

From the office of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
Room 429 Nicollet Hotel
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REPUBLICAN BUNGLING BOOSTING FARM PROGRAM COSTS, SENATOR HUMPHREY DECLARES

Republican "bungling and mismanagement" has been making the nation's farm programs "far more costly at the same time they are less effective", Senator Hubert H. Humphrey declared last night in an address in St. Cloud at a testimonial dinner for Congressman Fred Marshall.

"Republican orators keep telling the public about the high cost to the taxpayers of the farm price support program---but they don't tell you that under Republican management, the program has cost many times more than it did under the Democrats," Senator Humphrey said.

"During twenty Democratic years, the total cost of supports for the six basic crops was \$20.7 million. During two Republican years, the cost of supports for the same six crops was \$403 million.

"During twenty Democratic years, the total cost of support for dairy products was \$136.5 million. During two Republican years, the cost was \$473.3 million.

"During twenty Democratic years, the total cost of support for barley, oats and rye was \$11.6 million. During two Republican years, the cost of supporting the same crops was \$42.6 million.

"That's the price America has been paying for Republican farm leadership, a price Republicans seem willing to pay to try and discredit our farm programs," Senator Humphrey said.

"Moreover, the cost of storing a bushel of grain has nearly doubled under the Republicans, according to official Department of Agriculture figures.

"Under President Truman in 1951, it cost 6.6¢ a bushel to store grain in our reserves. In 1952, it cost only 5.7¢ a bushel.

"But under Secretary Benson's supposedly "businesslike" Republican administration, that cost went up to 11¢ per bushel for 1954."

Senator Humphrey challenged Republican claims that 90% price supports were "not effective" in maintaining farm prices.

"From October 15, 1952, through October 15, 1954, commodities under mandatory Democratic 90% price supports went down only 3%. For the same period, commodities under GOP flexible supports went down 18%. And commodities having no price supports went down 25%," he declared.

Senator Humphrey lauded Congressman Marshall as "a real stalwart for agriculture in the House of Representatives, and one of the most effective champions for the farmer in the entire Congress."



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