

HUMPHREY '72

NEWS

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HUMPHREY INTRODUCES NATIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

SAN FRANCISCO---May 26, U. S. Senator Hubert H. Humphrey said today he will introduce comprehensive legislation to begin coming to grips with the myriad problems of unplanned and haphazard national growth.

Senator Humphrey told the Commonwealth Club here that the legislation -- the Balanced National Growth and Development Act of 1972-- will be designed to guide on a national level, and in cooperation with state and local governments, balanced national growth, balanced distribution of population, environmental protection and begin meeting needs of the future in transportation, health care, housing, land use and other public policy areas.

Following is the text of the Senator's prepared remarks:

"I have been a fortunate person. I have been privileged to serve the people of Minnesota and this nation for over 25 years, as Mayor of a great city, as Senator, then as Vice-President, as my party's candidate for President, now once again as Senator from Minnesota.

"Public service has been my career.

"This country has been my life--Americans at work, producing, building, a land of progress, a land of hopes--a land in which a free and compassionate people honestly and openly try to blend their diverse natures into one nation.

"And, as a Nation, the American people have come far.

"We once had a population of only 4 million; now we stand 220 million strong. Once opportunity was only a far dream--beyond the reach and beliefs of most people. Now, opportunity has been expanded. There is greater democracy and liberty in our land.

"American life has been marked by both log cabins and skyscrapers, by the horse and buggy and sleek fast cars; by radios, stereos, subways, highways, and moonflights.

"We as a nation have given much of ourselves--in both war and peace. But, there is a new uneasiness in our land.

"American youth are unsettled, and sometimes anguished about their future and the problems it presents. Their elders are faced with new insecurities as our economy fails and traditional values are challenged. Nothing seems to work correctly. Government has become too big to provide personal answers.

"And, our people are confused---about themselves, their families, their jobs, and the direction of this nation.

"Generations ago, we could look to the past, to help us interpret our lives. But today, the nostalgia of our memories fail us. And, all the while, life continues, swirling about us.

"It moves at a pace so quick that people are bewildered.

"And, we are prone to question: Is it possible that in spite of ourselves, in spite of our abundance, we as a nation have lost our way?

"What has happened, I believe, is that our lives are caught in a movement of growth--a movement as impersonal as it is compelling, as rapid as it is elusive, and as ephemeral as it is disturbing. The rapid growth and development of this nation has literally overpowered us.

"The central fact of our time is this: for the past two hundred years, this nation and its people has grown without any sense as to what growth means?

Never before has our nation faced such trying and difficult choices as the future presents us.

"California, because it is a growth state, epitomizes many of the tough choices.

"A recent report of the Population Commission notes that by the year 2000, over 85% of national population will live on less than two percent of the land.

"In that same year, California will have between 35 and 40 million people--one out of every eight Americans living in the United States will live in this state.

"The future asks us: How will these people live? Where will they work? Or, consider the air and environment of our country. Two years ago, the air in 36 urban regions had pollutants concentrated above the acceptable standards. Over 173 tons of contaminants are ejected into the atmosphere every year. And, next year along, over 90% of our urban population will need secondary sewage systems.

"Californians are not strangers to the pollution problem. Smog is found in almost every community of over 40,000 people. Many of the major rivers, bays and estuaries are polluted. And more than thirty percent of this state's population suffers eye, respiratory irritation and allergies.

"The future asks us: what are we doing today to meet these problems? And, what are we doing today that might make meeting these problems impossible?

"Consider energy. What will tomorrow's energy requirements be? The United States consumes 15.5 million barrels of oil a day. And, natural gas already is virtually rationed.

"Yet, estimates are that in the next fifteen years, our energy needs will be double those of today. And by the year 2000, Americans will be using 76 trillion hours of energy, more than four times the present rate.

Yet, we are presently trapped every night by the threat of blackouts, brownouts, and rationing. We have not been able to build a national grid

system or develop solar or nuclear energy adequately. Today is the time to think about tomorrow's energy problems.

"Our health needs are nothing short of massive. The blunt fact is that 30 million Americans do without adequate health care because they cannot afford it or it is not immediately available.

"By 1975, we will need over 400,000 more physicians, and one million more nurses. And, while we spend millions on heart transplants, thousands of children die each year because they lack a simple vaccination.

"Or consider jobs.

"Or people need work. To be precise, this nation must create three and a half million new jobs every year.

"Yet, there are fewer jobs being created today than there were five years ago while at the same time there are more unmet human needs than ever before. This is the ultimate irony of unemployment.

"Our metropolitan areas are in trouble. The debt of our cities and communities is now over \$44 billion and increasing at about \$4 billion a year.

"Basic services such as sanitation, parks and recreation, fire and police protection have jumped by \$2 and \$3 billion in little less than four years. And, utility rates and local taxes have been increasing by about \$1.2 billion a year--placing an incredible strain on the taxpayer and forcing an unprecedented fiscal crisis upon our urban governments.

"By the end of this fiscal year, we will have spent in the last decade \$160 billion dollars on urban areas, trying to solve urban problems.

"Yes, what we have not done is nothing short of massive. In urban renewal, there is a \$3 billion backlog; a \$350 million backlog in public housing, a \$7.5 billion backlog in sanitation and water quality control, a \$500 million backlog in open space programs, and \$8.3 billion backlog in mass transit and a \$1.7 billion backlog of unmet needs in law enforcement.

"Just one example. Here in California, 500,000 new units of housing are needed in the metropolitan areas. Homes must be built for the low and moderate income families. Yet the average price of a home in California's population dense counties is close to \$27,000--out of the reach of many.

"These then, are some of the requirements of the future, of the next three to five years.

"The needs of the next decade are even greater.

"I ask: What are we doing today that will allow us to meet those needs? What are we doing today to shape and design our future?

"There are two courses our nation and our people could follow.

"We can continue as we have in the past--without planning, without national goals, without any attempt to determine what our people want, how we are going to live or where we are going to live.

"We can continue to grow unplanned, undefined, and unorganized.

"And, if we continue in that course we will see its results:

--millions of people will go without employment.

--land will continue to be developed, ravaged, spoiled and misused.

--great cities and urban regions will continue to swallow people and cars, and homes and life into an indistinguished mass--creating a drain on public services and local tax revenues that will eventually make the cities uninhabitable, unmanageable, and uncontrollable.

--jobs will be separated from housing, creating both social and economic distortions in our communities.

--institutional structures will continue to be big, hard, cumbersome to administer and impossible to understand.

--There will continue to be rural to urban migration of the unskilled and the psychologically unequipped--some 600,000 a year to our cities in search of a job.

"And, there will continue to be further alternation of the individual citizen from his government--more cynicism, more skepticism, and more distrust.

"This is the price we will have to pay for unplanned, uncoordinated growth.

"This can be our fate if we as a people do nothing. But we gave a choice. There are alternatives.

"There is, I believe, a second, more positive course before us.

"It is the course of planning and designing our future, of understanding growth, of controlling it, of guiding the utilization and allocation of our resources to make our institutions respond to the kind of future we as a good people want.

"It is the course of balanced national growth and development.

"Balanced national growth means thinking about the future today. It means taking stock of our country. It means coordinating and reforming our institutions. It means positive population distribution policies.

"Balanced national growth means a necessity for planning, for national policy development to help states and cities control and plan their future growth.

"Balanced growth means focus on rebuilding the neighborhood--on the street where people live. And, helping people who live there to change things as they want them changed.

"I will soon introduce in the Congress, the Balanced National Growth and Development Act of 1972.

"This bill is the first step towards thinking about the future today. It will provide the mechanisms to harness the energy, the talent, the intellect of the best minds in our country, so that we can determine how we are going to live, where this nation is going, and how it is going to get there. This legislation is problem oriented. It is no ivory tower exercise. It will allow us to address ourselves to the future--to assess the effect of present programs on tomorrow's needs, and bring the growth of this nation into manageable, understandable form.

"The Balanced National Growth and Development Act of 1972 will provide the tools necessary for us to make rational program choices today, so that problems do not become impossible to solve tomorrow.

"The legislation will help balance economic and social growth in urban and rural areas. It will require federal agencies to ask questions about programs that have never been asked before. It will require agencies to think about the impact of programs on people and on their lives--not just today, but in the next five, ten, and fifty years.

"Policy formulation, planning and guided development--that is what balanced growth is all about. That is why I feel as strongly as I do about this subject. That is why we must choose the second course before us, and not the first.

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"--jobs will be separated from housing, creating both social and economic distortions in our communities.

"--institutional structures will continue to be big, hard, cumbersome to administer and impossible to understand.

"--there will continue to be ghettoization of neighborhoods, renewal programs that deal only with physical blight; health care systems that have become too impersonal, remote, too costly, and too late.

"There will continue to be rural to urban migration of the unskilled and the psychologically unequipped--some 600,000 a year to our cities in search of a job.

"And there will continue to be a further alienation of the individual citizen from his government--more cynicism, more skepticism, and more distrust.

"This is the price we will have to pay for unplanned, uncoordinated growth.

"This can be our fate if we as a people do nothing. But we have a choice. There are alternatives.

"There is, I believe, a second, more positive course before us.

"It is the course of planning and designing our future, of understanding growth, of controlling it, of guiding the utilization and allocation of our resources to make our institutions respond to the kind of future we as a people want.

"All across the country, people are worried about the future growth and development of their communities. They expect political leaders to be concerned about growth problems.

"They are tired of hidden policies that preserve for them the illusion of choice but in fact prevent them from making choices.

"People want things in the open. They want control over their lives and their homes. They want control now.

"'Time', said St. Augustine, 'is a three-fold present; the present as we experience it, the past as present memory, and the future as a present expectation.'

"By that criterion, something like the very salvation of the nation is at stake. And, how this nation grows is at the nub of it all. This is our problem.

"And, if guiding how we grow seems insurmountable, let us remember that we have heard the voices of those who say it can not be done before. These are the voices of those who live in the past and want others to do so also. They are false voices. They would rather say no and give a thousand reasons why not than to say yes and give one reason why.

"Our problems will be solved because reason, understanding, resources, and the commitment of people were applied to them.

" The future of this country can be shaped. We can have a balanced national growth policy because our people have agreed that things in this nation can be better, that conditions of life can improve and that man can shape his life as well as react to it.

"This is what I want to help our nation achieve.

"This is why I seek the Presidency."

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BALANCED NATIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1972

Title I: The Balanced National Growth and Development Act of 1972 proposes to guide on a national level, and in cooperation with the states and local governments, a balanced economic growth, a balanced distribution of population, and environmental protection. A broad, national comprehensive program shall be established to investigate, analyze, and implement solutions in the areas of land use, public services, transportation, national housing, community and health needs, crime, poverty, and job training. The program would promote a balanced population growth and protect the environment.

Some of the goals would be:

- 1.) an income distribution to insure adequate level of health, education and housing for all
 - 2.) prevention of further pollution
 - 3.) development of an integrated national transportation system .
- others are enumerated in the actual legislation

Title II The Act would establish an Office within the Executive Office of the President, and would be governed by the Council on Balanced National Growth and Development. This Office would direct the coordination of the various programs, assess the national needs, and evaluate the programs. It would establish multi-state regional offices to further coordinate locally. It would establish national growth policies, review agency budgets, and provide channels of information dissemination, and review proposals for federal programs. The Domestic Council in the Executive Office of the President would be abolished, and all functions related to that Council be transferred to the Office.

Title IV: The Act will further establish several multi-state regional planning and development commissions. Their functions would include:

1. coordinating and establishing the policies and the programs
2. being responsible for inter-state planning
3. formulating national urban and rural growth policies
4. advising the President

Titles V & VI: The Act would eliminate inconsistent and overlapping grant requirements and coordinate them.

Title VII: The Act would provide for the establishment of the Intergovernmental Council on National Growth and the American Future, to advise the Office and Congress on national growth policies and functions. The present Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations would be abolished. Multi-state and state intergovernmental councils would be formed to advise the state and local governments.

Title VIII: The Act further establishes a Joint Committee in Congress for Balanced National Growth and Development, to analyze national goals, growth policies, and provide Congress with information and data.

Title IX: Prior to the location or relocation of any Federal facility, a report would have to be made to the Office regarding the effects that move would have on the population and environment. Agencies are required as a precondition of program granting and approval to submit a Balanced Growth Policy statement as to: 1.) effect of proposed action on people and their communities, as to cost, dislocation, etc. 2) possible alternative programs that would not result in environmental deterioration, and other negative effects.

Title X: A foundation on National Growth and the American Future would be established to annually provide a research agenda, to investigate and chart national growth patterns, their effects, and to assess the impact of the changes in technology upon the population.

Title XI: The Act will also further establish the Agency for Population and Demographic Analysis within the Bureau of the Census, to analyze population distribution, population control methods and the resources and expenditures under existing and alternative population distribution.



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