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HUMPHREY VOICES CONCERN OVER THREAT TO SOCIAL VALUES OF RURAL LIFE

WASECA, August 5 -- America's farm policies must be feared to social objectives as well as economic objectives, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey declared today in a talk during 4-H Day at the Waseca County Fair.

Foremost among such social objectives, Senator Humphrey declared, "must be encouragement and preservation of America's traditional rural pattern of the family farm type of agriculture."

"Just as opportunities must be preserved for the independent business operator to keep him from being swallowed up by corporation opposition, so must opportunities be preserved for America's family farmers to survive economically -- to keep our agriculture from becoming only a mass-production operation by absentee landlords on corporation-owned farming enterprises," he declared.

Rural communities, rural schools, and rural churches are "all sharing in the toll of depressed farming conditions, as young people no longer find opportunities to earn by their labor a parity of living standards in agriculture."

Senator Humphrey declared the need was urgent to "wipe out the disparity of living standards between rural and urban America," so that young people who like rural life "can find a fair reward in the life of their own choosing rather than be forced to trek to already overcrowded cities for sheer economic survival."

Senator Humphrey, member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, said he hoped the Congress would enact legislation he is sponsoring to create a Rural Life Commission aimed at focusing more attention on improved rural living standards and the social values to the entire nation of rural family life.

"Somehow, we need to keep reminding lawmakers and administrators that farm people are human beings, not just statistics -- they are people with hopes, dreams, aspirations just like anyone else, and they cannot long survive without opportunity to see prospects of progress in return for the diligence of their toil," he declared.

Senator Humphrey described the 1960 Democratic Platform's farm plank as "the most encouraging Charter of Hope offered American agriculture in many years", and said it could point the way for "an economic turning point in midwest agriculture."



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