

From the Office of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
140 Senate Office Building
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National 8-3120, Ext. 881

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New outlets and new uses must be found for America's agricultural abundance to protect economic stability of the country, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D.-Minn.) declared yesterday in addressing the Southeastern Minnesota Farmers Picnic at Freeborn County Fairgrounds in Albert Lea, Minnesota.

Reviewing agricultural issues before the session of Congress just ended, including the fight he led for use of American food and fiber in support of the "Cold War" and our foreign policy, Senator Humphrey urged that the spotlight of public interest be kept focussed on "opening new doors for use of our farm products... on making wiser use of the abundance we are now capable of producing.

"It is in that realm that we face a real challenge; it is in that realm that agriculture's opportunities for the future must be further explored," he said.

While supporting the forthcoming wheat referendum on marketing quotas as "the only way now open to farmers to be assured of the price protection they deserve," Senator Humphrey added:

"It goes against the grain of farmers -- and I think against the grain for most Americans, to have to talk about cutting down food production. We should be looking in the other direction. We should be finding new ways to wisely use our abundance, instead of being forced to take the negative approach of curbs on our ability to produce."

Rather than being alarmed at America's tremendous agricultural production, Senator Humphrey said he regards the "know-how" of our farmers as "a great national asset, an important contribution to the total strength of our economy."

"Some people are inclined to become overly alarmed by warehouses bulging with food," he said. "I am not among them. The American people should be proud of our blessings of abundance, and proud of the productivity achievements of American agriculture. We should thank God that America's farmers have more than kept pace with our population, and kept away from our doors the kind of food shortages that have created hunger and chronic starvation in many parts of the world. It is better, I am sure, to have too much than not enough."

But farmers must not be penalized for creating "a land of plenty," Senator Humphrey said. "They should be rewarded, instead."

"Farmers have done their work well; they have met every national need, through depressions and through wars. The fault, if there is any, is with the rest of us -- we have not kept pace in making wise use of all that our farmers can produce. We have not yet learned to live with the abundance with which we are blessed."

Senator Humphrey outlined his own efforts to serve both purposes -- protecting

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farmers from being penalized for producing in abundance, and making wiser use of that abundance. Measures sponsored or co-sponsored by Senator Humphrey for such purposes in the recent session of Congress include:

Improved price support: Establishing price support level at 90-100% of parity for all basic and other designated storable commodities, adding flaxseeds, soybeans, oats, rye, barley and grain sorghums to the list of storables supported by mandatory 90-100% price supports, making mandatory support of dairy products, cattle, hogs, poultry and eggs at 90% of parity, extending the period of firm mandatory farm price supports through 1957, and extending use of present dual parity formula through that same period.

Farmer-run farm programs: Preserving elected-farmer committee system for administering farm programs in rural counties, plus election of state farmer-committees instead of appointment by Secretary of Agriculture.

Rotating storage stocks: Preventing deterioration yet avoiding price-depressing "dumping" of old stocks, through provision for "rotating" stocks, purchasing new commodities to replace those sold to avoid spoilage.

International Food Reserves: Creating world reserves through FAO to provide means of absorbing temporary market surpluses and make them available wherever they are most needed in world to prevent famine and starvation.

Wheat and Corn Set-Aside: Raising designation of "normal" reserves for wheat and corn before marketing quotas are required, with provision for setting aside contingency reserves beyond normal supply, withheld from regular market except in case of crop failure or emergency need in support of foreign policy -- a safety "stockpile" specifically prevented from becoming a price-depressing overhang on normal markets.

Wheat for Pakistan: Emergency use of wheat reserves to combat famine in Pakistan.

Food for Freedom: Authorizing President to use America's abundance to ease emergency famine conditions in world, support "Cold War"; designate portion of MSA foreign aid for purchase of American farm products for countries needing them but lacking American dollars.

Emergency Livestock Credit: Liberalizing loans to livestock producers suffering economic hardship, whether in drouth area or not, as part of emergency drouth assistance.

While not in bill form, Senator Humphrey also outlined two other proposals he has outlined to Senate agricultural committee for study pending action at the next session toward stimulating wider use of American food at home and abroad:

Expanding World Markets: Creation of an independent agricultural trading corporation to coordinate expanded efforts to seek foreign outlets for American food and fiber for relief purposes, for barter, for sale at concessional or "soft currency" prices, or any other means.

Dairy Diet Dividends: Increasing consumption of fluid milk, butter, and cheese among needy aged, dependent children, blind, and totally handicapped through partial consumer-subsidy to supplement meager allowances for public assistance.

Other efforts outlined by Senator Humphrey as extended in behalf of Minnesota's farmers during the first half of the 83rd Congress included:

Urged and encouraged expanded school lunch program, increased beef purchases for school lunch and overseas use.

Fought against raising of interest rates, "tight money" policies restricting both farmer's credit and his market.

Supported more adequate loan funds for REA power and telephone programs, and fought for transmission line to seek lower-cost power.

Sought greater recognition of average family farmer in Department of Agriculture's advisory committee structure.

supported maintenance of adequate soil conservation funds, opposed slashes in both ACP and SCS appropriations.

Backed increase in funds for agricultural research, over amount proposed by Administration.



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