

From the Office of
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FOR RELEASE

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Intolerance and bigotry in any form "plays right into the hands of the Kremlin," Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) warned tonight in an address at a B'nai B'rith Civic Award Dinner at the Hotel Nicollet in Minneapolis.

"Hatred, suspicion, and distrust are weapons of communism for creating unrest, weakening our unity, and undermining democracy itself," Senator Humphrey declared.

"Whether intentionally or otherwise, anyone spreading hatred, stirring up suspicions, or otherwise turning American people against each other by undermining mutual faith and respect is performing a useful service for the Soviet-masters -- and a dangerous disservice to our free way of life," Senator Humphrey said.

Russia will exploit every chance of creating disunity within this country, he cautioned, and make propaganda capital elsewhere of any violations of civil rights in America.

"Respect for the rights of minorities, whether racial, religious, economic, or political, is no longer just an internal matter of our sense of human justice," Senator Humphrey said. "Such respect for the rights of all is now part of freedom's very struggle for survival."

Religious or racial prejudice and intolerance "weakens democracy and serves communism both here at home and elsewhere in the world," Senator Humphrey warned.

"In other lands, any intolerance or bigotry we display here at home plays into the hands of the Kremlin by creating doubts about democracy's sincerity -- about whether we practice what we preach.

"The world today is in a state of tremendous confusion. Most of the world's people are bewildered, many are confused. Communism thrives on that confusion, seeks to keep it alive. Can we risk encouraging such confusion, by creating examples of doubt as to what freedom really means in America?

"If freedom is to prevail, the concepts of democracy must be proven meaningful not meaningless. Democracy must be proven to offer mankind its greatest hope -- and it must be proven by deeds, not by mere words."

Senator Humphrey commended President Eisenhower for his recent foreign policy message, and declared it reflected the unity of "our determination to continue strengthening the ramparts of freedom until we are certain that peace can be achieved", yet also reflected "the unanimity of America's hope for peace, and willingness to seek such a peace".

If Russia holds any hope that domestic political differences in this country will "weaken our united stand against communist aggression" anywhere in the world, Senator Humphrey said, "the Kremlin will find it is sadly mistaken." Russia apparently can't understand, he added, how "constructive teamwork, instead of hateful back-biting" can evolve out of America's political campaigns.

Senator Humphrey suggested that his own appearance as speaker on a civic award dinner program honoring a Republican national committeewoman "is a good primary lesson in democracy for the communists to consider." Senator Humphrey said he was "proud to share in the tribute" to Mrs. F. Peavey Heffelfinger at the banquet "because she is a real American who has proven by her deeds her belief and her faith in the real meaning of democracy...human justice and the dignity of the individual."



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