

From the Office of  
Citizens for Humphrey Committee  
1625 Hennepin Avenue  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Federal 9-0521

For Immediate Release:  
August 25, 1960

SENATOR HUMPHREY TO RETURN FROM CONGRESS FOR 9TH DISTRICT TOUR

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey will return from Congress this weekend to spend Monday and Tuesday touring in the Ninth Congressional District.

Senator Humphrey will speak Monday night at a Humphrey-Wiseth bean feed rally in Detroit Lakes, supporting the candidacy of State Senator Roy Wiseth as the DFL-endorsed candidate for Congress from the 9th District.

After the Detroit Lakes rally, Senator Humphrey will go to Moorhead for the night, and participate in a breakfast meeting and press conference there the next morning. He will then drive to Ada for a coffee hour visit with Ada businessmen and farm people from the surrounding area at 10 a.m., after which he will continue on to Crookston with a brief handshaking stop in Baltrami.

At Crookston Senator Humphrey will be honored at a noon luncheon, where he will discuss issues that have been before the present session of Congress.

From Crookston he will go to Fergus Falls, where he will address a "Meet the Candidates" dinner sponsored by the Fergus Falls Chamber of Commerce, then visit the Ottertail County Fair where he will speak in front of the grandstand crowd at 8 p.m. as part of the fair program.

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For Release: Tuesday p.m.'s  
August 30, 1960

HUMPHREY PLEDGES CONTINUED FIGHT FOR MEDICAL CARE FOR AGED

CROOKSTON, August 30 -- Senator Hubert H. Humphrey today called for "a prudently-financed, effective medical care program for elderly citizens, administered through the Social Security system."

The Senator, who just returned to the State from the special Congressional session, said "we have made some progress, but not nearly enough" in the effort to provide a Federal health insurance program for the elderly.

He pledged continued work for a broader program.

His proposal was outlined at a luncheon meeting in Crookston.

"We must have a program which would give adequate medical insurance to the 15 million American who need it the most," Humphrey said, referring to retired men and women who "do not now qualify for any health care program."

"This plan," he explained, "includes the types of retired Americans who could not otherwise hope for health insurance -- farmers, self-employed citizens, teachers...."

"It would provide up to 90 days of hospital care, 135 days of skilled nursing home care and 185 days of supervised home health care a year. It would also pay part of the cost of very expensive drugs and medicines and help prevent serious illness or disease by offering such diagnostic out-patient services as laboratory tests and x-rays."

Humphrey emphasized "the most important element of this program-- administration by the efficient Social Security system."

"This program would be soundly and prudently financed," he concluded. "This is not a 'charity' type medical care program. Each citizen would pay a modest amount -- through a fractional increase in social security payments -- over a lifetime of earnings."

"He would be investing for health security for himself, not expecting some handout from the government."

MEDICAL CARE FOR THE ELDERLY --

CONTINUED NEED

Address by  
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey  
Crookston, Minnesota  
Tuesday, August 30, 1960 - noon

It is good to be back in Minnesota again after the long, hard-working period in Washington.

There are many reasons for my pleasure.

The main one is that Minnesota is home. This is my State. You are my neighbors.

And let me tell you just one thing about Minnesota that I miss while in Washington.

I miss seeing the many fine, solid big homes here -- on the farms, in the cities, in the towns.

If you have not traveled around the country much in recent years, you might not be aware of the pattern

of so many of the new homes being built.

They are small. They are close together.

They spread out of the metropolitan areas as fast as wild grass on a plain. They are big enough only to accommodate the statistically average size American family.

Now I am not critical of these new small homes.

Many families simply do not need more than a two or three bedroom home. And millions of Americans own their own homes today because of the efficiency of building, small, inexpensive homes.

It is just that I -- personally -- like a big home, the kind we have so many of here in Minnesota.

As I took another satisfied look at these big homes on my return from Washington, I was reminded that

in a way they represent another time, another spirit  
in America.

They represent a time -- now fading in so  
many areas of the country -- when a family needed more  
space, because the ties between its members were stronger.

They represent a time when a home needed some  
extra rooms to accommodate a brother and his family  
visiting for Thanksgiving or Christmas.

And they represent a time when parents -- and  
grandparents stayed on to live with their children as  
they grew older. The senior members were useful and  
welcome participants in the warm atmosphere of family  
life.

It is a sad admission that in many areas of

America today, such strong family ties are rare.

But we must face the facts of the present.

The basic, the brutal fact is that millions of our elderly citizens -- yes, America's mothers and fathers -- are alone, forgotten and in dire need of help.

    Their most critical need is for adequate medical care. And I am convinced, after talking to thousands of our senior citizens, that it is a national disgrace that a wealthy America is willing to leave the health -- yes, the lives -- of so many elderly citizens to chance.

    I am convinced that America must have a prudently financed, effective medical care program for elderly citizens, administered through the efficient

Social Security system.

Let me tell you just a few of the stories I have heard from people who are vitally aware of the need.

One 72-year old gentleman told me recently that he could barely buy enough to eat because he had to pay \$15 out of a pension of \$59 a month for a private health insurance program.

Another man told me his life savings had been wiped out by the costs of just one illness.

A young woman told me she could not afford to buy shoes for her children because all her money went to pay for a nursing home room for her widowed and ill mother.

A teen-age boy told me his savings for college were used up to pay a hospital bill for his father.

A retired woman told me she could not afford to buy the pills she needed to relieve the pain of her disease.

I listened quietly to the tragic words of these human beings, but I have to admit I got mad.

Who could not be angry at the fact that in a wealthy nation such as ours, millions of Americans suffer fear and pain because they can not afford health care?

Who could not be angry when the golden years of our elderly citizens are allowed to slide into

nightmarish years of depression and despair?

Who could not be angry when Government officials propagandize about prosperity and ignore the health needs of those who haven't known even a bare minimum standard of living for years.

My deep concern is not new or contrived, my friends. For years I have worked hard for my program to establish reasonable security for America's senior citizens. That effort long ago included my legislation -- similar to what is popularly called the Forand Bill -- providing medical care for the aged.

We have made some progress, but not nearly enough. We must have a program which would give adequate medical insurance to the 15 million Americans

who need it the most -- retired men and women who do not now qualify for any health care program.

I have co-sponsored legislation for such a program. My bill would cover Americans who are not on Social Security as well as those who are. It would give protection to men over 65 and women over 62 who are not working full time. Those are the people who need a program the most, because retirement has cut their income most drastically and they have no chance for normal group coverage plans. This plan thus includes the types of retired Americans who could not otherwise hope for health insurance -- farmers, self-employed citizens, teachers, and others.

What would the Humphrey sponsored bill do?

It would provide up to 90 days of hospital care a year.

It would allow up to 135 days of skilled nursing home care a year.

It would give up to 185 days of care at home in a supervised home health program.

It would pay part of the cost of very expensive drugs and medicines.

It would help prevent serious illness or disease by offering such diagnostic outpatient services as laboratory tests and X-rays.

And it would direct the proper officials to establish research and demonstration programs to improve the quality and efficiency of health care for the aged.

The most important element of this program would be administration by the Social Security system.

No new and expensive administrative machinery would have to be established.

And this program would be soundly and prudently financed. This is not a "charity" type medical care program. Each citizen would pay a modest amount -- through a fractional increase in Social Security payments -- over a lifetime of earnings. He would be investing for health security for himself, not expecting some handout from the government.

There are those who say we do not need such a program. They say that each individual should take care of himself, no matter what the circumstances.

I agree that every citizen should plan for his own financial future on an independent basis. But the wisest plans and the most careful saving can be lost by events beyond a man's control.

My friends, we must have a Government with a Heart -- a government which cares enough about the people it serves to help them survive when they face critical problems through no fault of their own.

Our population -- our aging population -- increases. Our society and economy change. Our homes grow smaller, as our government grows bigger. Our nation faces massive problems of security, of defense, of war or peace.

But no matter how big, how dramatic, how

challenging these problems are, each individual American should be still the biggest concern of Government.

No American is so small that he or she should be left to suffer disease alone and without proper treatment.

I, for one, will not rest until America has an effective medical care program for the elderly.

I, for one, will continue working hard for soundly-financed, legislation to meet this problem.

I, for one, will do everything in my power to help instill heart in our government -- and hope for the Nation's senior citizens.

August 27, 1960



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