

RADIO ADDRESS BY HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF MINNEAPOLIS,
PREPARED FOR DELIVERY OVER WLWL TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1945, 8:15 P.M.

The death of Franklin Roosevelt came as a great shock to the entire world. His wisdom and courage had brought new hope to a suffering humanity. He was in truth a citizen of the world. His life symbolized a promise of a world without fear. He charted new plans of social action. He dared to dream new visions of democratic achievement. His perspective was world-wide. He, like his great contemporary, Wendell Willkie, knew the meaning of the term "One World".

His death leaves us a great challenge. America must keep faith with Franklin Roosevelt. America must ensure, by its devotion to democratic ideals and by its leadership, the creation of a permanent United Nations to guarantee a world free from war.

This was our President's dream. It remains with us to make it a living reality. This is the only memorial worthy of the memory of Franklin Roosevelt.

That we must and will move ahead to the creation of this memorial was the central theme of the reassuring address made by President Truman yesterday to our Congress. Our New President appealed to the American people to intensify their determination in the serious days ahead to carry through to the attainment of world peace and economic security.

The spontaneous response to President Truman's message proves the essential soundness of our governmental system and our democratic way of life. Here is a man of the people who calls upon the people for their confidence and their loyalty.

Great responsibility has been thrust upon him at a time unprecedented in history. I am proud to say that it has been my privilege to know President Truman, to know him as a friend and as a governmental leader. I can assure you that, because of his intimate knowledge of government, his abiding faith in the people, his courage and his humility, he will

serve with distinction and honor as our President.

But we, the people, have a real duty and responsibility on our part to understand the basic economic and political causes of the present war and the responsibilities for future world order that belongs to America.

The hope of democratic government lies in the wisdom of the people. If America is to assume her proper place in a world in need of rebuilding, America must have the impelling force of public will to carry through.

The plain people, yes, the ordinary citizen, must be intellectually and morally equipped to make the right decisions.

In my radio address last week I talked to you about the nature of this campaign. I said that whispers, slander, and personal insult too often have over-shadowed the real issues. I told you that I am not willing to be a party to such a campaign and I asked you, as my friends, to conduct yourself on a high level of intellectual honesty and decency.

I wish to state again that I want this campaign to be informative and educational -- not merely political. I want to discuss issues and not personalities. I believe that democracy is, above all, a community process and I believe that no government can long function democratically without an enlightened and awakened citizen body.

Because I hold these beliefs, I intend, during the period of this campaign and I will continue, when elected, to speak directly to the people of Minneapolis about our city government, about our community, and about our problems.

I again remind you that I have too much respect for our city, for my friends, for my family, and for my opponents to ever have it said that Hubert Humphrey engaged in a campaign of slander.

There are those who spread rumor. There are those who deliberately lie. I will not fight with these weapons. The only answer to a lie is the truth. And so I say to those who actively support my candidacy,

I want you to be forthright -- to be informed about city issues, to have your facts correct, and to believe sincerely in our program.

Last week I discussed with you some of the powers and responsibilities of the mayor's office. I called your attention to the fact that the office of mayor of this city is not without authority. The mayor has complete supervision over the police department, and he has appointment power to the Civil Service Commission, the City Planning Commission, and the Board of Public Welfare.

He is an ex-officio member of nearly all the boards and commissions of this city. He is in a position to bring to the attention of these boards and agencies his program and his policies pertaining to our municipal government. He can be and should be in constant touch with our City Council. His office can and should serve as a clearing house for community planning and community redevelopment.

Any position or job can be dull or unimportant if the individual wishes to make it so. Any office or position can be one of importance or strength if the occupant has the initiative, the imagination, and the capacity to make it so.

I repeat, the mayor of this city can be an official with influence and prestige. It is, therefore, most unfortunate that the present mayor of this city has been unwilling or unable to exercise the powers placed by charter and law in his position.

I plan, when elected, to inaugurate a regular series of radio programs directed to the citizens of Minneapolis in which I will discuss the problems of our municipal government and the programs and plans of our various boards and commissions.

I will give particular attention to the City Planning Commission and to the ~~problems~~^{development} of our library, recreational and welfare agencies. From time to time it will be necessary to discuss financial matters and

and to inform the public about the financial status of our city and the programs and plans which we will undertake in the post-war period.

A mayor of Minneapolis who is sincerely interested in the welfare and the future of our city will want an informed public. The mayor can and should serve as a public relations officer between the city government and the electorate.

In this respect the present mayor has failed. He has refused to take the people into his confidence. The mayor's office is our house of mystery -- mysteriously controlled by an invisible power responsible to no one.

The mayor of this city can and should take a leading position in the promotion of industrial peace and understanding between the forces of capital and labor. Minneapolis cannot afford the extravagances and waste of lock-outs and strikes. Just as the three great national leaders of business and labor have outlined a charter of industrial peace, so the mayor of this city should provide leadership in obtaining similar pledges of good faith and cooperation from local business management and labor organizations. He can and should encourage the growth of labor management committees. The effectiveness of such committees has been proven again and again in our war production program.

I am particularly interested in this matter because I am a candidate endorsed by the three great sections of organized labor in this city -- the American Federation of Labor, the Congress of Industrial Organizations and the Railroad Brotherhoods. I am proud of this endorsement -- this pledge of faith in me but I want it clearly understood that I am the candidate of no special interest and that when elected I will not be labor's mayor, the mayor of business, nor the mayor of any particular group. ^{we must be} I am community-minded. I know that Minneapolis wants and

needs a mayor that will be mayor for all the people -- a mayor who believes in the people -- a mayor who will serve all the people. I am aware of the public trust and responsibility that will be placed in me as mayor. That is the type of mayor labor wants. That is the type of mayor business wants. We have had too much of special privileges for special interests.] There is a mysterious and insidious influence that seems to have the key to the mayor's office -- there is an invisible government -- responsible to no one -- that dictates in this city.

[One is not worthy of the respect and confidence of this community if he becomes a pawn of any special interest -- whether it is business, labor or the rackets.]

Another important way in which the mayor can and should serve our community is by working closely with the agencies of federal and state government. We know that the pattern of government in America is one of ever closer relationships between federal, state and local levels of government.

Minneapolis pays a great deal in taxes to both state and national treasuries. We should make sure that we receive our fair share of the grants, subsidies, and allotments which are provided for cities of our size under state and federal law. In order that this be accomplished we need a mayor who can deal effectively with the officials in Washington and in our state capital.

We have heard much about centralization of authority and power in the hands of the federal government and this can be a real danger. It is, therefore, extremely important that we become ardent champions of efficient and dynamic local government.

To permit disintegration and deterioration of local government is to invite centralized power on a state and national level.

As our state legislative session comes to an end, we in Minneapolis are acutely aware of one aspect of this problem, namely our relationship with the state government.

This relationship involves conflicts that have been permitted to develop between the urban and rural sections of the state. The mayor of this city should have long ago recognized it as his duty and responsibility to go out into the state and talk to the people of the smaller communities and to visit with farm leaders and community leaders in the rural areas about our mutual problems.

In each legislative session Minneapolis is denied its just claims. We are facing an ever-growing problem of finances and taxation. Every effort to obtain our proportionate share from state revenues has been defeated. I call this a challenge which cannot be ignored.

It is imperative that the mayor join with responsible civic leaders in launching a campaign of education and information as well as political action to assure our city that in the next legislative session we will have more sympathetic understanding and treatment by our friends and neighbors from the rural areas.

I pledge to the people of Minneapolis that I will look upon this responsibility as one of my major tasks. I know it can be done because I believe that people in the farm areas as well as the cities are fair-minded and are willing to see the other man's problems.

Let us face the facts. Under present conditions, reapportionment in our legislature is a remote possibility. Our financial problems, our problems of taxation must be met in the same manner in which the great national and international problems of unity and understanding are determined.

Surely, if we can promote a spirit of understanding and cooperation between the members of the United Nations on an international level, we must be capable of creating a spirit of understanding and fair-mindedness between the rural and urban areas in the state of Minnesota.

It will do no good to chastize and criticize those persons who represent the smaller communities and the rural areas. We have no right to distrust their sincerity. A city that has permitted itself to suffer from the publicity of lax law enforcement cannot expect favorable consideration for its claims in a legislature that has the predominance of rural representation.

It becomes our task to meet this situation with realistic and practical measures. Two years from now another legislature will be in session. The intervening period should be used for a concerted and well-planned program of information and education. There must be a unity of effort on the part of every group in our city.

The mayor of this city should join with civic leaders to mobilize immediately our forces and go to the people with our problems. Surely, if we believe in the value of public education, if our belief in democracy is meaningful, then we can trust the ultimate fair-mindedness and reasonableness of the people.

Mothers and fathers in the smaller cities and rural areas know that many of their sons and daughters will come to the city. They are not going to be unfair in their attitude, if they come to understand the inter-dependence between the urban and rural sections.

We have a type of isolationism here which has never been properly analyzed. All too often we have called those persons isolationists who do not see the relationship of our nation to the affairs of other nations.

But isolationism is not limited to a debate between nationalism and internationalism. Isolationism is real when any group of citizens in any area refuses to recognize that the problems of one area fundamentally affects the health, welfare, and security of another area.

I am confident that we can bring a better understanding between urban and rural representatives because I have talked before and visited with many farm groups and leaders. They are splendid people. They are intelligent citizens. They want to know the facts and they want to enjoy the fellowship that comes with understanding.

The people of this nation and state can have a great future. Minneapolis can and should play a major role in the attainment of that future. We owe it to ourselves and our neighbors to create a unity that will guarantee the fulfillment of our share in a new and better world.

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We have heard much about centralization of authority and power in the hands of the federal government and this can be a real danger. It is, therefore, extremely important that we become ardent champions of efficient and dynamic local government. *we must revitalize "home rule"*

To permit disintegration and deterioration of local government is to invite centralized power on a state and national level. ——— (Pause)

As our state legislative session comes to an end, we in Minneapolis are acutely aware of one aspect of this problem, namely our relationship with the state government.

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From Humphrey form Mayor
Volunteer Headquarters
402 Second Avenue So.
Minneapolis, Minn.
MA 647.

For Release:
PM, Tuesday, April 17, 1945

Failure of the present mayor to provide leadership in solving the city's "ever-growing problem of finances and taxation" was assailed by Hubert H. Humphrey, candidate for mayor, in a talk prepared for delivery today (Tuesday) over WLOL at 8:15 p.m.

Humphrey said that, because the city has not had proper leadership in its attempts to obtain legislative assistance in solution of its financial problem, "every effort to obtain our proportionate share from state revenues has been defeated."

He dealt at length with the urban-rural antagonism in the legislature and said it was the duty of the mayor to "join with responsible civic leaders in launching a campaign of education and information to assure our city that in the next legislative session we will have more sympathetic understanding and treatment by our friends and neighbors from the rural areas."

He said that Minneapolis has "no right to distrust" the sincerity of the rural legislator because "a city that has permitted itself to suffer from the publicity of tax law enforcement throughout the state cannot expect favorable consideration for its claims in a legislature that has a predominance of rural representation."

"It becomes our task," he said, "to meet this situation with realistic and practical measures. Two years from now there will be another legislative session. The intervening period should be used for a concerted and well-planned program of information and education. There must be a unity of effort on the part of every group in our city."

Humphrey described the misunderstanding between urban and rural sections of the legislature as a type of "isolationism," wherein the interdependence of

the various sections of the state is not fully appreciated.

"Isolationism," he said, "is not limited to a debate between nationalism and internationalism. Isolationism is real when any group of citizens in any area refuses to recognize that the problems of one area fundamentally affects the health, welfare, and security of another area."

He said he was confident that a better understanding between urban and rural representatives could be achieved if there was a program aimed at providing dissemination of full information concerning the plight of the city.

Humphrey, stressing the different ways in which a mayor can supply leadership in the solution of community problems, warned that by permitting "disintegration and deterioration of local government" the public invites the danger of "centralized power on a state and national level."

"We have heard much about centralization of authority and power in the hands of the federal government," Humphrey said, "and this can be a real danger. It is, therefore, extremely important that we become ardent champions of efficient and dynamic local government."

Humphrey said the mayor "can and should take a leading position in the promotion of industrial peace and the promotion of understanding between the forces of capital and labor."

He said that just as the three great national leaders of business and labor have outlined a charter of industrial peace, so the mayor of this city should provide leadership in obtaining similar pledges of good faith and cooperation from local business management and labor organizations.

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

will make his second radio address in his campaign

FOR : MAYOR

WLOL - TUES. APRIL 17 - 8:15 P.M.

- Invite your friends in for a listening party, or
- Call your friends and tell them to listen.

Prepared and circulated by the Humphrey for Mayor Volunteer
Committee, 7 South Sixth Street, Mrs. H. A. Jensen, secretary



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Hubert H. Humphrey
622 5th Street S. E.
Minneapolis, Minn.

Will you please send me
a copy of Mr. Humphrey's
talk of Apr 17- Thanks -

Mrs E. Rea.

4019 Washington Ave N.
mpls 12 Minn

sent
4/20/45
at
shop



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

W. L. O. I.

City



Minnesota Historical Society

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