

MINNESOTA RADIO TAPE OF SEPT. 23, 1963

FOR BROADCAST WEEK BEGINNING SEPT. 29

Ladies and gentlemen—

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

For a long time I have urged that the United States re-examine
its policy of trade with the Soviet Union, particularly as it relates
to sale of American grains and other agricultural products.

This month, I have intensified my efforts. The reason was the
news of the sale of \$500 million worth of Canadian wheat and \$90 million
worth of Australian wheat to Russia.

Let me stress that I am not critical of either the Canadian or
the Australian governments. Indeed, I commend them for their effective

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policies and efforts to boost exports of their agricultural products.

What I am suggesting is that the United States begin to get rid of some of its antiquated export policies and exert a more effective effort to sell our agricultural products abroad.

Our present policy makes it exceedingly difficult---if not impossible---to export grains to the Soviet Union and its satellites. This policy is still in effect at a time when the Soviet Union is willing to pay for grain with hard currency; at a time when our own wheat farmers face severe economic problems; at a time when we have a shortage in our gold reserves; at a time when American grain continues to pile up---and often rot---in storage bins.

The sale of American wheat to Russia would not change the course of the Cold War or boost the cause of communism. I am, of course, opposed to the sale or trade of any goods of a strategic value to the Soviet Union. I am opposed to any products being trade to Russia which could be converted into strategic equipment.

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But wheat is not one of them. It is not a military item.

What is the result of the contrasting policies of the United States and Canada on this issue of grain trade with Russia?

Those of us from States which border on Canada see the result most clearly. We know that we have the same watershed, the same kind of soil, the same kind of climate and ~~in~~ ^(EXCHANGABLE) ~~exchangeable~~ currencies. But on one side of the border---Canada---the government says: "Increase your wheat production by 25 per cent." On our side, a wheat farmer is told: "Decrease your production by 35 per cent." In Canada, they say: "We will sell, and we will sell for cash." In the United States, the farmer is told: "We will give you a crop loan, and you can put the crop in a government warehouse."

The United States is expected to export 650 to 700 million bushels of wheat in fiscal year 1964. But less than 250 million of those bushels will be sold for dollars.

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Our policy on trade of grains with Russia is antiquated. It is not in the best interest of this country. It denies us an opportunity to use our productive capacity to boost our own strength.

The time is long overdue for a complete re-examination of that policy. I am determined to continue my efforts both in Congress and in the Administration for a change of policy.



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