

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

BEMIDJI FOOD CONFERENCE

Bemidji, Minnesota

April 12, 1975

I am happy to participate in your food conference here at Bemidji. There is no topic that is more urgent or timely.

You are to be commended on this undertaking which, as I understand it, is designed to educate and stimulate discussion. There has been an overwhelming interest in this topic on the part of church, civic and educational groups.

Your group, and others like it, can play a central role in helping our nation to face up to the importance of dealing with this issue.

We do not know precisely how many people are hungry or suffer from malnutrition. Poor people often are not counted, and governments find it embarrassing to admit they have starving people.

However, it is generally reported that today some 500 million people suffer from starvation or malnutrition throughout the world. And it also is estimated that about 10 percent of the American people now face malnutrition or starvation.

There was a record world production of 1.1 billion metric tons of cereal grain in 1971. Dr. Norman Borlaug has said that this would amount to a highway of cereal grains 55 feet wide and 6 feet deep, built around the world at the Equator. And this production was required to feed current world populations.

However, just to keep pace with population growth -- some 76 million more people each year -- without doing anything to improve peoples' diets, we must add another 24 million metric tons of cereal grain annually to this record production of 1971. Meanwhile, there can be no decline in present food production, as there was last year, resulting in a world food crisis.

In other words, just to keep even, we must build another Trans-Global highway of cereal grains at the rate of 580 miles every year, according to Dr. Borlaug.

But meanwhile, each year we have to rebuild completely the first highway.

Harsh statistics like these should shame our conscience and inspire us to act without delay out of a simple, deep sense of compassion.

As the world's chief food surplus nation -- supplying half of the food moving in international channels -- the United States cannot hang back and wait for others to act.

We need to face at least three main food related issues. They are:

- (1) Food aid for the needy nations;
- (2) Expanding food production and slowing population growth; and
- (3) Establishing a realistic U.S. food and agricultural policy.

Food Aid for Needy Nations

The United States has been extremely generous with its food aid, providing more than \$25 billion in food assistance over the last 20 years. However, much of this food was supplied because we had more than we could use.

The test comes now when our reserves are low. Will we be prepared to share when our supplies are tight? Can organizations such as yours provide the spark to help our government respond to the hunger of needy nations?

At the World Food Conference, which I attended in Rome last November, it was clear that the Administration wanted to avoid any major increased food aid commitments.

While we had provided nine million tons of food as recently as 1972, our volume of assistance last year dropped to 3.3 million tons.

I, and other members of the Congressional delegation, felt that our food aid should be increased by a million tons to encourage other nations to respond.

This request was rejected on the grounds that such an increase would be inflationary. In spite of this announcement, our government leaders conceded at Rome that we already were programming this year's food aid at around the 4.3 million ton level.

After a further delay of around two and a half months, our food aid level finally was announced at 5.5 million tons.

Expanding Food Production and Slowing Population Growth

Because of these delays in determining our food aid levels, I introduced a resolution calling for the establishment of a Food Coordinator to be located in the White House.

The Coordinator would give priority attention, not only to food aid, but also to efforts to increase food production in the developing world.

There is little doubt that food production can be increased significantly in the developing countries. This was one of the main conclusions of the World Food Conference. But to increase production, a greater priority must be given to land reform, increased fertilizer production, research to help the small farmer and increased credit.

Above all, a greater emphasis must be placed on increasing agricultural production. The priority in many developing countries has been on building up industry, while neglecting investments in food production.

Last year I and others revised our foreign aid legislation to place primary emphasis on agricultural production; health and family planning; and education training.

We need to push ahead in implementing this program. The developing countries are in many cases facing population growth rates of over 3 percent per year. This will mean a doubling of their populations in one generation, or by the end of this century.

The countries with high population growth rates are the ones most vulnerable in terms of their food supplies.

A renewed interest has surfaced in recent years concerning Thomas Malthus, who, in 1793, predicted that man would breed himself into a corner of misery by increasing his numbers beyond his ability to feed himself.

While his ideas have been subject to occasional debate, the advances of science and the general belief that the world's natural resources were unlimited resulted in their being given little serious attention.

But now we will need to consider such predictions more carefully, although I do not share the gloom and doom conclusions of some experts.

We need a solid, long-range development effort which recognizes that there are no easy, short-term solutions to the food and population problems.

Our food aid can help in crisis situations and buy time until longer range programs get going.

Establishing a National and Agricultural Policy

At the same time, we must begin to develop a U.S. National Food and Agricultural Policy which is relevant to today's needs.

What we do about developing a food policy is, of course, critical to the rest of the world.

The prices our farmers receive dropped by about twelve percent last year, while their production costs went up by nearly twenty percent.

Since the government has asked the farmer to produce to the limit, it should share some of the risk. Why should farmers face ruin and bankruptcy because of good weather and bumper crops?

It seems unbelievable to me that we allow over three thousand Minnesota dairy farmers to be driven out of production, and all in one year.

Our livestock producers have been losing as much as \$200 per head now for the last two years. And the situation keeps getting worse.

And now our grain farmers are facing a very uncertain future.

It seems rather ironic to me that at a time when the world food reserves are at their lowest point in twenty-five years, we treat our farmers as if they were of little account.

Farmers are asked to produce bumper crops. But when they do, prices go through the floor. A crop of 2.2 billion bushels of wheat or 6.5 billion bushels of corn would ruin many farmers because today's target prices and loan levels are so low as to be a mockery.

If we continue to ride the roller coaster with our farm prices, we not only will ruin our markets, but also those in the developing countries.

If our grain prices drop sharply this year because of a good harvest, we will face the likely prospect of having outside nations raiding our markets. This would assure that our valuable food supplies would go to other countries at rock bottom prices.

What we need is a policy which first takes into account the needs of both our farmers and our consumers.

And at the same time, that policy needs to recognize the influence which we have on other nation's food supplies.

In the past, we have been beset by surplus production. Today the outlook is uncertain, but the chances are that we will have continuing scarcity.

Our policy must be prepared for occasional years of surplus as well as the likely food shortages. And that is why a reserve program is so important.

We need a program which will enable the government to make purchases and support the market when there is excess production. At the same time, firm rules are required so that any reserves held by the government are not used to depress prices.

A reserve can give some stability to our markets and meet export and disaster requirements. Reserves held exclusively by trading companies cannot be relied upon to meet national needs.

I have recommended that the government hold a very modest level of reserves. We owe this to our consumers and our farmers who are the main users of grains. It also is needed for our own national defense.

We have reserves of guns and weapons. Our banks have monetary reserves as required by law. But we have no strategic food reserves.

Why should we be so foolish as to be willing to sell off all we have to anyone who comes along with money in hand?

A reserve program can be devised to give our consumers some assurance of adequate supplies of food. And a reserve can be utilized to keep farm prices at reasonable levels when there is excess production.

In an era where food is likely to be in short supply, we need to treat it as the scarce and valuable commodity that it is.

Beyond these three key areas which I have developed, we need to look for new ideas and approaches. And we need your help in coming up with new ideas.

We also must follow up on the work of the World Food Conference. While there have been many critics of the conference, it did focus the world's attention on food and hunger.

The Foreign Agricultural Policy Subcommittee, which I chair, will be holding a series of hearings over the coming months to look particularly at progress since the World Food Conference and the programming of our food aid.

I have suggested a number of ideas to increase the world's food supply including:

(1) Developing an improved world agricultural information system;

(2) Expanding the role of our Land Grant Institutions to increase food production in the developing countries;

(3) Expanding our research effort in the areas of better seeds, weather trends, and tropical agriculture;

(4) Focusing our foreign assistance more directly on food production, nutrition, health, family planning, and education;

(5) Establishing domestic and international food reserve programs; and

(6) Budgeting each year a reasonable quantity of food aid to meet humanitarian needs.

How we respond to the challenge of world hunger may well mean life or death for millions of people around the world.

We need your words of guidance and counsel so that this power is used wisely. And you need to make certain that you are heard.

These critical decisions should not be made with only our national interests in mind.

In the words of Albert Schweitzer, "You don't live in a world all alone. Your brothers are here, too."

We all need to keep these thoughtful words in mind as we struggle to find solutions to the problem of world hunger.

I urge you to lend your strength to this important effort.

#

→ Mr Elmer Eells
- President & Mrs Decker

✓ Father Paul Kabat

Participants - Dr Frank
Bishop Powis

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Mr Schwartzberg
Mr Meijer

BEMIDJI FOOD CONFERENCE

BEMIDJI STATE COLLEGE coalition on
world hunger

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

APRIL 12, 1975

L I AM HAPPY TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUR FOOD CONFERENCE ~~THE~~

~~AT BEMBELE~~. THERE IS NO TOPIC THAT IS MORE URGENT OR TIMELY.

L YOU ARE TO BE COMMENDED ON THIS UNDERTAKING WHICH, AS

I UNDERSTAND IT, IS DESIGNED TO EDUCATE AND STIMULATE DISCUSSION ^{to} Action

L THERE HAS BEEN AN OVERWHELMING INTEREST IN THIS TOPIC ON THE

PART OF CHURCH, CIVIC AND EDUCATIONAL GROUPS ~~and~~ ^{and top}
~~Part not enough in Congress or the Executive~~

L YOUR GROUP, AND OTHERS LIKE IT, CAN PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN

HELPING OUR NATION TO FACE UP TO THE IMPORTANCE OF DEALING WITH

~~THIS ISSUE~~ ^{the issue of a growing shortage of food}
^{for our expanding population}

L WE DO NOT KNOW PRECISELY HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY OR

SUFFER FROM MALNUTRITION. Poor people often are not counted,

AND GOVERNMENTS FIND IT EMBARRASSING TO ADMIT THEY HAVE STARVING

PEOPLE. (Ethiopia - sample)
Sahel -1-

What causes crisis

~ Weather -

~ Affluence

~ Pol Decision Sand & China

~ Popul -

- People want more -

U.S. - Food Stamps
Special Feeding

45 to 6 Billion

School Lunch

Pogo - We have met the
enemy & they are us!

- Bangladesh
- India
- Pakistan
Sahel
L.A.
Africa

L HOWEVER, IT IS GENERALLY REPORTED THAT TODAY SOME 500

MILLION PEOPLE SUFFER FROM STARVATION OR MALNUTRITION THROUGHOUT

THE WORLD. AND IT ALSO IS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NOW FACE MALNUTRITION OR ~~STARVATION~~ Hunger.

L THERE WAS A RECORD WORLD PRODUCTION OF 1.1 BILLION METRIC

TONS OF CEREAL GRAIN IN 1971 DR. NORMAN BORLAUG HAS SAID

THAT THIS WOULD AMOUNT TO A HIGHWAY OF CEREAL GRAINS 55 FEET

WIDE AND 6 FEET DEEP, BUILT AROUND THE WORLD AT THE EQUATOR.

AND THIS PRODUCTION WAS REQUIRED TO FEED CURRENT WORLD POPULATIONS.

L HOWEVER, JUST TO KEEP PACE WITH POPULATION GROWTH -- ~~500~~ about

Every 3 years more people than live in U.S. -
70 MILLION MORE PEOPLE EACH YEAR -- WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING TO

IMPROVE PEOPLES' DIETS, WE MUST ADD ANOTHER 24 MILLION METRIC

TONS OF CEREAL GRAIN ANNUALLY TO THIS RECORD PRODUCTION OF 1971.

MEANWHILE, THERE CAN BE NO DECLINE IN PRESENT FOOD PRODUC-

TION, AS THERE WAS LAST YEAR, ^{and in 1972} RESULTING IN A WORLD FOOD CRISIS.

IN OTHER WORDS, JUST TO KEEP EVEN, WE MUST BUILD ANOTHER

TRANS-GLOBAL HIGHWAY OF CEREAL GRAINS AT THE RATE OF 580 MILES

EVERY YEAR, ACCORDING TO DR. BORLAUG,

BUT MEANWHILE, EACH YEAR WE HAVE TO REBUILD COMPLETELY

THE FIRST HIGHWAY.

then add 580 miles of grain 55 feet wide & 6 feet deep

HARSH STATISTICS LIKE THESE SHOULD SHAME OUR CONSCIENCE

AND INSPIRE US TO ACT WITHOUT DELAY OUT OF A SIMPLE, DEEP SENSE

OF COMPASSION.

AS THE WORLD'S CHIEF FOOD SURPLUS NATION -- SUPPLYING HALF

OF THE FOOD MOVING IN INTERNATIONAL CHANNELS -- THE UNITED STATES

CANNOT HANG BACK AND WAIT FOR OTHERS TO ACT,

*90% Protein
80% Feed grain
60% wheat*

WE NEED TO FACE AT LEAST THREE MAIN FOOD RELATED ISSUES.

THEY ARE:

(1) FOOD AID FOR THE NEEDY NATIONS: most personally Affected

(2) EXPANDING FOOD PRODUCTION AND SLOWING POPULATION GROWTH;

AND (all international + U.S. Agencies)

(3) ESTABLISHING A REALISTIC U.S. FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL

POLICY.

FOOD AID FOR NEEDY NATIONS

- PL 480

THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN EXTREMELY GENEROUS WITH ITS
FOOD AID, PROVIDING MORE THAN \$25 BILLION IN FOOD ASSISTANCE
OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS. HOWEVER, MUCH OF THIS FOOD WAS SUPPLIED
BECAUSE WE HAD MORE THAN WE COULD USE.

yet great good
good for work

L THE TEST COMES NOW WHEN OUR RESERVES ARE LOW. WILL WE BE
PREPARED TO SHARE WHEN OUR SUPPLIES ARE TIGHT? CAN ORGANIZATIONS
SUCH AS YOURS PROVIDE THE SPARK TO HELP OUR GOVERNMENT RESPOND
TO THE HUNGER OF NEEDY NATIONS?

L AT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, WHICH I ATTENDED IN ROME LAST
NOVEMBER, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WANTED TO AVOID
ANY MAJOR INCREASED FOOD AID COMMITMENTS. (Report)

L WHILE WE HAD PROVIDED NINE MILLION TONS OF FOOD AS
RECENTLY AS 1972, OUR VOLUME OF ASSISTANCE LAST YEAR DROPPED
TO 3.3 MILLION TONS.

↓ AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, FELT
THAT OUR FOOD AID SHOULD BE INCREASED BY at least a 5 MILLION TONS TO
ENCOURAGE OTHER NATIONS TO RESPOND.

↳ THIS REQUEST WAS REJECTED ON THE GROUNDS THAT SUCH AN
INCREASE WOULD BE INFLATIONARY. ↳ IN SPITE OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT,
OUR GOVERNMENT LEADERS CONCEDED AT ROME THAT WE ALREADY WERE
PROGRAMMING THIS YEAR'S FOOD AID AT AROUND THE 4.3 MILLION TON
LEVEL.

↳ AFTER A FURTHER DELAY OF AROUND TWO AND A HALF MONTHS, OUR
FOOD AID LEVEL FINALLY WAS ANNOUNCED AT 5.5 MILLION TONS.

↳ 1.6 Billion - up from 950 million

EXPANDING FOOD PRODUCTION AND SLOWING POPULATION GROWTH

h BECAUSE OF THESE DELAYS IN DETERMINING OUR FOOD AID LEVELS,

I INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A

FOOD COORDINATOR TO BE LOCATED IN THE WHITE HOUSE

also to follow up on world food conf

h THE COORDINATOR WOULD GIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION, NOT ONLY *Res.*

TO FOOD AID, BUT ALSO TO EFFORTS TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION

IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

(World Food Council - FAO.)

h THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT FOOD PRODUCTION CAN BE INCREASED

SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

h THIS WAS ONE OF THE MAIN CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE.

h BUT TO INCREASE PRODUCTION, A GREATER PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO LAND REFORM,

INCREASED FERTILIZER PRODUCTION, RESEARCH TO HELP THE SMALL

FARMER AND INCREASED CREDIT.

*agric. & capital
Vast amt of capital - Land Reform*

ABOVE ALL, A GREATER EMPHASIS MUST BE PLACED ON INCREASING
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. THE PRIORITY IN MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
HAS BEEN ON BUILDING UP INDUSTRY, WHILE NEGLECTING INVESTMENTS
IN FOOD PRODUCTION. (China to contrary)

LAST YEAR I AND OTHERS REVISED OUR FOREIGN AID LEGISLATION
TO PLACE PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION; ^{nutrition;} HEALTH
AND FAMILY PLANNING; AND EDUCATION ~~TRAINING~~. ^{and manpower training}

WE NEED TO PUSH AHEAD IN IMPLEMENTING THIS PROGRAM. THE
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE IN MANY CASES FACING POPULATION GROWTH
RATES OF OVER 3 PERCENT PER YEAR. THIS WILL MEAN A DOUBLING OF
THEIR POPULATIONS IN ONE GENERATION, OR BY THE END OF THIS
CENTURY.

L THE COUNTRIES WITH HIGH POPULATION GROWTH RATES ARE THE
ONES MOST VULNERABLE IN TERMS OF THEIR FOOD SUPPLIES.

L A RENEWED INTEREST HAS SURFACED IN RECENT YEARS CONCERNING
THOMAS MALTHUS, WHO, IN 1793, PREDICTED THAT MAN WOULD BREED
HIMSELF INTO A CORNER OF MISERY BY INCREASING HIS NUMBERS
BEYOND HIS ABILITY TO FEED HIMSELF.

L WHILE HIS IDEAS HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO OCCASIONAL DEBATE,
THE ADVANCES OF SCIENCE AND THE GENERAL BELIEF THAT THE
WORLD'S NATURAL RESOURCES WERE UNLIMITED, RESULTED IN THEIR BEING
GIVEN LITTLE SERIOUS ATTENTION.

L BUT NOW WE WILL NEED TO CONSIDER SUCH PREDICTIONS MORE
CAREFULLY, ALTHOUGH I DO NOT SHARE THE GLOOM AND DOOM CONCLUSIONS
OF SOME EXPERTS.

WE NEED A SOLID, LONG-RANGE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT WHICH
RECOGNIZES THAT THERE ARE NO EASY, SHORT-TERM SOLUTIONS TO THE
FOOD AND POPULATION PROBLEMS.

OUR FOOD AID CAN HELP IN CRISIS SITUATIONS AND BUY TIME
UNTIL LONGER RANGE PROGRAMS GET GOING.

Food
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL AND AGRICULTURAL POLICY

AT THE SAME TIME, WE MUST BEGIN TO DEVELOP A U.S. NATIONAL
FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL POLICY WHICH IS RELEVANT TO TODAY'S NEEDS.

WHAT WE DO ABOUT DEVELOPING A FOOD POLICY IS, OF COURSE,
CRITICAL TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.

L THE PRICES OUR FARMERS RECEIVE DROPPED BY ABOUT ~~TWELVE~~ ^{15%}

PERCENT LAST YEAR, WHILE THEIR PRODUCTION COSTS WENT UP BY

NEARLY TWENTY PERCENT.

wheat 28%
feed grains 24%
meat 28%

L SINCE THE GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED THE FARMER TO PRODUCE TO
THE LIMIT, IT SHOULD SHARE SOME OF THE RISK. WHY SHOULD FARMERS

FACE RUIN AND BANKRUPTCY BECAUSE OF GOOD WEATHER AND BUMPER
CROPS?

L IT SEEMS UNBELIEVABLE TO ME THAT WE ALLOW OVER THREE
THOUSAND MINNESOTA DAIRY FARMERS TO BE DRIVEN OUT OF PRODUCTION,
AND ALL IN ONE YEAR.

L OUR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS HAVE BEEN LOSING AS MUCH AS \$200
PER HEAD NOW FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS, AND THE SITUATION KEEPS
GETTING WORSE.

AND NOW OUR GRAIN FARMERS ARE FACING A VERY UNCERTAIN
FUTURE.

IT SEEMS RATHER IRONIC ~~THAT~~ THAT AT A TIME WHEN THE
WORLD FOOD RESERVES ARE AT THEIR LOWEST POINT IN TWENTY-FIVE
YEARS, WE TREAT OUR FARMERS AS IF THEY WERE OF LITTLE ACCOUNT.

25 day supply.

FARMERS ARE ASKED TO PRODUCE BUMPER CROPS (BUT WHEN THEY DO,
PRICES ^{DROP} THROUGH THE FLOOR. A CROP OF 2.2 BILLION BUSHELLS OF
WHEAT OR 6.5 BILLION BUSHELLS OF CORN WOULD RUIN MANY FARMERS
BECAUSE TODAY'S TARGET PRICES AND LOAN LEVELS ARE SO LOW AS TO
BE A MOCKERY.

IF WE CONTINUE TO RIDE THE ROLLER COASTER WITH OUR FARM
PRICES, WE NOT ONLY WILL RUIN OUR MARKETS, BUT ALSO THOSE IN
THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

IF OUR GRAIN PRICES DROP SHARPLY THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF A
GOOD HARVEST, WE WILL FACE THE LIKELY PROSPECT OF HAVING OUTSIDE
NATIONS RAIDING OUR MARKETS. THIS WOULD ASSURE THAT OUR VALUABLE
FOOD SUPPLIES WOULD GO TO OTHER COUNTRIES AT ROCK BOTTOM PRICES.

WHAT WE NEED IS A POLICY WHICH FIRST TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE
NEEDS OF BOTH OUR FARMERS AND OUR CONSUMERS.

AND AT THE SAME TIME, THAT POLICY NEEDS TO RECOGNIZE THE
INFLUENCE WHICH WE HAVE ON OTHER NATION'S FOOD SUPPLIES.

IN THE PAST, WE HAVE BEEN BESET BY SURPLUS PRODUCTION.
TODAY THE OUTLOOK IS UNCERTAIN, BUT THE CHANCES ARE THAT WE
WILL HAVE CONTINUING SCARCITY.

L OUR POLICY MUST BE PREPARED FOR OCCASIONAL YEARS OF SURPLUS
AS WELL AS THE LIKELY FOOD SHORTAGES. AND THAT IS WHY A RESERVE
PROGRAM IS SO IMPORTANT.

L WE NEED A ^{Reserve} PROGRAM WHICH WILL ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE
PURCHASES AND SUPPORT THE MARKET WHEN THERE IS EXCESS PRODUCTION.

L AT THE SAME TIME, FIRM RULES ARE REQUIRED SO THAT ANY RESERVES
HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT ARE NOT USED TO DEPRESS ^{Farmer's Prices} ~~PRICES.~~

L A RESERVE CAN GIVE SOME STABILITY TO OUR MARKETS AND MEET
EXPORT AND DISASTER REQUIREMENTS. RESERVES HELD EXCLUSIVELY BY
TRADING COMPANIES CANNOT BE RELIED UPON TO MEET NATIONAL NEEDS.

I HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HOLD A VERY MODEST
LEVEL OF RESERVES WE OWE THIS TO OUR CONSUMERS AND OUR FARMERS
WHO ARE THE MAIN USERS OF GRAINS. IT ALSO IS NEEDED FOR OUR

OWN NATIONAL ~~DEFENSE~~ *Security. (President's message -
no mixture of food & food aid)*

WE HAVE RESERVES OF GUNS AND WEAPONS. OUR BANKS HAVE
MONETARY RESERVES AS REQUIRED BY LAW. BUT WE HAVE NO STRATEGIC
FOOD RESERVES.

~~WHY SHOULD WE BE SO FOOLISH AS TO BE WILLING TO SELL OFF ALL
WE HAVE TO ANYONE WHO COMES ALONG WITH MONEY IN HAND?~~

A RESERVE PROGRAM CAN BE DEvised TO GIVE OUR CONSUMERS SOME
ASSURANCE OF ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF FOOD. AND A RESERVE CAN BE
UTILIZED TO KEEP FARM PRICES AT REASONABLE LEVELS WHEN THERE IS
EXCESS PRODUCTION.

IN AN ERA WHERE FOOD IS LIKELY TO BE IN SHORT SUPPLY,
WE NEED TO TREAT IT AS THE SCARCE AND VALUABLE COMMODITY THAT

IT IS. — Food Power —

BEYOND THESE THREE KEY AREAS WHICH I HAVE DEVELOPED, WE
NEED TO LOOK FOR NEW IDEAS AND APPROACHES, AND WE NEED

HELP IN COMING UP WITH NEW IDEAS.

WE ALSO MUST FOLLOW UP ON THE WORK OF THE WORLD FOOD
CONFERENCE WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CRITICS OF THE CONFERENCE,
IT DID FOCUS THE WORLD'S ATTENTION ON FOOD AND HUNGER.

THE FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE, WHICH I
CHAIR, WILL BE HOLDING A SERIES OF HEARINGS OVER THE COMING
MONTHS TO LOOK PARTICULARLY AT PROGRESS SINCE THE WORLD FOOD
CONFERENCE AND THE PROGRAMMING OF OUR FOOD AID.

I HAVE SUGGESTED A NUMBER OF IDEAS TO INCREASE THE
WORLD'S FOOD SUPPLY INCLUDING:

~~International~~
~~Food Reserve~~

(1) DEVELOPING AN IMPROVED WORLD AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION

SYSTEM;

(2) EXPANDING THE ROLE OF OUR LAND GRANT INSTITUTIONS TO

INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES;

(3) EXPANDING OUR RESEARCH EFFORT IN THE AREAS OF BETTER

SEEDS, WEATHER TRENDS, AND TROPICAL AGRICULTURE;

(4) FOCUSING OUR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE MORE DIRECTLY ON FOOD

PRODUCTION, NUTRITION, HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING, AND EDUCATION;

(5) ESTABLISHING DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL FOOD RESERVE

PROGRAMS; AND

+ take the lead!

(6) BUDGETING EACH YEAR A REASONABLE QUANTITY OF FOOD AID
TO MEET HUMANITARIAN NEEDS. (us food aid)

↳ HOW WE RESPOND TO THE CHALLENGE OF WORLD HUNGER MAY WELL
MEAN LIFE OR DEATH FOR MILLIONS OF PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD.

↳ WE NEED YOUR WORDS OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSEL SO THAT THIS
POWER IS USED WISELY, AND YOU NEED TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT YOU ARE
HEARD.

↳ THESE CRITICAL DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE MADE WITH ONLY OUR
NATIONAL INTERESTS IN MIND.

IN THE WORDS OF ALBERT SCHWEITZER, "YOU DON'T LIVE IN A
WORLD ALL ALONE. YOUR BROTHERS ARE HERE, TOO."

WE ALL NEED TO KEEP THESE THOUGHTFUL WORDS IN MIND AS
WE STRUGGLE TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM OF WORLD HUNGER.
I URGE YOU TO LEND YOUR STRENGTH TO THIS IMPORTANT EFFORT.

#



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org