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TELEPHONE ADDRESS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

BEFORE THE LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

AMERICAN SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAY 18, 1966

I welcome you, the leaders of the American School Food Service Association, to Washington. It is fitting that a Seminar dealing with a subject so basic to our national interests should be held in the nation's capitol.

The purposes of the school lunch program were clearly defined 20 years ago -- to safeguard the health and well-being of the nation's children and to encourage the domestic consumption of nutritious agricultural commodities.

Since that time, the school lunch program has come a long way. It now represents a daily participation of more than

18 million children. It has grown remarkably over the years because it has met pressing needs -- the need for nutrition, the need for educational opportunities through better health, and the need for an improved agricultural economy. As we endeavored to reach these goals, the contributions of the program to the child and **to** the national economy became evident. These contributions continue to be in evidence today.

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↳ We all know that it is impossible to teach a hungry or under-nourished child. The daily nourishment of school lunch gives a student energy and vitality. It makes him alert and eager to learn. But most important, it enables him to take advantage of all of the educational opportunities available to him -- to increase his potential as tomorrow's citizens.

In itself, the school lunch program contributes directly to the child's education. It provides a discipline of its own -- the knowledge of food. You who are so closely involved with child feeding are aware of the need for developing sound eating habits at an early age -- the need to encourage an understanding of foods and food values. The most logical and the most natural place for a child to learn about foods is the school lunchroom. Here school lunch provides the child with nutritious food and with the knowledge that will help him to eat sensibly the rest of his life. Thus the child grows into a healthy, responsible adult. Because of the vitality of our people, we are a growing and vigorous nation. Through the school lunch program, we not only insure the health and well-being of our children, but we insure the continued growth

of our nation. For these children are tomorrow's decision makers, tomorrow's leaders. The school lunch program has indeed made a major contribution to the nation's strength, which Congress in its wisdom indicated in the prologue of the Act 20 years ago.

On behalf of many people in this nation, I want to thank you for the work that you are doing --

For the working mother, whose children you nourish

For the farmer, whose products you buy and serve

For the manufacturer, whose equipment you purchase

For the educator, whose students are more responsive

For the parents, whose children you care for.

For all of these, I say a grateful "thank you" for a job well done.

As you listen to leading speakers and participants in discussions, I ask you to remember the contributions that school lunch has made in the past and the contributions that it must continue to make in the future in developing an alert, healthy, and creative citizenry. I extend my sincere wishes that your Seminar meeting during these three days will inspire you to even greater achievements in the area of school food service.



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