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EXPANSION OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES URGENTLY NEEDED, SENATOR HUMPHREY SAYS

More than missiles is involved in freedom's struggle for survival, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) declared last night in an address before the annual banquet of the Federal Savings and Loan Council of Illinois at the Morrison Hotel in Chicago.

"We need mobilization of our nation's brain power for building a better world able to live in peace, as well as building greater weapons of self defense," he declared.

"We need to upgrade the role of both science and education in American life and government policy not only for military defense -- but also for purposes of the betterment of humanity.

"The world is teetering between threatened annihilation, and the greatest era of new discovery and new progress mankind has yet known. It is time we realized that the Soviet is waging all-out war on us, without a shot being fired. They are challenging us in every field. We are locked in a struggle which will demand every resource of our intelligence and our spirit if we are to survive.

"We must decide to compete -- and win -- in every area of challenge. We must compete all the way, not with one hand tied behind our backs. We must compete with the greatest mobilization of our resources, our talents, our national will that we have ever known," Senator Humphrey said.

"We must maintain a strong and expanding economy at home. This is the lifeline of our programs of national security. We who believe in private capitalism and free enterprise must be prepared to challenge Soviet state capitalism and collective enterprise -- and make no mistake about it, the Soviet Union and her satellites are stepping up the pace of competition on all fronts: economic assistance to underdeveloped countries -- foreign trade -- student exchanges -- cultural activities -- trade fairs -- youth festivals -- and an ever increasing number of visitors to the Soviet Union.

It will not be enough just to " earmark more dollars, without having some specific objectives that go beyond catching up on satellites and missiles", he declared.

"We need to streamline and eliminate duplication among scientific agencies within our government, and we need a vastly stepped up program of educational opportunities as part of our longer-range planning for the future," Senator Humphrey said.

To expedite mobilization of the nation's scientific resources, Senator Humphrey revealed that the Senate Subcommittee on Government Reorganization would conduct hearings early in the new year on new legislation resulting from staff studies proposing:

1. Establishment of a new Department of Science and Technology, "upgrading" the present National Science Foundation and consolidating other major science and basic research functions of the government under a new cabinet member.
2. Establishment of new standing committees on science and technology in both the Senate and House of Representatives to work with the new Department of Science.
3. Establishment of a broad system of science scholarships and incentives to science instructors and students to encourage greater emphasis on science and engineering in all institutions of higher learning.
4. Establishment of a central clearing house or library for scientific information, and use of counterpart funds in other countries to finance translating and abstracting of scientific writings and reports throughout the world.

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To expedite expansion of higher education, Senator Humphrey revealed he would press for early attention of the Senate to his "Youth Opportunity Program" calling for:

1. A program of 40,000 federal scholarships annually, involving grants up to \$1,000 a year, on the basis of need and merit, with provision that 60% of the scholarships may be earmarked for fields "in the interests of national defense, whenever the President determines such action necessary."
2. Long term, low interest loans, insured by the Federal government just as housing loans are insured, providing a delayed first repayment until four years after completion of full-time education and providing a special incentive to encourage graduates to enter the teaching profession through a loan "write-off" feature for each year of teaching.
3. A program of grants to institutions of higher learning accepting scholarship students to aid in expanded facilities and costs of other educational services necessary to accommodate the expanded enrollment.
4. A program of income tax credits to families depleting their savings to send their children through college.

"Every time a gifted young man or woman fails to go to college, or has to drop out of college because of a lack of financial support, we lose part of the battle in the cold war," Senator Humphrey said.

"For in this total struggle between ways of life, we must engage the enemy in depth -- and on every front. We must have reserves, not just in uniform, but in our laboratories, in our classrooms, and in our hospitals. We must look far into the future.

"Americans have been shocked by Sputniks in the sky -- but they should be even more shocked by learning that the number of college graduates with math preparation declined 37.4% in the United States in the last seven years, and the number of college graduates with science preparation declined 44.5%.

"One hundred and fifty thousand students out of the top echelon of their classes in high school did not go on to study in college this year -- just because of a lack of means to pay for college.

"How many of those who did not go to college ten years ago for that same reason would now be available to help our country in its desperate shortage of scientists and engineers -- had they had the chance?" Senator Humphrey asked.

"We need to look long and carefully about what is happening in our educational system, and wake up to what needs to be done.

"But most of all, we need to change our national viewpoint toward intellectuals -- and give the scholars and thinkers, the teachers and the scientists, the recognition of importance in our society that they deserve. America is paying a grim and tragic price for the wave of anti-intellectualism that has gripped our country in recent years," Senator Humphrey declared.



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