

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

JAY C. HORMEL NATURE CENTER

AUSTIN, MINNESOTA

JULY 12, 1975

I'm delighted to be back in Austin to help dedicate the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center.

I've had just a brief opportunity to see the Center, but I like what I see -- and want to compliment and thank all of you who have made it a reality.

I say compliment, because this is a fine center -- and all of the people who dreamed of it, who planned it, who raised funds for it, and who built it deserve praise for making it a reality. This includes the people of the Austin area who first conceived of a nature center for the use of the people of Minnesota and northeast Iowa, and those who planned and made that dream come true.

It also includes the Hormel and Ober Foundations, the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the City of Austin which provided the funds for the project.

I want to thank all of you -- for respecting nature in building this center and for making the center a learning place for all its visitors, young and old, surefooted and handicapped.

Too many times, planners fail to realize that not only the sure-footed, the young, and those with no vision impairments have a right to enjoy and learn about the world around them. The elderly, the blind, and those in wheelchairs also have the same right, but too often the rest of us place barriers in their way.

I know your plans here are to keep the barriers to a minimum. You have planned well - surfaced tracks for wheelchairs, Braille signs so the blind can understand what they feel, taped discussions so all can comprehend the significance of the exhibits, and other aids to help the elderly and handicapped.

I think that when these plans have been fully implemented, this center will allow all its visitors to fully understand and appreciate the wonders and beauty of nature.

I also want to tell you how delighted I am that your plans include using this center as an extension of the classroom for our youngsters.

In this fast-moving, technically oriented world of ours, it is especially important that our young people understand and appreciate the natural world around them. I hope that our teachers in Minnesota and Iowa will use this center well and often to instill in our young people a healthy respect for our environment.

Whenever I am here in America's heartland, surrounded by some of the world's most fertile farmland, I am mindful of nature's great abundance to man and the role of man in nature's ordered scheme. So, today, I'd like to spend a little time talking about the relationship of man to the natural world.

We all know that some animals are stronger, some more beautiful, some more prolific than man. But man is smarter. He can think rationally -- he can plan, organize and execute complicated and complex blueprints for action. This is a tremendous power.

But with it comes a great responsibility -- to be guardian and trustee of nature's treasury. By his actions, man determines not only his own destiny, but also the destiny of all other living things and sources of life.

It is our choice whether history will judge us to be a responsible or irresponsible guardian. If we are responsible, then we will leave to our children and our childrens' children a better world than the one we know now. If we are irresponsible -- well, the consequences are almost too horrendous to think about.

The order of the day seems to be one of negativism -- we are told that "the world is going to pot," "we can't solve our problems," "man is cruel and selfish," and "man has ruined his environment." I say, "That is not quite the whole story."

Man has hurt his environment. In some cases, he has upset the delicate balance of nature.

Much of what he did was out of ignorance -- and that is partially forgivable. But some of what he did was out of thoughtlessness -- and, though the reasons for his thoughtlessness are understandable, that is not forgivable. Hopefully, centers such as this one will eradicate the root source of this thoughtlessness -- ignorance of nature and of the delicate balance that exists between all living things and the environment.

The crises of the last few years have brought home to us the delicate balance that exists between man and his environment, and made all of us aware that nature's bounties often are finite.

Three years ago, very few people worried about the impact of supersonic travel on the ozone layer, or the effect of aerosols on our environment. Throwaway aluminum cans and plastic bottles were touted as a boon to mankind, not a means through which man would use up precious and limited resources.

Once the dream was a big American gas-guzzling car. Today, we know we must conserve our energy sources, and gas-guzzlers are frowned upon.

During the last few years, we have developed a new understanding and respect for the environment, and a new concern for the impact that progress can have on our environment.

A great deal of federal legislation now requires that environmental impact statements be filed and examined before projects which would have an impact on the environment are approved. In some cases, funds are provided to deal with adverse environmental impacts.

The Congress currently is examining legislation to develop national land use policies, to encourage energy conservation, and to ensure that off-shore oil drilling does not pollute our beaches and kill our wildlife.

States and local communities also are paying great attention to the impact of development on the environment, and planning accordingly. I understand that here in Austin, aluminum and plastic are collected and recycled for future use.

On both a national and a local level, we are setting a new direction, developing new priorities, molding a new philosophy of life and living. I cannot emphasize too strongly how important centers such as the Hormel Center will be to enriching our understanding and passing on to future generations an understanding of man's relationship to his environment.

But, we must not become complacent. We need to remember that these new environmental priorities are subject to challenge -- and are being challenged.

We have other needs which must be met. Some say that energy independence requires that we develop our off-shore energy resources as quickly as possible. Others say that efforts to expand our economy and provide more jobs are hampered by legislation requiring anti-pollution devices on cars, or reclamation of strip-mined land. Still others say that recovery from the current recession could be speeded if there were less federal regulation and if development in many places were not hampered by local zoning and sewer regulations.

Our job -- yours and mine -- is to balance our competing needs and priorities.

This will not be easy. It will require new ways of thinking, both about the directions that our national and local programs and policies should take and the directions that our personal actions should take.

Attitudes which have been cemented and reinforced by time will be challenged and questioned. Life styles -- comfortable, easy or inexpensive, may become awkward, difficult, or very expensive. Traditions no longer will satisfy and there will be an uneasy period until new traditions develop.

But I for one believe that men, women, children, young, old and in-betweens, all over the world -- will meet the challenge.

Sometimes it is easier to chart a new direction if we have rules against which we may judge our actions. I have one which I'd like to pass on. Each of us can use it in our daily lives. The rule "Use what you need, but need what you use, and conserve what you use."

The first priority under this rule is to define our needs. The second is to look again at our needs, and see how we can cut back on them.

By carefully judging our needs, and taking the needs of others into account, we can move from the automatic, reflex way of life, to using our brains for what they were intended -- to think, to reason, to weigh and consider, to make decisions.

In the process, we may be better able to balance our priorities and better preserve our environment. Think about that simple rule before you turn on the water faucet,

turn on the light switch, drive your car around the corner, turn up your furnace or turn down your air conditioner.

Man does have the capacity to solve his problems, and make this a better world. So let's shake off our complacency. Let us learn from the past so that we do not repeat the mistakes that have damaged our environment. But let us take the initiative, now, to plan and work for the future -- a future that guarantees a decent living environment for all our people; a future where the absolutely vital world of nature is given our deep respect.

#

(Duck)
R. M. Birger

Jay C. Hormel
nature
center

Father Ploof

Mayor Bob Enright
Senator Bald Hansen

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

~~A. Gov. Rudy Perpich~~

JAY C. HORMEL NATURE CENTRE

Repr. Leo Reding

AUSTIN, MINNESOTA

Mr. Jim Holton - Hormel Foundation

JULY 12, 1975

~~Paul Verrett~~ Ober Foundation
Bob Peterson

I'M DELIGHTED TO BE BACK IN AUSTIN TO HELP DEDICATE
THE JAY C. HORMEL NATURE CENTER.

I'VE HAD JUST A BRIEF OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE CENTER,
~~BUT~~ I LIKE WHAT I SEE -- AND WANT TO COMPLIMENT AND THANK
ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE MADE IT A REALITY,

I SAY COMPLIMENT, BECAUSE THIS IS A FINE CENTER -- AND
ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO DREAMED OF IT, WHO PLANNED IT, WHO
RAISED FUNDS FOR IT, AND WHO BUILT IT DESERVE PRAISE FOR
MAKING IT A REALITY. *Volunteers* THIS INCLUDES THE PEOPLE OF THE
AUSTIN AREA WHO FIRST CONCEIVED OF A NATURE CENTER FOR
THE USE OF THE PEOPLE OF MINNESOTA AND NORTHEAST IOWA,
AND THOSE WHO PLANNED AND MADE THAT DREAM COME TRUE.

It also includes the HORMEL AND OBER FOUNDATIONS,

THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION, THE MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THE CITY OF AUSTIN

~~WHICH PROVIDED THE FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT.~~

I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU -- FOR RESPECTING NATURE

yes love 7

IN BUILDING THIS CENTER AND FOR MAKING THE CENTER A

LEARNING PLACE FOR ALL ITS VISITORS, YOUNG AND OLD,

SUREFOOTED AND HANDICAPPED.

Too many times, planners fail to realize that not

only the SURE-FOOTED, THE YOUNG, AND THOSE WITH ~~IMPAIRMENTS~~

good eye sight

IMPAIRMENTS HAVE A RIGHT TO ENJOY AND LEARN ABOUT THE WORLD

AROUND THEM.

⁻³⁻
~~the Handicapped~~
L THE ELDERLY, THE BLIND, AND THOSE IN WHEELCHAIRS ALSO

HAVE THE SAME RIGHT, BUT TOO OFTEN THE REST OF US PLACE
BARRIERS IN THEIR WAY,

L I KNOW YOUR PLANS HERE ARE TO KEEP THE BARRIERS TO
A MINIMUM, L YOU HAVE PLANNED WELL -- SURFACED TRACKS FOR
WHEELCHAIRS, BRAILLE SIGNS SO THE BLIND CAN UNDERSTAND
WHAT THEY FEEL, TAPED DISCUSSIONS SO ALL CAN COMPREHEND
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EXHIBITS, AND OTHER AIDS TO HELP
THE ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED,

L ~~I THINK THAT~~ WHEN THESE PLANS HAVE BEEN FULLY
IMPLEMENTED, THIS CENTER WILL ALLOW ALL ITS VISITORS
TO FULLY UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE WONDERS AND
BEAUTY OF NATURE.

(Jay Hornel loved the
trees, the flowers, the
shrubs)

I ALSO WANT TO TELL YOU HOW DELIGHTED I AM THAT YOUR
PLANS INCLUDE USING THIS CENTER AS AN EXTENSION OF THE

CLASSROOM FOR OUR YOUNGSTERS

To know nature - to touch, smell, see, hear it - is to love it -

IN THIS FAST-MOVING, TECHNICALLY ORIENTED WORLD OF
OURS, IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE
UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE NATURAL WORLD AROUND THEM.

I HOPE THAT OUR TEACHERS IN MINNESOTA AND IOWA WILL USE
THIS CENTER WELL AND OFTEN TO INSTILL IN OUR YOUNG
PEOPLE A HEALTHY RESPECT FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT.

WHENEVER I AM HERE IN AMERICA'S HEARTLAND, SURROUNDED
BY SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST FERTILE FARMLAND, I AM
MINDFUL OF NATURE'S GREAT ABUNDANCE TO MAN AND THE ROLE
OF MAN IN NATURE'S ORDERED SCHEME.

*flying
high*

mind

" We travel together, passengers on
a space ship, dependent on its
storable reserves of air and
soil " (Guessem)

So, today, I'd like to spend a little time talking about

THE RELATIONSHIP OF MAN TO THE NATURAL WORLD.

↳ WE ALL KNOW THAT SOME ANIMALS ARE STRONGER, SOME MORE

BEAUTIFUL, SOME MORE PROLIFIC THAN MAN, BUT MAN ~~IS~~ ^{has been blessed} ~~EARLIER.~~

with the power of reason & thought

HE CAN THINK RATIONALLY -- HE CAN PLAN, ORGANIZE AND EXECUTE

COMPLICATED AND COMPLEX BLUEPRINTS FOR ACTION. THIS IS A

TREMENDOUS POWER.

↳ BUT WITH IT COMES A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY -- TO BE

GUARDIAN AND TRUSTEE OF NATURE'S TREASURY. BY HIS ACTIONS,

MAN DETERMINES NOT ONLY HIS OWN DESTINY, BUT ALSO THE

DESTINY OF ALL OTHER LIVING THINGS AND SOURCES OF LIFE.

h IT IS OUR CHOICE WHETHER HISTORY WILL JUDGE US TO
BE A RESPONSIBLE OR IRRESPONSIBLE ~~GUARDIAN~~ ^{steward}. IF WE ARE
RESPONSIBLE, THEN WE WILL LEAVE TO OUR CHILDREN AND OUR
CHILDRENS' CHILDREN A BETTER WORLD THAN THE ONE WE KNOW NOW.

h IF WE ARE IRRESPONSIBLE -- WELL, THE CONSEQUENCES ARE
ALMOST TOO HORRENDOUS TO THINK ABOUT.

h THE ORDER OF THE DAY SEEMS TO BE ONE OF NEGATIVISM --
WE ARE TOLD THAT "THE WORLD IS GOING TO POT," "WE CAN'T SOLVE
OUR PROBLEMS," "MAN ^{had} IS CRUEL AND SELFISH," AND "MAN ^{did} HAS
RUINED HIS ENVIRONMENT." I SAY, "THAT IS NOT QUITE THE
WHOLE STORY."

h MAN ^{had} HAS HURT HIS ENVIRONMENT. IN SOME CASES, HE HAS
UPSET THE DELICATE BALANCE OF NATURE.

↳ MUCH OF WHAT HE DID WAS OUT OF IGNORANCE -- AND
THAT IS PARTIALLY FORGIVEABLE. ↳ BUT SOME OF WHAT HE DID
WAS OUT OF THOUGHTLESSNESS-- AND, THOUGH THE REASONS FOR
HIS THOUGHTLESSNESS ARE UNDERSTANDABLE, THAT IS NOT
FORGIVEABLE. ↳ HOPEFULLY, CENTERS SUCH AS THIS ONE, WILL
ERADICATE THE ROOT SOURCE OF THIS THOUGHTLESSNESS --
IGNORANCE OF NATURE AND OF THE DELICATE BALANCE THAT
EXISTS BETWEEN ALL LIVING THINGS AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

↳ THE CRISES OF THE LAST FEW YEARS HAVE BROUGHT HOME
TO US THE DELICATE BALANCE THAT EXISTS BETWEEN MAN AND
HIS ENVIRONMENT, AND MADE ALL OF US AWARE THAT NATURE'S
BOUNTIES OFTEN ARE FINITE.

↳ THREE YEARS AGO, VERY FEW PEOPLE WORRIED ABOUT THE
IMPACT OF SUPERSONIC TRAVEL ON THE OZONE LAYER, OR THE
EFFECT OF AEROSOLS ON OUR ENVIRONMENT, ↳ THROWAWAY
ALUMINUM CANS AND PLASTIC BOTTLES WERE TOUTED AS A BOON
TO MANKIND, NOT A MEANS THROUGH WHICH MAN WOULD USE UP
PRECIOUS AND LIMITED RESOURCES.

↳ ONCE THE DREAM WAS A BIG AMERICAN GAS-GUZZLING CAR.

↳ TODAY, WE KNOW WE MUST CONSERVE OUR ENERGY SOURCES,
AND GAS-GUZZLERS ARE FROWNED UPON.

↳ DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS, WE HAVE DEVELOPED A NEW
UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, AND A NEW
CONCERN FOR THE IMPACT THAT ^{so-called} PROGRESS CAN HAVE ON OUR

ENVIRONMENT. We Carelessly & Thoughtlessly
polluted our Rivers, & lakes: contaminated
the air -

eroded the soil; and plundered
our forests. Then, the day of reckoning
came - and it here - so

↳ A GREAT DEAL OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION NOW REQUIRES THAT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS BE FILED AND EXAMINED

BEFORE PROJECTS WHICH WOULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE

ENVIRONMENT ARE APPROVED. ↳ IN SOME CASES, FUNDS ARE

PROVIDED TO DEAL WITH ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.

↳ THE CONGRESS CURRENTLY IS EXAMINING LEGISLATION TO
DEVELOP NATIONAL LAND USE POLICIES, TO ENCOURAGE ENERGY
CONSERVATION, AND TO ENSURE THAT OFF-SHORE OIL DRILLING
DOES NOT POLLUTE OUR BEACHES AND KILL OUR WILDLIFE.

↳ STATES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES ALSO ARE PAYING GREAT
ATTENTION TO THE IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT ON THE ENVIRONMENT,

AND PLANNING ACCORDINGLY.

I UNDERSTAND THAT HERE IN AUSTIN, ALUMINUM AND PLASTIC
ARE COLLECTED AND RECYCLED FOR FUTURE USE.

ON BOTH A NATIONAL AND A LOCAL LEVEL, WE ARE SETTING
A NEW DIRECTION, DEVELOPING NEW PRIORITIES, MOLDING A NEW
PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE AND LIVING. I CANNOT EMPHASIZE TOO

STRONGLY HOW IMPORTANT CENTERS SUCH AS THE HORMEL CENTER
WILL BE TO ENRICHING OUR UNDERSTANDING AND PASSING ON TO
FUTURE GENERATIONS AN UNDERSTANDING OF MAN'S RELATIONSHIP
TO HIS ENVIRONMENT.

BUT, WE MUST NOT BECOME COMPLACENT. WE NEED TO REMEMBER
THAT THESE NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES ARE SUBJECT TO
CHALLENGE -- AND ARE BEING CHALLENGED!

WE HAVE OTHER NEEDS WHICH MUST BE MET, SOME SAY THAT
ENERGY INDEPENDENCE REQUIRES THAT WE DEVELOP OUR OFF-SHORE
ENERGY RESOURCES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. OTHERS SAY THAT
EFFORTS TO EXPAND OUR ECONOMY AND PROVIDE MORE JOBS ARE
HAMPERED BY LEGISLATION REQUIRING ANTI-POLLUTION DEVICES ON
CARS, OR RECLAMATION OF STRIP-MINED-LAND. STILL OTHERS
SAY THAT RECOVERY FROM THE CURRENT RECESSION COULD BE
SPEEDED IF THERE WERE LESS FEDERAL REGULATION AND IF
DEVELOPMENT IN MANY PLACES WERE NOT HAMPERED BY LOCAL
ZONING AND SEWER REGULATIONS.

OUR JOB -- YOURS AND MINE -- IS TO BALANCE OUR
COMPETING NEEDS AND PRIORITIES.

h THIS WILL NOT BE EASY. h IT WILL REQUIRE NEW WAYS
OF THINKING, BOTH ABOUT THE DIRECTIONS THAT OUR NATIONAL
AND LOCAL PROGRAMS AND POLICIES SHOULD TAKE AND THE
DIRECTIONS THAT OUR PERSONAL ACTIONS SHOULD TAKE,

h ATTITUDES WHICH HAVE BEEN CEMENTED AND REINFORCED BY
TIME WILL BE CHALLENGED AND QUESTIONED | LIFE STYLES --
COMFORTABLE, EASY OR INEXPENSIVE, MAY BECOME AWKWARD,
DIFFICULT, OR VERY EXPENSIVE | TRADITIONS NO LONGER WILL
SATISFY AND THERE WILL BE AN UNEASY PERIOD UNTIL NEW
TRADITIONS DEVELOP.

h BUT I FOR ONE BELIEVE THAT MEN, WOMEN, CHILDREN,
YOUNG, OLD AND IN-BETWEENS, ALL OVER THE WORLD -- WILL
MEET THE CHALLENGE,

SOMETIMES IT IS EASIER TO CHART A NEW DIRECTION IF
WE HAVE RULES ~~AGAINST~~ ^{by} WHICH WE MAY JUDGE OUR ACTIONS. I
HAVE ONE WHICH I'D LIKE TO PASS ON. ^{Each} ~~Each~~ OF US CAN USE IT
IN OUR DAILY LIVES. THE RULE ^{is} "USE WHAT YOU NEED, BUT NEED
WHAT YOU USE, AND CONSERVE WHAT YOU USE."

THE FIRST PRIORITY UNDER THIS RULE IS TO DEFINE OUR
NEEDS. THE SECOND IS TO LOOK AGAIN AT OUR NEEDS, AND SEE
HOW WE CAN CUT BACK ON THEM.

BY CAREFULLY JUDGING OUR NEEDS, AND TAKING THE NEEDS
OF OTHERS INTO ACCOUNT, WE CAN MOVE FROM THE AUTOMATIC,
REFLEX WAY OF LIFE, TO USING OUR BRAINS FOR WHAT THEY WERE
INTENDED -- TO THINK, TO REASON, TO WEIGH AND CONSIDER, TO
MAKE DECISIONS.

h IN THE PROCESS, WE MAY BE BETTER ABLE TO BALANCE OUR

PRIORITIES AND BETTER PRESERVE OUR ENVIRONMENT. / THINK

ABOUT THAT SIMPLE RULE BEFORE YOU TURN ON THE WATER FAUCET,

TURN ON THE LIGHT SWITCH, DRIVE YOUR CAR AROUND THE CORNER,

TURN UP YOUR FURNACE OR TURN DOWN YOUR AIR CONDITIONER.

h MAN DOES HAVE THE CAPACITY TO SOLVE HIS PROBLEMS, AND

MAKE THIS A BETTER WORLD. / SO LET'S SHAKE OFF OUR COMPLACENCY.

LET US LEARN FROM THE PAST SO THAT WE DO NOT REPEAT THE

MISTAKES THAT HAVE DAMAGED OUR ENVIRONMENT.

↳ BUT LET US TAKE THE INITIATIVE, NOW, TO PLAN AND WORK

FOR THE FUTURE -- A FUTURE THAT GUARANTEES A DECENT LIVING

ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE; A FUTURE WHERE THE ABSOLUTELY

VITAL WORLD OF NATURE IS GIVEN OUR DEEP RESPECT.

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