

From the Office of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
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America's foreign policy has won "round one" of the free world's struggle against Communism, but may be losing "round two" since the unveiling of a new and changed strategy on the part of the Kremlin, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, (D.-Minn.) warned last night in an address before the General Electric Company's forum at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Senator Humphrey, member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, described the new Soviet tactics as a "shift in its emphasis from military to economic warfare, seeking to buy time to promote disunity and strife among the non-Communist nations, and build up its own military strength".

Reviewing our foreign policy to date, Senator Humphrey declared "it is well that we appraise our policies, search out our weaknesses and bolster our strength."

"Has our foreign policy been effective? Has it served the purposes for which it was charted?" he asked.

"The Kremlin, I think, is providing us with a pretty good answer," Senator Humphrey said. "Perhaps the best way to judge our strategy is to study the effect it has had upon the strategy of our enemy in this ideological warfare. And I think it is only fair and reasonable to conclude that the course we have followed has forced the Soviet to change its tactics, and alter its timetable.

"The mobilizing of military strength has caused the Kremlin to reconsider, and readjust, its own strategy.

"The tightening of trade restrictions has made itself keenly felt upon the Russian economy.

"America's rejection of isolationism and our bolstering the economies of other free countries as the basis of unified strength has added to Russia's cause for concern.

"We made it necessary for the Kremlin to take a 'new look' at its methods, to back up and make a fresh start in a new direction".

That means, Senator Humphrey said, "The first round of this great struggle has been won by the free world."

"I cannot say the same about round two -- so far," Senator Humphrey added. "I just hope the round isn't over."

"Our problem now is adjusting quickly and firmly to Russia's changing attack."

"Are we prepared for this newest challenge -- the Marxist-Stalin theory that it is on the economic front that the United States can be separated from its allies? Are we meeting it as firmly as we have met threats of military aggression?"

"I wish my answer could be yes. I regret that it cannot."

"The simple truth is obvious: Russia is attacking us in a very vulnerable spot--our pocketbook. Their new tactics are working. They have made an amazing success in a very short period."

"The clamor for defense cutbacks is growing. The tempting bait of a peace offensive is creating pressures for the letdown the Kremlin expected."

"Disagreements have developed between the allies. The determination of western Europe is wavering. The temptation of trade with Russia is difficult for countries in economic difficulties to resist."

"And the United States, instead of meeting this economic challenge head-on, appears more inclined to slam the doors of trade barriers in the faces of our allies and drive them into dealing with Russia, laying the groundwork for the very kind of economic warfare Russia is hoping will split the western world's unity".

Answering his own question of "Where do we go from here?", Senator Humphrey said:

"It's time we recognize that the two main arms of Soviet policy are now economic warfare, and vast military expansion. We must counter the Soviet at both these points. Yet we are facing dangerous internal decisions on both."

"Our resolve is now being tested in the Cabinet and in the Congress of the United States. Nothing could be worse than to do too little, and do it too late. We are at the critical period

"I can say for the record that our position in terms of air power, as contrasted with that of the Soviet and her satellites, is tragically weak.

"Is this, then, time to talk of cutting our air force?

"The desire to fulfill misguided and misdirected political promises of balancing the budget and reducing the taxes could very well undermine our whole position of security. This may be the last mistake we are permitted to make.

"We are in an even more serious position of grave danger in regard to America's trade policies ... an absolutely vital aspect of our entire security program.

Senator Humphrey said that "Now, if ever, there is a need for statesman ship -- statesmanship that may necessitate criticism and complaints in and out of the Congress."

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