

From the Office of
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85TH CONGRESS ESTABLISHED RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT: HUMPHREY

The 85th Congress established "a remarkable record of accomplishment" in its second session just concluded -- "particularly in view of the executive and legislative branches of our government being split between opposing political parties", Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) declared yesterday in an address at Tracy's Community Box Car Day Festival.

"Meeting in the shadow of Sputnik and the worst recession since World War II, the 85th Congress gave America the kind of dynamic leadership denied it by the Eisenhower-Nixon Administration," Senator Humphrey declared.

"It seized the initiative from the Administration by passing measures to meet the Soviet challenge, restore U.S. prestige in the world, and bolster the domestic economy.

"It also built great legislative landmarks in the field of human welfare -- with new advances in health, education, social security, and civil rights.

"We met the challenge of the Space Age by setting up a new Space Agency, and enacting the National Defense Education Act. We met the challenge of world tensions by providing \$3.3 billion for Mutual Security, by extending the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act for four years, and by seeking greater implementation of 'Works of Peace' in the realm of food and health. We met the challenge of a weakened economy at home by enacting the Area Redevelopment Bill, by providing \$5.5 billion for highway construction, and \$1.8 billion for housing, and by extension of unemployment benefits.

"We opened new frontiers for the United States by admitting Alaska to statehood, and paving the way for similar action for Hawaii next year.

"We exemplified our belief in 'Government with a Heart' by increasing social security and public assistance benefits.

MAJOR HEALTH GAINS

"We made the greatest advances of many decades in the entire field of health, through increasing hospital construction funds by 59% instead of cutting them back as the President proposed, and authorized the largest expenditures in history for greatly expanded medical research into cancer, mental health, heart disease, and other medical problems and diseases of mankind. We called for sponsorship of an International Health Year, and for a worldwide study of international health research and assistance -- both proposals of my own, and a study I have been designated to head.

"We provided the most effective assistance yet offered the nation's small businessmen -- both tax relief, and capital financing assistance.

"We enacted the Labor Welfare and Pension Plans Disclosure Act, and sought to enact the Labor Reform Bill to curb abuses of racketeers bringing discredit upon the legitimate labor movement in America. We in the Senate approved the labor reforms -- but were blocked in the House by an unholy alliance of Big Business and the crooks trying to infiltrate labor, aided and abetted by Republicans following management's beck and call despite all their talk about wanting to 'clean up' organized labor.

"Perhaps one of our most significant accomplishments was expanded federal aid to education, both in extension of the federal assistance programs for school construction in areas affected by U.S. activities -- a continuation of my original school construction legislation adopted in 1950 -- and in the new National Defense Education Act.

Q my youth conservation program

*Miner
Sputnik*

*Space
Food
Trade
Peace*

*Alaska
Hawaii
Sec
Sec*

*Religion
Health
+ Hosp*

*Small
Business
Labor
welfare
fund*

Educ

*Food
+
Health
works
Peace*

*Alaska
Hawaii*

Read

PROGRESS IN EDUCATION

"The Education Act is a real step forward in expanding opportunities for young people to further their education. The bill, of which I was an original sponsor, provides \$887,000,000 for low-cost student loans, guidance and counselling training, and aid to vocational education over a four-year period. Although I was disappointed at the dropping of needed scholarship programs -- as a result of the efforts of our own Republican Congressman from Minneapolis -- nevertheless the bill is a sound step forward and gives us basic legislation to build upon in the future.

Edwards
"It is regrettable that we were defeated, through lack of Administration backing, in our efforts to include more school construction in the program. Yet perhaps it is often overlooked that over a billion and a half dollars in federal aid to education has already been provided since 1951 under legislation sponsored by myself and Senator Hill. Since the original school construction bill which I sponsored back in 1950, federal contributions amounting to \$854,850,000 have been made for school construction in areas affected by federal activities. Appropriations of the recent Congress will add another \$200 million for the same purpose. In addition, there have been payments to school districts for operation of these same schools amounting to \$619,170,000 under legislation sponsored by Senator Hill."

MUCH YET TO DO

"Of course, much remains to be done; many challenges still face us for 1959, particularly new and better farm legislation."

"Democrats would have passed many additional measures in the public interest at the last session but for the opposition of the Eisenhower-Nixon Administration, and the Republicans in Congress -- measures such as a more effective farm program, broader labor reforms, new atomic power reactors, vital community public works, and school construction."

"If the American people show at the ballot box in November that they want and need constructive, progressive leadership, we will return to Congress next January with the kind of liberal majorities we need to complete many of these urgently needed legislative programs," Senator Humphrey declared.

(9048/29/58)

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