

[March 11, 1960]

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PLAN NOW FOR DISARMAMENT CONVERSION
TO PEACE OPPORTUNITIES
(Eau Claire)

Today our power of reason is staggered and our sense of proportion is shattered when we realize how much this country spends for works of war. We exhaust more than \$40 billion every year just for military purposes. The cost of just one Polaris submarine is more than \$100 million. Nine per cent of our total gross national product is devoted to defense. And almost 60 per cent of your tax dollar is eaten

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up in the effort to buy, maintain and staff the facilities and weapons of war.

These high costs of security are necessary, because the Free World has been threatened by the vast military power of the Soviet Union. But today there are signs of progress on the long, frustrating road to disarmament. Soviet Premier Khrushchev is shifting many of the energies and resources of Communism from military to economic efforts. Hope is increasing that an agreement to reduce arms can and will be achieved in the near future.

A significant reduction of arms and a halt to the arms race would have massive effects on our economy. But we can not listen to those who say that our economy would be thrown completely out of balance if heavy production of arms ended. Our American economic system is not so weak that it must be geared permanently to big defense spending. We have the genius to adjust.

America should visualize not just problems, but opportunities if disarmament is achieved. With a significant reduction of arms, America could accept these challenges:

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- * Switch the spending of billions from works of war to constructive works of peace.
- * Turn our full talents and resources to development of a better life for all citizens.
- * Devote the efforts of our Government to long-neglected public works projects.
- * Build more and better schools, homes, hospitals, highways and airports.
- * Reduce taxes to allow each citizen to buy

more for his family
and thus spur pro-
duction.

The problems, of course, can not be minimized. When the arms race is halted -- and ultimately it must be -- America can not simply stumble into a new era of change and challenge. Industries and businesses must be ready to switch from a defense economy to a peace economy. Factories must be ready to turn out products of peace instead of weapons of war. Planning is needed, but there are no plans. The Administration has refused to take any steps to prepare America economically for disarmament.

I urge that the President appoint an expert commission to spark this planning. We must draw together our business and industrial leaders, the leaders of organized labor, our scientists and professional men and state and local officials to prepare America to meet the problems imposed by disarmament and to achieve the great opportunities that disarmament will offer us.

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INVESTMENT IN AMERICA

Address By

SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Tonight I want to talk with you about our vital
needs to invest in the future -- America's future
Wisconsin's future....your future.

There are men who say that it is useless to talk
about the future. They worship only the narrow needs
of each day. They are blind to the ^{storms}~~seas~~ and the dams
of tomorrow.

But we of this great northern region of the
Midwest know the wisdom of planning for tomorrow, for
next month, for next year. We know the sting and fury
of winter, so we have the wisdom to prepare our homes

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and lives for its dangers. We do not sit back in the fair weather of Fall and say: "Everything's fine today; why worry about tomorrow?"

Life is not kind to the nearsighted. It demands clear vision and foresight.

What would happen to the farmer who refused to plow his fields and said "I can't afford a tractor."?

What would happen to the merchant who refused to stock his shelves and said "I can't afford the merchandise."?

What would happen to the carpenter who refused to take a job and said "I can't afford the tools."?

I will tell you. They would be out in the cold,

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while the farsighted farmers, merchants and carpenters would be reaping the benefits.

Our Nation must have the tools. It must invest in the future if it wants to reap the benefits of its full potential.

Where would America be today if our fathers and their fathers had not invested in the future?

Our people would not be skilled if America had not invested in a public school system. Our communities would not be productive if America had not invested in such projects as the Tennessee Valley Authority. Our lands would not be green and full if

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America had not invested in a system of National
Parks and Forests.

The investments of wise men ten years ago,
30 years ago, 100 years ago have made our Nation
strong today.

America can not stop now. It cannot heed
the whispers of fearful and lazy men who say:
"Everything's fine today. Why worry about tomorrow?
We can't afford the tools."

I say we can and must afford the tools to
build for America's future.

We must invest in our educational system. Our

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children and future generations of children need more classrooms and more teachers.

We must invest in our defense. Our strength must be maintained if we are to avert the threats of war.

We must invest in our health. Our country needs more hospitals, programs for pollution control and expanded medical research.

We must invest in our mobility. Our economy needs highways and airports if it is to grow and expand.

America will grow if we make these investments in the future. If not, America could become stagnant,

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weak and -- in the end -- impoverished.

Tonight, I am aware that Wisconsin is a
key to the growth of our great Midwest heartland,
and to the nation itself.

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Wisconsin will grow. There is no doubt about that. It is rich in the basic resources needed by all of the country and all of the world. It has the magnificent productive power to utilize those resources. Its citizens are a hard-working, enterprising people with the will and the skill to grow and prosper.

Today we have one tool to release Wisconsin's tremendous energies. We have a channel through which Wisconsin's products and goods can flow. We have a vital link between Wisconsin and the world. We have the St. Lawrence Seaway.

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I am sure all of you know what the Seaway means
to your community and your State.

It means cheaper costs for transporting your
goods.

It means a greater demand for your products
and services.

It means more jobs through a rise of your
business and industrial activity.

It means faster growth and expansion of your
port cities.

All of us rejoice in the meaning and impact of the
St. Lawrence Seaway.

This is not a selfish reaction. We know that

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the prosperity sparked by the Seaway will not be confined to a few cities on the shores of the Great Lakes. Eight states, including Wisconsin, border on the Seaway system. They have a population of 58 million. Nine other Midwest states -- with a population of 17 million -- will enjoy increased flow of trade to seaway ports. No one can deny that the economic health of this heartland of America -- here -- is a dominant factor in the economic health of the whole nation.

But as we rejoice, we do not forget the tragically long struggle that was necessary to

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develop the Seaway. We do not forget the lesson we learned in the hard 40-year fight for the Seaway.

I was in on that fight. I was co-sponsor of the Seaway with Senator Alexander Wiley. I was the sponsor of the Seaway when the Democrats were in the majority of the 81st and 82nd Congresses, working with Representative John Blatnik. I did not give just lip-service and luke-warm support to the Seaway. I fought hard and long for its approval by Congress. And in the process, I learned the lesson. The lesson is this: When the Midwest

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wants something, it must be united in its effort.

We of the Midwest know that the St. Lawrence Seaway was a vital investment in the future of America. We knew the wisdom of that investment.

But make no mistake. The Seaway was bitterly opposed and effectively delayed by powerful, united interests. The massive weight of Eastern railroad and shipping interest was placed against the Seaway. Time after time, narrow sectional groups stood firm against the Seaway.

They said the nation "could not afford" the Seaway. They were wrong, but they stood together. That is why the fight lasted 40 years. That is why

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Wisconsin and the Midwest were forced to bottle up so much of their resources and energies until now.

The Midwest cannot waver now. We have the Seaway, yes. It can be the body of a new economic life. Its hands and arms must be the Great Lakes ports which can reach into the heart of America and draw out her wealth.

You in Wisconsin are ready for the challenge. You have invested wisely for the great opportunity of the Seaway. You have 25 cities and towns with developed port facilities. You have 13 harbors which can accommodate moderate-sized seagoing vessels.

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And you have ports which have already become
leaders in world commerce.

Milwaukee is your magnificent example. Last
year -- the first in which the Seaway was in
operation -- almost 200,000 tons of cargo moved
in and out of the Port of Milwaukee. That was
three times the amount of cargo handled in the
previous non-seaway year of 1958. You can thank
the vision of your leaders and the hard work of
your people for this tremendous boost.

Yes, you are doing your part. But the fight
must continue. Your ports must be further developed
to accommodate the deep-draft vessels which will flow

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into the lakes in even greater numbers when the connecting channels are completed.

The Corps of Engineers is now working on plans for these port developments. Recently, Corps officials made this statement.

"Every improvement must be a sound investment."

I agree.

Federal funds cannot be spent unless they will reap broad benefits to the economy and the people. And I say that Wisconsin and its ports are sound investments.

More than \$19 million has been invested in the past few years to develop Wisconsin ports for deep-draft vessel facilities.

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At least that much more must be invested in the next few years to prepare fully Wisconsin's ports for the challenge of the Seaway.

Late this year and early next year the Corps of Engineers will announce its recommendations for funds for Wisconsin port development. These will be recommendations for "sound investments."

Congress and the President must act on these recommendations, so our fight is not finished.

I do not doubt for a minute that powerful sectional and economic interests will attempt to stifle this Midwest port development. They will remain blind to the fact that our vitality is the nation's vitality. They will ignore the pressing

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needs to invest in America's future. They will say "America cannot afford it."

And I do not doubt for a minute that a Republican Administration would remain blind to the needs of the Midwest. Again and again we have seen the budgets of the present Administration ignore, slash or veto recommendations for harbor development.

Let me just say this, my friends. When the Corps of Engineers budget recommendations are put before the Government in the winter of 1960 and 1961, we had better have an Administration which is conscious of the needs of the Midwest and is willing to make sound investments in the future.

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Let us stand strong and united. We of the Midwest must meet the pressures of other areas not with a narrow, sectional approach but with an honest, reasonable concern for the growth and prosperity of the heartland of America. We have the vision and the wisdom to do the job. We need only the unity of other areas to finish the job.

March 2, 1959



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