

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

FOR RELEASE

Tuesday P.M. Newspapers
October 13, 1953

United States Senator Hubert H. Humphrey called upon President Eisenhower today to further "clear the air" of the confusion and uncertainty surrounding the nation's defense policies and the threats confronting this country -- "by actions as well as words".

"It's a sad spectacle when our President has to publicly argue with his own cabinet aides over the chances of attack against our country," Senator Humphrey declared in an address before a luncheon meeting of the Duluth Optimist Club.

"Whatever that threat may be, however imminent or distant it may be, the American people will stand firm, resolute, and willing to make whatever sacrifices may be necessary -- if they are only given firm and resolute leadership willing to squarely face the facts and lay those facts before the public.

"We welcome the President's latest effort to keep his aides from going off on different tangents in public statements. But we need some coordination of policy, as well as coordination of public statements. What really worries many of us is whether they are going off on different tangents in carrying out their duties related to our defense."

Unless the array of conflicting and contradictory statements and actions from top Administration are soon clarified, Senator Humphrey warned, "the country will be left wandering uncertainly between the demoralizing twin hazards of jittery fears and foolish complacency".

"The American people have every right to be bewildered today," Senator Humphrey declared.

"They're told one day by the President that our danger is imminent, and that new sacrifices may have to be made. Then they're told the next day by his Secretary of the Treasury that everything's all right, and taxes can be slashed. They're told by the Director of Defense Mobilization that every defense production center in the country lies at the momentary mercy of the ruthless Soviet, and then they're told by Secretary of Defense Wilson that Russia can't attack us for another three years. They're told by the Republican chairman of Congress' joint committee on atomic energy that the situation is so serious he has changed his mind about slashing the air force budget and will seek additional billions for air defense, then they read in the daily press about the Defense Department cancelling plane contracts and cutting down on pilot training.

"It's high time to clear the atmosphere, and end such reckless conflict and play upon the public's emotions and fears. Let's have the truth, one way or another, so we can chart a sensible course like sensible people and put our shoulders to the wheel instead of running around in circles of doubt and confusion," Senator Humphrey declared.

"Our nation must arrive at a minimum level of defense adequate for our security making sure we have the strength to meet any eventuality -- and that Russia knows we have such strength and intend to keep it.

"We can't chart such a course in an atmosphere of either hysterical fear or penny-wise pound-foolish complacency.

"Now, if ever, the country needs leadership. It needs leadership willing to put the nation's security and safety above all else -- including above campaign promises or campaign commitments.

"We must gear ourselves to be able to cope with an imminent emergency or the long pull -- and make known our determination not to waver or cringe from either," Senator Humphrey declared.

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Minnesota offers the rest of the nation "a shining example" of tolerance and human understanding among people of every national origin, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey declared last night (Monday, October 12) in addressing northern Minnesota's annual Columbus Day Celebration at Eveleth, Minnesota.

"We're a living example of a miniature United Nations, with people of every background and culture living and working harmoniously together, all contributing to the prosperity of the state and nation," he declared.

"We're proud of the contributions to our state's progress made by people from every national background, people of every race and creed -- and we judge our neighbor by his character and worth as a fellow human being, not by the land of his origin."

A "dangerous spirit" is growing in the land, however, Senator Humphrey warned, which "threatens the kind of tolerance we exemplify, and undermines the very basis of our democracy."

Such intolerance has manifested itself in the Congress through recent "restrictive and discriminatory immigration policies", Senator Humphrey said, criticizing the McCarran Act for "distinguishing between human beings on the basis of national origin".

Columbus Day, he declared, was "an appropriate time to express our determination to wipe out the anti-Italian prejudices" contained in emergency immigration legislation enacted at the last session of Congress.

Senator Humphrey urged bipartisan support for renewed efforts to ease "some of the harsh and discriminatory provisions of present laws", and outlined his own legislative proposals before the Congress for pooling of unused immigration quotas "to permit family unification, offer a haven to victims of religious and political persecution, and open our doors to scientists and others needed to perform essential services."



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