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HUMPHREY ASKS NIXON TO SEEK AID FOR TURKEY PRODUCERS

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey had a word of advice for Vice President Nixon at Worthington's Turkey Day Celebration today, urging him to carry back a message to Secretary of Agriculture Benson that Minnesota's turkey producers -- like too many other farmers -- are "in trouble".

"Now that you have seen a sample of Minnesota's great turkey producing industry please inform your Secretary of Agriculture that turkeys are important to our farm economy, and just as deserving of consideration as many other commodities for which the Department of Agriculture provides assistance in stabilizing markets", Senator Humphrey said.

"Farm income from turkeys in Minnesota amounted to \$28,626,000 in 1953", Senator Humphrey revealed. "Surely the preservation of the turkey industry is as deserving of immediate attention as tobacco, peaches, peas, peanuts, and figs for which government purchases or loans are being used to bolster prices."

Minnesota's turkey producers are caught in a price squeeze as a result of high fixed costs and low markets for the finished products, and "many growers face the prospect of being forced out of existence", Senator Humphrey warned.

Senator Humphrey urged the Department of Agriculture to embark on a limited "school lunch" purchase program that "could mean a difference of three or four cents per pound to producers -- the difference between survival and going broke".

Because Minnesota turkey producers already have marketed approximately 34% of their crop under adverse price conditions and will have marketed over 60% of their total 1954 turkey crop before the end of October, Senator Humphrey added that "the time is already overdue for some promised action" to stabilize the market.

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