

001868

MEMORANDUM

APRIL 17, 1972

TO: Senator Humphrey  
FROM: Mark Epstein  
SUBJ: Address to Women's Auxiliary  
Hebrew Home of Greater Washington  
Tuesday, April 18

As the audience is very interested in the problems of the aged, we suggest you use this material on the Humphrey Program for the elderly:

1. Cabinet-level Office on Aging
2. Humphrey Home Health Services Plan
3. Old age assistance increases
4. Social Security increases

You also have material on the achievements of the Hebrew Home

*young leadership  
Humboldt- from  
Jewish Affairs  
Bd at annual  
conv.  
lecture*

*Mrs Heldenhorn*  
*Mrs Lawrence Silverman*  
*President*  
*Mrs Hersch (new President)*  
*Aunt Minnie Goldsmith*  
*lunches (arranged by Mr Goldman)*  
*(Borofing 7 North)*

001869

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY  
HEBREW HOME OF GREATER WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, D.C.

APRIL 18, 1972

001870

Mrs Hersch

IT IS MY GREAT PLEASURE TO SPEAK TO THE WOMEN'S  
AUXILIARY OF THE HEBREW HOME OF GREATER WASHINGTON.

IT IS A PLEASURE NOT JUST TO SALUTE YOUR GOOD WORKS,  
BUT TO SALUTE YOUR SPIRIT OF CARING AND ACHIEVEMENT.

✓ YOU REPRESENT THE AMERICAN TRADITION OF CARING FOR  
PEOPLE -- ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE UNDERPRIVILEGED OR  
WITHOUT GREAT PERSONAL RESOURCES.

✓ AND THE HEBREW HOME IS LEADING WASHINGTON AND THE  
NATION IN MEETING THE PROBLEMS OF OUR ELDERLY.

✓ --NO ONE IS EVER TURNED AWAY FROM YOUR DOOR BECAUSE HE  
OR SHE CANNOT PAY. <sup>oh</sup> IN FACT, YOU GIVE PRIORITY CONSIDERATION  
TO THOSE WHO CANNOT PAY -- THOSE WHO ARE ALONE -- WITHOUT  
FAMILY AND WITHOUT FUNDS.

(Israel)

*and*

--YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH WHAT YOU HAVE ACHIEVED

SO FAR, AND ARE PLANNING FOR GREATER FACILITIES IN THE

FUTURE *L* YOUR APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND

URBAN DEVELOPMENT FOR A NEW 250 UNIT SENIOR CITIZENS

APARTMENT HAS GREAT MERIT -- AND IF SUCCESSFUL WILL MAKE YOUR

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO EVEN MORE ELDERLY AMERICANS.

*L* BUT YOU ALONE CANNOT DO JUSTICE TO THE NEEDS OF OUR

ELDERLY. *L* YOU ARE DOING ALL YOU CAN, BUT YOU HAVE A LONG

WAITING LIST OF APPLICANTS TO THE HEBREW HOME. AND AT THE

PRESENT RATE OF CHANGE-OVER, I AM TOLD THAT IT WILL TAKE

7 YEARS FOR YOU TO ACCOMMODATE ALL THE PEOPLE WHOSE

APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN APPROVED.

WHAT WE NEED -- WHAT WE MUST HAVE -- IS A NATIONAL  
COMMITMENT TO MEET THE PROBLEMS OF THE ELDERLY. WHAT WE  
NEED IS GOVERNMENT WITH A HEART -- A GOVERNMENT THAT CARES.  
~~AND WHAT WE MUST UNDERSTAND IS THAT~~ THE TIME HAS COME  
TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE NEEDS OF OLDER AMERICANS ARE NOT  
PRIVILEGES TO BE BESTOWED BY A GENEROUS SOCIETY, BUT THAT  
THEY ARE BASIC AMERICAN RIGHTS.

--IT IS WRONG THAT 5 1/2 MILLION OF OUR ELDERLY -- MORE  
THAN A QUARTER OF ALL OLDER AMERICANS -- ARE LIVING IN  
POVERTY.

--IT IS WRONG THAT MILLIONS OF ELDERLY AMERICANS LACK  
ADEQUATE TRANSPORTATION EVEN FOR SUCH BASIC NEEDS AS VISITS  
TO A DOCTOR OR TO A GROCERY STORE.

└--IT IS WRONG THAT MILLIONS OF ELDERLY AMERICANS ARE  
PRICED OUT OF THE HOME BUYING MARKET AND FORCED TO LIVE  
IN WHAT ARE ALL TOO FREQUENTLY, CROWDED, SHABBY, AND  
UNHEALTHY CONDITIONS.

└--IT IS WRONG THAT OUR SOCIETY SHORT-CHANGES THOSE WHO  
IN THEIR PRODUCTIVE YEARS HAVE CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH. AND  
THE TIME FOR CHANGE -- THE TIME FOR A FAIR CHANCE FOR  
OLDER AMERICANS -- IS NOW.

└ THIS NATION NEEDS A NEW DEAL FOR THE ELDERLY CITIZENS  
OF AMERICA:

*Young, Handicapped, Elderly*

1. ~~AS PRESIDENT, ONE OF MY FIRST ACTS WOULD BE~~

~~TO ESTABLISH A CABINET-LEVEL OFFICE ON AGING, <sup>not</sup> TO BE JUST~~

JUST ANOTHER ADVISORY GROUP HOLDING PERIODIC MEETINGS,

BUT TO PULL TOGETHER ALL FEDERAL PROGRAMS CONCERNING

THE ELDERLY, TO SET SCHEDULES FOR MEETING SPECIFIC GOALS,

TO FIX RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTION, TO MOVE OUT IN NEW DIRECTIONS.

2. I HAVE PROPOSED AND INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE THE

HUMPHREY HOME HEALTH SERVICES PLAN FOR ELDERLY AMERICANS.

THIS COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM WILL CLOSE A MAJOR GAP IN MEDICARE

AND PUT A NEW EMPHASIS ON PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE.

THE FACT IS THAT TWO-THIRDS OF THE HEALTH CARE COSTS  
OF OLDER AMERICANS ARE FOR HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES.  
AND THE HARSH FACT IS THAT HEALTH CARE COSTS ARE RISING  
TWICE AS FAST FOR OLDER AMERICANS <sup>as</sup> ~~that~~ FOR YOUNG PEOPLE --  
AND MEDICARE COVERS LESS THAN HALF THE COST.!

AS THE AUTHOR OF THE ORIGINAL MEDICARE LEGISLATION,  
I TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS <sup>but</sup> THE PROGRAM  
MUST BE REFORMED AND EXPANDED IF WE ARE TO TRULY EXTEND TO  
THE ELDERLY THE RIGHTS AND REWARDS TO WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED.

MY PLAN WILL END THE PRESENT MEDICARE PROVISION THAT  
RECIPIENTS MUST BE HOSPITALIZED FOR AT LEAST THREE DAYS  
BEFORE THEY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR HOME HEALTH SERVICES. - R



WE NEED A MAJOR REDIRECTION OF OUR NATIONAL HEALTH  
CARE SYSTEM FROM THE NARROW CONCEPT OF MEDICAL CARE IN  
INSTITUTIONS DURING ACUTE ILLNESS TO ONE OF PREVENTIVE CARE,  
HEALTH MAINTENANCE, AND REHABILITATION SERVICES,

WE MUST ACT NOW TO REFORM THE MEDICARE SYSTEM WHICH  
SAYS TO THE ELDERLY WE WILL RECOGNIZE SOME OF YOUR NEEDS,  
BUT NOT ENOUGH TO ASSURE YOU OF ~~GOOD ACCESS TO ALL YOUR~~ *care for all of your*  
HEALTH NEEDS.

AND WE MUST ACT NOW TO GREATLY INCREASE NATIONAL  
RESEARCH EFFORTS ON THE PROBLEMS OF HEALTH CARE FOR THE  
ELDERLY. WE MUST CREATE A NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GERONTOLOGY

AS THE KEYSTONE OF A MASSIVE INVESTIGATION OF THE TREATMENT,  
PREVENTION AND CURE OF THE HEALTH PROBLEMS OF OLDER  
AMERICANS.

3. I HAVE PROPOSED INCREASES IN THE OLD AGE  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ~~TO FEDERALLY~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~FIXED~~ MINIMUM LEVELS  
OF \$165 A MONTH FOR A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL AND \$215 FOR A  
COUPLE. THESE INCREASES WILL HELP TO ~~LIFE~~ THE 5 1/2 MILLION  
ELDERLY AS WELL AS THE MORE THAN 1 1/2 MILLION BLIND AND  
DISABLED ABOVE THE POVERTY LINE.

4. <sup>have</sup> I CALL ~~FOR~~ FOR A 25 PERCENT INCREASE IN SOCIAL  
SECURITY BENEFITS, WITH A \$100 A MONTH MINIMUM PROVISION,

AND A COST OF LIVING ESCALATOR FOR REAL AND PERMANENT  
INFLATION PROTECTION.

THE TIME FOR ~~THIS~~ PROMISES IS OVER. WE NEED ACTION --

AND WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHTS OF ELDERLY AMERICANS:

- THE RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE INCOME.
- THE RIGHT TO DECENT HOUSING.
- THE RIGHT TO QUALITY MEDICAL CARE.
- THE RIGHT, ABOVE ALL, TO HUMAN DIGNITY AND SECURITY.

WHAT WE NEED NOW ARE FIRM NATIONAL POLICIES BACKED BY  
BOLD AND COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL PROGRAMS COMMITTED TO ONE  
PARAMOUNT GOAL: THAT A PERSON IN ~~HIS~~ OLD AGE SHALL BE  
TREATED AS A HUMAN BEING.

*But we need to really  
address the problems of our elderly and devote  
attention needed until the end of the war*

WITH CARE, WITH UNDERSTANDING, AND WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE  
HEBREW HOME OF GREATER WASHINGTON, WE WILL CREATE A BETTER  
LIFE FOR AMERICA'S 20 MILLION OLDER CITIZENS.

HHH

I URGE PRESIDENT NIXON TO HALT OUR  
BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM. THE BOMBING OF HANOI AND  
HAIPHONG IS A DANGEROUS AND AN ALARMING ESCALATION OF  
THE WAR.

THE BOMBING OF THE NORTH IGNORES ALL WE HAVE LEARNED  
IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. THE BOMBING IS A GIANT STEP  
BACKWARD TO BEFORE 1968 WHEN PRESIDENT JOHNSON HALTED  
THE BOMBING BECAUSE IT HAD PROVEN TO BE NOT ONLY INEFFECTIVE  
BUT INHUMANE.

CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT TODAY AMERICANS ARE STILL DYING  
IN VIETNAM, THAT AMERICAN PLANES ARE BOMBING IN THE NORTH  
AND THAT THE WAR IS BEING ESCALATED BY THE MAN WHO STOOD

BEFORE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND PROMISED US THAT HE HAD  
A SECRET PLAN TO END THE WAR, AND IF ELECTED HE WOULD  
WITHDRAW AMERICANS AND END OUR INVOLVEMENT IN THIS TRAGEDY?

CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS?

IT SEEMS INCREDIBLE THAT ONCE AGAIN WE ARE ON THE ROAD  
TO ESCALATION OF THE WAR. AND THIS TIME THE PRESIDENT  
HAS NOT EVEN TAKEN HIS CASE PUBLICLY TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

THE BOMBING WILL NOT BREAK THE WILL OF THE NORTH  
VIETNAMESE.

I CALL UPON THE PRESIDENT TO COME FORTH AND PERSONALLY  
EXPLAIN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHY HE HAS ESCALATED THE WAR.

AND WHY HE BELIEVES THAT BOMBING WILL BREAK THE WILL OF  
THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN 1972 WHEN IT WAS NOT ABLE TO DO SO  
IN THE PAST.

MR. PRESIDENT, HOW WILL THE BOMBING BRING THE NORTH  
VIETNAMESE TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE ON OUR TERMS?

MR. PRESIDENT, HOW WILL THE BOMBING HASTEN THE RETURN  
OF AMERICAN POW'S?

MR. PRESIDENT, HOW WILL THE BOMBING HALT THE SLAUGHTER  
OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH?

MR. PRESIDENT, HOW WILL THE BOMBING BRING US ANY CLOSER  
TO PEACE IN ASIA?

MR. PRESIDENT, WHY CAN'T YOU LEARN FROM THE MISTAKES  
OF THE PAST?

WHAT CAN THE PRESIDENT DO?

4

PRESIDENT NIXON SHOULD CALL FOR AN EMERGENCY SESSION  
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL WHICH NOW INCLUDES THE PEOPLE'S  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

WE CAN PLEDGE THAT OUR ARMED FORCES WILL BE WITHDRAWN  
WITHIN A CERTAIN DATE AND THAT ALL WE ASK IN RETURN IS THE  
SAFE WITHDRAWAL OF OUR TROOPS, THE RELEASE OF AMERICAN  
POW'S AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF THOSE MISSING IN ACTION.





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