

United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

2/16/77

TO: Senator
FROM: Betty

Betty
for your files

This is the Ridder interview on futuristic goals, etc.

Her story has not yet been printed, so we shd. not make use of material prior to that time -- in any public way..... (unless it is modified).

I'll pass on her story to you as soon as it is available.

Ms. Ridder: What legislation is before the Senate of the United States, or being considered in committee, or what ideas that you know of are floating around the Senate of the United States, that are geared to 50 years hence or 100 year^s₁ hence, the year 2000, or the tricentennial?

Senator Humphrey: Oh my God! You take me far in advance of my capacity to even cogitate, much less prognosticate.

Ms. Ridder: Not really. Certainly the energy⁹₁ bill.

Senator Humphrey: Let me just give you one little example of what we were talking about this morning. For example, what is needed for the future are some base lines on our economy. We haven't had an in depth study of the American economy, its structure, its function, its management, its labor force, its ownership since 1930. The 1930s in what was known as the T.N.E.C. The Temporary National Economic Committee, or the T.N.E.C. That report resulted in some very fantastic publications afterwards such as, The Modern Corporation by Gardner and Means, and studies that were made ~~by~~ ^{by} eminent economists like Alvin Hanson. [It really, in a sense, revolution~~ized~~ized the interpretation and the understanding of the American economic structure. Nothing like that has been done since. [We are going to do that again. We're contemplating that. We have a meeting today in the Joint Economic Committee. It will take several years to do it. It will provide new statistical data that will be helpful to us for the next 20 years, let us say. [I'm not talking about the next 100 years because things change too rapidly. Today, our biggest problem, on discussing economics, is the data is out of date. [The building blocks that we need to understand the economy are no longer, well, they're disjointed, they don't fit anymore. That's one thing. One thing that we're going to have to do. We're^{going}₁ to have to improve our statistics, and our statistical analysis greatly. [This means a much more intensive use of the modern technology of the computer. It's scattered today, there really isn't

any synchronized use of the computer. Each department of government has its little computer inputs, and its outflows. It never comes to what I call synthesis, we don't really get the relationship between demographic patterns and economic patterns. Demographic economic patterns, and social structure. Life changes and lifestyle, and economic demand.

Ms. Ridder: Can a computer do that?

Senator Humphrey: Yes, absolutely. All of this can be done, computerized. The computer is the most intensive and, basically, the most intelligent machine that's ever been produced. It's just a matter of its proper use. Now, that's one thing.

Secondly, on top of this, we've got to look forward to, what I call, long term planning. Not what we call compulsory planning, but indicative. Indicate is called, the language is indicative (break in conversation due to phone call)... The kind of planning that we need to do is not what you call, State planning, where the government says you only produce so many cars, and so many tons of steel, and so forth. That's not the kind of planning. [What we need to plan more than anything else, is the availability and the use of resources. The availability and their use. In other words, we have to be a resource oriented country. That means not only the development of new resources, but the conservation of those resources. [The biggest issue for the next fifty years, and I won't go beyond that, is conservation. Conservation, conservation of water, conservation of land, conservation of timber, conservation of metals. Just conservation. The American people have to get away from waste. [And, we're all the time worrying about waste at the Federal Government level, that waste is unpardonable, to be sure, but it is a small sin compared to the waste that we indulge in of food, of fiber. Fiber, of course, including our timber resources.

Ms. Ridder: I think I'm going to change my piece to go with this, because, you know, this is most flagrant and

Senator Humphrey: Absolutely. It just is imperative. You see, we've got people today that are constantly talking about how we're going to drill more holes in the ground, tear

up more soil, in order to get more resources. [Now, we'll have to do some of that, that's for sure, but what we need to do, is to make better use out of what we have already available. And then, once that we have despoiled, despoiled, despoiled the surface, or the land area, then to replenish it. It can be done. [Strip mining is a classic example. There's no reason that strip mining needs to leave a country looking like its been ^pri^ped and raped. Not at all, that can all be made into good ^eusable land. ~~It~~ It can be made into park and recreation area. ~~It's~~ It's all a question of being able to. ~~Getting~~ conservation mind^{so} stewardship.

Ms. Ridder: But, you still rule in extremes.....

Senator Humphrey: You do that, that's true. ~~Not, not,~~ ^y you don't ruin them all. There's technology that can prevent that, and it's done so in Europe, and other places. The idea that has to come into the American mind, and that's got to permeate the people even before the government, is that we are stewards. We are not owners, we are stewards. [We've got the concept of private property so deeply ingrained in ourselves, that we feel that private property means that you don't have a social responsibility to the future. I mean it's mine, I'll do with it as I want to, say the people. ^y You know? Who are you to tell me what I can do with my property, ^W who are you to tell me about this? [Well, this is not, what we really have here, ^{IT} is, in a sense, a private property, or a period in your life, yes, but you have no right in terms of these God-given resources ^{TO} ~~is~~ water, air, and land and minerals and timber. You have no God-given right to take more than what you put back. You're a steward, and that word is very, very important. [I remember one time, talking to ^A group of young people, I said, a people that does not take care of their land, will never take care of their people. The government ^R of society that doesn't take care of its land will never take care of its people. [And, it's ^{ee} ~~vis~~-versa, if you don't take care of your people, you don't take care of your resources because these resources of land and people, these are Nature's gifts. This comes not because you manufactured a machine, but these are Nature's gifts. And, the minute that you despoil either one, you

throw the whole ecology out of balance. [The whole thing is out of kilt^{ER}. That's what's happening in this country. When we let people go and become derelicts, or they're unemployed, or they're careless, or they're pushed aside, just as surely as that happens, [What happens to the community? It runs down. Or if you let the community run down, what happens to the people? You just see it. [You don't have to go to college, I mean we spend too damn much time educating people. Super-duper-duper education instead of letting them just take a look at observing what's going on. I don't mean to deprecate in any word, in any word of mine, the importance of higher education. I'm for it. You know that. [But, I think we just all the time think, you know, that all you got to do is just look up here, and read and read and read and read and read. The fact is, you got to observe what's going on! [There's a picture over there, right there on the wall. That's an open-pit mine in northern Minnesota, painted by a W.P.A. artist. That's strip mining. Now, we've got a big battle out there about what we're going to do about ^{THAT HAVE BEEN PUT} THE TAILINGS from ~~the~~ reserve mining[^] into the lake. [The future depends on the conservation of the present, and the development of the potentialities. That's what it requires, that's all that I'm trying to tell you. The conservation of what you have at hand.

Ms. Ridder: Now, is the Congress thinking about this?

Senator Humphrey: Not enough. Not nearly enough. It isn't organized to ^{DO} ~~be~~ this. But that's why it's not sufficiently organized. This is why I've introduced legislation like the Balanced Growth Act. Now, again, that's only a primitive attempt. I never ever looked[^] at these pieces of legislation as the finite product. This is merely to get the concept, to get people thinking. [The minute you say planning in this country, you got a whole lot of people that start running for the storm cellars, you know. But, whether we like it or not, if we don't plan, society plans, and Nature plans against us. If we don't take care of what's here, if we don't take care of our streams, if we don't care of our forests, Nature will take^{CARE} [^]of us adversely. [I mean, you just cannot abuse these

these natural resources without having the abuse come back on you. It just comes back to y^{ou}.

Ms. Ridder: Hubert, have you introduced any more legislation to get people thinking about it?

Senator Humphrey: Yes, ~~I've had my~~, one of the most important pieces of legislation that I introduced, was on the forest and national range land. ~~National forest and range~~

~~land.~~ This requires us to plan ahead for the protection of our range land and our forests. [It requires the Secretary of Agriculture to do this. I passed it. It's a matter of law. [We're going to finally get a program of re-forestation

in this country, and the protection of our forests. ~~THIS LEGISLATION~~ ~~WILL~~ prevent clear cutting, the massive clear cutting that we have, and all of its effect upon the ecology and upon wildlife and so forth. So, the big issue is really—what I call the issues of land and people.

Ms. Ridder: What other legislation have you introduced? It's only because I have to be a little specific about...

Senator Humphrey: Yes, well, that legislation I just gave you. I just gave you two specifics right there. Our national planting, and our Balanced National Growth and Development Act. Another one that I've introduced...

Ms. Ridder: That's pending isn't it?

Senator Humphrey: Yeah, it's pending, that's in committee.

Ms. Ridder: What committee would it be in?

Senator Humphrey: That's in the Committee on Labor and the Committee on Banking, it's in two committees at the present time. The other thing, ~~what~~ I mentioned to you, the study of the economy is going to be under way under the Joint Economic Committee. I'm Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Economic Development and Stability. Economic Growth and Stability, I guess that's what we call it now, we just got our new committee assignments. [Obviously, one of the other needs of the future is in health care. We are still groping. Again, the solution to this will not be any prototype that someone else has worked out. It is wrong for us to presume that our system will be one like the British, or like the Scandinavians or the French, or the Germans. ~~It~~ It will be

something we, ourselves design in our own unique way, using the building blocks we have here of our Federal system, our state and local government, our private enterprise system, our non-profit organizations, our health maintenance organizations. [It will most likely be, it will drive most people crazy, that try to look at it in terms of public administration structure because it will be designed more like the mosaic than it is like a monolith. In other words, the British have got a monolith. [they've got a system, You're registered on a list, You've got doctors assigned, and they get a fee, and that's the way it is. [Ours will be different. ~~ours~~ We'll have to put together existing pieces, but there isn't any doubt that health care... [Now, the biggest issue in health is preventive health care. It is what we call preventive medicine, or better, protecting one's health. The emphasis in health care must change from what we call curative to protective. [Now, that is going to be the big emphasis in the next fifty years. It will involve, not only what we call physical fitness, but nutrition, and the physical environment in which people live. [We have become, it's no wonder that this nation today has large numbers of people ^Daddicted to drugs and alcohol because that's our lifestyle. We got drugs in everything. We got ⁱadditives in every food, we've got synthetic vitamins. We've got every chemical compound that man can think of to cure, to ¹alleviate and cure ailments or illness. We treat people with chemicals. [Rather than looking at, how did this happen? How did Hubert Humphrey get cancer? [Let's take myself. It didn't happen because someone came along with a stick and touched me, nor said, you deserve it. It was a product of something in my life. We don't know whether it's a virus, we don't know whether it's really the result of environmental impact such as chemicals. [For example, if you had cancer of the bladder, they seem to think, well most likely it was because you were dealing with products of certain kinds of chemicals. They asked me a thousand and one questions, because I was a pharmacist. Did you deal with this chemical? ^A And did you deal with that? ^B because certain chemicals

seem to have lent themselves to a higher incidence of bladder cancer. [In other words, if you worked in a factory in which a particular chemical, I've forgotten the name of it now, was handled, you most likely had a higher incidence of bladder cancer. If you smoke cigarettes, you have a higher incidence of lung cancer. [But, what we're beginning to find out more and more is that you can build up your immunity system, your immunity by proper diet and exercise, and the environment in which you live. I mean, obviously mental and nervous tension ~~is one of those adverse~~, has adverse effects. But, the quality of the air that you breathe^E, the cleanliness of the water that you drink, the social environment in which you live. All of this deals with your health. [And, what are we doing? We're waiting, we wait to get sick, so that we can collect health insurance. We don't have any health insurance, ~~We~~ have sickness insurance. We have no health insurance in this country. ~~Nobody~~ gets any health insurance. You got to get sick, you got to go to ^{the} hospital, you got to see the doctor. Then, after you're in ^{the} ~~utter~~ misery, ready to check-out practically and see the mortician, then they say, hey, how about your health insurance? [We have no health insurance^{CE}. ~~We~~ fooled ourselves. ~~We~~ ~~deceive~~ ourselves. What we ought to call it, first of all, is sickness insurance. [Then, we ought to have another program that we call Health Protection. ~~And~~ that has got to come from both private ^{more} ~~ways~~, how we live privately, and public policy. That's going to be the future of the health of the people of the United States. You mark my words. [Now, building from that, and I have programs ^{FOR} ~~in~~ ~~on~~ this, nutritional education programs. I have a program for child and maternal health care. We've got medicare for grandpa, we ought to have kiddie-care for the children. [The fact is, ~~if you watch the~~, if you give health protection to the mother, to the woman while she's pregnant, and to the child in the first several years of that child's life, and I'm speaking now of not just so much sickness care as I am of nutrition and diagnostic, you are going to have a healthy baby. ^{going} ~~You're~~ to have a healthy son, ~~You're~~ going to have a healthy daughter. ~~It~~

It will reduce the medical costs in this country not less than 25%. [The best economy that this Nation can engage in is a modern system of health protection, and get away from trying to pay expensive doctor bills, high costs from additional, and incredible costs from hospitals. Now, Hubert H. Humphrey, here, this one, is going to see that this happens. That's what it's all about. That's what I'm here about, and I raise unshirted hell in every committee. [And, when this Congress decided in the name of reform, down here, to abolish the nutrition committee, as I said to them, that's not a reform, that is stupidity. Because I said, there isn't a member of this Congress who knows anything about nutrition. Until we learn more about nutrition, what we eat, how it is absorbed in the body, and what will be absorbed in the body, and what won't be absorbed, and under what conditions, we're not able to legislate, we're not able to protect the country's needs. No way. [So, we finally extended it for a year. ~~We~~ we scared them into it for a year, but in the name of "reform." ~~We~~ we were going to bunch it all up and put it under Agriculture. Well, that's not the way you take care of a person's health, just putting something under Agriculture. But, ^{WHAT} I'm trying to say, and I'll be quick on it, is that health, and health care has very little to do with how you get well after you've been sick.

[You keep from getting sick. Now, finally, ~~when~~ ^{HAVE} I ~~got~~ legislation ~~on~~ on this, because that's my job. My job is to be an innovator. I'm not concerned whether or not Hubert Humphrey's name is on the legislation, I'm concerned with being the burr under the saddle. The hot iron that prods their little fat buttocks, to get them to go to work. That's what I'm here for, and I'm a very independent, liberated man, my dear.

Ms. Ridder: I don't doubt that!

Senator Humphrey: That's why I feel so good. I really feel that I have a mission to perform around here. I'm not running for anything, I don't need anything, except I want to live, and more important, I'd like to leave a heritage here of something worth while. [And, I know this country has got to conserve what it has. I know it's got to develop its potentials, and it can't develop its potentials if it has no idea

of its future. You got to think about what our goals are for the future. [I know we have to be interested in health, and not sickness. And, I know that the life-blood of this country is in its children, and, therefore, what happens to that child, is going to tell you what's going to happen to the Nation. Right?

Ms. Ridder: Right.

Senator Humphrey: That's what it's all about.

Ms. Ridder: Thank you, sir, thank you sir.



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