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REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Joe Ryan -

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE GRAIN TRADE

HOTEL PIERRE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK

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TOWARD A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
FOOD POLICY

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

↳ IN THE YEAR 1793, THOMAS MALTHUS PREDICTED THAT MAN WOULD
BREED HIMSELF INTO A CORNER OF MISERY BY INCREASING HIS NUMBERS
BEYOND HIS ABILITY TO FEED HIMSELF.

↳ WHILE HISTORICALLY THIS THEORY HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO
OCCASIONAL DEBATE, THE ADVANCES OF SCIENCE AND THE GENERAL
BELIEF THAT THE WORLD'S NATURAL RESOURCES ARE UNLIMITED, HAVE
RESULTED IN ITS BEING GIVEN LITTLE SERIOUS ATTENTION.

HOWEVER, DURING THE PAST DECADE, SCHOLARS, SCIENTISTS,
SOCIAL PLANNERS AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS, HAVE BEGUN A
RE-EXAMINATION OF THE BASIC PROCESS UNDERLINING THIS THEORY
-- THE EVER SHRINKING RATIO OF PEOPLE TO RESOURCES < AND WHILE
IT MAY COME AS A SHOCK TO SOME OF ^{us} ~~you~~, WE, ALONG WITH THE OTHER
MORE AFFLUENT AND DEVELOPED NATIONS OF THE WORLD, ARE ~~more~~ ^{increasingly}
GUILTY OF DEPLETING THE WORLD'S SCARCE RESOURCES.
THE UNITED STATES, FOR INSTANCE, WITH 6 PERCENT OF THE
WORLD'S POPULATION, ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S
ANNUAL CONSUMPTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

↳ IN OTHER WORDS, AS THAT FAMOUS PHILOSOPHER "POGO" ONCE STATED, "WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY, AND THEY IS US!"

↳ NOW YOU MIGHT VERY WELL ASK, WHAT DOES ALL THIS HAVE TO DO WITH AGRICULTURE AND THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION?"

↳ I'M HERE TO TELL YOU, "A LOT."

↳ THE GOAL OF CONTROLLING THE CONTINUED EXPANSION OF WORLD POPULATION STILL ELUDES US. ↳ THE WORLD'S POPULATION CONTINUES

TO EXPAND AT A RATE OF ABOUT 2 PERCENT PER YEAR, AND ADDED

TO THIS DEMAND FACTOR IS YET ANOTHER MAJOR CLAIMANT ON THE WORLD'S FOOD RESOURCES -- RISING AFFLUENCE.

↳ IN POOR COUNTRIES, THE AVAILABILITY OF GRAIN PER PERSON AVERAGES ONLY 400 POUNDS PER YEAR, OR ABOUT ONE POUND PER DAY.

↳ PRACTICALLY ALL OF THIS GRAIN IS CONSUMED DIRECTLY,

↳ IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, ON THE OTHER HAND,
PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF CEREAL GRAINS IS NOW APPROACHING
NEARLY 2,000 POUNDS PER YEAR, MOST OF WHICH IS CONVERTED INTO
MEAT, MILK, AND EGGS.

↳ WHAT DOES THIS MEAN IN TERMS OF "INPUT" REQUIREMENTS, THE
seed, credit, transportation, storage
AMOUNTS OF LAND, WATER, FERTILIZER AND ENERGY NEEDED TO SATISFY
SUCH CONSUMPTION HABITS?

↳ BRIEFLY STATED, IT MEANS THAT THE AMOUNT OF SUCH RESOURCES
used
~~REQUIRED~~ TO SUPPORT AN AVERAGE NORTH AMERICAN ARE NEARLY FIVE
TIMES THOSE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE AVERAGE INDIAN, AFRICAN,
OR SOUTH AMERICAN.

↳ THE UNITED STATES TODAY SUPPLIES ALMOST 50 PERCENT OF THE
WORLD'S WHEAT EXPORTS, 60 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S FEED GRAIN
EXPORTS, AND 90 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S SOYBEAN EXPORTS. WHILE
THIS MEANS THAT OUR NATION HAS AN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVE
CAPACITY FAR IN EXCESS OF ITS OWN FOOD NEEDS, IT ALSO MEANS
THAT MUCH OF THE WORLD IS DIRECTLY DEPENDENT UPON US FOR ITS
FOOD.

↳ ~~HOWEVER~~ WE MUST ALSO REMEMBER THAT OUR NATION IS
DEPENDENT UPON OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD FOR THE INPUT RESOURCES
NEEDED TO PRODUCE ALL OF THAT FOOD (out)

↳ IN OTHER WORDS, FOOD PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY IS A TWO-WAY
STREET.

↳ ANY DISRUPTION OR DENIAL OF NEEDED AGRICULTURAL INPUTS
WILL RESULT IN FOOD SUPPLY SHORTAGES -- AND TODAY, GIVEN THE
FACT THAT U.S. AND WORLD GRAIN RESERVES ARE AT THEIR LOWEST
LEVELS IN DECADES, ^{adversely} ANYTHING AFFECTING FOOD PRODUCTION IN THE NEAR
FUTURE, ESPECIALLY IN THE U.S., WILL HAVE IMMEDIATE AND
CATASTROPHIC EFFECTS IN FOOD DEFICIT AREAS OF THE WORLD. (mid-east)

↳ IF WORSE COMES TO WORST IN THIS REGARD, THE AMERICAN
CONSUMER CAN BE PROTECTED -- BUT NOT WITHOUT A PRICE!

↳ THE PRICE TO THE AMERICAN CONSUMER UNDER THESE CIRCUM-
STANCES WOULD LIKELY BE SOME SHORTAGES AND MUCH HIGHER GROCERY
BILLS, BUT THE PRICE TO MANY OUTSIDE THE U.S., COULD MEAN NO FOOD
AT ALL, STARVATION OR DEATH.

↳ WHEN ARAB COUNTRIES CUT OFF PETROLEUM SUPPLIES TO THE U.S., THEY ARE, IN EFFECT, CUTTING FOOD GRAIN SUPPLIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT FROM THIS COUNTRY TO ASSIST THE NEEDY AND SOMETIMES STARVING PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING MANY MILLIONS OF AFRICANS TODAY.

↳ NOTWITHSTANDING ANY MAN-MADE OR POLITICAL THREATS TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF EXPANDED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION THIS NEXT YEAR, LET US EXAMINE WHAT IS IN PROSPECT, ASSUMING NORMAL WEATHER CONDITIONS.

↳ WORLD GRAIN AND OILSEED PROSPECTS POINT TO RECORD CROPS THIS YEAR. RICE SUPPLIES ARE THE TIGHTEST AMONG MAJOR COMMODITIES AT PRESENT, AND WILL LIKELY REMAIN SO FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

↳ BUT NOW LETS EXAMINE WORLD CONSUMPTION ESTIMATES FOR THIS
NEXT YEAR

↳ WHILE WORLD GRAIN PRODUCTION PROSPECTS POINT TO RECORD
CROPS THIS NEXT YEAR, CONSUMPTION IS EXPECTED TO EXCEED THAT
RECORD PRODUCTION, WHICH WILL MEAN EVEN FURTHER DRAWDOWNS ON
CARRYOVER OR ^{limited} RESERVE STOCKS.

↳ THE WORLD CARRYOVER OR RESERVE STOCKS ~~TO~~ OF ALL GRAINS
(WHEAT, COARSE GRAINS AND AND RICE) IS ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT 100
MILLION METRIC TONS, ABOUT ONE-MONTH'S SUPPLY.

↳ ON JULY 1 OF THIS YEAR WHEAT STOCKS IN THE 4 MAJOR EXPORTING
COUNTRIES -- U.S., CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND ARGENTINA -- WERE AT THE
LOWEST LEVEL IN TWO DECADES / GRAIN STOCKS IN MANY OTHER NATIONS
OF THE WORLD ALSO HAVE BEEN DRAWN DOWN.

WHAT ALL OF THIS ADDS UP TO IS THAT THE WORLD WILL BE
ALMOST ENTIRELY AT THE MERCY OF NEXT YEAR'S WEATHER,

RESERVE STOCKS OF GRAIN DURING THIS NEXT YEAR WILL BE TOO THIN
TO PROTECT AGAINST ANY MAJOR CROP FAILURE,

AND LETS NOT PASS OVER THE "WEATHER" PORTION OF THIS
EQUATION TOO QUICKLY.

DURING HEARINGS ON THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION, WHICH I
CHAired WITH SENATOR HUDDLESTON LAST WEEK IN WASHINGTON, DR.
REID A. BRYSON, DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, REMINDED US OF THE 20-YEAR DROUGHT
CYCLE TO WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN SUBJECTED.

↳ WHILE HE GAVE NO EVIDENCE, OR IN ANY WAY TRIED TO CONVINC
US THAT OUR NATION'S MID-WEST AND GREAT PLAINS REGIONS WOULD BE
SUBJECT TO SUCH CONDITIONS NEXT YEAR, HE DID REMIND US THAT THE
LAST MAJOR DROUGHT OCCURRED IN THOSE REGIONS DURING THE EARLY
1950'S AND THAT, IN HIS JUDGMENT, SOME REPEAT OF SUCH CONDITIONS
PROBABLY COULD BE EXPECTED SOMETIME DURING THIS DECADE.!

↳ HIS GENERAL ANALYSIS OF THIS SITUATION SHOULD SERVE AS AN
OMINOUS AND SERIOUS WARNING TO THE WORLD ABOUT THE NEED TO
PROTECT AGAINST SUCH CHANGING WEATHER PATTERNS THROUGH EXPLICIT
FOOD RESERVE POLICIES IN THE FUTURE.

There is an additional observation - It takes 9 calories
of energy input to produce 1 calorie for the American
consumer. It takes 5 calories of energy
input to produce every 1 calorie we
export. Therefore, any substantial devaluation
of the energy input (crab) will sharply reduce

our production and thereby deny the needy nations & Peoples - particularly Africa + Asia - the food they desperately need. If need be, we can through export controls have sufficient food for our own people.

↳ OUR NATION AND THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD MUST BEGIN
IMMEDIATELY TO WORK TOWARD NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND
AGRICULTURAL POLICIES WHICH RECOGNIZE THE ^{interrelationship} ~~INTERDEPENDENCY~~ OF ALL
OF THESE FACTORS.

↳ SPECIFICALLY, HERE'S WHAT I BELIEVE MUST BE ^{done} ~~done~~ TO
DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THESE SERIOUS PROBLEMS:

1. A MORE EXTENSIVE AND INTENSIVE EFFORT MUST BE UNDERTAKEN BY ALL COUNTRIES TO CONTROL CONTINUED POPULATION GROWTH. ~~THIS~~ THIS IS NEEDED NOT ONLY IN THE DEVELOPING NATIONS WHERE POPULATION GROWTH RATES ARE HIGHEST, BUT ALSO IN THE MORE AFFLUENT NATIONS WHERE RESOURCE CONSUMPTION HAS REACHED STAGGERING LEVELS.

Secondly,

2. AFFLUENT NATIONS MUST ALSO TEMPER THEIR OWN CONSUMPTION HABITS IN THE FUTURE, ESPECIALLY AS THEY RELATE TO EXCESSIVE DEPLETION OF NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES.

3. A WORLD CONFERENCE TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS THREATENING THE WORLD FOOD SUPPLY MUST BE CONVENED IMMEDIATELY. I HAVE URGED THE PRESIDENT (IN AN AMENDMENT TO THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1973,) TO INITIATE A CONFERENCE TO STUDY AND REPORT ON SUCH ISSUES AS BARRIERS TO INCREASED WORLD FOOD PRODUCTION, THE WORLD AVAILABILITY OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS SUCH AS FUEL AND FERTILIZER, AND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR HUMANITARIAN FOOD ASSISTANCE OVER THE COMING DECADE.

4. THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD MUST GIVE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY

TO INCREASING THE VOLUME OF FARM OUTPUT ~~FOR THE WORLD~~, INSTEAD

OF DIRECTING THEIR ATTENTION TO WAYS TO RESTRICT PRODUCTION

AND MARKETS BY TRADE BARRIERS, HIGH CONSUMER PRICES, AND OTHER

SUCH PRACTICES.

5. 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 FOOD COMMODITIES

IN SHORT SUPPLY AND INPUTS REQUIRED FOR FOOD PRODUCTION.

IT WOULD BE UNCONSCIONABLE FOR THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO

FORGET THE CRUCIAL FOOD REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD

these poor countries
WHEN ~~THEY~~ ENCOUNTER PERIODS OF TEMPORARY SHORTAGES.

L TIGHT SUPPLIES MAY MEAN SPOT SHORTAGES AND RISING PRICES IN THIS COUNTRY, BUT IN MANY COUNTRIES OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD, FOOD SCARCITY OR ^{sharp} ~~1~~ PRICE INCREASE MEANS DEATH.

6. THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MUST BE PROVIDED WITH GREATER ASSISTANCE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO MEET THEIR OWN FOOD NEEDS BY

EXPANDING THEIR PRODUCTION THE MAJOR THRUST OF THE FOREIGN AID BILL, WHICH I RECENTLY MANAGED ON THE SENATE FLOOR, IS TOWARD INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THROUGH SHARING THE AGRICULTURAL KNOW-HOW WHICH HAS MADE THE AMERICAN FARMER THE MOST PRODUCTIVE IN THE WORLD.

7. WE MUST DEVELOP A SYSTEM THAT OFFERS THE CONSUMERS OF THE
U.S. AND THE WORLD AT LEAST A MINIMUM LEVEL OF FOOD SECURITY
AND REASONABLY STABLE PRICES.

UNLESS THE WORLD DEVELOPS A SYSTEM WHICH INSURES THE
AVAILABILITY OF STORED RESERVES LARGE ENOUGH TO OFFSET THESE
PERIODIC PRODUCTION SWINGS, CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FARMERS AND
CONSUMERS OF THE WORLD WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY DISASTROUS.

TO DO THIS WE MUST BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO ESTABLISH 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 (S.2005)

I INTRODUCED LAST MAY THAT WOULD PROVIDE FOR AN ADEQUATE LEVEL
OF DOMESTIC RESERVES OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES ^{Wheat, Corn, Soybeans} IT NEEDS PROMPT
ATTENTION, AND IT DESERVES THE SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESS AND THE
PRESIDENT.

↳ THE SKYROCKETING FOOD PRICES ~~WHICH THE HOUSEHOLDS~~
~~WATCHED IN~~ ^{of} THIS PAST YEAR SHOULD UNDERLINE THE NEED TO
PROVIDE SOME STABILITY IN THE PRICES OF ESSENTIAL FOOD ITEMS.

↳ FARMERS ALSO SHOULD SUPPORT IT TO PROTECT THEIR PRICES IN TIMES
OF OVERPRODUCTION.

↳ BUT THIS ALONE ISN'T ENOUGH.

*Developed & less developed to accumulate reserves on
Planned basis - credits
Facilities*

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THE UNITED STATES MUST ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF STRATEGIC FOOD RESERVES IN MY
AMENDMENT TO THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1973, THE PRESIDENT
IS DIRECTED TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH OTHER NATIONS TO ESTABLISH
SUCH A RESERVE SYSTEM. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT I HAVE BEEN
CALLING FOR IN THE SENATE FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS PERHAPS ITS DAY
HAS FINALLY COME.

SUCH A RESERVE WOULD PROVIDE A MINIMUM LEVEL OF SECURITY
FOR THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD FROM THE RAVAGES OF HUNGER AND
MALNUTRITION SUCH AS THOSE BEING EXPERIENCED IN AFRICA AND ASIA
TODAY.

~~OF COURSE~~ THERE MUST BE AN EQUITABLE SHARING OF THE COST
OF MAINTAINING SUCH A SYSTEM BETWEEN BOTH THE PRODUCER AND
CONSUMER NATIONS. FURTHERMORE, THESE RESERVES SHOULD BE
STRATEGICALLY LOCATED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD SO THEY
WILL BE READILY AVAILABLE WHEN NEEDED.

8. 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.

Trade - new Econ stsk
7 our competitors

~~THE INTERNATIONAL RULES GUIDING AGRICULTURAL TRADE ARE~~
Trade Barriers more than Tariffs
~~LESS STRICT, MORE AMBIGUOUS, AND LESS COMPREHENSIVE THAN THOSE~~
Quotas, Subsidies - incentives etc
~~GOVERNING INDUSTRIAL TRADE.~~

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

↳ IF THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD ARE TO MEET THE FOOD NEEDS OF
THEIR PEOPLE, THREE BASIC ISSUES MUST BE DEALT WITH. THEY ARE:

-- POPULATION CONTROL

-- ACCESS TO THE RESOURCES REQUIRED TO PRODUCE FOOD, AND

-- IMPROVED MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF SUCH RESOURCES.

↳ UNLESS THE WORLD'S CONTINUED POPULATION EXPANSION CAN BE
STOPPED OR AT LEAST SLOWED DOWN, THE HORRIBLE PROOF OF MALTHUS'
THEORY MAY SOON BE AT HAND.

*Fuel, Transport, Storage
(Fertilizer, Seed, Land, Water, Credit)*

UNLESS BOTH OUR NATION AND THE REST OF THE WORLD SOON LEARN
THE IMPORTANCE OF SHARING ACCESS TO THE ESSENTIAL RESOURCES
REQUIRED TO PRODUCE FOOD, MAJOR BREAKDOWNS IN EVEN CURRENT
PRODUCTION LEVELS WILL LIKELY OCCUR -- PETROLEUM TODAY BEING A
CLASSIC EXAMPLE + another, fertilizer.

AND UNLESS BOTH OUR ^{country} ~~NATION~~ AND THE REST OF THE WORLD DO
MORE TO IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF THE WORLD'S
LIMITED RESOURCES -- ESPECIALLY THE NON-RENEWABLE TYPE -- MANY
OF THESE RESOURCES WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL TO FOOD PRODUCTION WILL
BE TRAGICALLY LOST THROUGH WASTE OR MISALLOCATION.

Word on Energy -

- cannot be at mercy of foreign sources
- must become self sufficient
- set goal - like in Space Program)
- set Time frame -
- mobilize resources
- conserve to buy time

→ Seek to arrive at a
Common Policy with
our Allies -

Use our food Power!

IN SHORT, UNLESS WE BECOME BETTER MANAGERS OF OUR OWN
DESTINY, MANKIND WILL SURELY COLLIDE WITH HIMSELF AND THE
NATURAL LIMITS TO HIS ENVIRONMENT, (add)

↳ I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH YOU TODAY SOME OF THE ISSUES WHICH
I BELIEVE MUST BE ADDRESSED AND ACTIONS THAT MUST BE TAKEN
IF THE WORLD IS TO ENJOY A MINIMUM LEVEL OF FOOD SECURITY
IN THE YEARS AND DECADES AHEAD,

↳ THE STAKES ARE TOO HIGH TO LET FOOD POLICIES BE ESTABLISHED
AFTER CRISES ARE UPON US, WHEN THAT OCCURS, IT IS USUALLY TOO
LATE, AND OUR OPTIONS ARE TOO LIMITED.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS OF THE
WORLD DEMAND THAT WE ACT NOW TO MOVE TOWARD A CLEARLY DEFINED
"NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY."



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