

From the Office of  
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey  
140 Senate Office Building  
Washington 25, D.C.  
National 8-3120, Ext. 881

For Release: Monday A.M.  
June 10, 1957

FOOD ABUNDANCE FOREIGN POLICY ASSET IN WORLD OF NEED, SENATOR HUMPHREY SAYS

Use of American food and fiber "aggressively and imaginatively" in support of our foreign policy offers an opportunity for "an entirely new look" at domestic farm policies, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey declared yesterday in an address before a Farmers' Picnic at Faribault attended by farmers of Rice, Steele, Waseca, Le Sueur, Scott, Dakota, Dodge, and Goodhue counties.

"If we have the vision to grasp the opportunities that exist, we can strengthen farm income through programs of wisely-used abundance instead of dependence upon enforced scarcity," Senator Humphrey said.

Commenting on his observations during recent travels during many food-deficient areas of the Middle East, Senator Humphrey said:

"I am convinced our ability to produce in abundance offers us the most powerful instrument for peace existing in the world today. It is time we recognized that fact, and made proper use of it. Food is the common denominator needed by mankind to survive. It can be used by our country as the basis of a foreign economic policy aiding American business, American farmers, and American foreign policy -- a humanitarian foreign policy which shows we are more concerned about human beings than about bombs and military alliances."

For the farmer, increased use of food internationally in support of better foreign relations -- both through sales for foreign currencies and relief distribution through voluntary agencies -- "can lessen the need for squeezing farmers out of production," Senator Humphrey declared.

For the rest of the country, sharing our abundance where it is needed "carries abroad the symbol of America's enterprise, America's ability to produce, and America's friendship" far more effectively than tanks and guns.

"In a world urgently needing what we can produce, there is far more moral justification in using public funds to protect the income of farm families producing for our friends and allies as well as for ourselves than there is for spending millions to compel farmers not to produce," Senator Humphrey said.

"We need to do an about face. We need to look upon our great agricultural production and productive capacity as a source of strength in the world scene. Instead of telling farm families to quit producing -- or forcing them to do so be deliberately depressing farm prices and income to seek scarcity as a cold economic answer to a human problem -- we as a nation should say 'Thank God' for the farmers who have kept us from the deprivation and hunger facing vast areas of the world. We should see that our farm people are properly rewarded for making available to our nation not only the means of visibly expressing our humanitarian concern for fellow mankind everywhere -- but also giving us a tremendous bargaining power in growing economic warfare against Communist Russia."

Senator Humphrey noted that Krushchev, in his recent television interview, showed Russia's concern about needing to "match our ability to produce in abundance."

"Our abundance is an asset in the free world which worries the Soviet -- but it is a useless asset unless we are wise enough to put it to work for freedom," Senator Humphrey said.



# Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



[www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org)