

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

"THE NEXT STEPS IN DEALING WITH THE FOOD CRISIS"

Food Crisis Conference

St. Paul, Minnesota

June 7, 1974

We are standing today at the crossroads of a world food crisis. This problem is comparable to the years following the end of the Second World War.

During the past 25 years we have been waging a battle to improve the quality of life in the developing world. Today, that battle against global poverty and disease is in danger of being lost.

The threat of widespread famine already is at hand. The developing countries cannot obtain adequate amounts of fertilizer, and, at the same time, the affluent continue to consume a disproportionate share of the world's resources.

In the Sahel, famine already has resulted in starvation for countless thousands. And South Asia is poised on the precipice of disaster. UNICEF estimates that as many as four to five hundred million children face the prospect of malnutrition.

Worldwide inflation continues to take a heavy toll on the developing and the developed countries alike. It erodes political stability. And it depletes what little hard currency the poor nations have amassed.

The rich and poor nations alike are in danger of entering a new era of confrontation fueled by economic desperation. All realize that they are vulnerable to economic blackmail. This situation is causing a breakdown of the traditional rules of the game governing access to supplies and raw materials.

These meetings here have an important role in highlighting these problems. But the need is to do more than convince the participants here today.

We must marshal the resources and the leadership of the United States and the Western World in dealing with this crisis. The oil exporting countries and the developing world must also play a central role.

The problem to be dealt with cannot be solved by a program of charity, for this is not the way to foster a viable world.

I do believe, however, that the United States must provide strong leadership in dealing with these life and death problems. With only 6 percent of the world's population, we account for about 40 percent of the world's annual consumption of natural resources.

The fact that the affluent, developed nations consume a large share of the world's scarce resources is an important part of our present dilemma.

These consumption patterns compound the problem of food availability.

The developed countries continue, in spite of recent price increases, to obtain a disproportionate share of the available petroleum products. They have been able to produce and procure the needed fertilizer to ensure adequate food supplies for their people.

These countries also have bought large quantities of food on the world market, thereby helping drive up the prices.

The poorest countries have not been able to procure the needed fertilizer to meet their food requirements. Adequate fuel to operate the tubewells for irrigation has not been available. And the cost of food on the world market has increased so that they barely can afford to buy.

We also have become increasingly aware of the different standards of consumption in the developed and the developing countries.

In poor countries, the availability of grain per person averages about 400 pounds per year, or about one pound per day.

In the United States and Canada, on the other hand, per capita consumption of cereal grains is now approaching 2,000 pounds per year, most of which is converted into meat, milk, and eggs.

Briefly stated, this means that the amount of such resources required to support an average North American are nearly five times those required to support the average Indian, African, or South American.

I have taken a number of steps which, hopefully, will help in meeting the food crisis.

On May 9th at the Rensselaer Conference, I recommended a four point program. This program included increasing United States food assistance, taking steps to increase world fertilizer production, establishing national and international food reserves and making a renewed effort to increase food production.

On May 22, three of my Senate colleagues and I introduced a World Food Resolution in the Senate. A similar Resolution since has been introduced in the House. The purpose of these Resolutions is to step up food aid and increase the availability of fertilizer on an urgent priority basis.

On May 21, I introduced additional modifications to my food reserve bill, S. 2005. The need for this legislation, in my view, is more critical than ever.

In spite of wishful thinking on the part of the Administration, we still are subject to a large part of our anticipated bumper crop being raided by foreign nations. These purchases could well take place at bargain prices as the harvest occurs, thereby depriving the United States of the opportunity of responding to this crisis.

The role of the United States, as the world's primary food surplus nation, is critical if additional food is to be available to meet food crisis needs.

The response of Administration spokesmen that we now have a commercial agricultural market is not accurate, helpful or realistic. Appropriate steps to establish a sound reserve program are needed and without further delay.

An international food reserve system also is needed. The World Food Conference will provide the appropriate forum to deal with this important need.

A food reserve program, both national and international, also will provide critically needed stability in the world food economy.

I would, however, be doing a major disservice to this forward looking group by focusing mainly on the present crisis.

What we need is a longer term program to bring into balance the world's agricultural production and the rate of population increase.

This important relationship was discussed during the late 18th century by Thomas Malthus. He warned of the prospect of war, famine and disease coming into play to control rapid increases in population.

While this pessimism may be over stated, we cannot ignore the basic relationship between food and population.

To deal with the first part of this equation, we need to make every effort to step up the World's food production. In any program designed to expand world food production, we must also begin to pay closer attention to the energy input required and the product output derived.

The second part of the food population balance appears most difficult to solve. The level of population has gone up rapidly in this century as major diseases have been brought under control and the general level of health has improved.

Barring a major disaster, the die - in terms of population growth - already is cast for most of the remainder of this century.

My concern is that we not try to duck the problem. Public relations is no substitute for food.

It is time the Administration faces up to this problem.

Famine already is with us in many parts of the world. And rapid population increases continue unabated.

Responding to this crisis is warranted on moral grounds. But it also is in our own self interest.

A chaotic world with one-half affluent and well fed will not long survive while the other half faces starvation and malnutrition.

We cannot expect to remain an island of prosperity surrounded by an ever growing sea of famine and despair.

As Albert Schweitzer stated "you don't live in a world all alone. Your brothers are here too."

The American people will respond positively and with generosity if they are given the facts. But, they need to see leadership which candidly outlines the problem and, at the same time, proposes reasonable, realistic answers.

This conference already has made a major contribution in terms of providing recommendations for action.

It is urgent that we now move quickly to seize the initiative in dealing with this world food crisis.

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REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

"THE NEXT STEPS IN DEALING WITH THE FOOD CRISIS"

FOOD CRISIS CONFERENCE

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

JUNE 7, 1974

Cy Carpenter
Leonard LaShomb

Latin America - Deficit 4 million metric tons

Western Europe " 21 " " "

Eastern Europe + USSR " 27 " " "

Africa " 5 "

Asia 35 "

Australia + New Zealand 8 million Surplus

North America 84 " Surplus

Grain

Total Reserves from 1961 to 1974

1961- 222 million metric tons

1974- 105 " " "

U.S. supplies 90% Soy Beans
80% Feed grain
60% Wheat

U.S., Canada + Australia are
reserve countries

WE ARE STANDING TODAY AT THE CROSSROADS OF A WORLD FOOD CRISIS.

THIS PROBLEM IS COMPARABLE TO THE YEARS FOLLOWING THE END OF THE

SECOND WORLD WAR. *Y*

< DURING THE PAST 25 YEARS WE HAVE BEEN WAGING A BATTLE TO

IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD. TODAY, THAT

BATTLE AGAINST GLOBAL POVERTY AND DISEASE IS IN DANGER OF BEING

LOST.

OIL costs - Impact on Poorer countries
FOOD

THE THREAT OF WIDESPREAD FAMINE ALREADY IS AT HAND. THE

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CANNOT OBTAIN ADEQUATE AMOUNTS OF FERTILIZER,

AND, AT THE SAME TIME, THE AFFLUENT CONTINUE TO CONSUME A

DISPORPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE WORLD'S RESOURCES,

World food Reserves down - 21 days
U.S. Food Reserves lowest in 27 years

L IN THE SAHEL, FAMINE ALREADY HAS RESULTED IN STARVATION
FOR COUNTLESS THOUSANDS. 2 AND SOUTH ASIA IS POISED ON THE PRECIPICE
OF DISASTER. UNICEF ESTIMATES THAT AS MANY AS FOUR TO FIVE HUNDRED
MILLION CHILDREN FACE THE PROSPECT OF MALNUTRITION.

L WORLDWIDE INFLATION CONTINUES TO TAKE A HEAVY TOLL ON THE
DEVELOPING AND THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ALIKE. IT ERODES POLITICAL
STABILITY. AND IT DEPLETES WHAT LITTLE HARD CURRENCY THE POOR
NATIONS HAVE AMASSED. *0.1 - Food - increased costs*
** 10 Billion - * 5 Billion*

THE RICH AND POOR NATIONS ALIKE ARE IN DANGER OF ENTERING A
NEW ERA OF CONFRONTATION FUELED BY ECONOMIC DESPERATION. L ALL
REALIZE THAT THEY ARE VULNERABLE TO ECONOMIC BLACKMAIL. 2 THIS
SITUATION IS CAUSING A BREAKDOWN OF THE TRADITIONAL RULES OF THE GAME
GOVERNING ACCESS TO SUPPLIES AND RAW MATERIALS.

THESE MEETINGS HERE HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HIGHLIGHTING
THESE PROBLEMS. BUT THE NEED IS TO DO MORE THAN CONVINCE THE
PARTICIPANTS HERE TODAY.

WE MUST MARSHALL THE RESOURCES AND THE LEADERSHIP OF THE
UNITED STATES AND THE WESTERN WORLD IN DEALING WITH THIS CRISIS.
THE OIL EXPORTING COUNTRIES AND THE DEVELOPING WORLD MUST ALSO
PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE.

THE PROBLEM TO BE DEALT WITH CANNOT BE SOLVED BY A PROGRAM
OF CHARITY, FOR THIS IS NOT THE WAY TO ^{create} ~~FOSTER~~ A VIABLE WORLD.

I DO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST PROVIDE
STRONG LEADERSHIP IN DEALING WITH THESE LIFE AND DEATH PROBLEMS.

WITH ONLY 6 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION, WE ACCOUNT FOR
ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S ANNUAL CONSUMPTION OF NATURAL
RESOURCES.

THE FACT THAT THE ~~AFRICAN~~ ^{industrialized} DEVELOPED NATIONS CONSUME A

LARGE SHARE OF THE WORLD'S SCARCE RESOURCES IS AN IMPORTANT

PART OF OUR PRESENT DILEMMA.

↳ THESE CONSUMPTION PATTERNS COMPOUND THE PROBLEM OF FOOD
AVAILABILITY.

↳ THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES CONTINUE, IN SPITE OF RECENT PRICE
INCREASES, TO OBTAIN A DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE AVAILABLE

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. ↳ THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PRODUCE AND PROCURE
THE NEEDED FERTILIZER TO ENSURE ADEQUATE FOOD SUPPLIES FOR

THEIR PEOPLE.

↳ THESE COUNTRIES ALSO HAVE BOUGHT LARGE QUANTITIES OF FOOD
ON THE WORLD MARKET, THEREBY HELPING DRIVE UP THE PRICES.

L THE POOREST COUNTRIES HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ^{find the money} ~~secure~~ THE NEEDED
FERTILIZER TO MEET THEIR FOOD REQUIREMENTS. L ADEQUATE FUEL TO
OPERATE THE TUBEWELLS FOR IRRIGATION HAS NOT BEEN AVAILABLE. AND
THE COST OF FOOD ON THE WORLD MARKET HAS INCREASED SO THAT THEY
BARELY CAN AFFORD TO BUY.

L WE ALSO HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY AWARE OF THE DIFFERENT
STANDARDS OF CONSUMPTION IN THE DEVELOPED AND THE DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES.

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

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

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

I HAVE TAKEN A NUMBER OF STEPS WHICH, HOPEFULLY, ^{could} ~~WILL~~ HELP IN
MEETING THE FOOD CRISIS.

ON MAY 9TH AT THE RENSSELAER CONFERENCE, ^{U.N.} I RECOMMENDED A
FOUR POINT PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM INCLUDED INCREASING UNITED STATES
FOOD ASSISTANCE, ^{concessional terms} TAKING STEPS TO INCREASE WORLD FERTILIZER
PRODUCTION, ESTABLISHING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FOOD RESERVES
AND MAKING A RENEWED EFFORT TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION.

ON MAY 22, THREE OF MY SENATE COLLEAGUES AND I INTRODUCED A
WORLD FOOD RESOLUTION IN THE SENATE. (Read)



Hubert H. Humphrey

HUMPHREY INTRODUCES
NEW FOOD RESERVE PROPOSALS;
URGES ACTION IN 30 DAYS

232 Senate Office Building
(202) 226-3144

Contact: Betty South

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 21--Senator Hubert H. Humphrey today introduced in the U. S. Senate a modified version of his national food reserve system designed to reduce financial risks confronted by America's farmers.

"Since the government has asked farmers to pull out the stops to increase production," he said, "there should be a sharing of that risk. My amendment will assure farmers a fair return on their labor and investments."

Humphrey also urged the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee to act on his amendment within 30 days to assure the establishment of a reserve this year, since hearings already have been held on the original bill and his current proposals were considered at that time.

The Minnesota Senator pointed out that recent crop estimates for 1974 "suggest that we may have some modest excess supplies of crops available for reserve purposes this fall.

"If these projections prove accurate, and Congress fails to adopt the type of commodity reserve legislation that I am proposing, both farmers and consumers will be the losers in my judgment.

"Farmers will be faced with very low prices following the harvest, with the likelihood that foreign buyers will increase their purchases at these lower prices and, thus, deprive the U. S. of the opportunity of placing some of these stocks in reserves."

Should this happen, he predicted that American farmers and other consumers "would then again face the prospect of rapidly escalating prices in early 1975, just as happened in 1974."

(more)

Humphrey, who has long advocated the establishment of food reserves, indicated that ^{the} ~~his~~ main emphasis of ~~his~~ reserve legislation is "simply to assure all consumers, urban and rural, of an adequate supply of food and fiber at all times and at reasonable prices."

"It is to provide a reserve to meet emergency conditions, both nationally and internationally. It is to make the U. S. a reliable supplier to export nations."

The ~~Senate~~'s legislation provides for a total reserve of 600 million bushels of wheat, 40 million tons of feed grains, 150 million bushels of soybeans and five million bales of cotton.

One-third of the total reserve would be owned and held by the government, with the remaining two-thirds held in private hands by farmers and traders.

With regard to farmers, Humphrey's amendment would:

Target Price
--raise the 1974 crop established (target) price for wheat from \$2.05 per bushel to \$3; for corn, from \$1.38 per bushel to \$2; and, for cotton, from 38 cents per pound to 50 cents, to take account of significant increases in production costs;

--increase the 1974 minimum loan rate for wheat, corn and soybeans to two-thirds of the target price to give farmers greater security in marketing their crops;

--limit the sale price of government-held stocks when these stocks are above reserve levels to not less than the target prices;

--set loan rate levels at not less than 90 percent of the established target price, when total carry-over stocks are estimated to be less than the total reserve levels in the bill;

--provide for three-year commodity farm loans, handled in a manner to encourage farmers to sell their crops during periods of scarcity and to retain them during periods of abundance.

*Finally, no reliance from the reserves
at less than 135% of Target Price.*

A SIMILAR RESOLUTION SINCE HAS BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE.

THE PURPOSE OF THESE RESOLUTIONS IS TO STEP UP FOOD AID AND INCREASE
THE AVAILABILITY OF FERTILIZER ON AN URGENT PRIORITY BASIS.

ON MAY 21, I INTRODUCED ADDITIONAL MODIFICATIONS TO MY FOOD
RESERVE BILL, S. 2005. THE NEED FOR THIS LEGISLATION, IN MY VIEW,
IS MORE CRITICAL THAN EVER. *(Review its features)*

IN SPITE OF WISFUL THINKING ON THE PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION,
WE STILL ARE SUBJECT TO A LARGE PART OF OUR ANTICIPATED BUMPER CROP
BEING RAIDED BY FOREIGN NATIONS THESE PURCHASES COULD WELL TAKE
PLACE AT BARGAIN PRICES AS THE HARVEST OCCURS, THEREBY DEPRIVING
THE UNITED STATES OF THE OPPORTUNITY OF RESPONDING TO THIS CRISIS.

THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES, AS THE WORLD'S PRIMARY FOOD
SURPLUS NATION, IS CRITICAL IF ADDITIONAL FOOD IS TO BE
AVAILABLE TO MEET FOOD CRISIS NEEDS.

THE RESPONSE OF ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMEN THAT WE NOW HAVE
A COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURAL MARKET IS NOT ACCURATE, HELPFUL OR
REALISTIC. APPROPRIATE STEPS TO ESTABLISH A SOUND RESERVE
PROGRAM ARE NEEDED AND WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

AN INTERNATIONAL FOOD RESERVE SYSTEM ALSO IS NEEDED. THE
WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WILL PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATE FORUM TO DEAL
WITH THIS IMPORTANT NEED.

A FOOD RESERVE PROGRAM, BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL,
ALSO WILL PROVIDE CRITICALLY NEEDED STABILITY IN THE WORLD FOOD
ECONOMY.

I WOULD, HOWEVER, BE DOING A MAJOR DISSERVICE TO THIS FORWARD
LOOKING GROUP BY FOCUSING MAINLY ON THE PRESENT CRISIS.

WHAT WE NEED IS A LONGER TERM PROGRAM TO BRING INTO
BALANCE THE WORLD'S AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND THE RATE OF
POPULATION INCREASE.

THIS IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP WAS DISCUSSED DURING THE LATE
18TH CENTURY BY THOMAS MALTHUS. HE WARNED OF THE PROSPECT OF
WAR, FAMINE AND DISEASE COMING INTO PLAY TO CONTROL RAPID
INCREASES IN POPULATION.

WHILE THIS PESSIMISM MAY BE OVER STATED, WE CANNOT IGNORE
THE BASIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FOOD AND POPULATION.

TO DEAL WITH THE FIRST PART OF THIS EQUATION, WE NEED TO MAKE
EVERY EFFORT TO STEP UP THE WORLD'S FOOD PRODUCTION. IN ANY
PROGRAM DESIGNED TO EXPAND WORLD FOOD PRODUCTION, WE MUST ALSO
BEGIN TO PAY CLOSER ATTENTION TO THE ENERGY INPUT REQUIRED
AND THE PRODUCT OUTPUT DERIVED.

L THE SECOND PART OF THE ¹¹FOOD-POPULATION BALANCE APPEARS MOST
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE. THE LEVEL OF POPULATION HAS GONE UP RAPIDLY
IN THIS CENTURY AS MAJOR DISEASES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL
AND THE GENERAL LEVEL OF HEALTH HAS IMPROVED.

L BARRING A MAJOR DISASTER, THE DIE - IN TERMS OF POPULATION
GROWTH - ALREADY IS CAST FOR MOST OF THE REMAINDER OF THIS CENTURY.

L MY CONCERN IS THAT WE NOT TRY TO DUCK THE PROBLEM. PUBLIC
RELATIONS IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR FOOD.

L ~~IT IS TIME THE ADMINISTRATION FACES UP TO THIS PROBLEM.~~

L FAMINE ALREADY IS WITH US IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD. AND

RAPID POPULATION INCREASES CONTINUE UNABATED.

Latin America
India -
Africa

L ^{Food}RESPONDING TO THIS CRISIS IS WARRANTED ON MORAL GROUNDS.

BUT IT ALSO IS IN OUR OWN SELF INTEREST.

L A CHAOTIC WORLD WITH ONE-HALF ~~AFFLUENT~~ AND WELL FED WILL
NOT LONG SURVIVE WHILE THE OTHER HALF FACES STARVATION AND
MALNUTRITION. *1/3 ill housed, ill*

L WE CANNOT EXPECT TO REMAIN AN ISLAND OF PROSPERITY SURROUNDED
BY AN EVER GROWING SEA OF FAMINE AND DESPAIR.

L AS ALBERT SCHWEITZER STATED "YOU DON'T LIVE IN A WORLD
ALL ALONE. YOUR BROTHERS ARE HERE TOO."

I am sure that
L THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL RESPOND POSITIVELY AND WITH GENEROSITY

IF THEY ARE GIVEN THE FACTS. L BUT, THEY NEED TO SEE LEADERSHIP

WHICH CANDIDLY OUTLINES THE PROBLEM AND, AT THE SAME TIME,

PROPOSES REASONABLE, REALISTIC ANSWERS.

L THIS CONFERENCE ALREADY HAS MADE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION IN
TERMS OF PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION.

IT IS URGENT THAT WE NOW MOVE QUICKLY TO SEIZE THE INITIATIVE

IN DEALING WITH THIS WORLD FOOD CRISIS,

But to Do so we need a Natural
Food Policy - Planning
I've outlined Part of it -

Production -

Share the risk - Target Prices, Loans,
Reserves

- Credit

- Fertilizer -

- Energy

- Storage - COOPS

- Transportation

- Research - new Varieties.

(X) Encouragement of
Cooperatives

- corn

- Brown Sorghum

Soy Beans

Producers Coops
R & A Coops



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