



STEVENSON-KEFAUVER CAMPAIGN

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U. S. MAY LOSE CHANCE TO CURB H-BOMB PERIL UNLESS IT ACTS SOON

Unless immediate steps are taken toward obtaining an agreement such as Adlai Stevenson has proposed on controlling H-Bomb experiments, "our country may lose our last chance of curbing the peril to all civilization, now hanging over the heads of mankind," Senator Hubert H. Humphrey declared last evening in an address before a Waseca County DFL "Bean Feed" at Waseca.

"For unless the three present atomic powers can agree soon on a test-ban, other countries may get the H-bomb and greatly increase both the hazard to our lives and the prospects of ever controlling such tests," Senator Humphrey explained.

"Last May, Harold Stassen said that within a year the secret of the hydrogen bomb would spread around the world, raising the dual danger that a Hitler-like maniac might get control of the H-bomb and that several nations might start conducting hydrogen tests -- vastly increasing the danger of fall-out and radioactive poisoning."

Senator Humphrey said the nation should heed "the somber warning of our scientists" that continuation of hydrogen tests may poison the world and damage our future generations, spreading the dangerous poison called Strontium-90 which would be transferred to humans through food, and cause bone cancer.

"Already, as a result of atomic explosions to date, everyone on earth now has some Strontium-90 in his bones. Soil tests in the midwest show the content of Strontium-90 increasing, and being picked up in our food supplies. Reports in the files of the Atomic Energy Commission, for example, show Strontium-90 content in cheese has tripled since these tests began. The same is true of other food products.

"Admittedly, scientists are uncertain or at least not in full agreement about how soon this may reach the serious danger level, but they do agree that further testing will increase the danger. The Federation of American Scientists has called for halting the tests, rather than take such risks.

"How far can we risk the future of our children's lives, and our own lives, on such uncertainty?", Senator Humphrey asked.

Senator Humphrey said that we "already have big enough bombs to destroy the largest city on earth", lessening the need for continued development of bigger and bigger bombs, adding:

"An agreement to halt H-bomb tests would not endanger national security because we would in no way reduce our present arsenal of atomic and hydrogen weapons, which is the main deterrent against the use of force by other nations.

"On the contrary, Governor Stevenson proposed that we proceed both with production of hydrogen weapons and with further research in this field. We would not be giving up anything that Russia would not also give up -- and we have the means of checking up on Russia's compliance. Both Eisenhower and Stassen have already publicly said so."



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