

From The Office Of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
429 Nicollet Hotel
Minneapolis, Minnesota

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 17, 1953

COPY

The city dwellers' stake in sound conservation farming as the only assurance of continued adequate food production in generations ahead will be discussed by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey Thursday at the Annual Winona County Plow Match and Conservation Day at Winona.

Senator Humphrey, who has been urging that the American people should be giving more thought to the need for abundant production in the years to come instead of worrying so much about the surpluses of the present, will talk on the farmer's role and the government's role in successfully protecting the public's interest by establishing and maintaining sound patterns of conservation farming.

FILE COPY

THIS RELEASE SENT TO FOLLOWING

Gordon Closway
WINONA REPUBLICAN HERALD

- note sent

E. C. Clasen
Publisher
St. Charles Press

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Radio Station KWNO
Winona

A. Lyman
Radio Station KAAA
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Radio Station KOBK
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Radio Station KDHL
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Second release of this sent to above

plus

Twin Cities press and radio

Lewiston Journal

From the Office of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
429 Nicollet Hotel
Minneapolis, Minnesota

FOR RELEASE
Friday - A. M. - August 21, 1953

Recognition of the nation's locally -- organized soil conservation districts on the proposed new President's Non-Partisan Advisory Commission on Agriculture was urged by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey today in speaking at the annual Winona County Flow Match and Conservation Day at Winona, Minnesota.

Senator Humphrey revealed he had written Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson urging that a representative of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts be included on the 18-man commission to be named soon by President Eisenhower.

The urban dweller's stake in sound conservation farming was emphasized by Senator Humphrey in his Conservation Day address.

"With our population increasing at the rate of 7,200 per day, and with few new acres to turn to for farm production, all of us have an urgent stake in encouraging farmers to take care of their land for the protection and preservation of its productive ability for generations to come," Senator Humphrey declared. "Instead of being so worried about abundant production today, we should be worrying about whether we can produce enough to feed and clothe the population in the years ahead. The only assurance urban people have of continued adequate supplies of food and fiber is sound conservation farming in America's agriculture to improve rather than deplete the productivity of our soil."

Conservation is a "grass roots" job that starts on the farm, with the major responsibility resting upon the farmer himself, Senator Humphrey said.

"But the government has a role to play in helping the farmer successfully protect the public's interest by establishing and maintaining a sound pattern of conservation farming," Senator Humphrey explained. "It's another example of the kind of partnership we only find in a democracy, where people can use their own government to help them accomplish desirable objectives in both their own and the nation's interest."

He praised the conservation district movement as "democracy in action", and declared conservation planning should "start at the grass roots, not in Washington."

For that reason, he said, the role of conservation districts should be recognized through inclusion of a representative on the new national advisory commission on Agriculture.

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Support for creation of a bi-partisan joint Committee on Natural Resources in the Senate and House of Representatives was urged by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey Saturday (August 22) in addressing the Minnesota Conservation Federation at St. Cloud.

He urged establishment of such a group "as a 'watchdog committee', to help develop sound, coordinated national conservation policies, and safeguard their execution in the public's interest".

Senator Humphrey introduced legislation calling for the new Joint Committee in the recent session of Congress, and plans pressing for action on it when Congress reconvenes.

"The American people are quite properly concerned over indications that we as a nation may be slipping backwards from some of the great conservation policies established since days of President Theodore Roosevelt," Senator Humphrey told delegates to the Federation conference.

"Much of our nation's strength and progress has been made possible by our abundance of great natural resources — land, water, timber, soil and minerals — and the wisdom with which we have developed and used them. But we have long ago learned the dangers of exploiting and wasting these valuable resources.

"We know they are not unlimited. We know that they must be carefully safeguarded from exhaustion. We have seen what happened down through history to other civilizations, when they exploited their resources beyond replenishment. We cannot let that happen in our country.

"We have tried to make certain it will not happen, as a matter of public policy. For years we have responded to the will of the people by establishing safeguards over the uses of these resources, and sought to protect them for future generations to share. Yet short-sighted pressures still exist for raids on these great national treasures. There are still those who would be willing to exploit them for whatever immediate profit they can obtain, regardless of the consequences in the future.

"We have seen those forces at work in virtually every field of natural resources; we have seen develop a growing demand for an abrupt turn-about in public policy that would cause Gifford Pinchot to roll over in his grave."

Now, if ever before, Senator Humphrey insisted, "we need a strong revival of a crusading spirit for the protection of our vast forests; for protection and proper development of our water resources; for protection of our soil fertility on our farms; for the preservation of wild life, and for the safeguarding of our petroleum resources."

"We need firm national conservation policies, embracing all forms of natural resources, putting foremost the public's stake in preservation of such resources for useful purposes in generations to come," Senator Humphrey declared.

He said, "one of our great weaknesses" in development of national conservation policies "has been the multitude of agencies and groups concerned with different phases of the conservation problem", rather than looking at the total national picture.

It is to serve that purpose of better coordination, Senator Humphrey said, that he has proposed the new Joint Committee on Natural Resources in the Congress.

From the Office of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
429 Nicollet Hotel
Minneapolis, Minnesota

FOR RELEASE
MONDAY A. M. - AUGUST 24, 1953

Every city in Minnesota has a vital stake in a sound and prospering agriculture, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey told a gathering of Northern Minnesota farmers Sunday (August 23) at the annual Red Lake and Clearwater counties Farmers Union picnic.

"Unless farmers have some cash in their pockets, the cash registers can't jingle on Main Street", Senator Humphrey said. "And unless the merchants have customers in our agricultural trading centers, they can't buy the manufactured products of our industrial centers."

Farmers, Senator Humphrey said, are "big consumers" as well as abundant producers.

"Not enough people realize the importance of the farm market for products of city industry," Senator Humphrey declared.

"Farmers use more steel in a year than goes into a year's output of passenger cars. Farmers use more petroleum than is used in any other industry. They used enough raw rubber in a year to put tires on six million cars. They use enough electrical power to supply the great cities of Chicago, Detroit, Baltimore, and Houston combined."

He called attention to the REA program as an example of how improvement in rural living and production methods opened up vast new markets for American industry, pointing out that "for every dollar of loan funds invested in rural electrification -- loan funds paid back with interest by farmer-cooperatives -- six dollars have been spent on electrical appliances for the farm home and farm plant."

As a result, he said, any sudden decline in farm purchasing power "gradually reflects itself through our entire economy, curtailing business and cutting down jobs in industry."

For that reason, he insisted, "danger signs now on the horizon" of falling farm prices "should be everybody's concern."

He called efforts to do away with price support programs at adequate levels for agriculture "shortsighted and dangerous, threatening to weaken the strength of our entire economy when it must be kept strong as the backbone of our national security."

Senator Humphrey denied that the price support program offering government loans at 90 percent of parity prices were a "subsidy", any more than the government's guarantee of housing mortgages up to 90 percent of their value through the FHA were a "subsidy" to America's banks and home builders.

When farmers fight for preservation of the farm programs that protect the economic stability of agriculture, they "are fighting to protect the economic security of the entire nation, not just for their own interests alone," Senator Humphrey declared.



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