

SCRIPT FOR TELEVISION PROGRAM  
BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
FILMED MARCH 31, 1954

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## EXCISE TAXES

Most people, I am sure, are rather happy these days to find that excise taxes are reduced on stoves, refrigerators, and other household appliances, movie and other admissions, furs, jewelry, handbags and luggage, cosmetics, sporting goods, passenger fares, telephone bills, telegraph charges, cameras and films, lighters and electric light bulbs.

It should be a real shot in the arm for business, stimulating public purchasing power. That is going to mean more business, and more jobs -- at a time when we need both.

But I hope people also realize that the Administration opposed these tax reductions, and sought to have them defeated. Our toughest fight of all was on the Humphrey-Douglas amendment to include the reduction on household appliances.

Now that the reductions have been voted, however, even Administration spokesmen seem to have reversed themselves and now admit our judgment was right -- that the tax cuts will be a boon to business, and aid our sagging economy.

Unfortunately, they managed to block our attempts to reduce taxes on automobiles, radios and television sets as a further effort to stimulate sales. Yet after sabotaging this effort to aid the economy, my namesake Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey now concedes that "consumers have held off buying automobiles and other items until they saw whether Congress was going to cut excise taxes on them".

It is strange indeed that the Administration can oppose tax relief, then claim credit for it after it is enacted.

But the real tax fight is still to come, when Senators George, Douglas, Hill and myself seek to raise personal income tax exemptions from \$600 to \$800 to give tax relief where it is needed most -- in the lower and middle income brackets. While the Administration is opposing our efforts, they are supporting tax cuts on dividend income alone. In other words, they are willing to help the coupon clippers but see no reason to give the same break to earned income.

TELEVISION SCRIPT FOR SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY P.M., APRIL 14, 1954  
SUBJECT: STUDENT EXCHANGE

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FILMS - 11

EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE

I have just called on the Senate to correct what I regard as a terrible and tragic error.

Incredible as it sounds, unbelievable as it seems, the House of Representatives has voted to wreck our Educational Exchange Program that has been such an effective and necessary arm of our foreign policy.

Right at the time when the Kremlin is increasing its own student exchange program to foster Communist indoctrination in youth of other lands, our own efforts to build goodwill and share with other free peoples the spirit of America and the aspirations of our people are being deliberately destroyed in the name of economy.

The House has voted a 40 percent cut in appropriations for the Educational Exchange Programs, cutting \$6 million from an already meager budget request of \$15 million. Do you know what that means?

It means eliminating our educational exchanges completely in 46 countries, including all of the South American Republics, Egypt, Turkey, Korea, Indonesia, Iran, and Formosa -- right where we are faced with the most trouble today. It means eliminating entirely the teacher exchange program and the so-called leader exchange program with all 70 countries with which we have had educational relationships. It means even stopping the small grants-in-aid to American-sponsored schools in Latin America.

I hope we can change this mistake in the Senate. We should be increasing such work ten-fold, not cutting it 40 percent.

If we are not careful, America's neglect and indifference may open the door for the Soviet Union to win a tremendous bloodless victory on the world's educational front.

Can't we see what is happening in the world? Ten thousand Indonesian youths have been taken to Red China in the last two years to be indoctrinated in Communism, and then returned to their native land, while we only offered educational opportunities to about 100 young people from Indonesia under the exchange program. Now even that limited effort will be wiped out.

I would far rather have the government of the United States and the people of the United States spend a few million dollars building up good will and democracy and thus hoping to avoid war, than to spend billions of dollars later trying to remedy the bad effects of our earlier short-sightedness.

The Educational Exchange Program was a wise investment. The so-called economy in destroying it will save each of you about 3 cents. Is it worth it?

TELEVISION SCRIPT FOR SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1954

SUBJECT: SCHOOL LUNCH

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SCHOOL LUNCH

How can we have a very effective school lunch program, if we keep cutting down on funds while the number of pupils increases?

The Administration is asking that the great national school lunch program be cut 18% this year, for a saving of \$15,000,000.

Now I just do not agree that the health of our young people is the right place to start government economizing. With all the billions we are spending for defense, it seems downright silly to try and balance the budget by cutting down on the diets of little children in our schools. These youngsters are America's greatest asset, and we must see that they are properly taken care of.

Actually, even without any reduction in school lunch funds we would be slipping backwards because of the increase in school enrollment. Last year, elementary and secondary school enrollment in this country increased by 1,856,600.

Now, when you have that many more mouths to feed with the same amount of money, you just cannot do as good a job. But when you have to face that increasing task with even less money, anybody should know school children either are not going to get the kind of lunches they need or else they are going to be forced to pay higher prices for them.

We have seen that happen in Minnesota. The price of milk was raised to school children, just because increasing enrollment did not leave enough money to go around. Now that the Federal government is proposing to cut down its share of funds for the school lunch program, what is going to happen?

It makes better sense to me to spend money putting milk into children's stomachs than just to put butter in warehouses. If the Administration is so worried about what to do with dairy products, why doesn't it put more money into the school lunch program -- not less -- and make it possible for every child to have milk every day.

TELEVISION SCRIPT FOR SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 1954

SUBJECT: REFUGEES -- EASTER

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FILMS - 11

WHERE'S OUR HEART?

Today is Easter, and our hearts are filled with joyous Christian spirit.

Today, of all days, there should be room in our hearts for Christian concern over those less blessed, less fortunate than all of us.

Can I share in your Easter just long enough to tell you about a situation that every real Christian should want to see corrected?

Last July, Congress passed an emergency immigration bill providing for the permanent admission of 214,000 additional refugees to our country during a three year period. When President Eisenhower signed the bill, he called it "a significant humanitarian act, and an important contribution toward greater understanding and cooperation among the free nations of the world". The President also explained his hope that the refugees would be arriving in the United States without delay ... that they would soon be coming to our shores.

It is more than eight months since that refugee bill became law. Yet so far, only six refugees have been admitted to our shores.

To me this is a tragedy. The will of the Congress is being ignored. The great humanitarian heart of the American people is being ignored. It is a sad reflection of the lack of sympathy for the basic legislation on the part of those in the State Department who are responsible for the administration of this program.

I am going to call the Senate's attention to this unfortunate situation tomorrow, and insist that we find out why appointed public officials are ignoring the will of the Congress and the President as expressed in law. My Easter pledge is to seek ever harder to put our great Christian concepts into action, in our every day life. Extending the hand of the Good Samaritan to unfortunate refugees is one way we can exemplify what we believe.

Why don't you join me, this Easter, by sitting down and writing a letter to our President urging him to correct the failure of our emergency refugee program? He has the authority to do it. All I can do is urge such action without further delay -- and that is what I intend doing in the Senate tomorrow.

TELEVISION SCRIPT  
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
APRIL 20, 1954

5:00  
May 2

C O M B A T I N G R E C E S S I O N

By now it should be apparent to most people that it is high time we are formulating a program to restore full employment in an expanding economy, and do something constructive about the alarming changes that have taken place in the American economy within the last year.

It does not help to ignore such warning signals as these:

The production of goods and services is down twelve billion dollars.

The wages and salaries of factory workers are down six billion dollars.

Total unemployment has reached 8% of the labor force.

Net income to farm operators has fallen 5%.

Steel production is down 31% of capacity.

Business failures are up 20% in the last quarter of 1953 as compared to the last quarter of 1952.

What we need, and need immediately, is a definite program to stimulate consumer purchasing power.

Here are my recommendations for accomplishing that objective:

1. Increasing personal income tax exemptions.
2. Lowering tax rates of low-income groups.
3. Lowering interest rates.
4. Accelerate a public works program to build schools, hospitals, roads, dams, civil defense facilities, among other needed projects.
5. Stimulate construction of two million homes next year, and foster a 135,000 unit public housing program.
6. Restore farm income by maintaining price supports at levels at least no lower than last year and seeking new uses and outlets for our farm abundance at home and overseas.
7. Raise minimum wages.
8. Increase old-age payments.
9. Improve unemployment insurance.
10. Intensify world trade development.

This is our challenge. If we accept it, and do something about it, we can avert a depression.

TELEVISION SCRIPT  
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
APRIL 20, 1954

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## FACTS ABOUT H-BOMB

There is one topic that is on everyone's lips these days, and in everyone's heart. It is the hydrogen bomb -- the most destructive force ever wielded by man. Like any other father, I am deeply concerned over this dreaded weapon. The lives of my children -- Nancy, Skipper, Bobby, and little Dougie -- will be determined by our ability to wisely control this force. The lives of your children will depend upon our collective wisdom, and determination to harness this power for good rather than destruction.

We should know the facts. Just what is the H-bomb? It is simply hydrogen exploded by an atomic bomb. The process, according to our scientists, is similar to that by which the sun gives off the heat that warms our earth. Can it destroy the earth? Our best minds tell us "No" -- but it CAN destroy civilization! It is the mightiest force that has ever been in the hands of man. But experts tell us it is still a "firecracker" compared to such natural forces as the volcano Krakatoa which erupted in the early part of this century.

4:20  
April 27

What can it do? For all practical purposes, it can destroy any city on the face of the earth. It can cause total destruction within a 50-square mile area; severe damage within a 200-square mile area; moderate damage within a 600-square mile area; fire destruction within an 800-square mile area. This does not take into account the damage from radiation. What does the future hold? The hydrogen bomb is a force which will either end war, or end civilization. The answer lies in our wisdom, our unity; our ability to put aside our petty quarrels and dedicate ourselves to preserving our country for posterity.

Is there hope? Personally, I have a tremendous faith in the future of our country. I think we have the brains, and the courage, and the will to preserve our freedoms without destroying civilization.

I take comfort from these verses of the 91st Psalm:

"Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night;

"Nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

"Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness;

"Nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday."

In that spirit, we CAN control this tremendous force that we have developed, and use it for mankind's good, rather than doom.

There are too many who have scoffed at the great spiritual truths which our fathers and mothers believed in so fervently. These scientific devices have been constructed as a result of our materialistic ambitions. They are now so powerful that we stand in mortal danger of destruction. There must be a renaissance of the spirit. There must be a turning from the counsel of man, toward the wisdom contained in the teachings of God.

TELEVISION SCRIPT  
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
APRIL 20, 1954

4:20

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INDO-CHINA

Out of the welter of confusion surrounding the situation in Indo-China, it should now be apparent that we are at the crossroads.

We must make hard decisions -- the kind that will tax all our determination and will power.

Perhaps all of us would be better prepared for such vital decisions if so many of the facts had not been withheld from us about the situation in Indo-China. But it is no longer any secret that the fall of Indo-China to the Communists would be disastrous to all our plans in Asia.

It would mean the loss of the richest tungsten, tin, and rubber producing areas in the free world. More important, it would mean the loss of all Southeast Asia, and probably the loss of all Asia. Ultimately, we might be driven out of the Pacific itself.

The issue is clearly this: ~~Should we~~ ~~continue to give more aid~~  
**COPY**  
to the French forces in Indo-China? Shall we insist that the aid be  
conditioned upon a more realistic attitude on their part? Shall we  
continue without clear assurances that others will join with us? Or shall  
we withdraw altogether and fall back upon the concept of fortress America?

The next few weeks will see the answers to these questions.  
Whatever the answers may be, they must be based upon the full knowledge  
and consent of the American people.

For an effective defense of Southeast Asia, it seems to me  
that we need the following:

1. An assurance by France of genuine self-government to the  
people of Indo-China. Without this assurance, I fear that we will never  
enlist the full support of the Indo-Chinese people in the vital struggle  
against Communist aggression.

2. A firm and united warning to Red China that there is no  
chance whatever of admission to the United Nations, so long as it  
continues its aggressive tactics.

3. An intensification of the present trade embargo with Communist China so long as we know that Communist China is arming the rebels of Indo-China.

4. A clear warning, similar to the notice we have already given in Korea, that in the event of direct intervention by the Red Chinese Army in Indo-China, it may not be possible to limit hostilities to that area.

5. Greater consultation with our allies, instead of keeping them in the dark about our intentions and policies. In this regard we are in a weaker position today than we were in connection with Korea, because at that time we were working in constant close consultation with our allies. Now, they have a feeling of being kept in the dark until we appeal for their help.

Our task is to keep lighting the torch of freedom for us and for the people of the world. It is to make clear a vision so often forgotten in recent months. That the purpose of our foreign policy is not only to defeat Communism, but also to strengthen freedom and perpetuate liberty.

We must again make clear for all to see that the American people do not seek war -- they seek to avoid war. That our purpose is not to perpetuate Colonialism, but to eradicate Colonialism. The freedom of Indo-China from Communist aggression is indeed essential to our national security, but the best way to insure that freedom from Communist aggression is for us to assert our belief in freedom in Indo-China for the people of Indo-China. It is then, and only then, that our arms and aid can be effective and meaningful.

TELEVISION SCRIPT  
NEWS SHORT  
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
APRIL 26, 1954

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FOOD FOR FILIPINOS

I am shocked and indignant over the attitude of our Government in turning our stocks of powdered milk over to feed dealers for animal feed, at a time when it is urgently needed for human food in many parts of the world.

Under a program now in effect in the Department of Agriculture, a feed mixer can buy this milk for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cents a pound for animal feed. But if any country in the world wants it to feed hungry children, they must pay  $11\frac{1}{2}$  cents a pound. Does that make good sense?

Perhaps many of you saw the recent article in the Minneapolis Star about 200,000 people starving in the Philippines because of a scourge of rats wiping out their crops. I have the clipping right here in my hand. Let me read a paragraph from it:

"A scourge as devastating as the locust plagues of ancient Egypt has swept this once-rich countryside, leaving it filled with gaunt, starving people who have neither the money nor the energy to leave".

Now, this article came over the United Press wires early  
this month.

Yet in the face of such emergency need -- and it is only one  
of many examples in the world today -- the Department of Agriculture  
says it does not know what to do with powdered milk that would  
save these human lives. All it can think of is dumping it for pigs.

What is the matter with us? Do we no longer care about human  
suffering?

Over a week ago I protested on the Senate floor against using  
for animals nourishing food so badly needed for human consumption. I  
called attention then to the 200,000 starving people in the Philippines,  
who need this milk. Yet nothing has been done. The milk is still going  
to the feed dealers at fantastic bargains.

I just want to repeat what I said on the Senate floor: I  
am for sending food on the first American ship we can get to the 200,000  
people in the Philippines who need it. We don't even have to wait for a  
ship. If we can fly paratroopers into Indo-China, 14,000 miles away, we  
can fly milk to the Philippines, too. If we don't we may have to be

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flying paratroopers to the Philippines in days to come.

Food, we better remember, has a lot to do with Freedom.

Hungry people are desperate people. Why give Communists a new chance to make inroads among hungry people in the Philippines?

If the American people knew such valuable food was being practically given away for animal feed at a time when children are dying of starvation for the lack of it, I am sure they would be just as indignant as I am -- and raise a cry of protest that could not be ignored.

TELEVISION SCRIPT  
NEWS SHORT  
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
APRIL 26, 1954

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GRAIN STORAGE

I am afraid we are going to have storage troubles in the Upper Midwest this year, unless additional storage facilities can be built soon for small grains and corn storage.

While progress is being made, it is still not enough.

I have suggested to Secretary Benson that farmers should be given the same incentives offered public warehousemen to expand storage facilities. The government now offers guaranteed occupancy of new public warehouse facilities. Why can't the same guarantee be used to encourage additional on-farm storage? It seems to me that if the storage situation is critical enough to call for the guaranteed occupancy incentive to the builder of a public storage facility, it is also critical enough to make the same provision for farmers who build new bins and cribs.



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