

STATEMENT OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

BEFORE THE

SENATE TEMPORARY SELECT COMMITTEE

TO STUDY THE SENATE COMMITTEE SYSTEM

235 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D.C.

SEPTEMBER 14, 1976

MR. CHAIRMAN, I APPRECIATE HAVING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO  
DISCUSS MY VIEWS ON NEEDED REFORMS IN THE OPERATION OF THE  
SENATE, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO THE FUNCTIONING OF THE  
COMMITTEE SYSTEM,

REFORM SHOULD NOT BE MERELY A TECHNICAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE  
EXERCISE, NOR SHOULD IT BE DESIGNED TO OBTAIN OPERATIONAL  
EFFICIENCY FOR ITS OWN SAKE. RATHER, I SEE THESE IMPORTANT  
NEW DIRECTIONS IN HOW THE SENATE SHALL ACCOMPLISH ITS WORK  
AS BEING ESSENTIAL TO RESTORING THE FULL FAITH AND CREDIT  
OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF OUR GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF THE  
AMERICAN PEOPLE,

OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE CRITICAL  
NEED TO RESTORE THE TRUST OF OUR CITIZENS IN THEIR GOVERNMENT --

A NEED WHICH HAS YET TO BE MET IN THE AFTERMATH OF "WATERGATE" WITH ITS PROFOUND AND PERVASIVE NEGATIVE IMPACT UPON PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS.

THE JOB OF RESTORING PUBLIC TRUST MUST BEGIN, OF COURSE, AT THE DOORSTEP OF EACH MEMBER OF CONGRESS. IT IS INCUMBENT UPON EVERY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE TO SET HIS OR HER OWN HOUSE IN ORDER -- TO ASSURE THAT FIRM STANDARDS OF HONESTY AND INTEGRITY ARE SCRUPULOUSLY ADHERED TO; TO DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO HARD WORK ON BEHALF OF THE ELECTORATE; AND TO FOLLOW A CONSTANT POLICY OF CANDOR AND OPENNESS TOWARD THE PEOPLE.

BUT IT ALSO IS ESSENTIAL THAT EVERY POSSIBLE ACTION BE TAKEN TO ASSURE THAT CONGRESS CAN DO ITS JOB EFFECTIVELY --

THAT IT CAN PRODUCE RESULTS WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME; THAT IT  
CAN ESTABLISH A LEGISLATIVE RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT, ADDRESSED  
TO THE URGENT PROBLEMS OF OUR NATION, IN WHICH IT CAN TAKE  
JUSTIFIABLE PRIDE.

WE ARE TOLD ALL TOO OFTEN THAT THE ONLY IMPRESSION OUR  
PEOPLE HAVE OF CONGRESS IS THAT IT APPEARS TO HAVE MASTERED  
THE ART OF CONFUSION AND DELAY.

THEY SEE ENDLESS DEBATES AND PROCEDURAL GAMESMANSHIP  
ON THE SENATE FLOOR, WITH FORTHRIGHT RESOLUTION OF AN ISSUE  
BY RECORD VOTE COMING ALL TOO RARELY OR VERY LATE.

THEY WAIT FOR CONGRESS TO FULFIL ITS PROMISES OF ENACTING:

-- FULL SCALE TAX REFORM;

-- A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION  
OF OUR ENERGY RESOURCES;

-- POLICIES TO ASSURE ABUNDANT FOOD RESOURCES AT REASONABLE  
PRICES;

-- A NATIONAL PROGRAM OF HEALTH CARE INSURANCE PROTECTION;

-- STRONG ACTIONS TO PROTECT THE CITIZEN AS CONSUMER;

-- MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN CITIZEN SAFETY AGAINST VIOLENT  
CRIME AND TO ACHIEVE NEEDED REFORMS IN THE SYSTEM OF CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE;

-- AND A COMPREHENSIVE AND VIGOROUS PROGRAM TO REPLACE THE  
NIGHTMARE OF RECESSIONS, HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, AND INFLATION, WITH  
FULL EMPLOYMENT AND BALANCED ECONOMIC GROWTH,

DESPITE THIS LIST OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS, CONGRESS HAS COMPILED AN EXCELLENT RECORD OF LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT ON MANY NATIONAL ISSUES. THIS RECORD IS ALL THE MORE SIGNIFICANT IN LIGHT OF EIGHT YEARS OF ADMINISTRATION OPPOSITION TO SO MANY CONGRESSIONAL INITIATIVES AND 98 VETOES BY PRESIDENTS NIXON AND FORD OF BILLS ENACTED BY CONGRESS.

THE FIRST PRIORITY OF THE PRESIDENT, UPON HIS INAUGURATION NEXT JANUARY, MUST BE TO END THIS ERA OF CONFRONTATION AND TO EXERCISE GENUINE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP THROUGH ESTABLISHING AN ON-GOING COOPERATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH CONGRESS.

BUT CONGRESS ITSELF MUST INITIATE REFORMS IF IT INTENDS TO DEAL RESPONSIBLY AND EFFECTIVELY AS A COORDINATE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT WITH THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

SINCE RETURNING TO THE SENATE IN 1971, I HAVE WORKED IN SUPPORT OF INNOVATIVE AND LONG-OVERDUE ACTIONS TO HELP BRING THE OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE INTO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. I HAVE VIEWED THIS EFFORT AS A MATTER OF HIGH IMPORTANCE, BASED ON MY EARLIER EXPERIENCES DURING 16 YEARS AS A SENATOR, INCLUDING 4 YEARS AS MAJORITY WHIP, AND ANOTHER 4 YEARS AS VICE PRESIDENT, IN ATTEMPTING TO ACHIEVE VITALLY NEEDED PROCEDURAL CHANGES IN THE SENATE.

IN THE 92D CONGRESS I WAS PRIVILEGED TO SERVE ON AN AD HOC COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE SENATE DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON REFORMS IN THE SO-CALLED "SENIORITY SYSTEM" AS IT AFFECTS THE APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES IN HOUSE-AND SENATE-PASSED BILLS, AND ON PRINCIPLES WHICH SHOULD APPLY TO THE DETERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS IN THE DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE.

COUPLED WITH REFORMS IN DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE PROCEDURES FOR APPROVING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND APPOINTMENTS, THE EVENTUAL CHANGES IN THE PROCESS OF APPOINTING CONFEREES WILL BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN CARRYING FORWARD THE APPLICATION OF DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES IN THE OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE ITSELF.

ALSO, IN THE 92D CONGRESS, I WORKED CLOSELY WITH SENATORS DETERMINED TO CHANGE SENATE RULE XXII, WHEREBY THE HISTORIC SENATE PRINCIPLE OF FULL AND FREE DEBATE NO LONGER WOULD BE SHACKLED BY EXTENDED FILIBUSTERS, AND THE SENATE WOULD BE ENABLED TO WORK ITS WILL ON PENDING LEGISLATION. FINALLY, IN 1975, WE WERE ABLE TO PASS A LONG-OVERDUE MODIFICATION OF THIS RULE.



MOREOVER, I INTRODUCED ONE OF THE FIRST BILLS TO ESTABLISH A JOINT COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, RECOGNIZING THE URGENT NEED TO IMPROVE SUBSTANTIALLY THE CAPABILITY OF CONGRESS TO MAINTAIN OVERSIGHT ON A COMPREHENSIVE BASIS OVER NATIONAL DEFENSE CAPABILITIES AND FEDERAL INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES. HAVING SERVED ON THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AS VICE PRESIDENT, I HAVE BEEN INTIMATELY AWARE OF THE COMPLEX AND PROFOUND ISSUES INVOLVED IN ASSURING THE ADEQUATE PROTECTION OF OUR NATION'S VITAL INTERESTS AND THE FULFILLMENT OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE WORLD'S LEADING DEMOCRACY. I AM GRATIFIED THAT STEPS HAVE NOW BEEN TAKEN TOWARD ACHIEVING NECESSARY OVERSIGHT IN COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS OF OUR FEDERAL INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

THE CURRENT DELIBERATIONS BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE SENATE COMMITTEE SYSTEM CONTINUE AN IMPORTANT MOVEMENT IN CONGRESS IN RECENT YEARS TOWARD RESTORING THE "CHECKS AND BALANCES" BUILT INTO OUR SYSTEM OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT BY THE CONSTITUTION:


-- THE LEGISLATIVE REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1970 CREATED VARIOUS MECHANISMS TO MAKE THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS MORE EFFICIENT AND TO BETTER INFORM THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS OF IMPORTANT LEGISLATION, BUDGET INFORMATION AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS;

-- THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION REITERATED THE CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY OF CONGRESS TO DECLARE WAR;

-- THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET AND IMPOUNDMENT CONTROL ACT PROVIDES A MECHANISM TO ALLOW CONGRESS TO EXAMINE CLOSELY AND SET FIRM LEVELS ON SPENDING PRIORITIES AND TO COORDINATE SPENDING WITH INCOMING REVENUES; AND

-- BILLS AND RULES CHANGES, POPULARLY KNOWN AS "SUNSHINE" LEGISLATION, HAVE OPENED VIRTUALLY ALL COMMITTEE WORK TO PUBLIC SCRUTINY.

BUT FURTHER CHANGES ARE NEEDED AND SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. A 20TH CENTURY CONGRESS CANNOT BE CONTENT WITH EMPLOYING 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY TECHNIQUES.

 A MAJOR BARRIER TO BE OVERCOME, AND TO WHICH THIS SELECT COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE ADDRESSED, IS THE FRAGMENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE SYSTEM OF CONGRESS.

DURING THE 93RD CONGRESS, OVER 1800 BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS DEALING WITH FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND NUTRITION WERE INTRODUCED.

YET LESS THAN HALF OF THESE BILLS WERE REFERRED TO EITHER THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY OR THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.



WE KNOW THAT A SIMILAR STUMBLING BLOCK TO EXPEDITING  
ACTION -- THE ABSENCE OF CLEARLY DEFINED COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE  
OVERSIGHT AUTHORITIES -- AFFECTED NUMEROUS BILLS DEALING WITH  
THE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT ISSUE OF DEVELOPING AND CONSERVING  
OUR ENERGY RESOURCES, AND THE SAME NEGATIVE REPORT CAN BE MADE  
ON COMMITTEE PROCESSING PROCEDURES FOR LEGISLATION ON SUCH  
IMPORTANT NATIONAL ISSUES AS MONETARY POLICY AND HEALTH CARE  
SERVICES.

ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ARE FORCED TO SIT BEFORE NUMEROUS  
COMMITTEES TO EXPLAIN THEIR POLICIES AGAIN AND AGAIN ON THE SAME  
GENERAL SUBJECT AREAS. AND, IN GENERAL, IT IS ALL TOO FREQUENTLY  
VERY DIFFICULT TO GET THE LEGISLATIVE JOB DONE BECAUSE OF THE  
NECESSITY OF TRAVELLING THROUGH THE MAZE OF COMMITTEES CLAIMING

OVERSIGHT JURISDICTION OVER IDENTICAL SUBJECT AREAS OR  
CONSTITUENT PARTS OF THE SUBJECT OR RELATED MATTERS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, AND I SUSPECT WITH AN EQUAL FREQUENCY, AN  
ISSUE IS NOT ADDRESSED IN A NECESSARILY COMPREHENSIVE AND  
EFFECTIVE MANNER PRECISELY BECAUSE CONSTITUENT PARTS OF THE  
ISSUE ARE DIVIDED UP AMONG SEVERAL COMMITTEES.

THEREFORE, AS <sup>G. C. C. C.</sup> ~~AN~~ ~~AUTHOR~~ OF ORIGINAL LEGISLATION IN THE  
93RD CONGRESS WHICH HELPED ACHIEVE THE CREATION OF THE SELECT  
COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE SENATE COMMITTEE SYSTEM, I CONTINUE TO  
REGARD THE WORK OF THIS COMMITTEE AS BEING OF VITAL IMPORTANCE  
IN IMPROVING SENATE OPERATIONS.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE'S SECOND STAFF REPORT, PRESENTING FOR  
CONSIDERATION THREE STARTING POINTS FOR ORGANIZING THE SENATE  
COMMITTEE SYSTEM, CLEARLY RECOGNIZES THE NEED TO DEVELOP  
COMMITTEE JURISDICTION REFORMS ALONG FUNCTIONAL LINES.

AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, I WOULD URGE THAT FINAL  
RECOMMENDATIONS BY THIS COMMITTEE TO THE SENATE ALSO TAKE  
ACCOUNT OF THE SERIOUS NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS AND  
PLANNING TO ASSIST LEGISLATIVE POLICY-MAKING. ONE MECHANISM  
TO ACHIEVE THIS MIGHT BE THROUGH JOINT COMMITTEES FOR STUDY  
AND REVIEW OF BROAD ISSUE AREAS AND FOR PROPOSING NATIONAL GOALS.

THIS VITALLY IMPORTANT FUNCTION IS PERFORMED BY THE JOINT  
ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, ON WHICH I SERVE AS CHAIRMAN, AND WHICH DEALS  
WITH THE WHOLE SPECTRUM OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY.

IN THIS REGARD, I AM SUBMITTING TODAY A SEPARATE STATEMENT TO THIS COMMITTEE, WHICH NOTES THAT UNDER PRESENT COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION PROPOSALS THERE IS NO PROSPECTIVE COMMITTEE THAT COULD PERFORM THE FUNCTIONS THAT THE J.E.C. NOW PERFORMS. THE STATEMENT ALSO EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP OF THE J.E.C. TO THE HOUSE AND SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEES.

ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS I HAVE STATED MY CONCERN THAT A KEY PROBLEM CONFRONTING OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS THE FAILURE TO PLAN, FAILURE TO ANALYZE PROBLEMS PROPERLY, FAILURE TO LOOK AHEAD, FAILURE TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE MAJOR IMPACTS OF PROPOSED PROGRAMS OR ENACTED FEDERAL POLICIES.

ONE PART OF THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED IN THE INTRODUCTION OF BILLS -- POPULARLY TERMED "SUNSET LEGISLATION" --

WHICH WOULD REQUIRE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE CONGRESS TO  
CONDUCT ZERO-BASED BUDGET REVIEWS AND EVALUATIONS OF GOVERNMENT  
PROGRAMS, AND ON THE BASIS OF THOSE STUDIES TO RE-AUTHORIZE OR  
TERMINATE PROGRAMS ON A REGULAR BASIS.

BUT IT ALSO IS RECOGNIZED THAT THIS PROCESS OF FEDERAL  
PROGRAM EVALUATION IN RELATION TO STATED OBJECTIVES IN INITIAL  
AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION, IS ONLY PART OF THE ANSWER.

OUR BASIC PROBLEM IN BOTH THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE  
BRANCHES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS THAT WE ARE INSTITUTIONALLY  
AND STRUCTURALLY UNABLE TO RESPOND TO RESEARCH FINDINGS AND  
TO MAKE POLICY DECISIONS THAT CUT HORIZONTALLY ACROSS THE VERTICAL  
BUREAUCRATIC BOUNDARIES THAT SEPARATE INDIVIDUAL FEDERAL AGENCIES,  
AND ACROSS CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE JURISDICTIONS.



AND, WE ARE NOT ABLE TO TAKE A SUFFICIENTLY LONG-TERM VIEW OF  
THE IMPACTS OF OUR CURRENT DECISIONS.

LET ME CITE ONLY ONE EXAMPLE WITH WHICH THE JOINT ECONOMIC  
COMMITTEE HAS BEEN DEALING IN DEPTH FOR MANY MONTHS: INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMICS.

IT IS EVIDENT TO ANYONE WHO READS THE NEWSPAPERS THAT THE  
AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY INTEGRATED  
INTO THE WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM. BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT WE  
DO NOT ADEQUATELY ANALYZE THE MANY WAYS IN WHICH OUR NATIONAL  
ECONOMY IS LINKED TO THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY AND HOW FOREIGN  
POLICY CONSIDERATIONS ARE MAJOR POLICY VARIABLES IN OUR DOMESTIC  
AFFAIRS.

AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE OFFERED MAJOR LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS  
AIMED AT IMPROVING THE PROCESS THROUGH WHICH OUR GOVERNMENT  
FORMULATES AND CARRIES OUT NATIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT  
POLICY -- TO FOCUS ON LONG-RANGE POLICY AND PROGRAM QUESTIONS  
AND TO ESTIMATE LONG-RANGE IMPACTS OF CURRENT DECISIONS. I  
STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THIS CAPABILITY MUST BE BUILT INTO THE  
REFORMS RECOMMENDED IN THE SENATE COMMITTEE SYSTEM.

TURNING TO ANOTHER SUBJECT OF CONCERN, I AM GRATIFIED THAT  
THIS COMMITTEE HAS INCLUDED ON ITS RESEARCH AGENDA THE PROBLEM  
OF THE SCHEDULING OF SENATE SESSIONS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

[ I WAS PRIVILEGED TO PARTICIPATE LAST MAY WITH A GROUP OF SENATORS  
IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SENATE LEADERSHIP  
TO AVOID CONFLICTS BETWEEN SENATE FLOOR ACTION AND COMMITTEE  
MEETINGS.

IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT THIS IS ONLY A FIRST STEP. WE MUST  
STUDY AND ACT WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY ON REFINED PROPOSALS FOR  
THE COMPREHENSIVE COORDINATION OF THE SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS  
OF THE SENATE COMMITTEES.

AGAIN AND AGAIN, I CONFRONT A DAILY SCHEDULE WHICH CALLS  
UPON ME SIMULTANEOUSLY TO BE PRESENT AT MEETINGS OF AT LEAST TWO  
MAJOR SENATE COMMITTEES, NOT TO MENTION HEARINGS BY SEVERAL  
SUBCOMMITTEES, AT THE SAME TIME THAT IMPORTANT BUSINESS IS  
BEING TRANSACTED ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE.

IT SIMPLY IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY SENATOR CONSCIENTIOUSLY TO  
ATTEND TO ALL HIS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER OUR PRESENT SCHEDULING  
PROCEDURES.

AND I AM IN BASIC AGREEMENT WITH THE FURTHER CRITICISM,

EXPRESSED IN THE STAFF REPORT TO THIS COMMITTEE, THAT THE

PROLIFERATION OF SENATORS' COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS --

FROM AN AVERAGE OF FOUR PER SENATOR IN 1946 TO AN AVERAGE OF

18 PER SENATOR IN 1976 -- IS OUT OF CONTROL AND VIOLATES THE

PRINCIPLES OF THE LEGISLATIVE REORGANIZATION ACT.

BUT THERE ARE FURTHER REFORMS THAT CAN AND MUST BE MADE IN THE  
OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE AND ITS COMMITTEES. SEVERAL OF MY  
RECOMMENDATIONS TO MAKE CONGRESS A VIABLE, RESPONSIVE, OPEN,  
EFFECTIVE, AND COEQUAL BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT ARE INCORPORATED IN  
THE MODERN CONGRESS ACT, S. 563, WHICH I INTRODUCED EARLY IN THE  
94TH CONGRESS.

SEVERAL OF THESE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN ADOPTED IN OTHER  
LEGISLATION OR ARE BEING ADMINISTRATIVELY IMPLEMENTED -- SUCH  
AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL LEGAL  
COUNSEL; THE CREATION OF LEGISLATIVE REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEES IN EACH  
STANDING COMMITTEE TO INSURE THAT LAWS AND PROGRAMS, ONCE ADOPTED  
BY CONGRESS, ARE CARRIED OUT AS INTENDED OR ARE TERMINATED OR MODIFIED  
WHERE NECESSARY; AND, IN GENERAL, OPENING ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
TO PUBLIC SCRUTINY.

I ALSO HAVE PROPOSED THAT CONGRESS, AS THE PRESIDENT DOES,  
ISSUE AN ANNUAL STATE OF THE CONGRESS REPORT, REVIEWING THE  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS, INITIATIVES, AND SHORTCOMINGS OF THE SESSION  
JUST COMPLETED.

THE REPORT WOULD TAKE THE FORM OF SPEECHES BY DESIGNATED MEMBERS OF THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY PARTIES, TO BE PRESENTED WITHIN THE FIRST 10 DAYS OF EACH SESSION OF CONGRESS. IN ESTABLISHING THIS TRADITION, WE CAN ACHIEVE GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE OPERATION OF CONGRESS AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF NATIONAL ISSUES AS THEY ARE CONFRONTED IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

IN ADDITION, I HAVE PROPOSED THE CREATION OF A FEDERAL-STATE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO NURTURE A COOPERATIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATORS. THE COUNCIL WOULD BE COMPOSED OF SIX SENATORS, SIX REPRESENTATIVES, AND 12 STATE LEGISLATORS WHO WOULD EXPLORE, RESEARCH, AND RECOMMEND SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL CONCERN.

I BELIEVE WE ALSO SHOULD ESTABLISH AN OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL  
COMMUNICATIONS TO ASSIST MEMBERS IN COMMUNICATING MORE EFFICIENTLY  
AND EFFECTIVELY WITH EACH OTHER AND TO KEEP TRACK OF COMMITTEE  
AND FLOOR PROCEEDINGS, AS WELL AS CURRENT NATIONAL NEWS  
DEVELOPMENTS. I ALSO FULLY SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR RADIO  
AND TELEVISION COVERAGE OF FLOOR PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE.

FINALLY, I BELIEVE CONGRESS MUST CONTINUE TO KEEP ABREAST OF  
ADVANCES IN COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND ITS APPLICATION TO MEETING  
CONGRESSIONAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS. IN THE COMPLEX AND  
RAPIDLY EVOLVING CHANGES OF THE MODERN WORLD, THE CAPABILITY TO  
UTILIZE RELEVANT FACTUAL AND INTERPRETIVE INFORMATION IS ESSENTIAL  
IF CONGRESS IS TO CREATE INTELLIGENT POLICY AND EFFECTIVELY OVERSEE  
EXECUTIVE BRANCH ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAMS ENACTED BY CONGRESS.

AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF CONGRESS' OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY  
ASSESSMENT, I HAVE DEVOTED A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF TIME AND  
EFFORT TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE INFORMATION SYSTEM  
WHICH CAN ASSIST CONGRESS IN MAKING INTELLIGENT LEGISLATIVE POLICY  
DECISIONS ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND NUTRITION.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I STRONGLY URGE THAT THE SENATE BE ENABLED TO  
REALIZE ITS FULL POTENTIAL IN EFFECTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE  
LEGISLATIVE POLICY-MAKING. WE MUST BRING ABOUT THE OPERATIONAL  
CHANGES WHICH ARE RECOGNIZED AS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO ADDRESS  
THE DEMANDS OF THE FUTURE WHICH ALREADY ARE UPON US.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO GIVE FULL RESPECT TO THE TRADITIONS  
OF THE SENATE WHICH HAVE SERVED CONSTRUCTIVE PURPOSES.



BUT THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE SENATE TO ADDRESS THE REQUIREMENTS  
OF ORGANIZATIONAL REFORM TO EXPEDITE RESPONSIBLE LEGISLATIVE  
ACTION ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

# # # #



# 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)