

RADIO ADDRESS BY HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF MINNEAPOLIS
PREPARED FOR DELIVERY OVER WLWL TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 1945, 8:15 P.M.

The enthusiastic response to my first two radio talks in this series has been deeply gratifying to me. I am greatly honored that so many of you have asked to attend this broadcast in person. It is therefore with great satisfaction that I speak tonight to those of you in the studio and in the radio audience.

Last week in my second radio broadcast I discussed with you the powers and responsibilities of the mayor's office. I called to your attention that the office of mayor is not without authority. I reviewed with you the official responsibilities of the mayor's office as outlined in the city charter and I discussed the great opportunity that exists for leadership by the right kind of mayor in the matter of community planning and community redevelopment.

I wish to state again this fact, the present mayor has been unwilling or unable to exercise the powers placed by charter and law in the office which he holds.

I specifically call to your attention the deplorable condition of our city financial structure and the obvious failure of the present mayor to do anything constructive to remedy this situation during the four years he has been in office.

Our city is in debt over \$50,000,000. Last year our city operated on a deficit of approximately \$800,000. It is important that the people of Minneapolis be informed of these facts about our city government.

But the people have been kept in the dark as to the financial condition of our city. The present mayor, who is a member of the Board of Estimate and Taxation, and, who, under terms of the charter, can review the reports and accounts of any office of our city, has never brought our fiscal problems out into the open.

The mayor has not consulted with business. He has not consulted with labor. He has not talked or conferred with any substantial group of our civic leaders about this all-important problem. He has contented himself with publicity about the minor and unimportant ceremonial functions of his office and has never given serious attention to the really fundamental problems of finance, housing, urban redevelopment, slum clearance and the like.

Let me give you an example of the conduct of our city's business. Recently an officer of our city government appeared before a congressional sub-committee in Washington. This city official presented to the sub-committee a report of the city planning commission. This report dealt with the public works programs which are being considered for the post-war period in Minneapolis.

He told the sub-committee that Minneapolis was planning \$141,000,000 of public works projects. But, when he was asked by a member of the sub-committee how much money our city could set aside as its share of the costs, he remarked, 'not one dollar.'

What kind of planning is this? On the other hand, the present administration permits the city to operate on a huge deficit without making any concerted effort to remedy the city's insolvency and, on the other hand, the present administration goes blithely along talking about grandiose post-war schemes for which there is no money.

Talking about grandiose post-war plans without doing something to build a sound financial structure which will make possible their realization will never build a greater Minneapolis. The present mayor should know that talking alone accomplishes nothing. It's doing things that counts.

As I have told you and as I have made clear to the people of Minneapolis the right kind of a mayor can do things.

The mayor of Minneapolis is a member of the City Planning Commission. He is also a member of the Board of Estimate and Taxation. He can and should be in constant touch with our City Council. It is his duty to coordinate the agencies of our government.

Apparently the present mayor has operated on the theory of never letting his right hand know what his left hand is doing.

What sort of administration is it that dreams up grandiose plans and promises for the post-war period on the one hand and refuses to face the stark reality of our economic and financial condition on the other hand?

This is what I call being a visionary. This is being impractical. There isn't one iota of business sense in this sort of management.

Two years ago in my campaign for the office of mayor I repeatedly called upon the present mayor of this city to outline his financial program in accordance with the needed program of post-war planning.

Two years ago I called upon the present mayor to do something about obtaining additional revenues. I specifically suggested in a broadcast on June 1, 1943, that the mayor of this city supply leadership in a legislative program to obtain a fair share of state revenues for the City of Minneapolis.

I endorsed such programs as the sharing of the gross earnings tax on public utilities. Had this program been carried out, our city would have received approximately \$500,000 in additional revenue.

During the legislative session just ended the present mayor failed to provide any real leadership in securing action leading to a solution of our city's critical financial problem.

Now that the legislative session is over and the present mayor's campaign for re-election is under way, he suddenly comes to life and demands a survey.

This is shameless politics. The present mayor has had four years to study this problem. He has had four years to bring our financial difficulties to the attention of our people. He has had four years to talk with the governor and legislative leaders. He has had four years to work with mayors of other municipalities in order to mobilize their strength behind a well-planned program directed towards the solution of municipal financial matters.

There have been three legislative sessions since the present mayor entered office. He has had more than ample time to consult with our governor and our legislative leaders.

The present mayor should know also that for the last six years the League of Minnesota Municipalities has been engaged in a most exhaustive survey of the problems of city finances. He should know that its findings could be used as a basis for a thorough-going program of modern taxation and tax-sharing that would go a long way in solving the problem.

The League's studies are so complete that there is no need for further exhaustive study and had the mayor familiarized himself with these studies he could have presented our cities problem to the regular legislative sessions of 1943 and 1945 or to the special session called in 1944.

Isn't it amazing that even at this late date, after four years in office, the mayor has no program to present for the solution of our financial difficulties? He talks about the need for a survey which means that the legislative session of 1947 may consider the proposal for a survey and by 1949 the legislature then may begin actual consideration of the proposals produced by the survey.

The mayor ought to learn that talk will accomplish nothing. It is doing things that counts. Letters to the governor and stories to the press will never solve this problem. It is doing things that counts.

It is unfortunate for our city that the failure of the present mayor to take positive steps to deal with our financial problem has not been his only failure. He also has failed to provide any real leadership in the development and implementation of post-war plans for Minneapolis.

Let me be specific:

On February 17, 1943, over two years ago, our City Planning Commission, of which the present mayor is a member, suggested that an organization, to be called the Post-war Development Council, be formed. It would include representatives of civic organizations, technical experts, representatives of labor, business and social agencies.

In my campaign two years ago I outlined, in considerable detail, a proposal for the establishment of such a Post-war Development Council, or, as I have since suggested along with other civic minded people, a Greater Minneapolis Association. Such a council would become our civilian defense organization for peace time.

I called upon the present mayor of this city to establish a committee of citizens representing every interest in our city. This committee would collaborate with the City Planning Commission in the formulation of an over-all post-war development program. There would be a research and technical division, sharing the responsibility for fact finding, for determining the city's needs and for the gathering of data on the city's present situation. There would be a ways and means committee to study the financial and legal problems and to determine procedures for getting plans into actual operation.

Government and community, business and labor, social agencies and financial institutions would work together. I stated then and I re-state it now, the City Planning Commission cannot be expected to know all of our needs or to chart our entire future. Government alone cannot save us from disaster.

The present mayor of this city is a member of the Planning Commission. He should have been familiar with the recommendations and the reports of that commission. He should have taken positive action on the basis of those reports and established a Greater Minneapolis Association, but, as in other matters which require leadership, nothing was done.

An excellent proposal was filed away, precious time was lost. The mayor of this city did nothing to set in motion a community organization to guarantee a great future for Minneapolis.

I say to you again, it is not publicity, it is not headlines that count -- it is doing things that counts.

It's always "too little and too late". Too little law enforcement and too late to apprehend the culprits. Too little support for housing programs and too late to be sincere. Too little cooperation with our legislature, and too late to count. Always and always, through four years, -- too little and too late. The latest example being the decision on the part of our legislature to take Minnesota off war time. Governor Thye states the issue clearly. He said, and I quote, "action should have been taken when the legislature was in session, instead of waiting until the legislature adjourned." The mayor of this city, as the governor points out, knew the bill was under consideration and protests should have been made while the measure was in process of being enacted. Again too little -- again too late.

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But the people have been kept in the dark as to the financial condition of our city. The present mayor, who is a member of the Board of Estimate and Taxation, and, who, under the terms of the charter, can review the reports and accounts of any office of our city, has never brought our fiscal problems out into the open. As in all too many other matters, the mayor's office has been a house of mystery.

The mayor has not consulted with business! He has not consulted with labor! He has not ~~talked~~ conferred with any substantial group of our civic leaders about this all-important problem. He has contented himself with publicity about the minor and unimportant ceremonial functions of his office and has never given serious attention to the really fundamental problems of finance, housing, urban redevelopment, slum clearance and the like.

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let lose a barrage of criticism and condemnation of the rural legislators. "If ever the barn door had been locked after the horse had been stolen," this is a classic example. Of course, it might be good publicity -- it might be good politics, but I understand that it is doing things that counts and doing things when the time for doing them is at hand.

Governor Thye states the issue clearly. He said, and I quote, "action should have been taken when the legislature was in session, instead of waiting until the legislature adjourned." The mayor of this city, as the governor points out, knew the bill was under consideration and protests should have been made while the measure was in process of being enacted. Again too little -- again too late. (The antagonism which this situation has aroused between urban and rural groups will do little to help in solving our financial difficulties and our other municipal problems in the next legislative session.) Let us be ever mindful of the fact that Minneapolis is at the very heart of Minnesota; that we are the gateway to the great Northwest. The type of leadership that exists in Minneapolis will go a long ways towards determining the future of the Northwest. We have an obligation not only unto ourselves but to others. If we are to build a society dedicated to peace and security, if we are to strengthen the institutions of democratic government, if we are to provide opportunities for better living, we must begin right here at Home.

This could be out

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT FOR RADIO TALK, APRIL 24, 1945

ANNOUNCER: The following time has been purchased by a group of
Minneapolis businessmen headed by Charles B. Thomes
in order to present a public address by Hubert H. Humphrey, candidate
for mayor.

INTRODUCTION BY ANNOUNCER

Tonight we are presenting the third in a series of radio talks by Hubert H. Humphrey, candidate for mayor. Mr. Humphrey's educational background, his administrative and business experience, and his positive and constructive program have aroused unprecedented support for his candidacy. The response to his first two addresses in this radio series has been extremely enthusiastic. There have been many requests to hear Mr. Humphrey broadcast in person. Therefore, the Humphrey for Mayor Volunteer Committee which is made up of more than 300 citizens in all walks of life has arranged tonight for a large number of its members to attend the studio broadcast. The committee and the group of businessmen sponsoring this broadcast take great pleasure in presenting to those of you in the studio and to the radio audience the next mayor of Minneapolis, Mr. Hubert H. Humphrey:

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT FOR RADIO TALK, APRIL 24, 1945

ANNOUNCER: You have been listening to an address by Robert H. Humphrey,
candidate for mayor. Time for this broadcast was purchased
Minneapolis
by a group of businessmen headed by Charles B. Thomas. Copies of this
broadcast may be obtained by writing this station. Mr. Humphrey will be
heard again over this same station, same time next Tuesday evening.

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HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Your Candidate

FOR MAYOR

WILL MAKE HIS 3RD RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRIMARY CAMPAIGN

TUES. APRIL 24 8:15 PM WLOL

Mr. Humphrey will speak over the same station, same time,
same day - on Tuesday May 1 and Tuesday, May 8.

Prepared and circulated by the Humphrey for Mayor Volunteer
Committee, 402 - 2nd Ave. S., GE 9673. Mrs. H.A.Jensen,
Secretary.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

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

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