

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

INTERNATIONAL AGRIBUSINESS FORUM

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① Sen. Talmadge - Sen. Hiram

FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS I'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT
Mr. Henderson
POTENTIAL WORLD FOOD SHORTAGES,

AND MANY OF MY *fellows americans + Senate Colleagues* COLLEAGUES, LOOKING BACK ON 20 YEARS OF
UNPRECEDENTED ABUNDANCE IN THIS COUNTRY, HAVE FOUND IT
DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE URGENCY OF MY CONCERN.

WELL THIS PAST YEAR IT FINALLY CAME HOME!

THE HOUSEWIFE WENT TO THE SUPERMARKET AND FOUND THAT
THERE JUST WASN'T ANY MEAT ON THE SHELVES *or if there was*
any the price was sky high.

THE POULTRY FARMER CALLED HIS FEED SUPPLIER TO FIND
THAT THE FEED COSTS HAD REACHED A POINT WHERE IT COST MORE
TO KEEP HIS CHICKENS THAN HE COULD GET FOR THEM. THE EGG
BUSINESS HAS GONE FROM AWFUL TO DISASTROUS.

L AND JUST WHEN WE WERE SINGING THE PRAISES OF RECORD

FARM EXPORTS, WE FOUND OURSELVES SUDDENLY SHIFTING OUR

POLICIES TO CONTROL THE SALES OF U.S. COMMODITIES ABROAD.

*Soybean
Embargo*

L MARKETS HAVE BEEN DISRUPTED -- OUR REPUTATION AS A

DEPENDABLE SUPPLIER, INJURED.

L ALL OF A SUDDEN THE CORNUCOPIA ~~WAS DRY~~ AND FOOD AND

wasnt so full

COMMODITY PRICES WENT THROUGH THE CEILING.

L THE ABUNDANCE THAT WAS TAKEN FOR GRANTED A FEW SHORT

MONTHS AGO, HAS NOW BECOME A FOOD ~~SITUATION~~ *scarcity* THAT IS A MAJOR

PUBLIC POLICY QUESTION AROUND THE WORLD.

L OUR CITY FRIENDS HAVE EVEN REDISCOVERED THE FARMER. *and*

*there is no more talk about farm
subsidies and "burdensome
surpluses"*

↳ HOW DID THIS SUDDEN SHIFT COME ABOUT, AND WHAT DOES IT
MEAN IN TERMS OF THE NEED FOR TRADE, ^{reform} AND AGRICULTURAL Policy.

↳ IT WOULD BE ALL TOO EASY TO WRITE OFF THE SHORTAGES
~~WE ENCOUNTERED~~ THIS YEAR MERELY TO THE DROUGHTS AND OTHER
CALAMITIES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS.

↳ BUT, IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE TO DO SO!

↳ A STUDY OF RECENT TRENDS IN THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION
REVEALS SOME DISTURBING TRENDS WITH ROOTS DEEP IN THE PAST.

^{just,}
↳ THE DEMAND FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS HAS GROWN FASTER
THAN THE GROWTH IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ↳ IN THE PAST YEAR,
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, INSTEAD OF INCREASING, ACTUALLY
DECLINED BY ONE PERCENT ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS.

second,
~~IT IS ALSO CONCERNED TO NOTE THAT THE~~ WHEAT STOCKS IN THE

EXPORTING COUNTRIES HAVE FALLEN TO THEIR LOWEST LEVEL IN 20

YEARS -- 20 YEARS ⁱⁿ ~~over~~ WHICH THE WORLD'S POPULATION HAS

GROWN BY OVER 50 PERCENT.

IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT EVEN THE LOWEST FORESEEABLE
GRAIN REQUIREMENTS OVER THE NEXT YEAR CANNOT BE COVERED BY

THIS YEAR'S PRODUCTION, THIS MEANS STOCKS WILL HAVE TO BE

REDUCED EVEN FURTHER.

During
FOR THE COMING YEAR, FOOD EXPERTS PREDICT THAT THE WORLD

WILL SUFFER A 6 TO 9 MILLION TON SHORTFALL IN GRAIN SUPPLIES.

UNLESS WE BEGIN TAKING ACTION NOW, THE CURRENT SHORTAGES

WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY MORE SERIOUS, AND EACH *year we*

WILL BE WISHING WE HAD DONE A LITTLE BETTER PLANNING.

so what to do?

WE MUST IMMEDIATELY CONVENE A WORLD CONFERENCE TO DEAL WITH THE
PROBLEMS THREATENING THE WORLD FOOD SUPPLY.

< I HAVE URGED THE PRESIDENT TO INITIATE SUCH A CONFERENCE
TO STUDY AND REPORT ON SUCH ISSUES AS THE BARRIERS TO
INCREASED WORLD PRODUCTION, THE WORLD AVAILABILITY OF
AGRICULTURAL INPUTS SUCH AS FUEL AND FERTILIZER, AND THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR HUMANITARIAN FOOD ASSISTANCE OVER THE COMING
DECADE.

~~I am~~ *I shall offer an*
~~amendment to~~ AMENDMENT TO
THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1973 CALLING FOR SUCH A
CONFERENCE, SOMETIME IN THE NEXT YEAR.

THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD MUST PLACE IMMEDIATE EMPHASIS

ON WHAT WE COLLECTIVELY AND INDIVIDUALLY CAN DO TO

RATIONALIZE DOMESTIC FARM POLICIES WITH INTERNATIONAL FOOD

DEMANDS.

↳ EACH COUNTRY MUST EXAMINE ITS AGRICULTURAL POLICIES IN
A WORLD CONTEXT.

IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO REALIZE THAT THE IMPACT OF
A COUNTRY'S AGRICULTURAL POLICIES IS FELT THROUGHOUT THE
WORLD. YET NATIONAL FARM POLICIES RARELY REFLECT A GLOBAL
PERSPECTIVE.

L WITHIN THIS OBJECTIVE, THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD MUST

make a

~~THE~~ CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF ALL NATIONAL POLICIES AFFECTING

FOOD PRODUCTION, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUEL

AND ENERGY, TRANSPORTATION, FERTILIZER, CREDIT, RESEARCH, *and*

AND FOREIGN *economic policy.*

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD MUST GIVE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY
TO INCREASING THE REAL VALUE AND VOLUME OF FARM OUTPUT FOR
THE WORLD INSTEAD OF DIRECTING THEIR ATTENTION TO WAYS TO
RESTRICT MARKETS BY TRADE BARRIERS AND HIGH CONSUMER PRICES.

INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO MAINTAIN
NATIONAL POLICIES WHICH ACT AS A DISINCENTIVE TO AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION AND WHICH SHIFT THE BURDEN OF ADJUSTMENTS TO OTHER
COUNTRIES.

↳ THERE MUST BE IMMEDIATE CONSULTATION AMONG THE EXPORTING
AND IMPORTING NATIONS OF THE WORLD ON THE QUESTION OF ACCESS
AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF AVAILABLE WORLD SUPPLIES OF
COMMODITIES IN SHORT SUPPLY. !!

↳ IT WOULD BE UNCONSCIONABLE FOR THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO
FORGET THE CRUCIAL FOOD REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

~~WHEN WE ENCOUNTER PERIODS OF TEMPORARY SHORTAGES,~~ TIGHT

SUPPLIES MAY MEAN SPOT SHORTAGES AND RISING PRICES IN THIS
COUNTRY, BUT WE SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IN MANY COUNTRIES OF
THE DEVELOPING WORLD, THE AVAILABILITY OF FOOD MEANS THE

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE OR DEATH.

*What to us
is an inconvenience, to the
developing countries can be a
Tragedy.*

WE MUST ALSO ASSIST THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THEIR

EFFORTS TO MEET THEIR ^{own} FOOD NEEDS BY EXPANDING THEIR OWN

PRODUCTION. ^{New} THE MAJOR THRUST OF THE FOREIGN AID BILL, WHICH

I WILL MANAGE ON THE SENATE FLOOR NEXT WEEK, IS ~~directed toward~~

INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THROUGH

SHARING ^{an} ~~THE~~ AGRICULTURAL KNOW-HOW, ~~WITH THE~~ ^{and aiding the}

rural areas with loans and credit facilities.
~~THE AMERICAN FARMER THE MOST PRODUCTIVE IN THE WORLD.~~

^{remove}
WE MUST ALSO PROVIDE FOR A SYSTEM THAT OFFERS THE

CONSUMERS OF THE WORLD AT LEAST A MINIMUM LEVEL OF FOOD

SECURITY AND REASONABLY STABLE PRICES. Yes a world Food Bank.

WHAT WE ARE FACING IS AN INCREASING UNCERTAINTY CREATED

BY RAPIDLY GROWING DEMANDS ON WORLD FOOD SUPPLIES.

↳ THE SWINGS IN FARM PRODUCTION FROM YEAR TO YEAR ARE EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT.

AND, UNLESS WE CAN FIND WAYS TO INSULATE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION FROM THE EFFECTS OF WEATHER OR UNLESS THE WORLD DEVELOPS A SYSTEM WHICH INSURES THE AVAILABILITY OF STORED RESERVES LARGE ENOUGH TO OFFSET THE PRODUCTION SWINGS, CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FARMERS AND CONSUMERS OF THE WORLD WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY DISASTROUS.

X
X
↳ WE MUST BEGIN BY ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM OF DOMESTIC RESERVES TO PROTECT THE ^{American} CONSUMER FROM WILD PRICE ESCALATION, TO ASSURE A STABLE INCOME TO THE AMERICAN FARMER, AND TO MAINTAIN OUR CREDIBILITY IN THE WORLD AS A DEPENDABLE SUPPLIER OF FOOD AND FIBER.

↳ CURRENTLY PENDING BEFORE THE SENATE IS A BILL ~~↓~~ ~~PROPOSED~~

THAT WOULD PROVIDE FOR AN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF DOMESTIC RESERVES OF

Wheat, Corn, + Soybeans

~~AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES~~. IT NEEDS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION!

↳ THE SHORTAGES ~~OF~~ ~~WHICH~~ ~~EXIST~~ IN THE FEEDSTUFFS

REQUIRED BY OUR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS TO PRODUCE THE PORK CHOPS,

BEEF STEAKS, TURKEYS, CHICKENS AND *dairy products* ~~MEAT~~ WE CONSUME, ~~IN THIS~~

~~COUNTRY~~ SHOULD PROVIDE AMPLE EVIDENCE FOR THE NEED TO *ensure* ~~PROTECT~~

THE AVAILABILITY OF BASIC FEED COMMODITIES. THE SKYROCKETING

FOOD PRICES WHICH THE HOUSEWIFE HAS WATCHED IN *fear and worry*

these PAST YEAR SHOULD POINT TO THE NEED TO PROVIDE SOME STABILITY

IN THE PRICES OF ESSENTIAL FOOD ITEMS.

Once again, I appeal to you to act

~~IT IS ONLY PRUDENT THAT~~ THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS

to
SUPPORTED SUPPORT THE ~~ADDITION~~ OF MY CONSUMER AND MARKETING

monde
RESERVE LEGISLATION TO AVOID A REPEAT OF THE CURRENT CRISIS.

L WE MUST ALSO CALL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL

SYSTEM OF STRATEGIC FOOD RESERVES -- A "WORLD FOOD BANK." *L* IN

AN AMENDMENT I HAVE PROPOSED FOR THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT

OF 1973, I HAVE INCLUDED A PROVISION THAT WOULD REQUEST THE

PRESIDENT TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD

TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL FOOD RESERVE *L* THIS IS SOMETHING

THAT I HAVE BEEN CALLING FOR IN THE SENATE BY RESOLUTION AND

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS. PERHAPS ITS DAY

HAS FINALLY COME. *!*

L SUCH A RESERVE WOULD PROVIDE A MINIMUM LEVEL OF SECURITY FOR THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD FROM THE RAVAGES OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION.

L THERE MUST BE ~~AN~~^a NECESSARY SHARING OF THE COST OF MAINTAINING SUCH A SYSTEM BETWEEN BOTH THE PRODUCER AND CONSUMER NATIONS, AND RESERVES SHOULD BE PHYSICALLY LOCATED

IN THOSE AREAS OF THE WORLD MOST LIKELY TO ~~BE AFFECTED BY SUCH~~^{need them.}

L ~~SUCH A SYSTEM SHOULD BE~~^{The argument for the Reserve is founded} ~~THE~~ SERIOUS ~~AND WIDESPREAD~~^{suffering} STARVATION EXPERIENCED IN AFRICA AND ASIA

THIS PAST YEAR.

FOOD is Power

FINALLY, WE MUST TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE UPCOMING ROUND OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS TO TAILOR WORLD AGRICULTURAL POLICIES TOWARD INCREASING WORLD FARM OUTPUT AND EXPANDING INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE.

L LIBERALIZATION OF TRADE OVER RECENT YEARS HAS NOT
COVERED AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES TO ANY SIGNIFICANT DEGREE.

L THE INTERNATIONAL RULES GUIDING AGRICULTURAL TRADE ARE
LESS STRICT, MORE AMBIGUOUS, AND LESS COMPREHENSIVE THAN THOSE
GOVERNING INDUSTRIAL TRADE.

L WITHOUT GENERALLY ACCEPTED RULES TO GUIDE NATIONAL FARM
POLICIES, ~~WE FORCE~~ ^{Seek to} GOVERNMENTS TO SOLVE THEIR AGRICULTURAL
PROBLEMS WITHOUT REGARD TO THEIR EXTERNAL EFFECTS.

L IN MANY CASES, COUNTRIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO PASS ON
ADJUSTMENTS TO FARMERS AND TRADERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

L WE ARE NOW ON THE VERGE OF A NEW ROUND OF MULTILATERAL
TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

DESPIITE HIGH SOUNDING PROMISES REGARDING AGRICULTURE
IN THE BEGINNING OF THE KENNEDY ROUND, THE RESULTS WERE A
MAJOR DISAPPOINTMENT TO ~~THE~~ AMERICAN FARMERS.

WHAT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY OBVIOUS IS THE FACT THAT
AGRICULTURAL TRADE MUST BE GIVEN SPECIAL ATTENTION. THE

FORCES AND CONSTRAINTS ON AGRICULTURAL TRADE ARE MUCH MORE
COMPLEX AND SENSITIVE THAN FOR ANY OTHER ECONOMIC SECTOR.

THE BARRIERS TO AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND THE POLITICAL AND
SOCIAL OBSTACLES AGAINST LIBERALIZATION ARE IN MANY
WAYS UNIQUE.

UNLESS WE CAN OBTAIN GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONG THE NEGOTIATING
PARTIES THAT AGRICULTURAL TRADE IS FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT
FROM INDUSTRIAL TRADE, AND THAT AGRICULTURAL TRADE DESERVES
SPECIAL CONSIDERATION, AND UNLESS WE CAN ESTABLISH SOME
GUIDELINES, COUNTRIES WILL CONTINUE TO ESTABLISH AGRICULTURAL
POLICIES WITHOUT REGARD TO THEIR GLOBAL EFFECTS.

THE UNITED STATES HAS MUCH AT STAKE IN THE EXPANSION OF
WORLD AGRICULTURAL TRADE, AND THEREFORE, IN SPECIAL HANDLING
OF IT DURING THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

AGRICULTURE, IN FACT, COULD EASILY BECOME ONE OF
AMERICA'S BIGGEST GROWTH INDUSTRIES OVER THE COMING DECADE.

BUT TO ASSURE A SECURE AND STABLE CONDITION FOR AMERICAN AND WORLD AGRICULTURE TO EXPAND, WE MUST MEET THE ISSUES CONFRONTING WORLD AGRICULTURE HEAD ON.

WE ~~must not~~ ^{must not} WAIT FOR A NEW CRISIS TO HIT US BEFORE WE BEGIN TO REVIEW THE NEEDS FOR CHANGES IN OUR POLICIES. WE MUST BEGIN NOW TO BUILD A SOUND BASE FOR THE FUTURE EXPANSION OF AGRICULTURE AND TRADE.

I HAVE SHARED ^{with you some} ~~some~~ OF THE THINGS I THINK WE MUST DO TO PLAN FOR THE FOOD NEEDS OF THE SEVENTIES AND EIGHTIES.
WOULD LIKE TO REPEAT THEM ONCE MORE.

1. WE MUST CALL FOR A MAJOR CONFERENCE OF THE PRODUCING AND CONSUMING NATIONS OF THE WORLD TO BEGIN PLANNING FOR WORLD FOOD DEMANDS AND PRODUCTION PROBLEMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT THE PROBLEMS OF AGRICULTURAL
TRADE RECEIVE APPROPRIATE ATTENTION IN THE NEXT ROUND OF
TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

ESTABLISH A SET OF GUIDELINES OR PRINCIPLES

designed to
~~BOARD~~ ~~STANDING~~

expand food
WORLD PRODUCTION AND TRADE.

3. WE MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM
OF DOMESTIC CONSUMER AND MARKETING RESERVES TO PROTECT BOTH
THE CONSUMER AND THE FARMERS.

4. WE MUST ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF FOOD
a World Food Bank -
RESERVES TO PROVIDE A MINIMUM LEVEL OF FOOD SECURITY FOR THE
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS WELL AS A STABILIZING INFLUENCE ON
VOLATILE INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY MARKETS, AND,

5. WE MUST ASSIST THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THEIR

EFFORTS TO EXPAND THEIR OWN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN ORDER

to help
MEET THE FOOD NEEDS OF THEIR PEOPLE.

THESE ARE *Some of the* ~~THE~~ ISSUES WHICH MUST BE ADDRESSED IF THE

WORLD IS TO ENJOY A MINIMUM LEVEL OF FOOD SECURITY OVER

THE COMING DECADES.

THE STAKES ARE TOO HIGH TO LET POLICIES BE ESTABLISHED
IN THE EMERGENCY ATMOSPHERE AFTER THE CRISES ARE UPON US.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS OF
THE WORLD ARE JUST TOO GREAT.

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