

From the Office of  
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FOR RELEASE  
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"Sober appraisal" of current international trends fails to justify bright New Year hopes that the world is nearer an era of peaceful life, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, warned today in an address before the Lyon County Oil Cooperative annual meeting at Marshall, Minn.

His conclusions, Senator Humphrey said, were based on a four-hour discussion with Vice President Nixon about his findings on the international situation during his tour of Asia and the Pacific, and a two-~~and-a-half~~ hour frank report to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last week by Secretary of State Dulles reviewing developments in Indo-China, Italy, Western Europe, and the Near East.

"The Administration knows how serious the world situation has become, even if it still tries to present the picture at home through rose tinted glasses. It's about time our responsible leaders let the American people in on the facts, so you'll all know what we face -- the facts they'll admit to us behind closed doors in secret session, but don't yet dare make public," Senator Humphrey declared.

"Ordinarily, I'm an optimist -- I like to look at the bright side of things; I think most of us do," Senator Humphrey explained. "But right now, that's one of the western world's troubles -- the danger of laxity from false optimism. I'm afraid it's going to take more than unjustified optimism to match against Soviet realism if we are going to avoid another Munich, another Dunkirk, or another Pearl Harbor."

"All of us are so anxious that the world situation get better, that it's hard to resist the temptation to grasp at any hope that might permit us to take the easy way out, just hoping we'll get along all right somehow."

"That's just what the Communists hope we'll do. The Kremlin's new international line is to placate -- to buy time, both to solidify their own gains, and hope for disintegration of the western world's unity. Unfortunately, that seems to be just what is happening. Whether we like it or not, the situation in both France and Italy today is far less favorable to the western cause."

"While it may be true that the danger of immediate open Soviet military aggression is diminishing," Senator Humphrey said, "there are still greater danger signs of the Soviet's achieving many of their objectives without open military aggression."

"Soviet aggression takes more than one form, and it frequently shifts. Just as I repeatedly warned last spring and summer, experienced international observers and responsible government officials now report that Soviet aggression by diplomatic, economic, political and propaganda means is increasing."

"Their aim at world domination is unchanged. We must not be fooled by any temporary switch from heavy-handed threats to more dangerous if more subtle indirect pursuit of that unchanging aim. If we believe some of the optimistic lullabys the Soviets are encouraging today, we'll probably do just what the Kremlin hopes: relax, and let down our guard."

Any sound solution to the end of a Europe divided by an iron curtain between the East and the West must be based on Russia's agreement to an honorable German settlement, Senator Humphrey said, "and nothing has been shown us yet to support any such optimism."

The western world's hopes may reach a turning point -- "or at least a realistic showdown" -- at the "Big Four" Foreign Ministers' meeting on Germany now scheduled for January 25 in Berlin, Senator Humphrey declared.

Senator Humphrey told the co-operative members that they were a "real force for democracy", adding that "wherever the cooperative movement is strong in the world, it is serving as a bulwark against Communism", pointing to the Scandinavian countries, Germany, and England as good examples.

Outline for

LYON COUNTY OIL COOPERATIVE

Talk by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, January 11, 1954

*George Abrahamson*

INTRODUCTION:

Tribute to progress of farmers through co-operative action.

Real American spirit of working together -- democracy exemplified.

Dates back to early settlers helping each other build houses, get in the harvet.

In modern world, it's economic necessity for farmers to do together what they can't achieve alone.

Recently outlined "Farmers Bill of Rights" -- and included in list of what I hold as basic rights of American agriculture the right to extend agricultural free enterprise through cooperative action. That must mean right of farmers to self-help through forming cooperatives for marketing farm products, purchasing farm supplies, and providing essential services, such as extending benefits of electricity and telephones in rural areas -- with legal protection against efforts to curtail effective functioning of such farm co-ops.

STATE OF UNION:

Don't want to talk all agriculture; want to look broader at our entire domestic and international situation, as it all affects agricultural producer.

Eyes of America now on Congress; critical session ahead.

President's Message: laid out comprehensive program, some of it forward-looking, but in very broad and general terms. Must wait for specific details.

- Good points:
1. St. Lawrence Seaway
  2. Increased civil defense
  3. Reverse selves to expand air force.
  4. Tax views constructive: for exemptions, keeping corporation tax, hope to reduce excise taxes to spur consumer buying power.
  5. Voting rights for 18-year-olds.
  6. Peaceful use of atomic energy -- urge support for UNESCO project.
  7. Greater attention to conservation and upstream flood prevention work in watersheds.
  8. Admission that we're in beginning of recession, and pledge to try to counteract it. Doesn't do any good to hide our heads: better to face facts.

Bad Points: 1. Disappointed in narrow attitude on agricultural help, failure to be realistic about need for high supports.

President's stand adopts Benson sliding scale philosophy, directly opposite unanimous recommendation of Minnesota State Legislature, views expressed at farm hearings. Only good sign recognition of need for setting aside part of food abundance in special reserve for special emergency uses -- stockpile, foreign aid, etc. --

(Humphrey Bill last June)

2. Regret lack of any recommendation for legislative action on civil rights, postponing hearings on Ives-Humphrey Equal Opportunity in Employment Bill -- Nixon comments on what discrimination means to foreign policy.

3. Concerned about lumping all foreign assistance under Secretary of Defense, taking humanitarian heart out of Point Four, etc.

ATTITUDE OF CONGRESS:

Real fight yet ahead. Must buckle down to converting aims into achievements.

Test of leadership at hand. President's real problem with own party, on basis of votes at last session.

My own view: Judge programs, issues, on merits, rather than political label . . . support President when I feel he is right, oppose him when I think he is wrong -- but oppose by offering constructive alternatives, not just oppose for opposition's sake.

Not as interested in partentage of bill as in legislative child.

WHAT REALLY IS AT STAKE:

1. Keeping domestic economy expanding, rather than receding.

2. Meet Soviet challenge on world front.

On domestic scene: no cost too great to avoid depression.

Agriculture affects all economy.

Expanding economy can stand present burdens, "hard money" tight-credit economy can't.

Five million unemployed forecast for next year may be just statistic to some -- but it's hungry families to others, and loss of customers to you farmers.

On international scene: Picture not as rosy as painted.

Unjustified optimism can't match Soviet realism.

Russia just changing tactics, not aim.

Real threat is achieving aims without military aggression -- doing it by economic war, political war, diplomatic war, etc.

Can't afford to relax, be asleep -- can't risk another Munich, another Dunkirk, and another Pearl Harbor.

Time for unity -- time for statesmanship in high places.

Time to end era of hysteria, suspicion, and harangues -- need to unify people behind more constructive approach to very real problems.

Country divided can't offer solid front to either major domestic problems or international threats. Country needs confidence for unity, and leadership that inspires confidence.



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