

HUMPHREY '72

NEWS

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HUMPHREY POINTS OUT MAJOR FLAWS IN McGOVERN GIVEAWAY SCHEME

LOS ANGELES - Senator Hubert H. Humphrey charged today that Senator McGovern's proposal to use money from the Social Security Trust Fund to finance the McGovern \$1,000 giveaway is contrary to the best interests of 20 million elderly Americans.

The text of the Senator's remarks follows:

I am opposed to tampering with the social security system. It is there for a purpose -- people pay into it when they are working because they know they will have income protection when they retire.

I don't want our social security system used to finance Senator McGovern's \$1,000 giveaway scheme.

But that is only one part of the McGovern proposal that could well hurt elderly Californians. Under the McGovern \$1,000 giveaway, over 500,000 blind, disabled and aged Californians who now receive public assistance would be worse off than under the present system.

Right now, these people receive an average of \$178 a month. Under the McGovern proposal, they would get \$1,000 a year or \$85 a month -- his plan would take away \$93 a month from every aged, blind and disabled person unless the state supplemented this payment out of its own tax funds.

I'm opposed to this scheme. This is hardly reform.

There are things we could do. I think that we need an immediate 25 percent increase in social security. We can do this now, and we ought to do this now. Then, we can take the five million elderly poor, provide them with a basic assistance benefit to lift them above the poverty line. And, we can make needed changes in Medicare -- eliminating the deductible, freezing the copayments and providing prescription drugs.

These three steps would be a start -- a downpayment on a decent life for older Americans.

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These proposals are responsible. They aren't welfare. They are opportunity. That's what people want -- they want opportunity.

Older Americans want to be treated as people -- not to be shut away in a corner, forgotten and left alone.

Life doesn't stop at 65. Opportunities open up at 65.

That's what we really are talking about here today -- opportunities, not \$1,000 welfare schemes or giant giveaway programs.

We are talking about the opportunity to have a job, to live a useful life, to build neighborhoods. That's what I have spent a lifetime working for. And, I am proud of what I have seen here in your community. This community has gotten it together.

The secret is clear: the involvement of people. The closing paragraph of a brochure published by your Community Labor Action Committee says it best...

"There is now hope in the face of Watts because its people aspire to the future. The young are reaching up and the old are reaching out to make Watts an example to the nation and to the world: That a community united can power itself out of despair into hope and out of a blighted past into a moving, Changing present."

That's powerful. That is what I have been fighting for my entire life.

I want to change things. I want to put this nation back to work, doing things, building, growing, living together in peace.

I want to put a little soul in government. I want to be your President. And, I need your help now.

Let us march together now as we have marched together before.

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