

Text of Coffey Talk At Stassen Dinner

(Continued From Page 4)

timately rest our hope for attaining a better world.

"I think," wrote Thomas Jefferson, "by far the most important bill in our whole code is that for the diffusion of knowledge among the people. No other sure foundation can be devised for the preservation of freedom and happiness."

It is not without significance that the schools, and especially the colleges and universities, are among the first institutions destroyed by the dictator countries in the course of their conquests and subjugations. Ignorant men, they know, can be enslaved, but education is the safeguard of freedom. No investment yields a dividend more precious than that which the democratic countries have made in their schools, for freedom is a priceless dividend.

Our second need is for enlightened leadership, and this is a matter not unrelated to the need for continuous support of education. For, from what sources do leaders come forth? We can personalize the answer to this question. We are talking tonight primarily of Harold Stassen. His was a fine endowment by birth, but the abilities, the capacities, and the potentialities that came to him by inheritance required discipline and training.

In the home, in the church, a part of that process was carried forward. But it was in the schools of this state that the foundations of knowledge were laid that have made his distinguished career possible.

There is nothing in which a democratic people should take more pride and satisfaction than in the fact that through their support of public education the quality of leadership has been nurtured and developed in such a man as Harold Stassen.

We mention him particularly because we are honoring him this evening; but in a more significant sense he is but the example, or the symbol, of the larger truth that upon education and good leadership our future as a nation depends.

We do not know what that future will be; nor can we foretell what part Harold Stassen will play in fashioning it. From the pages of the past I have quoted newspaper headlines that have told of the world as it has been thus far during Harold Stassen's lifetime. I will now leave it to your imaginations to write the headlines as they are to be from this time forward. But of this we can be certain—that wherever the future may find Harold Stassen, the imprint of his personality, his training and his experience will be felt.

The University of Minnesota is proud to number him among its graduates. The people of Minnesota are proud to regard him as one of them. We can admire him for all that he has accomplished thus far in life and for the decision he has now made to enter the service of his country in time of war. And as he enters the Navy and leaves the state he has served so well, we can join in saying, Good luck, and Godspeed!

Stassen Is Master to Very End

Imp. Star 4-28-43

Parcels Out Posts to Backers

By M. W. HALLORAN

Star Journal Political Writer

Master of the situation to the last minute of the last hour of his regime as governor of Minnesota—

* * *

That was Harold E. Stassen, who as Lieutenant Commander Stassen is at Great Lakes naval training station today preparing for induction into active duty in the navy.

* * *

Just before he walked for the last time from the executive offices in the state capitol where he had reigned for 4½ years as governor, Stassen signed commissions appointing to choice positions in the state half a dozen of the faithful "young guard" who had been fair and foul weather battlers in his front line trenches throughout his state political career.

Then he went down to the St. Paul Athletic club where the Republican State Central committee was giving him a farewell luncheon.

And he stood up there, in face of the generally accepted program—a program he himself had set up last September, as a matter of fact—under which State Chairman R. C. Radabaugh was to resign. And once more Stassen saved that chairmanship for the rotund doctor from Hastings.

There was Stassen, going out of office in another hour, loosening the grip he had held over the Republican organization. The committee members would be released from all obligation to him.

* * *

Dr. Radabaugh had been a source of controversy in the committee and in the party. Stassen stemmed a revolt against him last fall and asked that "Doc" be re-elected chairman for the rest of his time as governor.

Yesterday he asked that the committee forget that and leave Radabaugh in as chairman so he would have an official title to continue as executive secretary of a mid-west organization of Republican state chairmen.

And the committee accepted the proposal with actual enthusiasm, the protesting Leo Lauerman, Olivia, only getting three supporters, one A. J. Schunck, former Minneapolis postmaster.

George C. Jones, slated to succeed Radabaugh under last fall's arrangement, is to really run the state committee office.

* * *

Disappointment he may have felt at the changed program melted under the spell Stassen cast over that farewell meeting when he stood up there and made a final plea for Doc Radabaugh, his loyal friend whose single thought has been for Stassen's political advancement.

And then came another demonstration of the friendly feeling of Roy E. Dunn, Republican national committeeman and majority floor leader in the state house of representatives.

Taking the floor Dunn declared his personal affection for Stassen—after recalling he and the retiring governor hadn't always agreed, though they had always respected each other.

* * *

Concluding Dunn asserted "Stassen is leaving the state with a truly great record" and then this:

"Whatever Harold Stassen may want in the future, I'll do my best to help him get."

Well, Harold Stassen is a young man, with a lot of future—which some think may lead him to the White House. I guess everyone understood that Roy Dunn wasn't forgetting that as he spoke yesterday.

* * *

Two hours later, when Governor Ed Thye greeted the press for the first time in his new capacity, his first words were of praise of his predecessor who had picked him for the place.

"A mighty man has just gone from this capitol," said Governor Thye.

What Others Think

Pioneer Press, 5-4-43
Patriotic Governor Stassen

(The McDuffie (Georgia) Progress)

Gov. Harold E. Stassen, of Minnesota, has played a shabby trick on the other 47 governors of the U. S. A. Stassen is popular, and is the youngest governor in the nation. He is serving his third two-year term as chief executive.

He can claim exemption from the draft law by virtue of being governor, if he wishes to do so. Figuratively speaking, he can thumb his nose at his local draft board. That is what the other governors are doing, figuratively speaking.

But without so much as asking permission of the Governor's Union, or even consulting with his own Local No. 47, he up and joins the United States Navy. Yes sir, he has given up the comfortable governor's chair, and gone out to prove his patriotism the hard way!

What kind of a way was that to treat the other governors? Hadn't they always been considerate of Gov. Stassen? Had they ever tried to put him on the spot? Then why cut up in such fashion? Why set such a killing pace for the other governors to follow? First thing we know (the other 47 governors reason) our constituents will wonder when we are going to get a dose of real patriotism and "join up". Truly, it is a sorry plight in which he has left his brother governors. They deserved better treatment at the hands of Stassen.

But there he goes, out there with the hundreds of thousands of other young Americans, anxious to do his part. He has left to the other governors the task of issuing proclamations, of making after-dinner speeches to civic clubs. He has left them to talk in high-sounding terms about the flag, about how patriotic they are, about how they would give their lives, if need be, to save democracy; about how ready they are to answer their country's call when it comes, knowing full well their draft boards have been instructed to mark their names off the active list.

To say the least, young Stassen's act will make some of the gubernatorial speeches fall pretty flat, and sound off-key. It will make some of the "would-be statesmen" sound like ordinary politicians.

Meantime, our hat is off to the people of Minnesota and to their courageous and patriotic young governor.

Governor Thye

4-28-43
Imperial Journal

MINNESOTA'S first farmer-governor sits in the capitol today, and Minnesotans overwhelmingly wish him well.

Ed Thye's job will not be an easy one. For one thing, he succeeds a conspicuously successful executive, and Harold Stassen's shoes will not be easy to fill. For another, he was the man Harold Stassen vouched for and indorsed to the voters, and now he is on his own.

The estimate of Ed Thye by most of those who know him is that he will be his own man.

He should be.

Certainly all Governor Stassen desired was to perpetuate the honest, temperate kind of good government which Minnesota has enjoyed since the beginning of 1939, and to see the progress of his own administration retained and consolidated and continued.

Governor Thye is the heir of no political dynasty. His record from here on is his to make, and he is accountable to nobody but the people of Minnesota.

Minnesota's new governor is very nearly typical of the 48 state executives in the nation. Their average age is 51: Thye, on entering office, is 47, carrying on Minnesota's recent Olson-Stassen tradition of youthful governors. Like two-thirds of the nation's state governors, Thye saw active service in World war I: he served in the air corps, rising from private to lieutenant. Like exactly half of the country's governors he is a Republican; the other half are Democrats.

He departs most from convention, perhaps—in the nation as well as in Minnesota's own political annals—by being a farmer. Only two other present governors in the United States call themselves farmers—and one is a rancher, the other a citrus grower.

It is a good thing for Minnesota to have a farmer-governor. Governor Thye is a part of the great, sturdy backbone of this state's population and economy, and one whose personality, integrity and progressivism command the admiration of that more than a third of Minnesota which is urban. He has the opportunity to carry forward the essential task of breaking down barriers and healing schisms between farm and city and welding Minnesotans into a still more tightly-knit group to help win the war to make this state's influence felt unitedly in the life of the nation and the world.

He starts with a clean page, with no encumbering commitments, and with the hearty hopes of the rank and file of Minnesotans that he may add to the luster of the state's good name and advance the progress of all our people.

Thyes to Get Larger Suite— *Hotel As 'Mansion'*

Minnesota's new executive mansion is a two-room suite in the Hotel St. Paul, the temporary quarters of the state's new Gov. Ed Thye and his wife, the former Myrtle Oliver of St. Paul.

Mrs. Thye, who thought she

was going to be the wife of a farmer, was courted by Mr. Thye before he entered the election race last Fall, hasn't even a kitchenette to work in, but that lack will be remedied next week when they move into a five-room apartment in the hotel, which is being redecorated for them.

It still will be a far cry from the country life the couple envisaged for themselves, but at least Mrs. Thye will be able to give her husband a home-cooked meal once in a while.

The Thyes were married in November, after the election.

The affable first lady is looking forward to moving into the new quarters, where she and Gov. Thye will be joined by his 18-year-old daughter, Jean, now away at school. The governor's first wife died in 1936.

Mrs. Thye lived before her marriage at 242 W. Winifred st. and was employed in the petroleum division of the Department of Taxation at the State Capitol, where she had worked since 1931.

She said today that she never has been so busy as since she quit her job. A great deal of her time has been taken up with appearing before women's clubs and other organizations and with the social aspects of the legislative session.

"I am really looking forward to settling down," was her comment.

Greetings Pour In On New Governor

Dispatch 4-28-43



Well-wishers sent a deluge of telegrams and letters of congratulations today to Gov. Ed Thyne as he began his first full day as the state's chief executive. Flowers

came, too. He is shown above at the desk in the office vacated Tuesday when Gov. Stassen resigned to become Lt. Comdr. Stassen of the Navy.

Super Star 4-28-43
Now It's Governor Thye

CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION was stirred up a couple of weeks ago as time approached for the change in the Minnesota governorship.

It went to the extreme of statements that a governor can't resign, that there is no provision for his resignation. This in face of the fact two of the state's most famous governors, Alexander Ramsey and Knute Nelson had resigned.

The Star Journal's political writer searched the records and the story of the process they had followed was set forth in these columns.

* * *

This precedent was followed to the letter yesterday and minutes of the affair might well run thus:

At 2:30 p.m. April 27, 1943, as Minnesota's supreme court, state officers, legislators and the public were assembled on the rotunda of the statehouse, Adj. Gen. Ellard A. Walsh stepped forward on the platform and announced:

"His Excellency, the Governor of Minnesota."

* * *

Governor Harold E. Stassen then stepped up to the desk and said:

"Lieutenant Governor Edward

J. Thye, I hereby present to you as duly elected lieutenant governor of Minnesota my resignation as governor."

* * *

At that point Stassen stopped speaking for a moment while he signed his name to the document and handed it to Thye.

He then continued to read from another copy of the resignation which contained his farewell to his successor and the people.

* * *

When he concluded, Governor Stassen turned to Chief Justice Henry M. Gallagher and said:

"Mr. Chief Justice, will you administer the oath as governor."

The oath was then administered and the lieutenant governor became Gov. Edward Thye.

The new governor responded briefly, bringing the formal ceremony to an end.

Incoming and Retiring Governors



Gov. Ed. Thye at the left and retiring Gov. Stassen at the microphone in the Capitol Tuesday.



Lt. Comdr. Harold E. Stassen, Mrs. Stassen and their son, Glenn, leave their South St. Paul home Tuesday afternoon, en route to the Union depot where Comdr. Stassen left for active duty in the U. S. Navy.

GOP Appoints Two Co-Chairmen

Complies With Final Request by Stassen

Complying with a final request by retiring Gov. Stassen, the Republican state central committee Tuesday afternoon dropped its plan to change state chairmen, and instead named two co-chairmen.

The committee took its action at a farewell luncheon for Stassen in the Athletic club, despite a few objections to junking of the plan previously made, by which Dr. R. C. Radabaugh of Hastings was to step out of the chairmanship and George C. Jones of Minneapolis step in.

Stassen relinquished the governorship Tuesday to Ed J. Thye to report for duty with the Navy at Great Lakes, Ill., as Lt. Comdr. Stassen. Thye moved up from the lieutenant governorship and was sworn in at ceremonies Tuesday afternoon.

The retiring governor announced he had conferred with Thye, who a few minutes later was to become governor, and Jones, and had their approval

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Stassen Proclamation

On Health Day Issued

Dispatch 4-28-43
Postscript on the regime of former Gov. Harold E. Stassen, who resigned Tuesday to enter the Navy:

A proclamation urging all citizens of Minnesota to join in observance of Child Health Day Saturday, signed by Stassen as governor, was issued today.

The proclamation calls attention to efforts of officials directing health, education, labor and welfare programs to safeguard the health of boys and girls with wartime jobs in factories, stores and offices and on farms.

TO THE PEOPLE:

Governor Stassen's Parting Message

Dispatch 4-19-43

The following is a parting message to the people of Minnesota written by former Gov. Harold E. Stassen before he resigned from office on Tuesday to go on active service in the United States Navy.

It was prepared by him in response to a request by the editor of the St. Paul Dispatch and Pioneer Press that as his last utterance in a civilian capacity for the duration of the war, he address the people of Minnesota through the columns of this newspaper with a message summarizing his years as governor and applying his observations so far as possible to the future.

He complied with this request by writing the article that follows.

By FORMER GOV. HAROLD E. STASSEN
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The common good, the joint interest, the mutual advantage must be constantly emphasized in a democracy.

In responding to the invitation of the St. Paul Dispatch and Pioneer Press to write a parting message to the people of the state, this is one principle that stands out as I look back over these five years.

Democracy gives to every group the right to organize and to advance its views, to promote its special programs. This is a great strength of democracy. It is a part of the freedom and liberty we all enjoy. It contributes to progress.

But it can also be a serious weakness if the special interests of certain groups or sections are pressed without regard to their effect upon the people as a whole.

Looking back over these years, it seems to me that the most constructive accomplishments have been those which emphasize the general good, or the common stake of all.

One of the early examples of this was our Minnesota Labor Peace Law. When it was enacted, it did not please either employer or labor. Labor did not like to be told that it must count ten and take one day for each count before a strike. Employers had had so much difficulty in labor relations in the years 1937 and 1938 that they felt laws much more stringent should be passed. They said, "What good will it do if you simply make labor wait ten days? They will only be better prepared for an effective strike."

But the law, in its moderation, and in its reliance upon the fact that public opinion had an opportunity to exert itself, as reliable information of the dispute became known through the press and radio during the waiting period, has succeeded far beyond the expectation of anyone at the time of its enactment.

Under it there has been a constant emphasis upon the desirability of capital and labor finding a meeting ground on their joint problems. The advantage to both of continuous production without stoppage has been emphasized. The result is that for the past four years Minnesota has had one of the best labor relations records in the country. Great credit should be given to the way in which organized labor and employers have cooperated with government in bringing about this record to the mutual advantage of all.

The Metropolitan Airways Bill of this recent session of the Legislature is another example of the emphasis on joint interest. Minneapolis and St. Paul, contesting with each other, in airways development, each handicapped the other. But through the emphasis of the joint interests of both, and a constructive attitude by the city officials of both Minneapolis and St. Paul, and good legislative leadership, an outstanding Metropolitan Airways law has been enacted. I believe that ten years from now this will be looked upon as one of the most significant pieces of legislation ever passed in Minnesota. It may well play an important part in the development of the Twin Cities as a crossways in the international air routes of the future. We are the present terminal of the route through Canada to Alaska and Siberia, China, India and Burma. Logically, under the conditions of the air and of the surface of the earth, we should continue to be a major air gateway to half of the world. We might well also develop into a great pivot point for travel between this route and the Northern routes to Newfoundland, Iceland and Europe, and the Southern route to South America and Africa. The entire state, the entire Midwest will benefit through such a development.

Progress in the years ahead will, in my judgment, to a large degree, be measured by the extent to which the joint interests of all is emphasized.

I hope that we hear more and more of the "Twin Cities of Minnesota" and less and less of

clashes between Minneapolis and St. Paul. This entire metropolitan area, as it grows and develops, contributes to each part of the area.

The years ahead should also find a lessening of the spirit of

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Gov. Stassen's Parting Message

Continued From Page 1

division between the rural parts of Minnesota and the cities of the first class. Actually their welfare is closely linked together. Neither could do very well without the other. Both are needed to make a healthy and prosperous state.

It is not uncommon in the search for the sound middle-ground of common advantage to find that all special groups are disappointed at the course that is taken. But it will also be found that in perspective, all groups will respect and support a fair effort to work out the middle course for the general good.

The same philosophical approach brings to our mind the questions of tolerance and understanding between our people. Many of us are inclined to be for equal rights except as to some certain group. We must realize that democracy cannot draw any lines. Discrimination always begins with one group, but recent world history shows that once started, it knows no bounds. It can well be said that he in America who seeks to light the flames of intolerance and hatred between races or creeds or class or section, actually lights a fire underneath his own house.

The same principle needs to be extended to emphasize the common stake of mankind in the peace and progress of the world. Just as the airplane brought the two cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul together, in the airways question, so it may prove the means of bringing together the peoples of different continents of this world. With the developments in aviation and in radio and mass production, the peoples of the world are living close together. We know that even now bombers leaving our Twin Cities are, within a few hours, winging their way outside this continent.

History tells us over and over again that whenever men are living close together, they need a government to prevent anarchy and conflicts and tragedies. Thus it will be in the world of tomorrow. The peoples of many nations will be living close together. They will need not only the desire to get along together in peace, but also a definite new and higher level of government to serve them and to emphasize the common interests and the general good.

There will need to be a basic emphasis upon human rights. There are those who point out that the economic competition which will exist between the British and ourselves, between the Russians and the British, between nation and nation, is a reason why peace or world organization cannot succeed.

Actually, economic competition is a healthy thing when it takes place within a framework or orderly government. It leads to the law of the jungle only where there is no other law to resolve its differences. Competition need not become conflict in the world sphere any more than it does on a national level.

Aviation is one of the most striking examples of this. We will need a type of Civil Aeronautics Authority on a world level. Such a body will establish uniform rates for flight between nations of the world. It will work out the reciprocal rights to land within respective nations. It will develop the right to fly over nations on established routes, stopping at designated and agreed airports, for fueling and repairs. It will maintain international radio beams, channels for flight, rules of the air, and stable airports in backward and undeveloped territories.

The sciences of travel and communications have made great strides. There is a need for an advance in the science of government to keep pace. The key to that advance in the science of government is the emphasis upon, not the selfish interests of a particular group or class or city, or nation, but the joint interests of the common good, the mutual advantage of men and women and children everywhere.

Wish Stassen Well at Farewell Dinner



Shown wishing Gov. Harold E. Stassen (left) Godspeed at a farewell dinner in his honor at Coffman Memorial union last night are Dr. Walter C. Coffey, president of the University of Minnesota and principal speaker; Jack L. Robinson, president of the Minnesota Junior Chamber of Commerce, who presented the governor with a plaque from civic organizations throughout the state, and John McGovern, toastmaster.



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