

FOR RELEASE: 5/12/67
FRIDAY AM'S

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
FIRST INTERNATIONAL AGRIBUSINESS CONFERENCE
ON "THE SEARCH FOR INTERNATIONAL FOOD BALANCE"
SPONSORED BY CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE
MAY 11, 1967

I am honored to bring you this message from the
President of the United States:

"I am very pleased to greet those attending the
first International Agribusiness Conference.

"Your meeting is proof that the world is at last
aware that a war must be waged on global hunger.
That awareness, accompanied by a full commitment
of talent and resources, is vital to our ultimate
success.

"History teaches us that, given a creative,
constructive partnership between private business
and government, no challenge is too great --
no problem insurmountable.

"The present food crisis is without parallel in
the history of mankind. International cooperation
backed by self-help is imperative. We in America
can provide only a small margin of the human and
material resources needed for food development.
The major effort -- the will -- the leadership --
the labor -- and, indeed even most of the resources --
must come from the low-income countries themselves.

"The developing countries which have made the best
progress are those in which private initiative
and enterprise have played a vigorous role in
national growth.

"The encouragement of such initiative in the developing
countries and the furthering of private U.S.
participation in international development are
salient objectives of our assistance program.

"We cannot expect to have the kind of stable and
progressive world in which free institutions can
survive and flourish unless the people of Asia,
Africa, and Latin America can look forward to
economic and social progress, earned by their own
work in independence and self-respect. We were
never meant to be an oasis of liberty and abundance
in a worldwide desert of disappointed dreams.

"I salute you, and I wish you growing success in an indispensable task of our time."

Lyndon B. Johnson

We are citizens of the rich Western world. And we take almost for granted the prosperity and plenty which surround us.

But we would do well to realize that, as we sit comfortably this evening at our dinner tables, many hundreds of millions of the world's people do not know where their next meal is coming from.

Tonight, as we count our blessings here in America, I would like to share with you a few thoughts about those millions, and what they will mean to us in the years ahead.

Some 169 years ago the Reverend Thomas Malthus wrote a document entitled "An Essay on the Principle of Population." That document foresaw the time when world population would far outrun world food supply.

For many years the wise people in the economic ministries and universities pointed out the fallacies in Malthus' ideas, and reassured each other that such a thing would not happen.

But I bring you this news: Reverend Malthus' grim prophecy will come true, unless we act and act now.

Two things have saved mankind so far from such a fate.

First, there has been the spectacular increase in agricultural output and productivity in the advanced nations in the temperate zone, such as our United States.

Second, there has been the cruelly-high death rate in the poor nations, mostly in the tropic and sub-tropic zones.

But we are not keeping up. Because of modern medicine, death rates have been cut in the developing countries. And birth rates have increased. The result has been the now-famous "population explosion."

Let me give you a specific example, in terms of one basic commodity, of how times have changed.

Before World War II the developing countries, as a whole, shipped an average of five million tons of grain to the advanced nations each year.

Now the situation is reversed.

This year -- despite the fact that they have 60 to 80 per cent of their work forces in agriculture -- the developing nations will import over 30 million tons of grain. And, with those imports, they will still be left desperately short of their needs.

For the past six years the world has consumed more grain than it has produced. The gap has been filled largely by so-called "surpluses" from North America.

But the only surplus today is a surplus of hunger.

And even our amazing American productivity will not be enough to meet the challenge.

Today we in America are putting unused acreage back into production.

But our unused capacity is limited, and so is that of the other great grain-producing countries.

Our best estimate is that the available land resources of the world give us about a decade to bring the equation between food and people into balance.

After that date, there will be no inexhaustible reservoirs of food grains for the hungry of the world.

That is only the supply side.

On the demand side, we must recognize that, by 1980, there will probably be more than another billion people in the world -- most of them in food-short countries.

Based on these trends, the FAO estimates that cereals deficits in these countries will total around 42 million tons by 1975, a deficit greater than the current entire U. S. wheat crop.

At that rate, the deficit could exceed 80 million tons by 1985 -- or greater than total U. S. capacity, even if all conceivable acreage were brought back into production and technological improvement continued at its present rate.

Even now, ten thousand people -- mostly children -- die every day from malnutrition.

If the gap continues to grow, what will this figure be in the years ahead?

How can we hope for security or stability in a world where the few drink Metrecal while the many die in misery and starvation?

And how can we, as moral people, allow it to happen?

The answer is that we cannot.

If we are to really get to the problem, the developing countries will have to seriously look to family planning. They will also have to produce more of their own food.

That is why, in our new Food for Freedom program, we are stressing -- yes, insisting on -- self help.

This means that governments in these countries must give a much high priority to agriculture than they have in the past.

The time is past when a national airline . . . a steel mill . . . an officers' club and a superhighway from the national palace to the airport could pass for a "development" program.

A true development program -- one with any hope of defeating hunger -- is one which gives real production incentives to farmers.

It is one which provides better facilities for farm credit and for marketing.

It is one which brings basic measures of health and of mass education to the people of the countryside.

Yes, the hungry nations must more effectively help themselves.

But we, as world leaders and as responsible citizens of this planet, must do far better too.

And that is where you come in.

If we are to defeat world hunger, we will need the effective efforts of all parts of our society -- and particularly of free enterprise.

The Agency for International Development and the Department of Agriculture can serve as catalysts and energizers for private initiative.

I believe in the profit system. I also believe that it can work even more effectively than it has in the past for the public good.

In agriculture, our country especially needs the technical skills and organizational experience -- the unmatched skills and experience of the agribusiness community -- to market abroad millions of tons of food and feed grains and oil seeds, and their products.

For the agribusiness community can do this job more efficiently and at less cost than government can.

For too long, business and government stood on opposite sides of an imaginary line -- the line dividing the so-called "private sector" from the so-called "public sector" -- and glowered at one another.

Some businessmen suspected government of an insatiable appetite to expand its functions, to encroach upon private enterprise, and ultimately to stifle it.

And some government officials regarded business as inherently oblivious or even antagonistic to the public interest. Some even regarded profits as actually immoral -- rather than as an incentive essential to efficiency.

These old suspicions are fading into history, and mutual confidence and cooperation are replacing them. We have discovered that neither business nor government has a monopoly on wisdom -- or on dedication to the public good.

The problems this country faces are just too large and complex for any one part of our society to handle alone.

If we are to meet the challenges of this last third of the 20th century, we will need everyone. All of us will need each other -- each doing his own job in his own best way, yet coordinating our efforts for maximum effect.

For our part, we in government seek to make priority needs -- both at home and abroad -- profitable for private enterprise.

We seek to create an environment where private initiative can flourish and be rewarded, not penalized, in the course of meeting these needs.

I think you recognize this today in many places both at home and overseas.

--Currently, Commodity Credit Corporation - owned stocks of grain are being insulated from the market. The grain markets are freer of the influence of government supplies than in many years.

--Loan rates for grains and oilseeds are substantially below market prices, enabling the forces of supply and demand to function. Farm prices are competitive in world markets in most cases without an export subsidy. Cooperating farmers are receiving supplemental direct payments.

--The Food for Freedom Program, P.L. 480, will move over 1.5 billion dollars worth of farm products through the normal channels of trade this year.

--This year we are exporting about 7 billion dollars worth of agricultural commodities. Of this, about 80 per cent are commercial exports. The farmer-agribusiness complex is making a substantial contribution to maintaining our balance of payments.

--The Kennedy Round trade negotiation, now nearing completion, has included, at the President's insistence, the agricultural sector as well as industrial products -- the first such negotiation to do so. We look to the Kennedy Round not only for increased world trading opportunities, but also as giving new impetus to multilateral food aid by the rich nations.

--The Food Stamp Plan, operated through privately-owned retail stores, will be increasing in scope.

We are studying each of our programs with this question in mind: How can we best help private initiative do the job?

There is another opportunity for the agribusiness community.

I am privileged to chair the new National Council on Marine Resources and Engineering Development.

It is the high-priority business of our new Council to develop fully the potential wealth of food from the sea -- wealth which can be a tremendous stimulus to the food processing industry.

And, I might add, food from the sea -- rich in protein -- also offers us new opportunities in the war on hunger.

* * *

Now, just what are the implications of the coming world food crisis -- and I use the word "crisis" purposely -- for our own American agricultural policy?

What must we do?

First of all -- and this seems all too obvious -- we must produce more food.

We must produce more food to meet requirements in our own country . . . to help fill growing commercial markets overseas . . . and to help feed the hungry of the world.

We must produce more food so that we will have reasonable reserves, in case of emergency. (And we do not have adequate reserves today.)

We must help the developing nations, where they wish help, in family-planning programs.

We must help them with programs of desalinization, so that unproductive soil may bloom.

We must help them develop their own rural economies and agricultural productivity to the maximum.

We must encourage rich and food-producing nations to join in this effort -- as a matter of their own urgent self-interest.

But we shall be able to do none of these things if we in America unwisely choose to live with a policy of agricultural scarcity.

I believe farm abundance and farm prosperity are not in opposition to each other in this country. They can be, if farm programs are mismanaged and misdirected. But they will not be if we in government, and you in the agribusiness community, take care to see that the family which produces that abundance is given proper incentive and return.

The American farm producer carries a heavy burden, and meets a high responsibility, on behalf of our whole society. And he should receive his fair share of our society's overall prosperity.

He needs it.
He deserves it.

And we must help him get it -- so that he need not fear that his very productivity will in the end drive him off the soil.

We must break away from the old patterns of thought.

As Abraham Lincoln said: "The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so must we think anew. We must disenthral ourselves."

Yes, the occasion is "piled high with difficulty."

For peace and stability, and the future course of world politics, may very well hinge on whether or not we in the rich nations will be able to overcome world hunger.

We may disagree with many of the things Bertrand Russell has to say. But he was absolutely right when he posed this question a few years ago. "If one man offers you democracy and another offers you a bag of grain, at what stage of starvation will you prefer the grain to the vote?"

Democracy or totalitarianism; peace or violence?
They make little difference to the starving man with nothing to lose.

And for those who prefer to see things in economic terms, I will point out that, until the people of the hungry nations are able to stand on their own healthy feet, we shall be wasting the world's greatest potential market.

The figures show that, for every 10 per cent increase in per-capita income abroad, our own commercial exports increase 16 per cent. They also show that every billion dollars worth of additional exports creates more than 100 thousand jobs in this country.

The starving and poverty-stricken don't buy much. The healthy and self-sustaining do.

Now we face the crossroads.

We can turn back to the old habits and reap the whirlwind. Or we can reach with confidence to the future and reap the bounty of a world of progress . . . of plenty . . . and of peace.

#

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

↳ FIRST INTERNATIONAL AGRIBUSINESS CONFERENCE
ON "THE SEARCH FOR INTERNATIONAL FOOD BALANCE"
SPONSORED BY CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE
MAY 11, 1967

↳ I am honored to bring you this message from
the President of the United States: _____

↳ "I am very pleased to greet those attending the
first International Agribusiness Conference.

↳ "Your meeting is proof that the world is at last
aware that a war must be waged on global hunger. That
awareness, accompanied by a full commitment of talent and
resources, is vital to our ultimate success.

↳ "History teaches us that, given a creative, constructive
partnership between private business and government, no challenge
is too great -- no problem insurmountable.

"The present food crisis is without parallel in the history of mankind. International cooperation backed by self-help is imperative. We in America can provide only a small margin of the human and material resources needed for food development. The major effort -- the will -- the leadership -- the labor -- and, indeed even most of the resources -- must come from the low-income countries themselves.

"The developing countries which have made the best progress are those in which private initiative and enterprise have played a vigorous role in national growth.

"The encouragement of such initiative in the developing countries and the furthering of private U. S. participation in international development are salient objectives of our assistance program.

"We cannot expect to have the kind of stable and progressive world in which free institutions can survive and flourish unless the people of Asia, Africa, and Latin America can look forward to economic and social progress, earned by their own work in independence and self-respect. We were never meant to be an oasis of liberty and abundance in a worldwide desert of disappointed dreams.

" I salute you, and I wish you growing success in an indispensable task of our time. "

Lyndon B. Johnson

The Problem you know

The Answers we seek

We start with this →



not used

↳ We are citizens of the rich Western world.

And we take almost for granted the prosperity and plenty which surround us.

↳ ~~But we would do well to realize that, as we sit comfortably this evening at our dinner tables,~~ ^{yet,} many hundreds of millions of the world's people do not know where their next meal is coming from.

↳ Tonight, as we count our blessings here in America, I would like to share with you a few thoughts about those millions, and what they will mean to us in the years ahead.

↳ Some 169 years ago the Reverend Thomas Malthus wrote a document entitled "An Essay on the Principle of Population." That document foresaw the time when world population would far outrun world food supply.

↳ For many years the ^{experts} ~~wise people~~ in the economic ministries and universities pointed out the fallacies in Malthus' ideas, and reassured each other that such a thing would not happen.

But I bring you this news: Reverend Malthus' grim prophecy will come true, unless we act and act now.

↳ Two things have saved mankind so far from such a fate.

First, there has been the spectacular increase in agricultural output and productivity in the advanced nations in the temperate zone, such as our United States.

↳ Second, there has been the cruelly-high death rate in the poor nations, mostly in the tropic and sub-tropic zones.

~~But we are not keeping up~~ Because of modern medicine, death rates have been cut in the developing countries. And birth rates have increased. The result has been the now-famous "population explosion."

↳ Let me give you a specific example, in terms of one basic commodity, of how times have changed.

Before World War II the developing countries, as a whole, shipped an average of five million tons of grain to the advanced nations each year.

↳ Now the situation is reversed.

This year -- ~~despite the fact that they have~~ ^{with} 60 to 80 per cent of their work forces in agriculture -- the developing nations will import over 30 million tons of grain. And, with those imports, they will still be left desperately short of their needs. *Imports that eat up capital needed for investment.*

↳ For the past six years the world has consumed more grain than it has produced. The gap has been filled largely by so-called "surpluses" from North America.

↳ But the only surplus today is a surplus of hunger.

↳ And even our amazing American productivity will not be enough to meet the challenge.

↳ ~~Today we in America are putting unused acreage back~~
into production.

~~But~~ our unused capacity is limited, and so is that of the other great grain-producing countries.

↳ Our best estimate is that the available land resources of the world give us about a decade to bring the equation between food and people into balance.

After that date, there will be no inexhaustible reservoirs of food grains for the hungry of the world.

↳ That is only the supply side. !

now ↳ On the demand side, we must recognize that, by 1980, there will probably be more than another billion people in the world -- most of them in food-short countries.

↳ Based on these trends, the FAO estimates that cereals deficits in these countries will total around 42 million tons by 1975, a deficit greater than the current entire U.S. wheat crop.

At that rate, the deficit could exceed 80 million tons by 1985 -- or greater than total U.S. capacity, even if all conceivable acreage were brought back into production and technological improvement continued at its present rate.

Population + Hunger

Even now, ten thousand people -- mostly children -- die every day from malnutrition.

(X)

If the gap continues to grow, what will this figure be in the years ahead?

and

How can we hope for security or stability in a world where the few drink Metrecal while the many die in misery and starvation?

And how can we, as moral people, allow it to happen?

The answer is that we cannot.

and

If we are to really get to the problem, the developing countries will have to seriously look to family planning. They will also have to produce more of their own food.

more production, less reproduction

Bot Mc Roman
M. Mc Bundy
Recorder

~~That is why~~ In our new Food for Freedom program,
we are stressing -- yes, insisting on -- self help.

Pante del Sate

∟ This means that governments in these countries must
give a much higher priority to agriculture than they have in the past.

∟ The time is past when a national airline ... a steel mill ...
an officers' club and a superhighway from the national palace to
the airport could pass for a "development" program.

∟ A true development program -- one with any hope of
defeating hunger -- is one which gives real production
incentives to farmers.

∟ It is one which provides better facilities for farm
credit and for marketing.

∟ It is one which brings basic measures of health and of
mass education to the people of the countryside.

Yes, the hungry nations must more effectively
help themselves.

*It is one that develops a Partnership
between Govt + Private Enterprise.*

① AID + Private Sector - | Investment!

yes. The ⁻⁸⁻hungry nations must more effectively help themselves,

But we, as world leaders and as responsible citizens of this planet, must do far better too.

↳ And that is where you come in.

The President Has said

↳ If we are to defeat world hunger, we will need the effective efforts of all parts of our society -- and, particularly of free enterprise.

↳ The Agency for International Development and the Department of Agriculture can serve as catalysts and energizers for private initiative. Cooperators

Keep

I believe in the profit system. I also believe that it can work even more effectively than it has in the past for the public good.

↳ In agriculture, our country especially needs the technical skills and organizational experience -- the unmatched skills and experience of the agribusiness community -- to market abroad millions of tons of food and feed grains, and oil seeds, and their products. !

~~For~~ the agribusiness community can do this job more efficiently and at less cost than government can.

~~For~~ too long, business and government stood on opposite sides of an imaginary line -- the line dividing the so-called "private sector" from the so-called "public sector" -- and glowered at one another.

Keep Some businessmen suspected government of an insatiable appetite to expand its functions, to encroach upon private enterprise, and ultimately to stifle it.

And some government officials regarded business as inherently oblivious or even antagonistic to the public interest. Some even regarded profits as actually immoral -- rather than as an incentive essential to efficiency.

These old suspicions are fading into history, and mutual confidence and cooperation are replacing them. We have discovered that neither business nor government has a monopoly on wisdom -- or on dedication to ~~the~~ the public good.

↳ The problems this country faces are just too large and complex for any one part of our society to handle alone.

↳ If we are to meet the challenges of this last third of the 20th century, we will need everyone, ~~All of us will need each other~~ -- each doing his own job in his own best way, yet coordinating our efforts for maximum effect.

↳ ~~Government must~~ For our part, we in government seek to make priority needs -- both at home and abroad -- profitable for private enterprise.

~~we must~~ We seek to create an environment where private initiative can flourish and be rewarded, not penalized, in the course of meeting these needs.

Profit - Taxes - Cost
Attitude

Advertising
Brand Names

and we are doing so -

I think you recognize this today in many places

both at home and overseas.

↳ -- Currently, Commodity Credit Corporation-owned stocks of grain are being insulated from the market. The grain markets are freer of the influence of government supplies than in many years.

↳ -- Loan rates for grains and oilseeds are substantially below market prices, enabling the forces of supply and demand to function. Farm prices are competitive in world markets in most cases without an export subsidy. Cooperating farmers are receiving supplemental direct payments.

↳ -- The Food for Freedom Program, P.L. 480, will move over 1.5 billion dollars worth of farm products through the normal channels of trade this year.

↳ -- This year we are exporting about 7 billion dollars worth of agricultural commodities.

Of this, about 80 per cent are commercial exports. The farmer-agribusiness complex is making a substantial contribution to maintaining our balance of payments.

Develop → -- The Kennedy Round trade negotiation, now nearing completion, has included, at the President's insistence, the agricultural sector as well as industrial products -- the first such negotiation to do so. We look to the Kennedy Round not only for increased world trading opportunities, but also as giving new impetus to multilateral food aid by the rich nations.

↳ -- The Food Stamp Plan, operated through privately-owned retail stores, will be increasing in scope.

We are studying each of our programs with this question in mind: How can we best help private initiative do the job?

↳ There is another opportunity for the agribusiness community.

and on the International front we are mobilizing new Resources, Public & Private.

I am privileged to chair the new National Council on Marine Resources and Engineering Development.

It is the high-priority business of our new Council to develop fully the potential wealth of food from the sea -- wealth which can be a tremendous stimulus to the food processing industry.

And, I might add, food from the sea -- rich in protein -- also offers us new opportunities in the war on hunger.

* * *

Now, just what are the implications of the coming world food crisis -- and I use the word "crisis" purposely -- for our own American agricultural policy?

What must we do?

First of all -- and this seems all too obvious -- we must produce more food.

↳ We must produce more food to meet requirements in our own country ... to help fill growing commercial markets overseas.

and to help feed the hungry of the world -
↳ We must produce more food so that we will have reasonable reserves in case of emergency.

~~Working with World Bank~~
~~Inter Amer Develop Bank~~
~~Pentaball Site~~

and to help feed the hungry of the world.

We must produce more food so that we will have reasonable reserves in case of emergency. (And we do not have adequate reserves today.)

~~and~~ We must help the developing nations, where they wish help, in family-planning programs.

We must help them with programs of desalinization, so that unproductive soil may bloom.

Deserts

We must help them develop their own rural economies and agricultural productivity to the maximum.

Technic Invest

We must encourage rich and food-producing nations in to join this effort -- as a matter of their own urgent self-interest.

World Bank
Inter Amer Develop Bank

But we shall be able to do none of these things if we in America unwisely choose to live with a policy of agricultural scarcity.

and, we must clearly understand that

∟ ~~believe~~ Farm abundance and farm prosperity are not in opposition to each other, ~~in this country~~. They can be, if farm programs are mismanaged and misdirected. But they will not be if we in government, and you in the agribusiness community, take care to see that the family which produces that abundance is given proper incentive and return. !

∟ The American farm producer carries a heavy burden, and meets a high responsibility, on behalf of our whole society. And he should receive his fair share of our society's overall prosperity. ~~you~~

∟ He needs it.

∟ He deserves it.

And we must help him get it -- so that he need not fear that his very productivity will in the end drive him off the soil.

∟ We must break away from the old patterns of thought.

Scarcity + Protectionism, ~~Scarcity~~
of Kennedy Round Negotiations

Internal
monetary
reform

As Abraham Lincoln said: "The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so must we think anew. We must disenthral ourselves."

Yes, the occasion is "piled high with difficulty."

For peace and stability, and the future course of world politics, may very well hinge on whether or not we in the rich nations will be able to overcome world hunger.

Pope John 23rd -
"In a world of constant want
there is no peace" —

Hunger the father of violence

1 To the Millions who have to
go w. out two meals
a day, the only acceptable
form in which God
dare appear, is food "

We may disagree with many of the things Bertrand Russell has to say. But he was absolutely right when he posed this question a few years ago. "If one man offers you democracy and another offers you a bag of grain, at what stage of starvation will you prefer the grain to the vote?"

Democracy or totalitarianism; peace or violence?

They make little difference to the starving man with nothing to lose.

Gandhi

And for those who prefer to see things in economic terms, I will point out that, until the people of the hungry nations are able to stand on their own healthy feet, we shall be wasting the world's greatest potential market.

The figures show that, for every 10 per cent increase in per-capita income abroad, our own commercial exports increase 16 per cent. They also show that every billion dollars worth of additional exports creates more than 100 thousand jobs in this country.

The starving and poverty-stricken don't buy much.

The healthy and self-sustaining do.

Now we face the ^{old} crossroads.

↳ We can turn back to the old habits and reap the whirlwind. Or we can reach with confidence to the future and
reap the bounty of a world of progress ... of plenty ... and of
peace.

#

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

A D D R E S S

of

HON. HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Vice President of the United States

at

FIRST INTERNATIONAL AGRIBUSINESS CONFERENCE

Sheraton-Chicago Hotel

Chicago, Illinois

May 11, 1967.

Vice President Humphrey

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

MR. MARTIN: Ladies and gentlemen, I want to thank you so very much for joining us on this most auspicious occasion and welcome all of you on behalf of the Chicago Board of Trade.

For those of you who may not have participated in our earlier sessions, I am Robert L. Martin, chairman of the Board of the Board of Trade.

(Applause)

-- I wish my nineteen-year-old could have heard that.

(Laughter)

Tonight is special in several respects. We are just over halfway through our first International Agribusiness Conference, and I will come back to this in just a moment.

Tonight also marks the first time the Chicago Board of Trade has been honored by the presence of so large and so distinguished a delegation of guests from our federal, state and local governments. I am sure I also speak for everyone here when I say that the directors and the members of the Board of Trade deeply appreciate the fact that many of these honored guests have traveled from Washington, D. C.

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 to be with us, and I will include Springfield,
3 Illinois, and LaSalle and Washington. Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 Those of you who were able to attend the
6 earlier reception may recall the unusual appetizers
7 that were served, and this is another aspect of our
8 evening festivities. Since our Conference does
9 concern food, we have these specially formulated
10 foods prepared. Archer Daniels Midland was good
11 enough to do the formulation for us. (Laughter)
12 That is a little bit of a house joke. Some of you
13 may not know Archer Daniels Midland; that is where
14 my pay check comes from. (Laughter) We are grateful
15 to them for my pay check and for the food, (laughter)
16 as well as to Mr. Bill Houser, catering manager of
17 this hotel, for being so cooperative in helping
18 arrange the service of these appetizers.

19 Now, those of us who are members of the
20 Chicago Board of Trade have still another reason
21 for considering this a very special night, and that
22 is the presence here of our president-elect, Henry
23 Hall Wilson, Jr. Henry is technically our guest,
24 of course, because he is still on the staff of

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 President Johnson; but we do bid him a warm welcome
3 to Chicago at least and look forward to the not-
4 too-distant time when he will be with us on a
5 regular basis. (Applause)

6 The highlight of our evening, of course,
7 is the presence of the Vice President of the United
8 States.

9 Now, in this connection, -- well, again,
10 a house joke; we have been talking about the
11 elevator service a little bit, and I won't go into
12 that tonight. But it is not because of the elevator
13 service -- I am serious now. When the Vice President
14 leaves, and his party, please, all of you, remain
15 seated until he has left. This is a request given
16 to me by the security people, and I am serious about
17 that. Please do.

18 Now, let me mention two points of the
19 Conference business before I go further. Please,
20 again, remember that our concluding luncheon
21 tomorrow will be in the East Room on the ninth floor
22 of this hotel, and not in the Grand Ballroom where
23 we are now. Also, participants will be able to get
24 registration addendum sheets at tomorrow's morning

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 panel session.

3 Now, in regard to this latter point, you
4 may be interested to know that more than 300 have
5 registered on a full-time basis and are participating
6 in this Conference, and that does not include the
7 additional several hundred interested persons who
8 have been joining us at these meal functions.

9 When this Conference began yesterday, I
10 mentioned the highly diversified and specialized
11 competencies of industry, government and the academic
12 world that are represented here. The registration
13 list, which many of you have now seen, bears out
14 my statement. We are overwhelmed by the diversity
15 and substance of this group, and we are gratified
16 and we are also proud, quite frankly, that the Chicago
17 Board of Trade is increasingly meeting its public
18 as well as its private obligations.

19 At the Board's annual meeting last January
20 I told our members that we must continue to involve
21 ourselves with those larger public matters that so
22 directly affect our business. Concerning itself
23 as it does with the global food situation, this
24 first International Agribusiness Conference is one

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 indication of the seriousness of our intentions.

3 I promise you that there will be more such indications
4 in the future.

5 Just here I would like to, if I may, read
6 a release which will be issued Friday morning, May
7 12th. I am sorry -- I promised I wouldn't give you
8 tomorrow's, Friday, May 12th, market closings.

9 (Laughter) But -- you know -- "security." (Laughter)

10 Seriously, now this is a release which is
11 being issued on May 12th.

12 "U. S. Firm to Help Koreans Boost

13 Food Production

14 "United States foreign aid will guarantee
15 an American firm's investment in feed production
16 and poultry-raising in Korea. The Ralston
17 Purina Company, St. Louis, Missouri, plans a
18 project which includes 'on-the-farm' technical
19 assistance to Korean farmers. It will be
20 directed at increasing the quality and quantity
21 of poultry, cattle, hogs, and dairy products . . .
22 The Agency for International Development will
23 provide equity loss insurance covering commercial
24 and political risks on one-half of the U. S.

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 firm's investment of \$102,000.00 in Purina
3 Korean Company. AID also is issuing an
4 extended risk guarantee to cover 75 per cent
5 of a \$500,000 U. S. commercial bank loan."

6 Now, this is the sort of thing we have been
7 talking about here. This is the sort of thing we are
8 going to see more and more. (Applause)

9 Let me tell you a little about the man who
10 will introduce Vice President Humphrey and this head
11 table. We had an awfully impressive head table this
12 noon, and I am very impressed again. I don't know
13 what I am doing here.

14 He is the Honorable Leslie C. Arends,
15 senior Republican member of the United States House
16 of Representatives.

17 Mr. Arends represents the Seventeenth
18 Congressional District in Illinois. He is in his
19 seventeenth consecutive term in that capacity.

20 He also holds the very responsible position
21 of House Republican Whip, and has had that responsibility
22 for the last twenty-four years. He has been his party's
23 Whip, in fact, longer than anyone else in either party
24 in the history of our nation.

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 Representative Arends also holds membership
3 on the House Armed Services Committee, the Republican
4 National Coordinating Committee, and the House
5 Republican Policy Committee. He has been an official
6 delegate at five North Atlantic Treaty Organization
7 parliamentary conferences.

8 Of perhaps special interest to us at this
9 Conference is the fact that Mr. Arends is also a
10 farmer. He owns farmland in the corn-and soybean-
11 rich central area of Illinois, farmland which is
12 among the most fertile and productive in the world.

13 I give you Representative Arends.

14 (Applause)

15 CONGRESSMAN ARENDS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 Mr. Vice President, Governor Kerner, Mayor
17 Daley, and distinguished guests whom I will introduce
18 shortly:

19 I am a little surprised at being here
20 tonight filling in in the capacity of one who could
21 not be here -- almost as surprised as the story of
22 the Texan and his wife who came up north to visit
23 some friends of theirs in Ohio, and on Sunday morning
24 this Ohioan and his wife took the Texan and his wife

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 to church.

3 The preacher preached himself quite a sermon,
4 and, as the custom, after the sermon was over, he was
5 standing in the foyer of the church shaking hands
6 with all the parishioners as they came out.

7 When introduced to the Texan, the big, long,
8 rangy Texan gave the preacher a vigorous handshake,
9 and he said, "Parson, that was a damn good sermon
10 you preached this morning."

11 The preacher bristled just a little bit and
12 said, "My, my, I'm glad you liked the sermon, but
13 surely you could have expressed yourself in some
14 other manner different from that when you're in the
15 church."

16 And the old Texan looked at him and said,
17 "Parson, don't think nothing of that," he said,
18 "That's just the way we Texans are; when we think
19 something, we say it. In fact," he said, "that was
20 such a good sermon, that when they passed that old
21 collection box I just reached in my pocket and
22 pulled out a hundred dollar bill and threw it in the
23 plate."

24 And the preacher said, "The hell you did!"

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 (Laughter)

3 I am a little bit surprised on being here,
4 but I know that there is going to be a lot of good
5 common sense taught here tonight.

6 It reminds me of the story of these two
7 old maid sisters who had driven into a town, came
8 along the big old fence, and looking through the
9 fence at these beautiful buildings and some wonderful
10 gardens, some wonderful flower gardens, and they said,
11 "Look at that; let's go and look at it."

12 So they drove in, parked their car and
13 started walking through these beautiful gardens.
14 And all at once one of the little gals got a little
15 smart and she said, "Sis, you know where we are?"
16 She said, "No."

17 She said, "We're on the grounds of an
18 insane asylum; we better get out of here."

19 She said, "You're right, let's go." And
20 they started out for their car in the parking lot,
21 but as they got to the last building before they
22 reached their car, out of the building came one of
23 the inmates, some gal, and she was running up and
24 down in front of this last building, just yelling

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 at the top of her voice, "I want a man, I want a man,
3 I want a man!"

4 This one old lady sister looked at the
5 other old lady sister and said, "Sis, that gal may
6 have been crazy when they put her in here, but she's
7 sure talking sense now." (Laughter)

8 I know you are going to hear a lot of
9 sense tonight, but it is not going to be from me.
10 (Laughter)

11 But I am very honored to fill this spot
12 tonight and introduce to you some of these wonderful
13 people at this head table, and I would like to start
14 doing so by introducing some of my colleagues from
15 Washington who came along -- and I think there are
16 eighteen of us in this number -- they must have
17 closed the town up; we'd be surprised to get back
18 tomorrow and see it still running. (Laughter)

19 But from this group came quite a number
20 of the House Agricultural Committee led by the
21 Chairman of the House Agricultural Committee, our
22 good friend, Bob Poage of Texas. (Applause)

23 Congressman Dole of Kansas. (Applause)

24 Congressman Foley of Washington. (Applause)

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 Congressman Kleppe of North Dakota.

3 (Applause)

4 Congressman Hansen of Idaho. (Applause)

5 Congressman Myers of Indiana. (Applause)

6 Congressman Purcell of Texas. (Applause)

7 Congressman Resnick of New York. (Applause)

8 Congressman Mayne of Iowa. (Applause)

9 Congressman Goodling of Pennsylvania.

10 (Applause)

11 Congressman Nichols of Alabama. (Applause)

12 Those members of Congress are all members
13 of the House Agricultural Committee. If you have any
14 problems, talk to them. (Laughter)

15 Now I would like to introduce my colleagues
16 from Illinois serving in the House of Representatives,
17 both Republicans and Democrats, and I am not going to
18 pay much attention as to how I introduce them except
19 to say that I will start with the A's.

20 Congressman Frank Annunzio of the 7th Dis-
21 trict, which includes the Board of Trade of Chicago,
22 Illinois. (Applause)

23 Congressman Don Erlenborn of the 14th Dis-
24 trict of Illinois. (Applause)

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 Congressman McClory of the 12th District of
3 Illinois. (Applause)

4 Congressman Pucinski of the City of Chicago.
5 (Applause)

6 Congressman Dan Rostenkowski of the City of
7 Chicago, the 8th District. (Applause)

8 Congressman John Anderson of the 16th
9 District of Illinois. (Applause)

10 Now, that is just a sample of what is in
11 the House of Representatives. (Laughter)

12 At the head table we have Dr. Sherwood O.
13 Berg, Dean of the Institute of Agriculture of the
14 University of Minnesota. (Applause)

15 And then you have the man who is going to
16 take over as your president, a long-time friend of
17 mine, who is here tonight, Henry Wilson. (Applause)
18 Henry, we wish you all kinds of success, and if they
19 pay you well, let's play gin rummy some day. (Laughter)

20 I would like to introduce to you, and this
21 is a pleasure for me, I am sure, the Mayor of Chicago,
22 and I must say he does have a grand police force, and
23 a lot of other things, but I know particularly about
24 the police force, for every time I have been here

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 not once have I been arrested. (Laughter)

3 I am not going to say anything about the
4 Mayor except to say that recently they had an election
5 here, and I think the election speaks for itself.
6 He's great. (Applause)

7 I saw the Mayor of Chicago in Washington
8 the other day going through the rotunda of the
9 Capitol, just like another sightseer taking in the
10 wonderful sights of that Capitol building, and I
11 had the opportunity to stop and visit with him just
12 for a moment. We were glad to see you there, and
13 you come back again. (Laughter)

14 I ran into another man from Illinois, very
15 prominent citizen, your No. 1 citizen. He likewise
16 was in Washington and was kind enough to invite us
17 to come to a breakfast the other morning, which
18 unfortunately I couldn't attend, but he is a grand
19 man, a fine person, your chief executive of the
20 great State of Illinois, Governor Otto Kerner.

21 (Applause)

22 Do you know, both of these gentlemen are
23 busy. But I think they come down to check up on us
24 once in awhile to see whether we are busy, and they

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 have no problems so they have time enough to come.

3 (Laughter)

4 But, honestly, we have some problems
5 ourselves as I know they do.

6 Now we come to the reason why we are here
7 tonight. However much we enjoyed the dinner and
8 the opportunity for good fellowship, to renew old
9 acquaintances and exchange ideas, we did not come
10 here for that purpose.

11 And however much some of us may like an
12 excuse to get away from Washington, I am certain
13 we did not make the trip just for that purpose,
14 either. We came here tonight so that we might be
15 privileged to hear an uninterrupted speech from our
16 honored guest who honors us with his presence here
17 on this occasion.

18 Many of you are probably not aware that
19 uninterrupted speeches without a distracting series
20 of "Will the gentleman yield" are a rarity in the
21 Congress. (Laughter)

22 For that matter, our distinguished guest
23 speaker can't even speak with or without interrup-
24 tions in that great deliberative body over which he

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 presides. He can't even vote unless to break a tie
3 vote, and, as you know, he recently exercised that
4 right to try to insure that we political protagonists
5 might have plenty of money to advocate, to agitate,
6 and to aggravate in a presidential election campaign.

7 (Laughter)

8 But he will be able to speak freely and
9 at some length tonight without interruption,
10 provided that No. 1, who is supposed to be in
11 Washington, doesn't surprise us all including No. 2,
12 by walking in and taking over. (Laughter)

13 Well, we know why we are here, and the
14 question you are asking is why I of all people should
15 have been given this honor of introductions and
16 particularly of our guest speaker. I am a little
17 puzzled about that myself. To say the least, I am
18 a poor substitute for our eloquent Senator Dirksen
19 in introducing an eloquent and stimulating speaker.

20 I first concluded it was merely a matter
21 of having a proper image, and that has become
22 important these days. In the matter of image, it
23 occurred to me that I was selected as a substitute
24 for Senator Dirksen because people say that he never

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 combs his hair and they say I never cut mine. (Laughter)

3 But, of course, if the hairdo were the image
4 consideration, Bobby Kennedy should have been selected
5 for the honor role that is mine tonight. (Laughter)
6 Bobby can afford a better hairdo than either Senator
7 Dirksen or myself. (Laughter)

8 For an occasion like this there is a need
9 for an image of unity. It just wouldn't make a
10 proper public image for a Democrat aspirant for the
11 No. 1 position in the country to introduce our
12 No. 2 man who is also a Democrat. It wouldn't be
13 fair to our guest who is already No. 2 -- and trying
14 so hard. (Laughter)

15 So here I am, No. 2 Republican in the House,
16 having the honor of introducing our No. 2 Democrat in
17 the Country.

18 The vice presidency has changed a great
19 deal since the days of Thomas Marshall who did little
20 more than preside over the Senate and smoke five-
21 cent cigars. We take pride in our Vice President
22 who will undertake any assignment that the President
23 gives him, go anywhere and do anything he thinks that
24 will serve our country.

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 Hubert Humphrey has contributed something
3 priceless to the Washington scene in the last few
4 years. He has kept his sense of humor, his ability
5 to smile, and even to smile at himself, and, believe
6 me, we need a lot of that Lincoln quality in the
7 high councils of state. (Applause)

8 He has kept his perceptive sense of human
9 relationship by which reasonable men can debate
10 without hate and disagree without screaming.

11 So that, while we may needle him now and
12 then, we of the loyal opposition really respect and
13 honor not only the Nation's second highest office,
14 but also the man who now holds it.

15 Ladies and gentlemen, it is my very great
16 privilege to present the Vice President of the United
17 States. (Applause)

18 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: He's hot tonight, all
19 right. (Laughter)

20 Thank you very much, my very good friend,
21 Les Arends, distinguished Republican, noble introducer,
22 (laughter) -- outstanding substitute for Ev Dirksen.
23 (Laughter)

24 I like the way your hair looks better than

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 either Ev or Bobby's. (Laughter)

3 Governor Kerner and Mayor Daley and my
4 fellow Minnesotan, Bob Martin, I have just one or
5 two observations, if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman,
6 that I would like to make tonight.

7 First of all, I can't help but think how
8 good it is to be introduced by such a famed and
9 honored and respected Republican. I want you to
10 know in light of what you had to say about my
11 position as No. 2, that since this office of vice
12 presidency is a very awkward one and it takes a
13 good deal of training to get accustomed to it,
14 (laughter) -- and I am becoming that way (laughter) --
15 and because there may be some uncertainty in this
16 country as to what the future may hold for some
17 people, and because America does need certain
18 traditions of continuity, I think I will just offer
19 myself on either ticket on this occasion. (Laughter)

20 We have Les Arends' speech all recorded,
21 and we are going to use that at either convention.
22 (Laughter)

23 You know, I have been stalling for a
24 minute here. I think you ought to know that the

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 President told me that if he didn't arrive by 9:30,
3 I was on my own. (Laughter)

4 Some of you may think that what Les was
5 saying here tonight was a joke, but I have a whole
6 drawer full of speeches undelivered. (Laughter)

7 I get the message, you know, that, "Well,
8 the President isn't going to be there tonight; if
9 you like to fill in, it would be all right." Some
10 fine man at the White House, like Henry Wilson,
11 passes that word along with it, and I get myself
12 all "juiced up" with a real good speech, have it
13 in my inside pocket, I get my best suit on, go over
14 to these fancy dinners in Washington -- I'm just
15 loaded with good ideas and several good jokes that
16 I got from Les Arends, and I am ready to go, and
17 just about the time that the toast master is ready
18 to introduce me, why, then they play "Hail to the
19 Chief" and I know that isn't me. (Laughter)

20 I should tell you, though, that things have
21 changed somewhat. Before they passed the 25th Amendmen
22 to the Constitution, which provides a constitutional
23 manner of succession, -- which has cast a certain
24 amount of concern in government circles, why, --

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 (laughter) -- when I used to come into a banquet,
3 why, they would have possibly the Washington Police
4 Band or the Boys' Club Band play.

5 The last time I went to a dinner in
6 Washington, the Marine Band was there. They heard
7 about the amendment and they weren't taking any
8 chances. (Laughter)

9 Well, I want to say just a word or two here
10 in reference to some of the Administration leaders
11 that have disappeared from the political scene,
12 public scene, and go into private enterprise.

13 We want to bid Henry Wilson adieu at the
14 proper occasion. We hope, Henry, that you will buy
15 several memberships in the President's Club, (laughter)
16 and we do expect that you would attend all of these
17 fine congressional dinners that are all just a matter
18 of your great personal desire to be there, we know.

19 I must say that I should warn you; don't
20 play gin rummy with Les Arends. That is not illegal,
21 but it's damn foolish, I'll guarantee you that.

22 (Laughter)

23 But we are infiltrating the Board of Trade.
24 From here on out, why, you will all have to be on

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 guard. (Laughter)

3 We sent Valenti into the Motion Picture
4 Association. It hasn't done anything for the
5 Association yet, but we are hoping it will do
6 something for us. (Laughter)

7 And we have Bill Moyers now in the newspaper
8 profession. The only thing is, I just don't like to
9 know so many of the President's good friends that
10 are moving out; it may get contagious, (Laughter) --
11 and I think now we have gone far enough with this
12 thing. (Laughter)

13 Tonight I am very, very privileged and
14 honored to share this platform with members of the
15 Congress of the United States. I can say in all
16 candor, there haven't been that many members of
17 the Congress of the United States present at any
18 meeting for a long time in or out of Congress.
19 (Laughter) -- And I haven't had the chance to
20 speak to Congress for a long, long time. (Laughter)
21 --and you have no idea what a happy and joyful
22 occasion this is. (Laughter)

23 The other day I did get that chance, as
24 Les indicated, to cast a vote to break a tie. I

Vice President Humphrey

1 was doing it, of course, for the great public and
2 had no personal motives in it at all. It did,
3 however, provide that a poor man could run for
4 office, and I thought there was some merit to that,
5 for both Les and myself. (Laughter)
6

7 Tonight I want to bring to you, first of
8 all, a message from our President. The President
9 of the United States has taken not only note of this
10 meeting, but he is keenly interested in it.

11 I think the presence of members of Congress
12 here indicates that this particular gathering, the
13 First International Agribusiness Conference, has
14 unusual significance in our economic and social life.

15 The President gave me this message, a copy
16 of which I have given to Bob Martin, and he will have
17 it for your official purposes and files. It reads as
18 follows:

19 "I am very pleased to greet those attend-
20 ing the First International Agribusiness Con-
21 ference.

22 "Your meeting is proof that the world is
23 at last aware that a war must be waged on
24 global hunger. That awareness, accompanied

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 by a full commitment of talent and resources,
3 is vital to our ultimate success.

4 "History teaches us that, given a creative,
5 constructive partnership between private
6 business and government, no challenge is too
7 great -- no problem insurmountable.

8 "The present food crisis is without parallel
9 in the history of mankind. International coopera-
10 tion backed by self-help is imperative. We in
11 America can provide only a small margin of the
12 human and material resources needed for food
13 development. The major effort -- the will --
14 the leadership -- the labor -- and, indeed even
15 most of the resources -- must come from the
16 low-income countries themselves.

17 "The developing countries which have made
18 the best progress are those in which private
19 initiative and enterprise have played a
20 vigorous role in national growth.

21 "The encouragement of such initiative
22 in the developing countries and the furthering
23 of private U. S. participation in international
24 development are salient objectives of our

Vice President Humphrey

assistance program.

"We cannot expect to have the kind of stable and progressive world in which free institutions can survive and flourish unless the people of Asia, Africa, and Latin America can look forward to economic and social progress, earned by their own work in independence and self-respect. We were never meant to be an oasis of liberty and abundance in a world-wide desert of disappointed dreams.

"I salute you, and I wish you growing success in an indispensable task of our time."

Signed: Lyndon B. Johnson.

(Applause)

The President in those few paragraphs has, I think, very succinctly and wisely and profoundly both summarized the situation that exists in this troubled world of ours and laid down general principles of guidance and of constructive action for solutions and remedy.

I am not going to burden you tonight with a recitation again of the problem. I think you know it. I believe that this Conference, if I have any

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 idea of your deliberations, has been literally
3 inundated with the facts of population, the facts
4 of food production, the matters of our own production,
5 our own exports, what has happened in the world,
6 where only a few years back the developing nations
7 were exporters of grains and where today they are
8 importers.

9 I think that you know the problem, but
10 might I add, it is imperative that we know its
11 dimensions, imperative that we understand its
12 urgency and not look upon it as an academic exercise
13 or another matter to be studied in political and
14 economic circles.

15 This is a problem that requires solution
16 and it is a problem that requires immediate attention
17 and action.

18 I want to quote to you a meaningful para-
19 graph that is to be understood not in jest but in
20 all seriousness as a sort of scripture or verse
21 for what I have to say to you tonight. It is from
22 Jonathan Swift in Gulliver's Travels, and it reads
23 like this:

24 "And he gave it for his opinion that

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 whoever could make two ears of corn or two
3 blades of grass to grow upon a spot of ground
4 where only one grew before would deserve better
5 of mankind and do more essential service to
6 his country than the whole race of politicians
7 put together."

8 Now, without trying to set up any unnecessary
9 conflict between politicians and the tillers of the
10 soil, let me say that that little passage tells us
11 the importance of the application of investment,
12 technology, modern resources, modern technological
13 know-how to the agricultural sector.

14 That is what Jonathan Swift was talking
15 about -- modern agriculture -- and he was also
16 talking to us in that paragraph about doing some-
17 thing rather than just arguing about it or talking
18 about it.

19 The President has said in his message to
20 you that if we are to defeat world hunger, that we
21 are going to need the cooperative, the combined
22 effective efforts of all parts of our society, and
23 you will recall that he emphasized in particular the
24 private sector, and he went on to point out how in

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 developing countries where they had encouraged
3 private initiative and the free economy, that there
4 has been more progress made in those countries than
5 elsewhere.

6 He went on also to point out in his
7 message that the institutions of our government,
8 particularly in the field of foreign assistance,
9 are there to work with and supplement private
10 initiative and private capital and private action,
11 and that is the policy of this government -- and
12 it must be.

13 But let me say that policies and government
14 need your constant attention. Those of us at this
15 table that are in public life are perfectly well
16 aware of the importance of our contact with the
17 people, and it is always a very serious problem
18 with us, to know who is speaking for the people
19 and to know not only who is speaking for the people,
20 but to understand fully what you are saying.

21 I believe that one of your participants
22 today emphasized the importance of a continuing
23 discussion and dialog between those of you here
24 in private enterprise, those of you here in the

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 free economy and the government -- and not just the
3 executive branch, but the legislative branch of
4 government.

5 We are privileged tonight to have here at
6 this table leaders in the Congress, not only leaders
7 in the field of agricultural policy of the Congress,
8 but in many other areas of congressional action.

9 All too often, may I say to the Board of
10 Trade, you spend your time with those of us that
11 are in the executive branch. I have spent sixteen
12 years on Capitol Hill as a United States Senator,
13 and I tell you that there is no monopoly of either
14 wisdom or virtue on the other end of the Avenue.

15 The Congress of the United States ulti-
16 mately makes the policy, and the Congress of the
17 United States should reflect your point of view,
18 or at least have the input of that point of view,
19 as it makes national policy.

20 So I come to you to emphasize again that
21 when we talk about the cooperative effort of all
22 segments of our national life in dealing with this
23 immense and complex problem, I am talking about your
24 relationships to the Congress as well as your

Vice President Humphrey

investments and your technological know-how and your capacity in distribution and processing and production.

Now, the Agency for International Development known as AID and the Department of Agriculture have a role to play in all of this program of the War on Hunger, but they essentially should serve as catalysts, expeditors, activators, energizers, to private initiative.

The man who is speaking to you has never believed, nor shall I ever believe, that the role of government is to supplant what you do, but rather the role of government is to supplement what you do and to encourage it. (Applause)

I believe in the profit system, even with all of its risks. I also believe that it can be made to work more effectively than it has in the past, both for private and public good.

In agriculture our country especially needs the technical skills and the organizational experience, the unmatched skills and experience of the agribusiness community, and I think it is good that we begin to call it what it is -- agribusiness.

There should be no conflict between the

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 producer and the processor and the distributor. You
3 are all a part of a marketing system; without the
4 producer you can do nothing, and without the processor
5 and the distributor and the handler of the products
6 of the soil and the farm, the producer can do little
7 or nothing.

8 These imaginary conflicts that some people
9 seem to generate or want to exacerbate, they must
10 be brought to an end. We need this unmatched
11 experience and skill of yours to market, to market
12 abroad millions of tons of our food and feed grains
13 and oil seeds and meat products and the other products
14 of our farm economy, and we need your unmatched
15 skill and experience to teach others how to do it.

16 If we are going to teach those who need
17 the teaching, who need the help, then we must send
18 them the best, the best that we have, and in a
19 large measure the best that we have is to be found
20 in your ranks, for the agribusiness community can
21 do this job that I speak of more efficiently --
22 and I believe at less cost -- than public agencies
23 can.

24 For too long business and government have

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 stood on opposite sides of an imaginary line, the
3 line dividing the so-called private sector from the
4 so-called public sector, and glowered at one another.
5 Now that was all right for a speech some years past,
6 possibly, but that has worn out its usefulness.

7 The demagoguery that is used now or any
8 other time to put up straw men, to create hostility
9 and conflict is unworthy of people in public trust
10 in either private or public life in this country.

11 (Applause)

12 I have said this many times, and I repeat
13 it again, that some businessmen have suspected that
14 government has an insatiable appetite to expand its
15 functions, to encroach on private enterprise and
16 ultimately to stifle it, and there are some men
17 that sell that sort of propaganda.

18 And there are some government officials
19 who have regarded business as inherently oblivious
20 or even antagonistic to the public interest. Some
21 even regard profits as actually immoral rather than
22 as a scientific essential to efficiency and
23 productivity.

24 I happen to believe that these old

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 superstitions are fading into history, where they
3 properly belong, and mutual confidence and cooperation
4 are replacing them. We have discovered that neither
5 business nor government has a monopoly on wisdom or
6 on dedication to the public good, and we have learned,
7 more importantly, that the problems that this country
8 faces in any sector, any place -- in its cities, in
9 its agriculture, in its overseas activities, wherever
10 they are -- are too large and complex for any one
11 part of our society to handle them alone.

12 The Mayor of this great city of Chicago
13 knows that government alone cannot meet the problems
14 of the city. Therefore, he reaches out and asks
15 for the private sector, the voluntary agencies,
16 capital, labor, business, the church groups and
17 others to work with him in a great community program.
18 Whoever is a public official today that has any
19 sense at all will do this or he will fail.

20 Now, if we are to meet the challenges
21 of this last third of the twentieth century -- and
22 I remind you, that is the part of the century we
23 are in -- we are going to need everyone, and
24 particularly in this America of ours where our

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 burdens are unbelievable, where our responsibilities
3 at home and abroad are far beyond anything we have
4 known before.

5 We are going to need everyone, each doing
6 his own job in his own best way, yet coordinating
7 our efforts for maximum effect.

8 Now having said that, I lay down these
9 principles, that government must seek to make
10 priority needs as we describe those priority needs,
11 both at home and abroad, profitable for private
12 enterprise. (Applause)

13 If you will permit me, let me say, that
14 is the doctrine that I have held even in terms of
15 our urban development, even in terms of the moderniza-
16 tion or the remodeling of our slum areas. We cannot
17 even perform acts of social consciousness and
18 social concern unless we mobilize the resources
19 of this country -- and most of the resources of
20 America are not in the government.

21 This is not to diminish government.
22 Government has its role to play -- and don't underplay
23 it, but it is a simple fact of American political,
24 economic, social structure that most of the resources

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 which we need for any task are to be found amongst
3 the people, are to be found in what we call the
4 private sector.

5 The second principle that I would lay
6 down is that we must create an environment where
7 private initiative can flourish and be rewarded
8 and not penalized in the course of meeting these
9 needs. And this means that we must watch our
10 language, this means that we must watch our
11 attitudes on both sides, but particularly in
12 government.

13 For example, I think that when a government
14 talks of tax reform as a means of releasing the
15 capital for investment and energizing the economy,
16 that is the right attitude.

17 I happen to think, for example, that when
18 government agencies, regulatory bodies, speak and
19 act, they should do it with complete objectivity
20 and with no demagoguery. (Applause)

21 You see, I come from a family of small
22 businessmen, merchants, and I guess I have maybe
23 a few old fashioned attitudes about this.

24 I just happen to think that the "Humphreys"

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 know how to run "Humphrey's" drugstore better than
3 any agency. I just happen to believe that and I
4 have -- (Applause)

5 Lest you think there is any conflict of
6 interests, I get no income out of it -- I want you
7 to know that. (Laughter)

8 But I have a pride in its name and I have
9 a pride in the fact that it's been in business for
10 sixty-some years; and therefore I happen to believe,
11 for example, that advertising has a legitimate
12 role to play in the American business community.
13 (Applause)

14 Might I say for the edification of some
15 of my friends, even in Congress, I happen to believe
16 in brand names. I believe in the name. I think
17 that the best name above our store is "Humphrey's"
18 name, "Humphrey's" drugstore, and I happen to
19 believe that the best name for a product that has
20 been developed by a company is the name that that
21 company wants to put on it, and I don't believe
22 that government ought to discourage that kind of
23 incentive or that kind of activity. (Applause)

24 And I believe that I can say to you that

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 we are trying to follow these principles -- not
3 every one, possibly, but it is the view of your
4 President and it is the view of this Vice President
5 and of this Administration -- and I believe of the
6 leaders in Congress in both political parties --
7 that what I have said here is a standing set of
8 rules of conduct and of priority for them.

9 Let me show you how we have tried to
10 demonstrate this in some action which I have
11 encouraged and which others have encouraged here
12 at this table from the Congress.

13 Currently the Commodity Credit Corporation
14 with its own stocks of grain, those stocks are being
15 insulated from the market. The grain markets are
16 freer today of the influence of government supplies
17 than in many years -- and I have been one that has
18 felt that that was necessary all along.

19 Loan rates for grains and oilseeds are
20 substantially below market prices, enabling the
21 forces of supply and demand to function, and
22 thereby letting the marketing system of our country
23 handle the commodities. (Applause)

24 Some of you have heard me say this years

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 back right here in this same city, but it bears
3 repetition. I happen to know that farm prices
4 are competitive in world markets, in most cases
5 without an export subsidy, and cooperating farmers
6 are receiving supplemental direct payments, thereby
7 freeing the market and freeing the flow of supplies
8 at world market prices.

9 The Food for Freedom Program, Public Law
10 480, will move over 1.5 billion dollars worth of
11 farm products through the normal channels of trade
12 this year, -- not through the Commodity Credit
13 Corporation, but through the normal channels of
14 trade, and up and down this platform are the men
15 that made it possible. (Applause)

16 Now, this year we are exporting almost
17 seven billion dollars in agricultural commodities,
18 and of this 80 per cent are commercial exports,
19 all of which you handle, or men and women of your
20 business.

21 The farmer-agribusiness complex is making
22 a substantial contribution to maintaining our balance
23 of payments.

24 I wonder if those who study the question

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 of balance of payments have ever thought what it
3 would be like if you didn't pursue those export
4 markets, if we didn't have this marketing mechanism.

5 The food stamp plan -- a small program,
6 to be sure, but how is it being operated? It is
7 being operated through the privately-owned retail
8 stores, not through government dispensaries but
9 through retail stores, and it will be increasing
10 in its scope.

11 Then let me say a word about the Kennedy
12 Round trade negotiation. We have been busily
13 engaged at this for some time now. It is now
14 nearing its completion, and it has included,
15 at the President's insistence -- also with the
16 insistence of the Congress -- the agricultural
17 sector as well as the industrial products, and
18 this is the first negotiation on the part of our
19 country to ever have that situation or to ever
20 so do, and we look to this Kennedy Round not only
21 for increased world trading opportunities, but also
22 as giving new impetus to multilateral food aid by
23 the rich nations.

24 I want to say a little bit more about that

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 just a moment from now, because I have been deeply
3 involved in my recent trip to Europe on the whole
4 subject of food aid and the Kennedy Round negotia-
5 tion.

6 A word on the international front now.
7 We are mobilizing. Your nation, your country, is
8 taking the lead in mobilizing new resources, both
9 public and private, in the War on Hunger, and in
10 trying to combat want throughout the world.

11 The late Pope John XXIII said, "Where
12 there is constant want there is no peace."

13 And how I wish those whose hearts cry out
14 for peace would concentrate their attention and
15 their emotion and their sense of morality and
16 spirit upon this subject of world hunger and world
17 want, because that is the seedbed of violence and
18 revolution. Where hunger is, there is no peace.

19 In our new Food for Freedom program passed
20 by the 89th Congress, we stressed in that policy,
21 and you are stressing now, insisting on cooperation
22 and self-help. This means that governments in those
23 countries, the less developed countries and the needy
24 countries, must give a much higher priority to

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 agriculture than they have in the past.

3 The time is long past when a new national
4 airline or a steel mill or an officers' club or a
5 superhighway from the national palace to the airport
6 could pass as a development program -- and you and I
7 know that sometimes they have been passed off as
8 development programs.

9 A true economic development program, one
10 with any hope of defeating want and hunger, is one
11 which gives real production incentives to farmers
12 and builds a strong based economy in which food
13 production can be bought and paid for rather than
14 to be merely that of charity or gift.

15 It is one which provides better facilities
16 for farm credit and marketing. It is one which
17 brings basic measures of health and education to
18 the people of the countryside, and a true develop-
19 ment program is one which develops a working
20 partnership between the government and the private
21 sector, and this is exactly what we are trying to
22 do now, and with your help we can succeed.

23 May I say that we have other standards
24 in our international mobilization of resources.

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 We are asking the developing nations to not only
3 plow more of their investment and their capital
4 into agriculture and education, we are helping the
5 developing nations where they wish our help in
6 family planning programs, recognizing that the
7 production of food and the population explosion
8 are directly related and must be dealt with
9 simultaneously, and we must help these less
10 developed countries with their programs of
11 desalinization so that unproductive soil may
12 bloom.

13 And might I give you some encouraging
14 news -- that we are very close now to what we
15 call the economic break point of the desalinization
16 of sea water so that we can bring fresh water and
17 sweet water to the deserts, and when that day comes
18 the possibilities of food production will be
19 greatly extended and maximized, and when that day
20 comes -- may I say to those of you in the private
21 field -- a greater opportunity for productive
22 investment will be at hand.

23 Then we must encourage the rich and the
24 food-producing nations to join in this international

Vice President Humphrey

effort as a matter of their own urgent self-interest.

What we call the OECD, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development of the industrialized nations has a great role to play in seeing to it that this burden of feeding the poor, of aiding the needy, is not a sole priority and prerogative of the United States of America, but rather that it becomes a worldwide responsibility for those nations that are affluent, as we call them, or for those nations that are more prosperous and industrialized.

And if nothing else has been accomplished in the recent months -- and I think much has, but at the top of that list is now the awareness and the recognition on the part of other countries that they have a responsibility for the less fortunate in this world and that it is not the sole responsibility of the United States of America. (Applause)

Let me just for a moment share with you what I think the implications of the coming world food crisis are for American agricultural policy, and I use the word crisis purposely because I believe it is a crisis.

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 I do not believe that you have heard anyone tell you
3 that in the next decade that we will do much better
4 than just prevent mass starvation, and in the next
5 ten years the situation may very well grow worse
6 rather than better, and therefore we need to take
7 a look not only at what we will ask others to do,
8 but what are we willing to do.

9 Yes, ask others, use international
10 instrumentalities wherever possible, but what
11 should we do?

12 Well, first of all, -- and this seems
13 quite obvious to me -- we must produce more food,
14 and we have the means. We must produce more food
15 to meet requirements in our own country; we must
16 produce more food to help fill growing commercial
17 markets overseas.

18 And might I say, no matter what projection
19 you make, I will make a prediction in this hall
20 tonight -- and I want you to mark it down and hold
21 me accountable for it. Whatever prediction you
22 have made as to the possibilities of world markets,
23 you have underestimated it.

24 There is a growing world market, cash market,

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 commercial market, for food far beyond the expecta-
3 tions of even the most optimistic. It is inevitable --
4 if for no other reason than for what is happening in
5 western Europe, what is beginning to happen in
6 Asia and what is beginning to happen in Latin
7 America in terms of economic productivity.

8 When the common market, the Inner 6 and
9 the outer market of the Outer 7 and EFTA join
10 together, as they inevitably will, production and
11 economic growth in that area will skyrocket. And
12 it will not all be agricultural; it will be
13 essentially industrial, and one of the greatest
14 markets that America has ever known would be there
15 if we can be successful in the coming trade negotia-
16 tions which will come to a climax this weekend.

17 We must produce, as I said, more food
18 for these markets and we must produce food to help
19 feed the hungry of the world, because it is a moral
20 obligation as well as a political necessity.

21 We must produce more food so that we will
22 have reasonable reserves in case of emergency.

23 I often wonder what we are thinking around
24 this country. Here we take on worldwide responsibilities

Vice President Humphrey

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

we face international crisis after crisis, we are involved in a very mean and painful and costly war in Southeast Asia, and yet I do not see the concern that there ought to be either in public or private places over the adequacy of our food reserves.

A nation that is concerned about the adequacy of its bombs and its planes, a nation that is concerned about the adequacy of its transport and its men surely ought to have overriding concern about the supplies of food and fiber in a growing population, in a world that is hungry, in a world that is explosive due to hunger and want.

So I ask us to evaluate not just the government levels, but you men who help make policy in the private sector, give us your counsel and your advice as to what you think are safe reserves for the protection of this great country and for this country and all of its burdens around the world.

I think we must clearly understand also that farm abundance and farm prosperity are not necessarily in opposition to each other, and this takes some new learning.

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 They can be, of course, in contrast and
3 opposition if farm programs are mismanaged or
4 misdirected, but they will not be if we in government
5 and you in the agribusiness community take care to
6 see that the family which produces that abundance
7 is given proper incentive and return.

8 Now that I have my friends here from
9 Congress, let me say this. This nation is not
10 going to prostrate itself or bankrupt itself by
11 the use of incentives to encourage people to
12 produce what is needed for national needs and
13 national security. We have no right to ask any
14 segment of this economy, as it now is, to make
15 a sacrifice for the rest of the economy in the
16 name of national policy. We have a right only if
17 we ask everybody to sacrifice at the same time.

18 (Applause)

19 You know and I know that the American farm
20 producer carries a heavy burden, and he has for
21 years. He lives in an air of unpredictability and
22 uncertainty by the very nature of his occupation,
23 and you know that that American farmer that carries
24 that heavy burden and meets a high responsibility is

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 doing so on behalf of our whole society. And, as I
3 said, he should receive his fair share of our
4 society's overall prosperity.

5 He needs it, he deserves it, and, frankly,
6 if he doesn't get it, you can't expect him to
7 produce it. We must help him get it and you must
8 speak up for him, not just members of Congress.

9 You, the business leaders, speak up for
10 this, your partner. It has never harmed you to
11 have a farmer that has a well paid -- a good price
12 for his crop. It has never hurt a good businessman
13 to have a well paid worker, and it has never hurt a
14 man in the agribusiness community to have a fair
15 price for what the farmer produces.

16 I want your voices to be heard around this
17 nation so that Congress and the consumer will know
18 that you believe in social justice for the producers
19 of food and fiber in this land. You speak up.

20 (Applause)

21 I say we must do this so that Mr. Farmer
22 and his family need not fear that his very producti-
23 vity which we desperately need will in the end
24 drive him off the soil.

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 What I am saying to you in other words, is
3 that we have to break away from old patterns of
4 thought -- old patterns of thought, old patterns
5 of scarcity and protectionism. They belong to a
6 bygone age. (Applause)

7 No group of people in America have a
8 greater stake in open markets and freedom of opera-
9 tion and the opportunity to penetrate a market in
10 price competition than the people that I talk to
11 here tonight, and what we are fighting for this very
12 evening in Geneva, Switzerland, in the Kennedy Round
13 negotiation is just that. We are trying to make sure
14 that American agriculture, agribusiness as well as
15 American industry, but with particular emphasis
16 upon American agriculture, we are trying to make
17 sure not only that we have access to a market, but
18 that we have an opportunity to participate in the
19 growth of that market which is inevitable unless
20 there is a major cataclysm and catastrophe in this
21 world.

22 That is what we are negotiating. We are
23 not only negotiating now about a simple tariff,
24 we are not merely negotiating on price -- we are

Vice President Humphrey

1 negotiating at this time whether or not we are going
2 to have a European market that is sealed off from
3 us and we from them, or whether we are going to
4 build an international community in which trade
5 and commerce can flourish and grow and expand.
6 That is the essential principle that we are working
7 on.
8

9 And what else are we working on? We are
10 working on to get the European countries and the
11 other industrialized countries for the first time
12 in their history to take on this burden of food aid
13 with us. And as I went through seven European
14 countries as your representative, I spoke to heads
15 of government on this issue more than any, saying
16 to them quite frankly that it does you little good
17 to read Pope Paul's encyclical if you are unwilling
18 to either comprehend or accept the word of it,
19 that world hunger is not a priority problem of the
20 United States alone; that world hunger becomes the
21 moral and the political problem of every established,
22 industrialized, prosperous nation on the face of the
23 earth or our freedom will be destroyed. (Applause)

24 So let me say that Kennedy Round

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 negotiations, international monetary policy, inter-
3 national liquidity, capital formation, all of this
4 that we discuss in the highest levels of government
5 and in conference and in negotiations affects what
6 you are doing.

7 You can't have enough capital for world
8 investment in agriculture unless we can create it,
9 and we must have international liquidity and inter-
10 national monetary reform. It is a part of the
11 picture that relates to agriculture just as much
12 as fertilizer, machinery or the different products
13 that go into a successful agricultural operation.

14 What I am saying is what a great American
15 said, only said it with such simplicity and profundity.
16 Abraham Lincoln said this, that "Dogmas of the
17 quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present.
18 The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and
19 we must rise with the occasion. As our case is
20 new, so must we think anew. We must disenthral
21 ourselves."

22 Let that be seared into your souls. This
23 is a new day, a whole new ballgame, a whole new
24 world -- even if not a better one. I think it is

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 better and it is also new and it is a changing world
3 and we need to adapt ourselves to it in our thinking,
4 our trade practices, our monetary policies, our
5 international policies, or if we fail to do so, we
6 will reap the harvest of discontent and disaster.

7 I think the occasion is piled high with
8 difficulty, in the words of Lincoln, for peace and
9 stability, and the future course of world politics
10 may very well hinge on whether or not we in the
11 rich nations will be able to overcome world hunger.

12 Democracy or totalitarianism, peace or
13 violence, they make very little difference to
14 starving men with nothing to lose.

15 I found a quotation on the way coming here
16 tonight in a little book that I have from Ghandi,
17 and I think it is appropriate at this point.

18 "To the millions," he said, "who have to
19 go without two meals a day, the only acceptable
20 form in which God dare appear is food."

21 It is the same thing that the minister
22 in my church said to me one Sunday, "The way you
23 treat people is the way you treat God."

24 That is the way we can talk about it in

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 the twentieth century in our country. Ghandi said
3 the only acceptable form in which God dare appear
4 to the starving is food.

5 That is what we are talking about. We
6 are not just talking economics, we are not just
7 talking politics. We are talking people, morality;
8 we are talking our very safety; we are talking
9 peace, and for those who prefer to see things in
10 economic terms, I will point out that until the
11 people of the hungry nations are able to stand on
12 their own two feet, we shall be wasting the world's
13 greatest potential market, because the figures show
14 that for every ten per cent increase in per capita
15 income abroad, our own commercial exports increase
16 16 per cent. That is a good rate of return.

17 They also show that for every billion
18 dollars of additional exports, every billion dollars
19 of additional exports creates one hundred thousand
20 new jobs in this country.

21 The starving and the poverty stricken
22 don't buy much; in fact, they buy little or nothing,
23 but the healthy and the sustaining are customers.
24 They buy, they want, they need, they grow.

Vice President Humphrey

1
2 I think we face the crossroads. We can turn
3 back to the old habits and there are some that are
4 recommending we do, and we will reap the whirlwind
5 of trouble.

6 Or we can reach out with confidence to
7 the future, which I ask you to do, and to think
8 and do, to think in terms of the new situation
9 and reap the bounty of a world of progress which we
10 can help make, a world of plenty which we know and
11 which we understand, and a world of peace which is
12 the indispensable requirement if anything that we
13 want is to be realized.

14 I want to compliment you on your Conference
15 and your Congress. Can I just say as one in public
16 life, this is one of the most reassuring developments
17 that I have ever noted in American business, and I
18 know that American business has a great mission to
19 perform in the world.

20 You may not know it, but those of you on
21 the outside watch you very carefully. You are much
22 more revolutionary than you think. You are much
23 more progressive than those who comment about you
24 think or that you think.

1 Vice President Humphrey

2 In fact, without you there will be nothing.
3 With you there will be everything, and I think the
4 choice is for both of us.

5 I enlist. I pledge the Government of the
6 United States to help you tonight, and I ask for
7 your help in helping you. Help us, guide us,
8 direct us, and we will try to be a working partner,
9 not a dominating partner -- a cooperating partner,
10 not a consuming one.

11 Thank you very much. (Applause)

12 MR. MARTIN: May I remind you, please, keep
13 your seats.

14 After this, Mr. Vice President, for me to
15 say anything more than thank you would be foolish.
16 Thank you very much.

17 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you.

18 MR. MARTIN: Please, may we thank you, too,
19 Congressman Arends.

20 I have just one note and this concerns
21 some more housekeeping of some of our guests, whom
22 I also want to express great thanks for having made
23 this such a wonderful evening for us. All of the
24 party that is returning to Washington this evening

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

Vice President Humphrey

pick up your gear, it says here, at the congressional cloakroom on the eighth floor -- take the stairs up.

(Laughter) Limousines will be waiting at the Michigan Avenue entrance to the hotel and they will leave immediately for the airport.

This concludes what I think probably was the most wonderful session the Board has ever had. Thank you all very, very much.

CONFIDENTIAL
UNRELEASABLE
INAC COMPLINT



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org