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SENATOR HUMPHREY PROTESTS NEGLECT OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

America's rapidly growing population of school-age children is being neglected by failure to properly provide for adequate school building facilities, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey declared last night in an address before the Grove City PTA.

Complimenting Minnesota's school board members on "the good job they have done" in meeting school needs, Senator Humphrey added that "all of us know there is more to be done, and more than the limited resources of some areas can bear along".

"While we are better off than in many areas of the country, we are seeing examples of overcrowding right in Minnesota, with double shifts being forced to attend some of our schools", Senator Humphrey declared.

Nationally, he said, the situation is even worse, with "one child in five attending school in an old or inadequate building".

"We must be concerned about all school children, and see that all of them have decent buildings. Right now, we need 340,000 additional classrooms to relieve overcrowding and to replace obsolete buildings.

"On top of all this, our school enrollment is increasing by $1\frac{1}{2}$ million every year. America cannot neglect its citizens of the future. We can and must give our school children proper facilities for a decent education", he said.

Senator Humphrey was author of the School Construction Survey Act of 1950 under which a nation-wide study was made to determine needs as the basis for an intensive school construction program, and has introduced legislation every year since 1950 to provide for federal aid in such a construction program.

"But despite the fact that the distressing shortage of school facilities has caused a crisis in our educational system, the Republican Administration refused to take necessary action and even actively opposed any Federal Aid for School Construction during the recent session of the Congress", Senator Humphrey reported.

"Instead, they have stalled action in favor of further study -- at a time when a complete study already is available showing the pressing and documented needs for school construction."

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Senator Humphrey also called attention to "Minnesota's loss of \$165,000,000 to help meet our school needs" through refusal of the Administration to accept the "Oil-for-Education" amendment pressed for by himself and other Democrats during the past session, to earmark revenue from the oil-rich submerged lands offshore in the ocean for educational purposes.

An appeal for expansion rather than curtailment of the nation's vocational educational program was also voiced by Senator Humphrey.

"Vocational education is an essential part of our nation's school system", he declared. "It is our means of preparing young men and women for taking on the responsibilities of adulthood, preparing them in the skills so necessary today in agriculture, in labor, in homemaking, and in our distributive trades. Without such opportunities for training we are sending young people out in the world at a handicap in starting out to earn a livelihood. The need for an expanded program is shown clearly by these facts:

"Vocational education is available only to about half of those students below college level who need and would profit from it;

"More than 5,000 high schools serving farm children have no program for vocational agriculture;

"Over 700,000 high schools offer no program in homemaking and home economics."

Yet despite these needs, Senator Humphrey said, "the Administration proposed reductions in vocational education funds that would have cost Minnesota nearly \$50,000 a year for agricultural, industrial, and home economics education".

It was only through the protests of the National Education Association and the American Vocational Association, backed up by Democrats in the Congress, that the proposed cuts were restored, Senator Humphrey said.



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