nphrey Offers Free Hand

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efforts or, ". . . ort," in Food For ership.

of President Eisenhower's program, which would continue on "the year to-year basis of stirring uncertainty among our friends and offering little in real planning"; Humphrey offered his proposal of a long-term five-to-ten year program to be established immediately and carried out according to plan.

"We are trying to win India's friendship. They have told us that for our food surplus to do any real good, without wrecking their own farm economy—which they are working desperately to improve—they need a guarantee of a certain amount of grain every year for ten years. This would be something they could include in their national planning."

"India needs 250 million to 380 million bushels of wheat during each of the next ten years, while they work to increase their own production. If we try to send them 10 million bushels one year and 500 million the next, it will be worse than nothing," Humphrey claimed.

"We must tie the program of farm surpluses into our overall military and foreign relations programs. Food is the free world's No. One weapon against communism.

But the Soviet is moving into surplus production of cereal grains and dairy products. Kruschkev knows that if our agricultural resources are ever brought to full use against Communism, he must be able to match our effort or lose this struggle.

The Soviet is making great gains and will make more in the very near future. Let them start feeding the hungry people of major world trouble spots and we are in trouble," Humphrey declared.

"An example of this misuse of our food resources is shown in the southern flank of NATO. I was told by the commanding officer of that area that if war started, our forces would have only seven days' food supply. He has protested this situation and been told that in the event of war, the civilian population is to be ignored; his job is to feed the troops," he said.

Redefining his concept of a "good" national food policy, the out-spoken liberal declared, "We must get started. There is no justification in our holding food in storage at terrific expense, when it should be moving into an orderly distribution around the world.

"Find out what these people need, then through trade, barter, programs such as P. L. 480—only on a long-term basis; sales for "soft" currency and outright gifts; get the food to them.

"If they need coastal or interior storage facilities, we can arrange to build them easily as adding more in this country, where they really aren't needed except as a place to pile more surplus.

"And we must get storage for adequate food supplies at our overseas military posts—for troops and civilians. What good will six months supply of ammunition do if the soldiers and sailors starve after the first two weeks of combat? What good will it do to defend a country, if the civilian population starves to death? This is neither good strategy or humanity."

Humphrey expressed amusement at Secretary of Agriculture Benson's remark to the NFEA members earlier that he (Benson did not expect excessive corn stocks to develop this year.

"I'm very much afraid the Secretary is going to be as wrong in that prediction as he was about the last election," the senator remarked.

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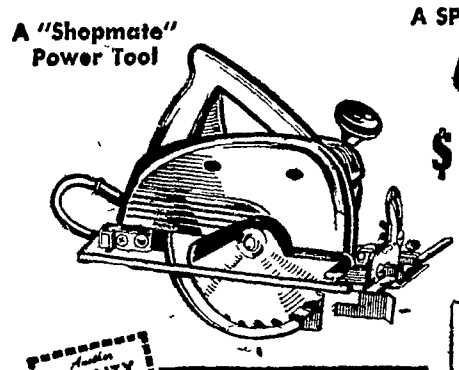

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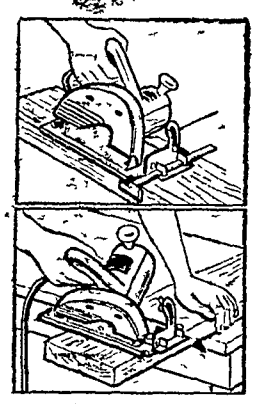

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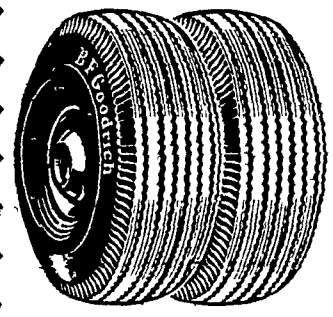

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