

RADIO ADDRESS BY HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF MINNEAPOLIS
PREPARED FOR DELIVERY OVER WLOL WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1945, 8:15 P .M.

We have just passed through a week of victory -- a week of good news -- a week of glorious triumph. The European war is over. The military might of the Nazi-Germany has been overwhelmingly crushed. The Hitler conspiracy to rule the world has been ground into a million pieces. After more than five desperate years, victory rests today upon the banners of the United Nations.

V-E Day found freedom loving people rejoicing in their victory, but, as President Truman said, "our rejoicing is sobered and subdued by a supreme consciousness of the terrible price we have paid to rid the world of Hitler and his evil band." V-E Day proved again to the world that a democracy can and will fight even more effectively than a dictatorship.

We can honestly say that never before in our history have we done so well. Never in our history have we produced so much, equipped an army so adequately or performed such brilliant military strategy.

The European phase of the war has ended, but we have still to defeat the treacherous Japanese enemy in the far stretches of the Pacific. The war has not ended. Peace has not yet come. We still have a tremendous job to do. There are still dark days ahead before total victory will be ours.

We will win. Workers will not permit the victory in Europe to slow down production. Now is the time to step up production. We have an enemy on the defensive. American labor has a promise to keep. American business has an obligation to fulfill. That is the promise and obligation to free this world from the last remaining bonds of slavery. America will remain vigorous and dynamic in its war program.

The great question that haunts the minds of millions of our people is "will American be as vigorous and dynamic in securing and attaining a peace program?" Will we and our Allies meet the challenge of creating a structure

to maintain the peace and order of the world. Will we meet the challenge of peace-time production as we have the demands of war time production? Will we be as solitious of the welfare of our youth in the years following this war as we have been during the war?

Will we maintain that quality of unity which has made it possible to achieve the miracle of V-E day? Every mother and father, every worker, every business man silently wonders -- what of the future? Where do we go from here?

There is in the minds of the people and in the plans of government, an unprecedented concern over the post-war period. There is a sober realization that international security must be obtained and that a secure and prosperous economy is a basic factor in the building of a world free from war.

Practical men, realistic men, and men of vision fully realize that there will be no international peace in a world plagued by depression or civil strife. Likewise, there can be no domestic security or prosperity in a world threatened by World War III.

International peace and domestic security are inseparable. Before this war there was a growing realization that our economy was living on borrowed time and that there were unsolved problems of unemployment and depression.

We are justly afraid of the consequences resulting from mass unemployment. We are properly worried over the rehabilitation of veterans and their readjustment into the normal community life of America.

American business and labor and government cannot pass over these matters lightly. America's greatest contribution to world peace will be in guaranteeing to ourselves and to the world an abundant prosperity and a strong economy.

Americans everywhere are beginning to understand that we are the very heart and core of world trade and finance. Whatever we do, whatever be our acheivements and our mistakes, it will affect not only the people of this country but the entire world.

We are going to have a part in building a better world and it must be a leading part. Military victory is but the first step in the process of attaining peace. The peace that you and I want; the peace that every human being hungers for is a living and dynamic thing.

Victory and peace mean more than just the end of the war. Victory and peace mean to all of us the return of loved ones, the end of suffering and want, or, as our late President once said, "freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom of speech and freedom of conscience."

From time to time I have mentioned the relationship of Minneapolis to our state, to our nation and to our world. A city of 500,000 people, in the heart of the great Northwest, is a great factor in the American economy. We have all begun to sense the importance of our city as a great transportation and industrial center.

Our strategic geographic position places upon our city leaders and public officials a great responsibility for political and economic leadership. We must be prepared to move on to new fields of expansion and to explore all possibilities of growth.

With this in mind in my radio broadcast of last week, I outlined a ten point program for your consideration.

This program calls for new industrial development, extensive public works, encouragement of research, veterans rehabilitation and reemployment, and the establishment of a Greater Minneapolis Association to integrate and coordinate the work of both public and private agencies concerned with our post-war planning.

I wish to stress again the importance of industrial peace and sound labor relations. Industrial relations can no longer survive by the law of the jungle.

We have arrived at a point in our economic life where it is absolutely essential that those responsible for production, both management and labor, dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to a program of expanded employment and expanded production which will provide more and new job opportunities.

It serves no constructive purpose to dwell upon old disputes and upon the strife and struggles of the past. It is our responsibility to be faithful to our solemn pledges to the men and women of our armed services that they return to suitable jobs at fair wages.

We cannot ignore the tremendous dislocation which will come when war workers must find new places in peace-time industry. The magnitude of the task is so overwhelming and the challenge is so compelling that every resource and every effort must be made to guarantee cooperation between business, labor and government throughout our city.

We must remember that in 1940 Minneapolis had 36,000 unemployed persons. Since 1940 we have added almost 30,000 workers to our employment forces. This means there is need for 66,000 more jobs than we had in 1940.

It becomes clear that if we return to what some people call normalcy, we will most certainly face a staggering problem of unemployment.

There are, however, factors which give cause for optimism. Minneapolis is rich in resources and blessed with the finest of management and labor. This city is ready for a post-war era of unprecedented prosperity.

The great majority of Minneapolis workers have paid their pre-war debts and have accumulated the greatest back-log of savings in the history of our city. It is estimated that the amount is more than \$300,000,000. The possibilities for business growth and expansion are unlimited. Minneapolis can have a prolonged period of expansion and prosperity. But expansion and prosperity will not come of its own accord. We must plan for it. We must marshal our resources in an intelligent and democratic fashion.

It is against this background of our nation half-way on the road to victory and our city standing on the threshold of a great future, that I wish to outline a detailed program that I, as mayor, would institute as one means of helping to achieve a future of prolonged prosperity.

My program calls for the following:

(1) The establishment of a Greater Minneapolis Association. This organization would enlist the whole-hearted cooperation of both public and private agencies concerned with community development.

(2) We must have an over-all program for slum and blighted area clearance. This cannot be handled on a piece-meal basis. Adequate urban redevelopment should be based upon an over-all plan prepared by our City Planning Commission and accepted by the Greater Minneapolis Association. There should be the closest integration of both government and private agencies and continuous cooperation between construction and financial institutions.

(3) We must encourage private capital to invest in large housing projects and general urban redevelopment. The provisions embodied in the recent Neighborhood Redevelopment Act should be immediately utilized to establish a Neighborhood Redevelopment Commission with authority to assist private investors and corporations in a program of large scale housing and slum clearance.

(4) Public housing projects should be undertaken for low income groups that cannot afford to build their own homes. Large scale housing construction in Minneapolis must include a combination of both public and private development. This city, like all others, has individuals in the low income group who are unable to pay rents required to support private construction. I favor an enabling act which will permit the City of Minneapolis to establish a municipal housing authority. The financial feasibility of such authorities has already been demonstrated. It would not limit the opportunities for private capital but would offer a safe and profitable market for capital investment by private individuals and financial institutions in this area.

(5) A new central public library building and additional branch libraries should be provided. This would mean accommodations for areas where inadequate provisions now exist.

(6) An extensive program of industrial expansion should be undertaken. This would be designed to attract new industries in the period of reconversion. An essential part of this program would be a fight to obtain freight rate equality for this region, which I outlined in some detail in a previous broadcast.

(7) An extensive program of transportation development should be planned. This would be aimed at improving all phases of transportation so that Minneapolis will become a transportation hub to the northwestern United States and Canada.

(8) We should, at the earliest possible date, launch a program of grade separations at all railroad crossings. This would include establishing a system of underpasses and overpasses to alleviate congested street traffic conditions which are now causing many deaths and injuries. This program would also save untold thousands of hours of valuable time, now lost in intra-city traffic.

(9) There must be a new Washington Avenue bridge for immediate replacement of the present dangerous hazard to public safety.

(10) There must be the establishment of sufficient park and playground facilities in areas of heavy population and the provision for properly staffed recreation forces to supervise recreational activities.

(11) There should be a determined attempt to bring about the location in Minneapolis of the contemplated United States Hospital to serve the northwest.

(12) We should plan to construct a new city hospital of the latest design, complete and comprehensive in its facilities.

(13) There should be the immediate establishment of a heart hospital. Minneapolis, a city of nearly 500,000, today does not provide this most essential service.

(14) We must undertake a program of resurfacing, paving and repair of city streets and alleys and the installation of sewers and storm drains.

This is my program for post-war construction. It is by no means the final word, but it sets, I believe, an over-all pattern, that will give us a basis for a concrete and positive approach to the problem of providing a continuing high level of employment.

The realization of this type of program demands the most careful study and analysis. How unfortunate for our city that the last four years has seen so little attention given this all-important matter.

Plans for vast construction projects cannot be drawn in a few hours. They require weeks and months of careful consideration. They must be accomplished with the understanding and approval of all sections of our community, and that means many hours of hearings and intensive activity in acquainting the public with the importance of the various projects.

I am a candidate for mayor because I believe that I can help promote the realization of a much-needed program of community redevelopment. With your help and understanding and with the proper leadership in the mayor's office, Minneapolis can and will move on to a greater future -- a future which will guarantee to our returning servicemen and women the kind of a city that justifies the sacrifices they are making in the defense of our country and of our democratic institutions.

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS FOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

M. B. VISSCHER, MAY 9, 1945

This city is approaching an important election. We are about to elect a mayor and half of our aldermen and other city officials. Every citizen of the city has a big stake in this election because a great task lies ahead of us in the United States. Yesterday we celebrated V-E day. Our auditoriums, our churches and our radio programs were full of speeches about the task that lies ahead. Many fine phrases were uttered and pious hopes expressed for the success of post-war plans for our national and international future. But no more important task confronts any American than that of making sure that the candidates he helps to elect to office are honest, forward-looking, capable men. The people we elect to city, state and national offices are going to determine our future.

Citizenship, like charity, begins at home. If we elect a bad mayor, bad aldermen, bad judges and other local officers how can we expect to save democracy? No chain is stronger than its weakest link. Obviously local government in the U. S. A. must be made effective or the country cannot really progress.

Minneapolis has been in the doldrums for many years. The Minnesota Resources Board this year has recounted how this city and the State of Minnesota have been losing ground on many fronts. What has the city been doing about it? Its mayor has been serving as a pleasant hand-shaker--the official greeter for visiting movie stars and other equally important personages, but he has not accomplished anything in low cost housing, he has not improved our public school system, he has not exerted leadership in revamping our antiquated city charter. He has not got relief from discriminatory freight rates for Minneapolis. He has

not introduced much-needed reforms in the health department and the coroner's office. In short, he has been a figurehead.

Minneapolis needs a mayor with courage, vision, ability and integrity. All of these qualities are essential. Mere courage leaves one with a Don Quixote. Vision alone gives one a crack-pot. Ability alone exposes one to the danger of government for special interests. Integrity without the other three qualities leads to futility.

The newspaper reports of what the other candidates for mayor are saying lead one to believe that they are all laying smoke screens of propaganda and platitudes to befuddle the public. Mr. Hubert H. Humphrey who is here to speak to us today is accused of being a visionary because he has vision. He is called a theorist because he has some professional knowledge about government, he is accused of being in the employ of special interests because thousands of humble citizens like you and I have contributed a dollar or so a piece to his campaign fund while no big business interests have seen fit to foot the entire bill by thousand dollar contributions. He is accused of being dangerous because he has courage, and unsafe because he is honest.

Hubert Humphrey is not an impractical dreamer. He has been an executive for the War Manpower Commission for the Twin City area, he was State Director of War Production Training and Re-employment, and managed successfully a business enterprise himself in Huron, S. D. from 1933 to 1937. He knows what makes the wheels go round. He can be counted on to do everything possible to make Minneapolis a prosperous city which can play its part in building the better world of tomorrow for which all of us are working.

You may wonder why I, as a scientist, am interested in politics. It is because I believe very fervently that every man, regardless of his station must pay attention to the obligations of common citizenship or democracy will be

lost, regardless of how many victories we win on our battlefronts. The common citizen--you and I--must vote for courage, vision, ability and integrity, or we will get the timidity, mediocrity or insincerity that we shall deserve if we fail in our duties as citizens. We can determine our future as a people by our votes. Let us begin our political reconstruction at home in our city elections.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you the man whom we hope to see elected as our next mayor by a landslide vote--Mr. Hubert H. Humphrey.



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