

RADIO ADDRESS BY HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF MINNEAPOLIS,  
PREPARED FOR DELIVERY OVER WLOL TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1945, 8:15 P. M.

Release to Press:  
P.M.Editions, Tuesday, April 10, 1945.

Tonight is a rather unique occasion for me. Throughout our city there are gatherings of friends and neighbors who have signed a card pledging support for my candidacy for the office of mayor.

They have organized themselves into a Humphrey for Mayor Volunteer Committee. They have arranged a series of radio listening parties to which they have invited their friends and neighbors. Their work has been deeply gratifying to me, especially in view of the evidence they have shown me of support of my candidacy from groups and individuals representing all sections of our city.

To these friends and neighbors, to all of you who are listening, I can only say that I wish it would be possible for me to be in your home this evening. I wish I could talk personally with you concerning this campaign and election.

But Minneapolis is a large city. It is not physically possible for me to sit down and meet and talk with each and every one of you.

So tonight I come to you by means of radio to tell you about the campaign, to discuss your place in it, and to talk about your responsibility for civic leadership.

I know you are anxious to become active and that you want to participate in this effort to revitalize our institutions of local government.

You know that these are not ordinary times. These are days of great decision. The armed forces of the United Nations are marching on to inevitable victory. The military and political unity which has been the substance of the United Nations will soon become permanent as a result of the conference at San Francisco.

An election in the midst of these tremendous and dramatic developments imposes great responsibilities upon all of us. We all realize that the first

task before us is the winning of this war and the securing of a just and durable peace.

But it is not easy to understand the relationship between the problems right here in Minneapolis and the great and dramatic events which are taking place on the fields of battle or in the conferences of the diplomats.

There is, however, a direct relationship and a definite need that we understand that each and every one of us has a part and that what each of us does affects the outcome.

We are a city of 500,000 people strategically located in the great middle-west. We are a vital war production area. We must man our factories. We must produce an ever-increasing flow of munitions and war materials. We must maintain industrial peace.

In all these respects we can be proud of the record the people of our city have made, despite the lack of effective leadership in the mayor's office during the last four years.

We can be proud of the fact that not a single strike has taken place in our factories during war time, proud of the activities of our local Red Cross, the work of our blood donor center, the contributions of our numerous social and community agencies. Yes, our city is a powerful factor in the winning of this war and the winning of this peace.

The part we, as members of a large metropolitan city, play in the war effort and in the movement leading to permanent peace makes it imperative that the mayor of this city be a leader of public opinion.

The mayor must take the lead in uniting our community behind the war effort and behind the program leading to attainment of a just and enduring peace.

Unfortunately, the mayor of this city has failed in this obligation. He has failed to provide effective leadership in bringing to the attention of

our people the importance of the great proposals as laid down at Bretton Woods and Dumbarton Oaks.

By his failure to act in these matters the mayor has demonstrated that he does not understand the inter-relationship between world peace and economic security.

I wish tonight to call upon the present mayor of Minneapolis to set aside the week of April 23 through April 29 as United Nations Week. I wish to urge that the mayor call together all groups that are interested in establishment of a permanent United Nations organization to outline a program of education and information in support of the United Nations conference at San Francisco.

Let there be no mistake about it. Upon the success or failure of the San Francisco conference will depend whether future generations shall live in peace or face the resurgence of war.

In America today, as in no other country, the success of government must rest upon the capacity of the individual citizen to understand or manage his own political affairs.

We here on the home front have a duty as great as that of our fighting men. That duty is one of steeping ourselves in the democratic faith, of knowing not only what we are fighting against but of understanding what we are fighting for.

That duty involves making democracy real at home. It means that our faith in democracy must be given concrete expression in our political, social and economic institutions.

It means the participation of every adult citizen in the determination of our political life. Democracy can be meaningful only if government is responsive to the needs and desires of the great mass of people. A democratic

government cannot afford to have great sections of its population in poverty and unemployment, living in slums and insecurity.

A democratic government cannot afford the exploitation of man by man. A world constructed on democratic principles must be a world that practices the brotherhood of all men on a local, national, and international basis.

It is against this backdrop of momentous national and international events that we are now engaged in a municipal election campaign. These events impose upon us the responsibility of conducting a campaign that deals with these issues of vital and lasting importance.

Too often have whispers and slanders and personal insults overshadowed the real issues. I want you to know that I am not willing to be a party to a campaign of slander. I am not interested in attacking the character or personality of those who are my opponents in this election.

I ask you as my friends -- and now I speak especially to those of you who have pledged your support to me -- to conduct yourself on a high level of intellectual honesty and decency.

I want this campaign to be informative and educational -- not merely political. I want this campaign to be an educational forum directed at the objective of promoting an intelligent understanding of the problems of our city and the issues of our time.

I propose to present a program of action looking to the future and not merely to recite the sins and mistakes of the past.

I say to you frankly and in all sincerity that during this campaign, and if elected, I shall do my utmost to help make our citizens aware of our government of our community. I believe that democracy is, above all, a community process. I believe that no government can long function democratically without an enlightened and awakened citizen body.

Thus, I propose during this campaign to speak directly to you about our city government, about our community, about our problems, and about our opportunities for a richer, fuller, and better future.

I want each of you to conduct yourself in this campaign in such a manner that whether we win or lose it will be said that this campaign was a contribution to the education and development of our city.

In future radio broadcasts I shall discuss, in a detailed and forthright manner, the major problems that require solution in our community. Tonight I wish briefly to discuss one aspect of Minneapolis government which, I feel, has been the subject of much confusion.

We have been told again and again that the mayor of this city is powerless to do anything constructive. We have been told that it is impossible, under the existing charter and state laws, for the mayor to accomplish anything.

In short, we have been told that the highest office of this city is an office without power or prestige, that we are a city without executive authority.

I do not believe this. If this understanding of the mayor's office is commonly held it is because the mayor's office has been permitted to deteriorate in power and prestige because the present occupant of that office has been unwilling or unable to exercise the powers placed by charter and law in the position.

I have studied our city charter and have read many of the ordinances and court decisions relating to the charter. I have also made a systematic study of the forms of government in other large cities of the United States.

Just recently, on a tour in the East, I had the opportunity of visiting with Mayor LaGuardia of New York, Mayor Wilson Wyatt of Louisville, the former Mayor Lausche of Cleveland, now governor of Ohio, and Mayor Bohn

of Milwaukee. In my conversations with these men, I learned of the problems these men faced when they took office, and in so many instances their problems were identical with those of Minneapolis.

The records of these men are known to many of you. They have succeeded in restoring the office of mayor to a position of prestige and they have succeeded in revitalizing the government of their cities.

Minneapolis city government is in need of revitalization. It needs the stimulation of new ideas to fight against the corrosion of indifference that has so long characterized the mayor's office. It needs the type of community redevelopment that will provide jobs for returning veterans in the post-war, a housing program that will provide clean and wholesome living conditions, and a number of other programs aimed at social and economic betterment. I will discuss these programs in detail in my future broadcasts. Tonight I wish to emphasize this fact: That it is the mayor's office that must, under our present form of government, supply the leadership under which these programs are to be realized.

Our mayor is not without real power. A study of the charter reveals that he has complete supervision of the police department. He has appointment power to the Civil Service Commission, the City Planning Commission, and the Board of Public Welfare. He has ex-officio membership or appointive power on all the major boards and commissions.

The mayor's appointive power and his right to sit on various boards permits him -- if he wishes and has the ability -- to provide effective leadership in the solution of our community problems.

Moreover, he can be of assistance in guiding and influencing the city council. The charter permits him to appear before the council whenever he wishes. His office could serve as a clearing house for community planning and development.

The mayor could -- and this I propose to do as one of my first acts in office -- establish a Greater Minneapolis Association. This association would involve all the various private and public agencies in a program of close cooperation with the city planning commission in the development, promotion, and attainment of plans for civic and community betterment.

I emphasize this point, that the mayor's office can be one of real influence in our government. I emphasize this point because I wish to lay before the citizens of Minneapolis an extensive program of civic betterment, which is predicated on the knowledge that such a program can be realized through leadership supplied by the mayor working in cooperation with the city council and the other boards and commissions.

We must understand the mayor's office for what it is. It is not without power and influence. There is no justification for the claims that the mayor can do nothing of importance under the terms of the city charter.

The power is there. The position and authority are guaranteed. It is up to us to clear away this fiction of weakness and to launch forward in the firm conviction that we can have and will have a greater Minneapolis.

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*Good evening Ladies & Gent*

*An unusually gratifying*

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I know you are anxious to become active and that you want to participate in this effort to revitalize our institutions of local government.

You know that these are not ordinary times. These are days of great decision. The armed forces of the United Nations are marching on to inevitable victory. The military and political unity which has been the substance of the United Nations will soon become permanent as a result of the conference at San Francisco.

An election in the midst of these tremendous and dramatic developments imposes great responsibilities upon all of us. We all realize that the first

task before us is the winning of this war and the securing of a just and durable peace.

~~But~~ <sup>Sometimes</sup> it is not easy to understand the relationship between the problems right here in Minneapolis and the great and dramatic events which are taking place on the fields of battle or in the conferences of the diplomats.

There is, however, a direct relationship <sup>there is</sup> and a definite need, that we understand that each and every one of us has a part, and that what each of us does, affects the outcome. *We need only reflect for a moment, to see <sup>the</sup> importance of our every act.*

We are a city of 500,000 people strategically located in the great middle-west. *we are the heart of a great agricultural ~~area~~ and we will* We are a vital war production center. We must man our factories.

We must produce an ever-increasing flow of munitions and war materials. We must <sup>and we will</sup> maintain industrial peace. *We must and we will meet every demand and sacrifice required of us.*

In all these respects we can be proud of the record the people of our city have made, ~~despite the lack of effective leadership in the mayor's office during the last four years.~~

We can be proud of the fact that not a single strike has taken place in our factories during war time. <sup>we are</sup> *Minneapolis industrial management and organized labor* proud of the activities of our local Red Cross, the work of our blood donor center, <sup>the schools, the churches,</sup> the contributions of our numerous *have been faithful and Patriotic.* social and community agencies. Yes, our city is a powerful factor in the winning of this war and the winning of this peace.

The part we, as <sup>citizens</sup> ~~members~~ of a large metropolitan city, play in the war effort and in the movement leading to permanent peace makes it imperative that the mayor of this city be a leader of public opinion.

~~The mayor must take the lead in uniting our community behind the war effort and behind the program leading to attainment of a just and enduring peace.~~

Unfortunately, the mayor of this city has failed in this obligation. He has failed to provide effective leadership in bringing to the attention of

our people the importance of the great proposals as laid down at Bretton Woods and Dumbarton Oaks *and other historic international meetings*

By his failure to act in these matters the mayor has demonstrated that he does not understand the inter-relationship between world peace and economic security. *between world security and Minneapolis prosperity.*

I wish tonight to call upon the present mayor of Minneapolis to set aside the week of April 23 through April 29 as United Nations Week. I wish to urge that the mayor call together all groups that are interested in establishment of a permanent United Nations organization to outline a <sup>coordinated</sup> program of education and information in support of the United Nations conference at San Francisco.

Let there be no mistake about it. Upon the success or failure of the San Francisco conference will depend whether future generations shall live in peace or face the resurgence of war.

In America today, as in no other country, the success of government must rest upon the capacity of the individual citizen to understand or manage his own political affairs.

We here on the home front have a duty as great as that of our fighting men. That duty is one of steeping ourselves in the democratic faith, of knowing not only what we are fighting against but of understanding what we are fighting for.

That duty involves making democracy real at home. It means that our faith in democracy must be given concrete expression in our political, social and economic institutions.

It means the participation of every adult citizen in the determination of our political life. Democracy can be meaningful only if government is responsive to the needs and desires of the great mass of people. A democratic

government cannot afford to have great sections of its population in poverty and unemployment, living in slums and insecurity.

A democratic government cannot afford the exploitation of man by man. A world constructed on democratic principles must be a world that practices the brotherhood of all men on a local, national, and international basis. — (Pause)

# It is against this backdrop of momentous national and international events that we are now engaged in a municipal election campaign. These events, impose upon us the responsibility of conducting a campaign that deals with these issues of vital and lasting importance. — (Pause)

Too often have whispers and slanders and personal insults overshadowed the real issues. I want you to know that I am not willing to be a party to a campaign of slander. I am not interested in attacking the character or personality of those who are my opponents in this election.

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I want this campaign to be informative and educational -- not merely political. I ~~want~~ this campaign to be an educational forum directed at the objective of promoting an intelligent understanding of the problems of our city and the issues of our time.

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I want each of you to conduct yourself in this campaign in such a manner that whether we win or lose,  $\longrightarrow$  it will be said that this campaign was a contribution to the education and development of our city.  $\longrightarrow$  (Pause)

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Moreover, he can be of assistance in guiding and influencing the city council. The charter permits him to appear before the council whenever he wishes. His office could <sup>and should</sup> serve as a clearing house for community planning and development.

The mayor could -- and this I propose to do as one of my first acts in office -- establish a Greater Minneapolis Association. This association would involve all the various private and public agencies in a program of close cooperation with the city planning commission in the development, promotion, and attainment of plans for civic and community betterment.

I emphasize "this" point, that the mayor's office can be one of real influence in our government. I emphasize ~~as~~ this point because I wish to lay before the citizens of Minneapolis an extensive program of civic betterment, which is predicated on the knowledge that such a program can be realized through leadership supplied by the mayor working in cooperation with the city council and the other boards and commissions.

We must understand the mayor's office for what it is. It is not without <sup>authority</sup> ~~power~~ and influence. There is no justification for the claims that the mayor can do nothing of importance under the terms of the city charter.

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Kenneth Johnson

DU-3604

3218 Winona

51st + 52nd

right off 34th

will put lawn  
sign





# Minnesota Historical Society

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