

MINNESOTA RADIO TAPE OF AUGUST 14, 1963

FOR BROADCAST WEEK BEGINNING AUGUST 18

Ladies and gentlemen---

This is Senator Hubert Humphrey, reporting to you
from my office on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C....

There are many factors which influence the Nation's economic health and contribute to the progress of each community. One of the most important is international trade.

America's abundance of products and skills requires us to develop and increase markets for our exports overseas. When those markets are reduced, or closed, the result is less business activity and higher unemployment in the United States.

Minnesota is not excepted. Each time we can export more of our raw materials, products or food overseas, the prospects for more

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jobs, higher income and industrial expansion are increased in Minnesota.

Frankly, I am not satisfied that we are doing enough to boost American exports.

In my visits to the nations of Latin America and Europe in the past few years, I have personally witnessed example after example of other countries actively seeking---and winning---new markets for their products. Too often, the United States has made little more than a token effort to grasp the opportunity of new markets ~~overseas~~.

America's business firms have a responsibility to take the initiative in finding and winning overseas markets for its products. The success of our participation in international trade depends essentially on the efforts of private enterprise.

But with increasingly complex systems of international trade, and particularly because of developments in the European Common Market, our government also has a strong and continuing duty to work for an increase in our export business.

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The job of developing effective trade policies and programs can not be left only to the Administration---the Executive Branch of our government. Congress must also have the chance to shape the Nation's trade policies.

Right now, Congress is ill-equipped to do the job. Questions and issues involving international trade ^(ARE) ~~and~~ discussed in almost random fashion by a half dozen different committees of Congress. If Congress is to help strengthen our trade policies, it must have a single committee to study the trade issues and to make recommendations to improve trade policies.

That is why I have recommended the establishment of a "Joint Committee on International Trade," which would include members of the Senate committees on Foreign Relations, Finance and Commerce, and the House Committees on Foreign Affairs, Ways and Means, and Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

This new joint committee would focus the resources and attention of Congress on international trade in the same efficient way that

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the existing Joint Committee on Atomic Energy focuses attention and work on the area of nuclear power.

A new Joint Committee on International Trade, once established, should begin intensive studies of such questions as trade relations with Western Europe, with Soviet bloc countries and with Latin America.

The need is urgent. Congress can not help to strengthen our trade programs until it has a committee with responsibility in this field. And in the highly competitive arena of international trade, the United States can not afford to wait for the strongest policies and programs of which it is capable.

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