYI: For Friday in St. Petersburg we are announcing your new home health care proposal at a senior citizen gathering at mid-afternoon. We will also want to mention again the 25% increase in social security.

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

ROBERT KING HIGH TOWERS  
HOT MEAL PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY

MARCH 9, 1972

MIAMI, FLORIDA

I AM VERY PLEASED AND PROUD TO BE HERE TODAY,  
I'VE WORKED LONG AND HARD TO MAKE PROPER NUTRITION  
AND HEALTH A BASIC RIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS.

I WAS A COSPONSOR OF THE LEGISLATION WHICH  
MADE THIS CENTER POSSIBLE. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE  
DAY--AND I HOPE IT'S SOON--WHEN PROGRAMS LIKE  
THIS ONE WILL BE EXPANDED INTO A NATIONAL SYSTEM  
OF DISPENSING QUALITY, NUTRITIOUS MEALS TO ELDERLY  
AMERICANS.

HUNGER AND POVERTY EXIST ON A DISGRACEFUL  
SCALE IN THE UNITED STATES. AMERICANS MUST NO  
LONGER TOLERATE THESE CONDITIONS.

A GREAT MAN ONCE REMARKED THAT THE QUALITY  
OF A SOCIETY CAN BEST BE JUDGED BY THE RESPECT  
AND CARE GIVEN ITS ELDERLY CITIZENS.

TODAY, BASED ON THIS STANDARD, WE MUST JUDGE  
THE UNITED STATES VERY HARSHLY.

AMERICA IS TOO RICH TO LET ANYONE GO HUNGRY.  
YET THIS IS WHAT WE ARE DOING WHEN WE FAIL TO  
PROVIDE THE MEANS FOR ADEQUATE NUTRITION FOR ALL  
OF OUR CITIZENS.

WE HAVE SPENT GREAT SUMS OF MONEY FOR MEDICAL  
RESEARCH TO FIND WAYS OF COMBATTING ILLNESSES AND  
PROLONGING LIFE.

I BELIEVE THE TIME HAS COME TO GUARANTEE THAT  
THE ELDERLY OF THIS NATION--THE FASTEST GROWING  
SEGMENT OF OUR POPULATION--CAN ENJOY THEIR SENIOR  
YEARS IN GOOD HEALTH, WITH ADEQUATE AND NUTRITIOUS  
DIETS AND CONTINUED PRODUCTIVITY.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR THIS NATION TO PAY  
SPECIAL ATTENTION TO SOLVING THE PROBLEMS THAT COME  
WITH OLD AGE.

ADEQUATE NUTRITION IS JUST ONE OF THESE PROBLEMS

--BUT IT IS SO VERY IMPORTANT,

YOU KNOW HOW IT IS, YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE  
TO BE ALONE AND BORED. AND YOU KNOW THAT COMMUNITY  
CENTERS THAT BRING TOGETHER SENIOR CITIZENS, THAT  
FURNISH THEM WITH NUTRITIOUS MEALS, ACCOMPLISH MORE  
THAN JUST FEEDING PEOPLE,

THESE CENTERS ARE ALSO SOCIAL CENTERS. THEY  
ARE PLACES WHERE OLD FRIENDS MEET--AND WHERE NEW  
FRIENDS ARE MADE.

OF THE TWENTY MILLION ELDERLY AMERICANS, OVER  
FIVE MILLION LIVE ALONE. MANY OF YOU WHO LIVE ALONE

KNOW HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO SHOP FOR FOOD, AND  
MANY SENIOR CITIZENS DON'T HAVE ADEQUATE KITCHEN  
FACILITIES TO COOK FULL MEALS AND SOME ARE PHYSICALLY  
UNABLE TO PLAN AND PREPARE NUTRITIOUS DIETS,

THESE FACTORS OFTEN PRODUCE A WAY OF LIFE  
THAT PERPETUATES MALNUTRITION,

I BELIEVE THAT IF THE FULL POTENTIAL OF OUR  
ELDERLY CITIZENS TO CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETY IS TO BE  
REALIZED, THEN WE MUST ELIMINATE THE THREAT TO  
TO THEIR HEALTH THAT IS INADEQUATE NUTRITION,

ELDERLY CITIZENS CAN AND MUST CONTINUE TO  
SHARE IN THE TASK IN MAKING THIS COUNTRY GREAT,  
YOU HAVE SPENT YOUR ENTIRE LIVES WORKING AND  
CONTRIBUTING TO THE WELFARE OF THIS NATION AS  
LAWABIDING, TAXPAYING CITIZENS. YOU CANNOT STOP  
NOW. THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS I HAVE JOINED WITH  
MY COLLEAGUES TO SPONSOR LEGISLATION TO EXPAND THESE  
CENTERS TO ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

IT IS TIME FOR THIS NATION TO MAKE A COMMITMENT  
TO INVOLVE ELDERLY AMERICANS IN MAKING THIS COUNTRY  
A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE. IN ORDER TO DO THIS,



WE MUST GUARANTEE GOOD HEALTH, ADEQUATE NUTRITION AND  
IMPROVED INCOMES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS.

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1000 meals daily  
5 days a wk.

SENIOR CITIZENS NUTRITION PROJECT

MIAMI, FLORIDA

March 9, 1972

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