



# NEWS

*Hubert H. Humphrey*

232 Senate Office Building  
(202) 225-3244

Contact: Jack McDonald

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HUMPHREY CHARGES AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT REPORT  
REVEALS NIXON FAILURE TO AID RURAL POOR

Washington, December 24 -- Senator Hubert H. Humphrey has charged that a Department of Agriculture survey on rural poverty in America released today reveals that the Nixon Administration "has turned its back on the nation's rural poor" during the past three years.

Humphrey said that the report, prepared by the Department's Economic Research Service, shows that "extremely few" of the 150 poverty relief recommendations submitted by the National Advisory Commission on rural poverty in 1967 have been implemented. The Commission report, entitled "The People Left Behind" called for a "massive and coordinated" federal attack on the root causes of rural poverty, including illiteracy, chronic joblessness and dissolution of community services.

The ERS report lists only three of the sweeping proposed reforms as "accomplished" and most of the unrealized remainder labeled as "no action", "not achieved", "no information" and the like.

Senator Humphrey, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Rural Development which requested the study, stated that the ERS progress report is a "litany of failure" by the federal government to act on urgent measures to relieve poverty in rural America.

(more)

"This shabby record," said Humphrey, "reflects utter unconcern for the needs of rural America where nearly 50 percent of our poor live. It is nothing short of a national disgrace."

Citing several examples from the report, Humphrey called attention to an urgent recommendation by the Rural Poverty Commission four years ago that the federal government stand ready to provide jobs at the national minimum wage, or better, to every unemployed person willing and able to work. The ERS updated survey, he said, states simply that the recommendation has been "not accomplished", although it reported legislation would provide 150,000 public service jobs.

"But there are more than 14 million poverty-stricken Americans living in rural areas," said Senator Humphrey. "How a report like this could contribute to anything but chronic despair is hard to imagine."

Senator Humphrey pointed to "the tragic state of rural education" as another example of federal lack of initiative as revealed by the ERS report. Although the Commission report, he said, cited three million illiterate rural adults and called for immediate action to provide that every needy school child be provided books free of charge, the survey found that, as of today, there has been "no action" on the recommendation.

"Moreover," stated Humphrey, "this tragic example of bureaucratic unconcern must be viewed concurrently with President Nixon's incredible veto of the Child Care Development Bill which would have provided vitally needed resources for potentially millions of preschool age children in rural America."

Other examples cited by Humphrey of "benign neglect" by the Nixon Administration of the rural poor included a Commission recommendation that destitute families be authorized to purchase clothing stamps for children in school. The update on this proposal is labeled, "no action; none likely to be." Others:

-- Federal funds be provided to facilitate basic training in family planning. Label: "no information."

(more)

-- That a national program of comprehensive dental care for children be developed with special provisions for the needs of the poor in rural areas. "no information".

-- That maximum use be made of available federal funds to provide adequate care for mental illness and mental retardation to all through such programs as subsidized multi-county mental health centers. "No information."

"It is a sobering document," Said Senator Humphrey of the Economic Research Service Report. "It indicates that our rural poor are as disenfranchised from developed America as if they lived outside our national geographical boundaries. I call on the President and all Americans during this holiday season to reflect on the bleak expectations of more than 14 million of our countrymen and to resolve that we must do better by them in the days ahead."

# # # # #

001404

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

SMALL TOWN AND RURAL AMERICA

ARNOTT, WISCONSIN

MARCH 16, 1972

001405

SMALL-TOWN AND RURAL AMERICA IS THE HEARTLAND OF  
AMERICA.

OUR FARMS AND OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES ARE THE FOUNDATION  
UPON WHICH AMERICA HAS BEEN AND IS BEING BUILT.

BUT THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT LOOK TO RURAL  
AMERICA. IT DOES NOT SEE THE NEEDS--AND THE PROMISE--OF OUR  
TOWNS AND VILLAGES UNDER 25,000 POPULATION.

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS STUDIED RURAL AMERICA, BUT IT  
DOES NOT EVEN RELEASE ITS FINDINGS.

I AM TODAY RELEASING A HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT STUDY OF SMALL COMMUNITY NEEDS. THIS REPORT WAS  
COMPLETED MORE THAN A YEAR AGO, BUT IT HAS NEVER BEEN  
PUBLISHED OR RELEASED PUBLICLY BY HUD.

THIS VALUABLE REPORT MUST BE AVAILABLE TO ALL AMERICANS. AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT, I HAVE RELEASED THE HUD-FINANCED STUDY AS A COMMITTEE PRINT.

THE GREAT VALUE OF THIS \$150,000 STUDY OF FEDERAL PROGRAM ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO SMALL TOWNS IS ITS 25 SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING HUD AND OTHER FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO SMALL COMMUNITIES.

THIS REPORT RECOMMENDS VITALLY NEEDED NEW PROGRAMS FOR RURAL AMERICA:

--A SMALL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AS A DEMONSTRATION PROJECT TO PROVIDE GRANTS OF UP TO 100 PERCENT TO FINANCE SMALL TOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

--A PUBLIC FACILITIES PROGRAM TO PROVIDE GRANTS OF AT LEAST 50 PERCENT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR POLICE AND FIRE STATIONS AND OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES.

--CONFERENCES ON PROGRAM APPLICATION REVIEWS WITH HUD FIELD ADMINISTRATORS AND LOCAL OFFICIALS FOR MAJOR PROJECTS DEALING WITH HOUSING, URBAN RENEWAL, AND WATER AND SEWAGE PLANTS.

THE STUDY ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT THE SMALL TOWN SERVICES PROGRAM CONTINUE AND TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN ASSISTING COMMUNITIES UNDER 25,000 POPULATION.

BUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED? HUD HAS IN FACT ABOLISHED THE OFFICE OF SMALL TOWN SERVICES--IN DIRECT CONTRADICTION OF THE REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS. NO WONDER THE ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO RELEASE THE STUDY.

AND THIS ACTION BY HUD SECRETARY ROMNEY PARALLELS THE MISGUIDED ACTION OF FORMER AGRICULTURE SECRETARY HARDIN WHEN HE ABOLISHED THE RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICE.

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS ERASED THE PROBLEMS OF RURAL AMERICA FROM THE AGENDA OF ACTION IN THE 1970'S:

- IN THE PRESIDENT'S NEWLY ANNOUNCED BUDGET, THERE WAS AN 8 PERCENT CUT IN FUNDS FOR RURAL WATER, SEWAGE, AND SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL.



--A \$50 MILLION REDUCTION IN RURAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION ASSISTANCE.

--A DEEP CUT IN THE PROJECTED FUNDING RATE FOR AREA  
AND DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT.

--A \$150 MILLION CUT IN LOANS FOR FARM AND EMERGENCY  
CREDIT.

YOU KNOW WHAT THIS CALLOUS DISREGARD FOR THE NEEDS OF  
RURAL AND SMALL TOWN AMERICA MEANS.

--YOU KNOW THAT HERE IN STOCKTON TOWNSHIP TAXES KEEP  
RISING AND RISING.

--YOU KNOW THAT HERE IN STOCKTON TOWNSHIP YOUR POWERS OF  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT--YOUR CONTROL OVER YOUR COMMUNITY--ARE  
STEADILY BEING TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU.

--YOU KNOW THAT HERE IN STOCKTON TOWNSHIP MANY FARMERS  
JUST CANNOT MAKE A LIVING AND YOUR SMALL FARMS ARE DISAPPEARING.

I ASK YOU, WHY SHOULD FAMILIES BE FORCED OFF THEIR FARMS?

--WHY SHOULD HEALTH CARE FACILITIES IN RURAL AMERICA BE  
INFERIOR TO THOSE IN OUR CITIES?

--AND WHY SHOULD ALMOST 50 PERCENT OF THE NATION'S POOR  
LIVE IN RURAL AMERICA WHICH CONTAINS ONLY 35 PERCENT OF THE  
TOTAL POPULATION OF THIS COUNTRY?

THESE QUESTIONS ARE NOT BEING ANSWERED--THEY ARE NOT  
EVEN BEING ASKED--BY THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION.

WE MUST ALL WORK TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR  
THE MANY MILLIONS OF AMERICANS LIVING IN SMALL TOWNS AND  
ON FAMILY FARMS. PROMISES ARE NOT ENOUGH, RHETORIC IS NOT  
ENOUGH. WHAT WE NEED IS ACTION.

WE MUST MAKE THE 1970'S A DECADE OF DYNAMIC DOMESTIC  
DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL AMERICA--AND ESPECIALLY FOR RURAL  
AMERICA.

HHH

Memorandum

FOR: Dan Spiegel  
FROM: Ken  
SUBJ: Rural poor -

Attached is the previous release on the failure of the Nixon Administration to aid the rural poor. Also attached is the new proposed release on small town and Nixon neglect.

The Senator would like these built into a speech. You could use a lead on the small towns report. I will hold up the letter to Romney and the release of the report until we hear from you, hopefully within two days.

# # # #

SENATOR HUMPHREY ACCUSES ADMINISTRATION  
OF ABANDONING SMALL TOWNS

WASHINGTON-- "The small communities of this nation have apparently been written off by the present Administration", Senator Hubert H. Humphrey charged here today.

Humphrey made the accusation as he released a Housing and Urban Development Department study of small community needs. Humphrey noted that the study was completed a year ago, but was never published by HUD.

A key aspect of the \$150,000 study of Federal program assistance available to small towns, and 25 specific recommendations for strengthening HUD and other Federal assistance to small communities.

Senator Humphrey, who is Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Rural Development, released the HUD-financed report as a Committee Print.

Senator Humphrey said he has written (today) to HUD Secretary George Romney asking for a report of progress or actions taken by the Department to implement the 25 recommendations made by the private firm which did the study. Humphrey said, "I am deeply concerned that the long delay in releasing the results of this report indicates that the Administration has a lack of concern for people in the thousands of communities with populations of under 25,000.

"I am also concerned," Humphrey added, "that HUD has abolished its Office of Small Town Services, especially when this report we are releasing today indicates strongly that that office should have been strengthened rather than abolished."

Among the recommendations in the report for improving Federal assistance to small towns were:

-- The preparation of area-wide rather than individual community comprehensive plans should be encouraged for small, non-metropolitan communities (generally under 25,000 with emphasis under 15,000 in population).

-- Technical assistance and community development training programs should be substantially increased, and used primarily to assist communities of 25,000 population or less.

-- HUD should encourage the development of new communities in non-metropolitan areas. Such communities preferably should be constructed around existing seed communities with growth potential.

-- The report also calls on HUD to make grants for community development projects in towns of 15,000 population and under of up to 100 percent, and of up to 50 percent for

construction of administrative and public safety facilities.

The study was conducted by the Jacobs Company of Chicago. It examined 40 small towns to identify their total community needs. Senator Humphrey requested and obtained a copy of the study from HUD.

Attached is the text of Senator Humphrey's letter to Secretary Romney.

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January 12, 1972

Honorable George W. Romney  
Secretary of Housing and  
Urban Development  
HUD Building  
451 Seventh Street, S. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20410

Dear Secretary Romney:

Enclosed is a Committee Print of a study conducted under contract by your Department in June 1970 entitled, "A Study of Small Community Needs as Related to Federal Housing and Community Development Assistance." Section V of this report contains 25 specific recommendations for strengthening HUD, and related program assistance to small communities. I believe, as is indicated in the report itself, that these recommendations constitute an actionable program that would be of distinct benefit to small communities and would improve the delivery and service of HUD programs as well.

Therefore, would you please advise me at your earliest convenience as to what, if anything, has been done to implement these recommendations.

I also wish to take this opportunity, Mr. Secretary, to express my disappointment over the reluctance of your Department to make this study available to the public or to the other branches or agencies of the Federal government that have a direct interest in small communities.

It is also my understanding that you have reorganized the Office of Small Town Services out of existence. Would you please advise me as to steps you have taken in this regard and to which office you have assigned the functions previously administered by that office.



-2-

Although I have not had an opportunity as yet to review your latest proposal relating to the establishment of a Department of Community Development, I hope to give the matter my attention over the holidays.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Hubert H. Humphrey  
Chairman  
Rural Development Subcommittee

Enclosure

Arnot speech  
Editor.

Letter Stanley Kirschling will present to Senator Humphrey in car enroute from Stevens Point Airport to Arnot. Mr. Kirschling is Town Chairman of Stockton, Wisconsin (Stockton Township).

I, Stanley Kirschling, have been elected Town of Stockton official for twenty-four years. Town of Stockton population is 1650, about 900 eligible voters, and about ten million dollars property valuation.

Town of Stockton has 76 miles of town roads. We also have five hundred miles of state and federal roads, in Portage County, which quite a few of these roads run through Town Stockton.

#### PROBLEMS

1. School taxes are getting out of hand since the consolidation got into effect. I believe that property taxation is not a good tax.
2. Many powers of towns are being taken away through legislation.
3. I believe that the economy of the United States is dwindling down because many small farmers cannot exist due to poor prices they receive.  
In Town Stockton about 30 ~~a~~ farmers quit farming because they could not exist, and make a decent living. I believe if you keep small farmers going, they will keep metropolitan people working. They will spend their monies for supplies and machineries.
4. Metropolitan areas tend to push consolidation of services with local areas and also believe in state control which tends to take voting powers from local townspeople, this also leaves the town with paying some of the costs.

12 years ago the valuation was \$35/1,000 now \$100/1,000

1. the consolidation of all the schools into a county school system. kids used to go to school in town, now in plover or Stevens point (one room school house Arnot school) elementary school kids are the ones now being bused who were not bused before.
- 2 and 4 local control rather than state or federal

Kirschling when introducing HHH will say that he gave Humphrey a letter with several questions in it. ~~The questions are in the letter.~~ This is Snyder's idea.

MEMORANDUM

March 15, 1972

TO: Senator

FROM: Dan S.

SUBJECT: Appearance in Arnott, Wisconsin

We have prepared a statement based on the Nixon Administration's neglect of small communities. We have also included information on the Nixon budget cuts for rural areas. I think you can use this as a general-talk paper. Arnott is in Stockton Township. We talked with the town's Mayor and included in the remarks some of his comments about problems the town is having.



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