

From the Office of
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
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FOR RELEASE: MONDAY A. M.
MARCH 5, 1962

HUMPHREY CALLS FOR

WAR ON DISEASE

MIAMI BEACH, March 4 -- Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) declared today that the United States "should declare war on disease and invite all other nations to join the battle."

The Assistant Majority Leader of the Senate spoke at a conference of 400 national leaders of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Humphrey called for a "vigorous counterattack by all nations against such constant and universal enemies as heart disease and cancer," and added:

"These enemies strike constantly at Americans and Russians, at British and Chinese, and at all human beings throughout the world. Pain and death are our common foes, and we should join as allies to fight them."

The Einstein College leaders heard Humphrey propose these specific steps:

1 -- Establishment of regional "American Institutes of Health" located in leading universities or medical schools.

2 -- Creation of a new "Assistant Secretary for International Affairs" post in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to coordinate medical and other efforts on the international level.

3 -- An improved system for circulation and utilization of scientific and medical knowledge to "end the pattern of burying thousands of valuable medical articles, monographs and books."

4 -- Removal of political, financial and other barriers to free scientific exchanges between the West and the Sino-Soviet bloc.

5 -- Development of regional research "centers of excellence" throughout the world through the machinery of the World Health Organization. Western Europe---"long a fountainhead of scientific progress"---would serve as a logical starting point.

M O R E

Humphrey said that the Federal government is spending "billions for military space-age electronics, but no systematic program with supporting funds exists to exploit for civilian medical science past breakthroughs in knowledge."

"Today, diseases and disability cost the people of the United States alone more than \$35 billion a year. As I believe in preventive medicine, I would also believe in preventive economics.

"The cost is infinitely higher if we try to cure and control a disease after it has struck than if we prevent it from striking in the first place.

"The investment which the Federal government is now making is definitely insufficient to counterattack effectively cancer, heart disease and other sicknesses on a systematic, long-term basis.

"We are not providing the resources which our society could expend for the most advanced preventive medicine, curative medicine and restorative medicine."

Other speakers at the Einstein conference were Dr. Marcus D. Kogel, Dean of the Medical College, and Dr. Harry Gordon, Professor of Pediatrics. Charles Frost was chairman.

Humphrey was introduced by Dr. Kogel, who termed the Senator "an outstanding advocate of furthering world peace through international cooperation in the field of health."

Miami Beach - "The fight against disease is not a cold war, it is a hot war, involving all the agony of the battlefield," Senator Hubert Humphrey (D. Minn.) told a conference of national leaders of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, meeting in Miami Beach, Florida.

Calling for a vigorous "counterattack", not merely a "holding action", Senator Humphrey said, "This nation should, in effect, declare war on disease. It should invite all other nations to do so. A half minute ago, some American died of heart disease; 2 minutes ago, someone died from cancer. The heat of enemy fire beats down constantly upon Americans and upon Russians, Chinese, Cubans, and everyone else throughout the world. We had all best be allies, for pain and death are our common foes."

The Einstein conference, which drew some 400 national leaders to Miami Beach, March 4, heard Senator Humphrey call for a detailed (~~18-point~~) program designed to "mobilize the resources of our country in an intensified war against major diseases."

The Senator recommended the establishment of regional "American Institutes of Health", suggesting that the nation's leading universities be their logical site. "Due to the excellence of its faculty and the high calibre of its student body, the atmosphere of free inquiry and flexibility which characterizes its research and teaching program, a school such as the Albert Einstein College of Medicine might well be designated as such a center."

Among his other concrete proposals, Senator Humphrey called for: establishment of a new post of Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, to be the means of coordination of international medical as well as nonmedical efforts by all components of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare; mobilizing funds to lessen the gap between medical knowledge that is known and what is available to the patient; improvement in the dissemination and utilization of scientific material, since "Clues of incalculable value may be buried now within tens of thousands of present and past medical articles, monographs, published proceedings and books"; and "removal of political, financial and other impediments to freer scientific exchanges between the Free World and the Sino-Soviet bloc".

Pointing to the Federal Government's expenditure of \$1 3/4 billion for military space-age electronics, Senator Humphrey noted that "no systematic program exists to exploit for civilian medical science" those breakthroughs already achieved.

On the international scene, Senator Humphrey suggested that, through the machinery of the World Health Organization, the U.S. Government should encourage European and other areas to develop regional research "centers of excellence", stating that Western Europe, "long a fountainhead of scientific progress", would serve as a logical starting point.

In the battle against diseases and disability which costs the U.S. alone over \$35 billion a year, "The time has come to seize

the offensive and to win, not skirmishes, but battles", Senator Humphrey concluded, "As long as man lives, the war will continue against disease and disability. We can, and should, strive to conquer those enemies which it may be within our power to reduce or wipe out in our time.

"The cost is infinitely higher if we try to cure disease after it has struck, than if we prevent it from striking in the first place. I, for one, believe that the investment which the Federal Government is now making is definitely insufficient to counterattack effectively against cancer, heart disease or other sickness -- this year, next year or on a systematic, long term basis. We are not providing the resources of which our society is capable for the most advanced preventive medicine, curative medicine and restorative medicine."

Other speakers who addressed the Einstein conference were Dr. Marcus D. Kogel, Dean of the medical college and Dr. Harry Gordon, Professor of Pediatrics. Charles Frost was chairman.

In his introductory remarks, Dr. Kogel referred to Senator Humphrey as "an outstanding advocate of furthering world peace through international cooperation in the field of health."

Charles Frost

Dr Belkin - Pres. Yeshiva Univ.
Dr Kogel - Dean of med. School
Dr Harry Gordon - Prof Pediatrics

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Claude Pepper

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Pediatrics
to
Geriatrics

End
Disease

"These enemies strike constantly at Americans and Russians, at British and Chinese, and at all human beings throughout the world. Pain and death are our common foes, and we should join as allies to fight them."

Children's Disease
Cover

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College of Faculty
Student Body
research
Teaching Program
freedom of Inquiry

N.I.H. - US Public Health Service
AID Agency

medical and other efforts on the international level.

med & Educa

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Regional Research Centers

my trip to USSR Poland

Rio Hospital

East Africa (Tropical Diseases)

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Preventative medicine

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