

From the Office of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
140 Senate Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.
Capitol 4-3121, Ext. 881

FOR RELEASE: Friday A.M.'s
November 8, 1957

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION FACES SERIOUS SETBACK, SENATOR HUMPHREY WARNS

Vocational education faces "a serious setback throughout the nation" if recommendations of a Cabinet-level Joint Federal-State Action Committee for ending of federal assistance are not rejected," Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D.-Minn.) declared last night in an address at dedication of a new high school at Proctor, Minnesota.

"At a time when we should be expanding vocational education instead of curtailing it, this Joint Committee of Cabinet Members and Governors proposes wiping out forty years of progress toward improved educational opportunities for young people unable to continue with higher education beyond high school," Senator Humphrey declared.

"At a meeting in Chicago in October, the group tentatively agreed to recommend return to full State or local sponsorship the vocational education programs in agriculture, home economics, trades and industries, and the distributive occupations -- meaning the end of Federal assistance to the States for the conduct of these educational programs.

"While some States would assume the burden and seek to maintain these programs at a full level, it is too much to hope that every State would do so. The result could be a serious setback for vocational education.

"These programs date back to the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917, expanded by the George-Barden Act of 1946. Fortunately, the Administration cannot abolish Federal assistance to the State without approval of the Congress -- and I can promise you a fight to the finish to save these vital programs from such undermining."

Senator Humphrey called upon parents and school officials "to make your voice heard on this issue".

"Aim of the Administration is to win support of the Governors' Conference, through a committee of nine Governors appointed by Governor Stratton of Illinois which has already supported the termination of assistance," Senator Humphrey said.

"Few programs have produced more and better results for the taxpayers' dollar than vocational education in our high schools. Without these programs, we would not have the Future Farmers of America in our rural areas -- and we would be turning out students in our cities poorly prepared to earn a livelihood."

Senator Humphrey said the attempt to end assistance to vocational education was "just part of a general drive to evade Federal responsibility for meeting the needs of our citizens." If they succeed in "washing their hands" of responsibility for proper education of the young, he warned, the next step would well be ending Federal assistance to the aged and the needy and shifting more and more burdens to the States "where in many instances, legislative bodies may be less responsive to the public interest".

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For Release: Thursday p.m.
November 7, 1957

SENATOR HUMPHREY URGES SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL SESSION, CITES OBJECTIVES

"A special session of the Congress is demanded by the urgency of the international situation and the very great decisions which face the President and the nation during the coming weeks," Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) declared this morning.

"Much more is needed than a series of generalized 'pep-talks' by the President", Senator Humphrey told a convocation audience at the University of Minnesota at Duluth.

"The representatives of our people, in the Congress, should be presented before the President leaves to attend the NATO conference in December with the President's formal proposals respecting the possible pooling of scientific effort with our allies; any proposals he may have for the sharing of nuclear weapons and atomic energy secrets; proposals he may have for the reorganization of our missiles and rockets program and the possible pooling of NATO efforts in this field; and proposals he may have for the raising of the national debt ceiling, if that becomes necessary in order to maintain our national security at a safe level."

Senator Humphrey pointed out that there are several "urgent tasks" which face the leadership of the country, and "they cannot be accomplished without full cooperation and consultation between the Executive and the Legislative Branches."

"I do not feel that we can afford to mark time between now and the first week of January, when we have had so vividly demonstrated to us how many months and perhaps years the Soviets have moved out ahead of us in certain areas of research, technology and production," the Minnesota Democrat asserted.

Senator Humphrey declared that at the special session, Congress should be formally presented with the President's views on at least the following matters:

1. Legislation to make possible the sharing and pooling of scientific information with our allies, including nuclear information and weapons.
2. Proposals to develop a coordinated missile, rocket and satellite program "to regain at least parity with the Soviet Union" in this field.
3. The question of the general level of defense expenditures, and how that is related to the national debt ceiling.
4. The current and projected relationship between our military and our foreign policy, "with particular reference to our foreign policy commitments and our military capabilities to fulfill them." Senator Humphrey emphasized that in order to fulfill some of our foreign policy commitments, "a wide variety of types of forces clearly would be needed."
5. The Administration's proposals as to the long-term loan requested by India. "There is reason to believe," Senator Humphrey said, "that the Soviet is preparing

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to offer this assistance. If she does, and India accepts, Russia will have a mortgage on India's future."

- Proposals to initiate a sweeping "talent hunt" for gifted young people, through a program of Federal scholarships, loans, and tax deductions for the support of students, particularly in the fields of science and engineering. "I would be deeply interested," Senator Humphrey said, "in the Administration's views on my own bills to provide such a program. We have been waiting for eleven months for their comments, since I first introduced them in January of this year."

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