

7/6/53

Statement
by
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
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Mr. President, It is with many misgivings and real regret that I rise on the Senate floor and as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee criticize the Administration. I charge that "politics as usual" in the operation of the foreign policy of the present Administration.

My record of support for President Eisenhower's foreign policy is clear. I supported his nomination of Mr. Bohlen as Ambassador to Russia when many of the members of his own party opposed that nomination. I supported the resolution submitted by the President condemning the Soviet Union for violating the Yalta and Potsdam agreements when many of the members of the Republican party opposed and successfully killed that resolution in the Congress. I supported President Eisenhower's budget request for the Mutual Security program when many of the members of his own party worked to cripple that program.

It has been my sincere aim as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to strive and do my part in strengthening a bipartisan foreign policy. The security of our nation cannot afford

"politics as usual" in the operation of our international policy and

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I have, therefore, supported the President's program without regard to partisanship.

The Administration, however, is scuttling bipartisanship in our international affairs. It is not consulting with the Democratic leadership in the formation of policy decisions. It is also distorting common courtesy and violating proper Congressional procedures in its attempt to inject partisanship into our foreign policy.

The result is chaos in our international affairs. The foreign policy of the Administration shows no imagination, insufficient vision and apparent lack of understanding. We have lost the initiative in the world to the totalitarians.

A prime example of our failure has been our inability as a nation to grab the initiative in Germany as a result of the uprisings in eastern Germany against Communist rule.

On June 18 I rose on the Senate floor to suggest the passage of a resolution commending the people of Germany for their resistance to Communism and calling for the unification of Germany under free elections.

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It took the Administration two weeks before it could act. During that time the Administration first had to find a Republican sponsor of a similar resolution so that it would be a Republican resolution that would pass and not a Democratic resolution. I charge a program of "too little and too late". I charge "politics as usual" at the expense of a courageous foreign policy in our nation's interest.

It is not enough to pass resolutions. We must act in time if we are to seize the initiative in the struggle between Communism and democracy.

This is not the only illustration of "politics as usual" since the new Administration has taken office.

On February 16, the Senator from Montana, Mr. Murray, introduced a resolution, S. Res. 70, which I was proud to co-sponsor, expressing the profound sense of shock in the Senate against the revival of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union. The Republican Party leadership instead of welcoming the foresight of our colleague Senator Murray and recognizing the wisdom of his proposal instead could only recognize the fact

that he was a member of the Democratic party. Therefore, it waited until it drafted another resolution of similar intent introduced by a Republican before it allowed the Senate to act.

On April 27, in response to the urgent needs which the government of Pakistan faced as a result of famine I introduced a bill, S. 1782, to furnish emergency food aid to Pakistan. Once again the Administration refused to support a proposal submitted by a Democrat and instead waited a few weeks and then drafted another bill introduced by a Republican, which it then called upon the Congress to approve.

When the Mutual Security bill was before the Congress I submitted an amendment to the Committee authorizing the President to use our surplus agricultural commodities as an arm of our foreign policy to alleviate starvation and misery and other critical needs. In response to my amendment the Administration which agreed with my objective instead argued that it was submitted ~~as~~ a proposal of its own. It urged the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to wait for its own before acting

on mine. When the Administration's proposal finally reached the Hill it was practically word for word like the amendment I submitted to the Senate, but again the Administration and its party leadership chose to defeat a Democratic-sponsored proposal rather than support a program in which it believed.

In all of these cases, Mr. President, I supported the Administration's resolution when it came to the Senate. I supported the Administration's resolution against Soviet anti-Semitism, the Administration's proposal to provide aid to Pakistan and the Administration's proposal for the unification of Germany. I did so because I do not believe there is room for partisan politics in the conduct of our international affairs. We need boldness and imagination in our foreign policy. We need to recapture the initiative in the world. We particularly need to act now to strengthen the morale of those people behind the Iron Curtain struggling against communism.

I propose that the Administration make available to the people of East Germany, where there is today great need for bread and butter and other staples of life, some of our surplus food.

I propose that we ^{ship} ~~buy~~ in the amounts needed butter and wheat to Chancellor Adenauer and to the people of West Germany with the request that they prepare that wheat into bread and turn that bread and butter over to their hungry brothers and fellow citizens behind the Iron Curtain in East Germany and the Soviet zone of Berlin.

I make this proposal orally, and not in the form of a Senate resolution, so that the Administration need not be embarrassed by having the idea emanate from a Democrat. Let the Administration choose one of its Republican leaders in the Congress to submit the proposal in legislative form. I shall support it.

We must get off dead center and make a play for intelligent, courageous action to preserve America's dignity and leadership of the free world.

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