

HUMPHREY '72

NEWS

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HUMPHREY SAYS McGOVERN DEFENSE CUTBACKS
WOULD TAKE JOBS AWAY FROM CALIFORNIANS

SANTA BARBARA -- Senator Hubert H. Humphrey charged today that "Senator George McGovern is running away from the serious implications of his \$32 billion defense cutback."

Speaking at Santa Barbara's Channel City Club, Humphrey said that "Senator McGovern has refused to admit in any of the states he has campaigned in thus far that his massive cutbacks will cause base closings or job losses.

"Apparently, Senator McGovern would have us believe that all the job losses and base closings stemming from his unilateral defense cutbacks would occur only in those states which do not have presidential primaries.

"Thus far, Senator McGovern has campaigned in over 10 primary states. At Nebraska's Offut Air Force Base -- the home of the Strategic Air Command -- he denied it would be hurt although he has proposed a 60 percent reduction in our B-52 force. And last week in Sacramento, Senator McGovern vehemently denied that any of the military installations in the area of the capital would be touched by his huge defense slashes.

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"California voters should find it difficult to believe that the McGovern cutback of roughly 30 percent in our Armed Forces manpower could be achieved without extensive economic impact in this state.

"The Senator's refusal to pinpoint exactly where in the United States his massive cutbacks will occur matches his evasiveness in explaining who will pay the tax bill for his \$1,000 per person giveaway scheme.

"Senator McGovern's unwillingness to state precisely what areas or who would be affected is certainly good politics, but given the actual facts of his proposals, it is inevitable that some of California's 75 military bases will be the targets of his meat ax cuts.

" - He has proposed halting all surface shipbuilding, reducing the number of aircraft carriers from 15 to 6 and cutting the American fleet in half.

" - He has proposed a 25 percent cutback in active Army divisions which would most likely cause a corresponding cutback in U.S. Army installations.

" - He has proposed cutting Air Force personnel by close to 250,000 men, with serious implications for strategic bombers, interceptors, tactical air wings and support forces.

Humphrey said that the jobs of many people who live in these communities come directly or indirectly from the operation of bases. When they close or are severely cut back, the jobs of hundreds of thousands of military and civilian personnel are threatened.

Senator Humphrey reiterated three major themes regarding defense cutbacks which he has stressed throughout the campaign.

"One, there should be a thorough effort to root out and eliminate waste in defense spending."

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"Two, significant cutbacks must be mutually negotiated with the Soviet Union and not be unilateral.

"Three, any cutbacks stemming from such negotiations should be planned in such a way as to include programs which would prevent any significant unemployment increases or serious harm to local communities."

Humphrey said that "because of the widespread consequences of massive shutdowns of military bases and defense plants, all Californians have an important stake in the outcome of this Tuesday's presidential primary."

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