## REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY NORTHWEST IOWA FARM CONVENTION BANQUET

Washington, D. C.

March 11, 1976

It is a pleasure to be with the Northwest Iowa Farm group tonight.

I enjoy working with your two distinguished Senators, Dick Clark and John Culver, both of whom have provided real leadership in the Senate.

And Berkeley Bedell is to be commended for bringing all of us together this evening. Berkeley is a real asset for the State of Iowa.

Just last week I addressed the first Birthright dinner of the American School Food Service Association. The theme of that meeting was "Enough to Eat is Every Man's Birthright," taken from the 25th Chapter of Genesis.

I said then that the first essential in working to see that people have an adequate diet is to assure that our food producers are able to stay in business. It is pointless to talk about fair and effective food distribution if we can't guarantee that an adequate food supply is on hand in the first place.

Our farmers need some assurance of a fair price -- at least a chance to make a profit -- if these humanitarian goals are to be achieved.

This nation always has been responsive to those in need. But in the process we often have taken the producer for granted.

In the years ahead we will face not only the urgent problem of feeding the needy, but also the growing overall struggle between an ever increasing population and limited world food supplies.

The earth's population today of about four billion people will nearly double by the end of the century. To realize the implications of this, we should note that the earth's population crossed the one billion mark early in the nineteenth century and was only 1.6 billion in 1900.

Since we are the world's chief supplier of grains and soybeans, the policies we follow will be the great planetary suspense story of the century.

We are not constrained by a lack of physical capacity to produce enough food. We have the technology, the resources and the ability.

What we lack is the will to banish hunger -- and the plan to get it done.

There is no United States food policy. And we have only the beginnings of a world food policy.

Our farmers were asked this year to plant fence to fence, and they were promised access to world markets. But before the harvest was completed, the government again placed controls that it calls "voluntary restraints" on export sales.

The consumer also has suffered since 1972 from price changes and fluctuations in supply. You may recall that it was in 1972 that the Administration allowed our food reserve to dwindle from a supply of several months to less than a month.

It is being said today that food policy is too important to be left to the Department of Agriculture. I disagree. The basic responsibility and initiative should rest in the Department of Agriculture rather than another Department or the White House where they don't know the difference between a corn-cob and a combine.

Food policy is too important to be left to chance. But it also is too important to be left to a Secretary of Agriculture who refuses to face a changed world but still wants to stay in office.

The Administration recently established an agricultural policy committee with the Secretary of Agriculture in charge. We will have to wait and see if this is election year posturing, or if the Administration has learned anything from its mishandling of grain exports and palm oil imports.

Part of the reasoning for the Nixon-Butz decision in 1972 to get rid of existing food reserves was that they were too costly too keep.

It is true that the cost of carrying food stocks today is small, and that government costs of farm programs are down sharply.

I doubt, however, that anyone noticed a savings on his tax bill.

But you have noticed what has happened to your food bill. It went up by about 35 percent from 1972 to 1974.

The food bill of American citizens has increased by more than \$57 billion in the last three years. This is the result of turning you over to the tender mercies of the Butz boom and bust market.

That \$57 billion is far more than the \$40 billion it cost the taxpayer in farm stabilization and conservation programs in the last 40 years.

A recent study by Georgetown University shows that in only 11 of the last 50 years did our farmers break even or make a profit. This should end the notion that our farmers have been subsidized by urban America. To the contrary, our farmers have been subsidizing the American consumer for years.

I believe that America has a unique role to play in this hungry world. But to do so we need a balanced food policy.

The time has come to turn away from the failures of the past several years.

How many more times will our producers and consumers have to be burned by volatile markets?

How much longer will we expose our overseas customers to the gnawing uncertainly about us as a supplier?

And how long will we turn our backs on the real and present hunger in the world?

It no longer is good enough for the poor to eat only in the good years.

It no longer is good enough for farmers to prosper only once in a while.

It no longer is good enough to ask our farm families to plant this year's crop when wildly gyrating prices give them no clue as to whether they will recover their investment, let alone make a profit.

It no longer is good enough for our export customers to wonder whether they will be left holding an empty bag if supplies tighten up here.

It no longer is good enough to have to choose between supplying our own people and those beyond our borders.

And it no longer is good enough to say that we can't feed the whole world -- to justify doing less than we are able to do.

I've recited some of the problems with our present policies. Now let me explain what I believe we need in a food policy.

First, it must be based on a commitment to abundance.

Next, it must be comprehensive and coordinated -- an integrated set of policies relating food production, processing, marketing, distribution, exports, trade, consumption and nutrition.

Third, it must seek several specific objectives, including:

- -- A fair return to farmers to sustain high-level production;
- -- Adequate food supplies at reasonably stable prices for consumers and users of farm products;
  - -- Being a reliable supplier on the world export market;
  - -- Supporting feeding programs for the needy here and abroad;
  - -- Improved nutrition, here and abroad; and
- -- Assuring adequate inputs, transportation and credit for agricultural requirements.

A national food policy geared to these objectives is more than just desirable. It is essential. And I am convinced that the American people would support such a policy.

I have been chairing some food policy hearings being conducted by the Technology Assessment Board of the Office of Technology Assessment to identify the components of a comprehensive national food policy.

In the Joint Economic Committee of the Congress, which I chair, we have given attention to the role which agriculture must play in a full-employment, full-production economy.

And in the Foreign Agricultural Policy Subcommitee, which I also chair, we have been examining ways of achieving better coordination of our food policies.

If a lesson can be drawn from the experiences of the past three years, it is that we have a new ball game. New mechanisms for decision-making are needed to respond to the structural changes in agriculture.

In developing a food policy we must balance the needs of consumers and farmers. We do not have to put our livestock, poultry and dairy producers through an extreme of boom and bust, fueled by volatile feed prices.

In fact, we need not an agricultural policy, a consumer policy or a trade policy, but a policy which relates and balances all of these elements.

And we also need to balance short and long term interests. In recent years, our decision-makers sometimes have taken short-term approaches with little regard for the longer term impact.

We must be conscious, too, that agriculture does not function in a world of its own. Efficient food production is highly dependent upon credit resources, energy, transportation, distribution, tax policies and basic research.

What I have said about the need for a balanced, interrelated U.S. policy on food also applies to a world which has entered a new era of food insecurity.

While U.S. grain and soybean stocks have increased sharply in the past year, world production is only slightly above 1974 and three percent less than 1973. The prospect for the world is continuing tight supplies, with possibly a food deficit of 85 million tons in the developing countries by 1985.

There is an new internationalism abroad in the world -- not based upon the old imperatives of diplomacy and security -- but based upon a sense of interdependence in the areas of commodities, technology, production and trade.

We have been slow in recognizing this new direction.

We need to help establish a sound world food reserve. It is not enough just to be for it. We must help implement it and make it work.

As for a national reserve, it really is not that complicated a problem if we will trust farmers to keep the bulk of the stocks on the farm through an extended loan program.

We also need to be hard-boiled about insisting that the reserve be used for strategic and emergency purposes, not manipulated to drive the farmer out of business or to hold down prices.

We're all frustrated about the boom and the bust. But we have to get rid of both at the same time.

In recent weeks, there have been numerous newspaper headlines about using our food as a weapon of foreign policy.

We need to use our food to help build world peace.

The challenge before us is awesome.

The nation which conceived the Marshall Plan, Food for Peace, the Peace Corps, and so many other noble initiatives, is not short on courage or imagination. We need not fail our own people or the hungry world at this crucial moment.

There is a destiny and a role for America. It's your choice now and mine.

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P.V. Ilen 5 million Bellin Kley rec + Us Econo Thate & Inhustance Heam Inspection credit to Buerne Gout as Purchaser IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE WITH THE NORTHWEST IOWA FARM GROUP TONIGHT.

I ENJOY WORKING WITH YOUR TWO DISTINGUISHED SENATORS,

DICK CLARK AND JOHN CULVER, BOTH OF WHOM HAVE PROVIDED

REAL LEADERSHIP IN THE SENATE.

AND BERKELEY BEDELL IS TO BE COMMENDED FOR BRINGING

ALL OF US TOGETHER THIS EVENING. BERKELEY IS A REAL TRIBUTE

TO THE STATE OF IOWA. Duck Clark, John Culver

JUST LAST WEEK I ADDRESSED THE FIRST BIRTHRIGHT DINNER

OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE ASSOCIATION. THE THEME

OF THAT MEETING WAS "ENOUGH TO EAT IS EVERY MAN'S BIRTHRIGHT,"

TAKEN FROM THE 25TH CHAPTER OF GENESIS.

I SAID THEN THAT THE FIRST ESSENTIAL IN-PEOPLE FAVE AN ADEQUATE DIET IS TO ASSURE THAT OUR FOOD PRODUCERS ARE ABLE TO STAY IN BUSINESS. IT IS POINTLESS TO TALK ABOUT FAIR AND EFFECTIVE FOOD DISTRIBUTION, IF WE CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT AN ADEQUATE FOOD SUPPLY IS ON HAND IN THE FIRST PLACE. OUR FARMERS NEED SOME ASSURANCE OF A FAIR PRICE -- AT LEAST A CHANCE TO MAKE A PROFIT -- IF THESE HUMANITARIAN GOALS ARE TO BE ACHIEVED. THIS NATION ALWAYS HAS BEEN RESPONSIVE TO THOSE IN NEED BUT IN THE PROCESS, WE OFTEN HAVE TAKEN THE PRODUCER FOR GRANTED.

IN THE YEARS AHEAD WE WILL FACE NOT ONLY THE URGENT PROBLEM

OF FEEDING THE NEEDY, BUT ALSO THE GROWING OVERALL STRUGGLE BETWEEN

AN EVER INCREASING POPULATION AND LIMITED WORLD FOOD SUPPLIES.

THE EARTH'S POPULATION TODAY OF ABOUT FOUR BILLION PEOPLE WILL NEARLY DOUBLE BY THE END OF THE CENTURY. TO REALIZE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS, WE SHOULD NOTE THAT THE EARTH'S POPULATION CROSSED THE ONE BILLION MARK EARLY IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND WAS ONLY 1.6 BILLION IN 1900, SINCE WE ARE THE WORLD'S CHIEF SUPPLIER OF GRAINS AND SOYBEANS, THE POLICIES WE FOLLOW WILL BE THE GREAT PLANETARY SUSPENSE STORY OF THE CENTURY.

WE ARE NOT CONSTRAINED BY A LACK OF PHYSICAL CAPACITY

TO PRODUCE ENOUGH FOOD. WE HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY, THE RESOURCES

AND THE ABILITY.

WHAT WE LACK IS THE WILL TO BANISH HUNGER -- AND THE PLAN
TO GET IT DONE.

THERE IS NO UNITED STATES FOOD POLICY. AND WE HAVE ONLY THE BEGINNINGS OF A WORLD FOOD POLICY. OUR FARMERS WERE ASKED THIS YEAR TO PLANT FENCE TO FENCE, AND THEY WERE PROMISED ACCESS TO WORLD MARKETS BUT BEFORE THE HARVEST WAS COMPLETED, THE GOVERNMENT AGAIN PLACED CONTROLS THAT IT CALLS "VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS" ON EXPORT SALES. / THE CONSUMER ALSO HAS SUFFERED SINCE 1972 FROM PRICE CHANGES AND FLUCTUATIONS IN SUPPLY YOU MAY RECALL THAT IT WAS IN 1972 THAT THE ADMINISTRATION ALLOWED OUR FOOD RESERVE TO DWINDLE FROM A SUPPLY OF SEVERAL MONTHS TO LESS THAN A MONTH -Termins distribenifit
[IT IS BEING SAID TODAY THAT FOOD POLICY IS TOO IMPORTANT

TO BE LEFT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE: I DISAGREE.

THE BASIC RESPONSIBILITY AND INITIATIVE SHOULD REST IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RATHER THAN ANOTHER DEPARTMENT OR

THE WHITE House where they don't know the difference between

A CORN-COB AND A COMBINE.

FOOD POLICY IS TOO IMPORTANT TO BE LEFT TO CHANCE BUT IT

ALSO IS TOO IMPORTANT TO BE LEFT TO A SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

WHO REFUSES TO FACE A CHANGED WORLD BUT STILL WANTS TO STAY IN OFFICE.

THE ADMINISTRATION RECENTLY ESTABLISHED AN AGRICULTURAL POLICY COMMITTEE WITH THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE IN CHARGE.

WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE IF THIS IS ELECTION YEAR POSTURING

OR IF THE ADMINISTRATION HAS LEARNED ANYTHING FROM ITS MISHANDLING

OF GRAIN EXPORTS AND PALM OIL IMPORTS.

PART OF THE REASONING FOR THE NIXON-BUTZ DECISION IN 1972

TO GET RID OF EXISTING FOOD RESERVES WAS THAT THEY WERE TOO

COSTLY TOO KEEP.

IT IS TRUE THAT THE COST OF CARRYING FOOD STOCKS TODAY IS

SMALL, AND THAT GOVERNMENT COSTS OF FARM PROGRAMS ARE DOWN SHARPLY.

I DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT ANYONE NOTICED A SAVING ON HIS TAX BILL.

BUT YOU HAVE NOTICED WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOUR FOOD BILL.

IT WENT UP BY ABOUT 35 PERCENT FROM 1972 TO 1974.

THE FOOD BILL OF AMERICAN CITIZENS HAS INCREASED BY MORE THAN \$57 BILLION IN THE LAST THREE YEARS. THIS IS THE RESULT OF TURNING YOU OVER TO THE TENDER MERCIES OF THE BUTZ BOOM AND BUST MARKET.

THAT \$57 BILLION IS FAR MORE THAN THE \$40 BILLION IT COST

THE TAXPAYER IN FARM STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS IN

THE LAST 40 YEARS.

A RECENT STUDY BY GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY SHOWS THAT IN ONLY

11 OF THE LAST 50 YEARS DID OUR FARMERS BREAK EVEN OR MAKE A

PROFIT. THIS SHOULD END THE NOTION THAT OUR FARMERS HAVE BEEN

SUBSIDIZED BY URBAN AMERICA. TO THE CONTRARY, OUR FARMERS HAVE

BEEN SUBSIDIZING THE AMERICAN CONSUMER FOR YEARS.

I BELIEVE THAT AMERICA HAS A UNIQUE ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS

HUNGRY WORLD. BUT TO DO SO WE NEED A BALANCED FOOD POLICY.

THE TIME HAS COME TO TURN AWAY FROM THE FAILURES OF THE

PAST SEVERAL YEARS

How many more times will our producers and consumers have to be burned by volatile markets?

How much longer will we expose our overseas customers to the gnawing uncertainly about us as a supplier?

AND HOW LONG WILL WE TURN OUR BACKS ON THE REAL AND PRESENT HUNGER IN THE WORLD?

IT NO LONGER IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE POOR TO EAT ONLY IN THE GOOD YEARS.

IT NO LONGER IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR FARMERS TO PROSPER ONLY
ONCE IN A WHILE.

IT NO LONGER IS GOOD ENOUGH TO ASK OUR FARM FAMILIES TO PLANT THIS YEAR'S CROP WHEN WILDLY GYRATING PRICES GIVE THEM NO CLUE AS TO WHETHER THEY WILL RECOVER THEIR INVESTMENT,

LET ALONE MAKE A PROFIT.

IT NO LONGER IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR OUR EXPORT CUSTOMERS TO WONDER WHETHER THEY WILL BE LEFT HOLDING AN EMPTY BAG IF SUPPLIES TIGHTEN UP HERE.

IT NO LONGER IS GOOD ENOUGH TO HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN SUPPLYING OUR OWN PEOPLE AND THOSE BEYOND OUR BORDERS.

AND IT NO LONGER IS GOOD ENOUGH TO SAY THAT WE CAN'T FEED

THE WHOLE WORLD -- TO JUSTIFY DOING LESS THAN WE ARE ABLE TO DO.

I'VE RECITED SOME OF THE PROBLEMS WITH OUR PRESENT POLICIES.

Now LET ME EXPLAIN WHAT I BELIEVE WE NEED IN A FOOD POLICY.

FIRST, IT MUST BE BASED ON A COMMITMENT TO ABUNDANCE.

NEXT, IT MUST BE COMPREHENSIVE AND COORDINATED -- AN

INTEGRATED SET OF POLICIES RELATING FOOD PRODUCTION, PROCESSING,

MARKETING, DISTRIBUTION, EXPORTS, TRADE, CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION.

THIRD, IT MUST SEEK SEVERAL SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, INCLUDING: FAIR RETURN TO FARMERS TO SUSTAIN HIGH-LEVEL PRODUCTION; -- ADEQUATE FOOD SUPPLIES AT REASONABLY STABLE PRICES FOR CONSUMERS AND USERS OF FARM PRODUCTS; \_\_\_ BEING A RELIABLE SUPPLIER ON THE WORLD EXPORT MARKET; -- Supporting feeding programs for the needy here and abroad; -- IMPROVED NUTRITION, HERE AND ABROAD; AND -- Assuring adequate inputs, transportation and credit for litural requirements. (Credit) 7ed Revues AGRICULTURAL REQUIREMENTS. A NATIONAL FOOD POLICY GEARED TO THESE OBJECTIVES IS MORE THAN JUST DESIRABLE IT IS ESSENTIAL. AND I AM CONVINCED THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A POLICY.



I HAVE BEEN CHAIRING SOME FOOD POLICY HEARINGS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT BOARD OF THE OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT TO IDENTIFY THE COMPONENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL FOOD POLICY.

IN THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE OF THE CONGRESS, WHICH

I CHAIR, WE HAVE GIVEN ATTENTION TO THE ROLE WHICH AGRICULTURE

MUST PLAY IN A FULL-EMPLOYMENT, FULL-PRODUCTION ECONOMY.

AND IN THE FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL POLICY SUBCOMMITEE, WHICH

I ALSO CHAIR, WE HAVE BEEN EXAMINING WAYS OF ACHIEVING BETTER

COORDINATION OF OUR FOOD POLICIES.

IF A LESSON CAN BE DRAWN FROM THE EXPERIENCES OF THE PAST THREE
YEARS, IT IS THAT WE HAVE A NEW BALL GAME. New MECHANISMS FOR
DECISION-MAKING ARE NEEDED TO RESPOND TO THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES

IN AGRICULTURE.

IN DEVELOPING A FOOD POLICY WE MUST BALANCE THE NEEDS OF CONSUMERS AND FARMERS. WE DO NOT HAVE TO PUT OUR LIVESTOCK,

POULTRY AND DAIRY PRODUCERS THROUGH AN EXTREME OF BOOM AND BUST,

FUELED BY VOLATILE FEED PRICES.

IN FACT, WE NEED NOT AN AGRICULTURAL POLICY, A CONSUMER

POLICY OR A TRADE POLICY, BUT A POLICY WHICH RELATES AND BALANCES

ALL OF THESE ELEMENTS.

AND WE ALSO NEED TO BALANCE SHORT AND LONG TERM INTERESTS.

IN RECENT YEARS, OUR DECISION-MAKERS SOMETIMES HAVE TAKEN SHORT-TERM

APPROACHES WITH LITTLE REGARD FOR THE LONGER TERM IMPACT.

WE MUST BE CONSCIOUS, TOO, THAT AGRICULTURE DOES NOT FUNCTION

IN A WORLD OF ITS OWN. EFFICIENT FOOD PRODUCTION IS HIGHLY DEPENDENT

UPON CREDIT RESOURCES, ENERGY, TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION, TAX

POLICIES AND BASIC RESEARCH.

WHAT I HAVE SAID ABOUT THE NEED FOR A BALANCED, INTERRELATED

U.S. POLICY ON FOOD ALSO APPLIES TO A WORLD WHICH HAS ENTERED

A NEW ERA OF FOOD INSECURITY.

WHILE U.S. GRAIN AND SOYBEAN STOCKS HAVE INCREASED SHARPLY IN THE PAST YEAR, WORLD PRODUCTION IS ONLY SLIGHTLY ABOVE 1974 AND THREE PERCENT LESS THAN 1973 / THE PROSPECT FOR THE WORLD IS CONTINUING TIGHT SUPPLIES, WITH POSSIBLY A FOOD DEFICIT OF 85 MILLION TONS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BY 1985. THERE IS AN NEW INTERNATIONALISM ABROAD IN THE WORLD -- NOT BASED UPON THE OLD IMPERATIVES OF DIPLOMACY AND SECURITY -- BUT BASED UPON A SENSE OF INTERDEPENDENCE IN THE AREAS OF COMMODITIES, TECHNOLOGY, PRODUCTION AND TRADE.

WE HAVE BEEN SLOW IN RECOGNIZING THIS NEW DIRECTION.

WE NEED TO HELP ESTABLISH A SOUND WORLD FOOD RESERVE. IT

IS NOT ENOUGH JUST TO BE FOR IT. WE MUST HELP IMPLEMENT IT

AND MAKE IT WORK.

As FOR A NATIONAL RESERVE, IT REALLY IS NOT THAT COMPLICATED

A PROBLEM IF WE WILL TRUST FARMERS TO KEEP THE BULK OF THE

STOCKS ON THE FARM THROUGH AN EXTENDED LOAN PROGRAM.

WE ALSO NEED TO BE HARD-BOILED ABOUT INSISTING THAT THE

RESERVE BE USED FOR STRATEGIC AND EMERGENCY PURPOSES NOT

MANIPULATED TO DRIVE THE FARMER OUT OF BUSINESS OR TO HOLD

DOWN PRICES.

WE'RE ALL FRUSTRATED ABOUT THE BOOM AND THE BUST. BUT WE

HAVE TO GET RID OF BOTH AT THE SAME TIME.

IN RECENT WEEKS, THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS NEWSPAPER HEADLINES

ABOUT USING OUR FOOD AS A WEAPON OF FOREIGN POLICY.

## Food + natural Security

WE NEED TO USE OUR FOOD TO HELP BUILD WORLD PEACE.

THE CHALLENGE BEFORE US IS AWESOME.

THE NATION WHICH CONCEIVED THE MARSHALL PLAN, FOOD FOR

PEACE, THE PEACE CORPS, AND SO MANY OTHER NOBLE INITIATIVES,

IS NOT SHORT ON COURAGE OR IMAGINATION. WE NEED NOT FAIL OUR

OWN PEOPLE OR THE HUNGRY WORLD AT THIS CRUCIAL MOMENT.

THERE IS A DESTINY AND A ROLE FOR AMERICA. It's YOUR CHOICE NOW AND MINE.

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