

RADIO ADDRESS BY HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF MINNEAPOLIS
PREPARED FOR DELIVERY OVER WLOL TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 1945, 8:15 P.M.

In my campaign for the office of mayor, I have been attempting to deal with the issues that I believe are of fundamental importance to the civic betterment of our community.

I have set forth a program of post-war industrial expansion that will prepare us for the difficult period of reconversion that will follow the war.

I have discussed in some detail the need for an intelligent plan of fiscal reform that will restore our city to financial solvency.

I have dealt at length with the extremely difficult problem of housing and I have projected an over-all program for community redevelopment.

These matters I believe are of fundamental importance because upon the successful handling of them will depend whether or not our city will be able to provide ample job and business opportunities for our returning servicemen and for all of our people.

The people of Minneapolis, I believe, have welcomed with great enthusiasm this type of campaign. ~~The hundreds of messages that I have~~ received from individuals who were incensed by the mud-slinging tactics of my opponent are overwhelming evidence that the people of Minneapolis want their political leaders to be responsible and constructive in their public statement.

I believe that I have been faithful to my pledge to keep this campaign on a high moral and educational level. I believe you will agree -- whether you support or oppose my candidacy -- that my campaign has been a sincere effort to make a contribution to the intelligent discussion of the really important issues concerning our city.

Minneapolis elections in recent years have centered almost exclusively around one problem -- and this is an extremely important problem -- the problem of law enforcement.

In previous mayoralty campaigns this issue of law enforcement has been virtually the only issue. In a typical campaign, the mayor boasts of his fine law enforcement record, and cites the number of arrests made. He selects statistics which tend to show that Minneapolis had less crime and vice than cities of comparable size.

Meanwhile, the opponent hurls charges that the town is "wide open", that organized rackets are in complete control of the city, that vice is rampant.

In the flood of charges and counter-charges a typical mayoralty campaign finds the other issues completely ignored.

This type of campaign has never served the best interest of the community, and to engage in such a campaign today would result in positive harm to the city. Our Mayoralty elections are reported by our metropolitan newspapers. The charges and counter-charges become news not only to this city but to the whole state and northwest. Unfortunately, we have already gained a reputation for being a city far too much plagued with vice and rackets. I have had no desire to bring further shame upon Minneapolis or additional prejudice against the city by making law enforcement or lack of law enforcement the major and only issue of my campaign. I think too much of Minneapolis. I respect its good people far too much to have the outside public center its ~~and~~ attention upon our problems and our difficulties. Law enforcement is of vital importance but it must not be allowed to obscure the many other vital issues with which the people must be greatly concerned.

This Our city today stands on the threshold of a new period in its life. The war has brought many changes in our economic life. Already

thousands of servicemen have returned to our community, and future months will find many more thousands on their way home. War workers will soon be looking for new jobs in peace time industries. We will face a tremendous task of readjustment and reconstruction. It will be imperative that our city afford job opportunities to those who seek gainful employment. We must have new industries. We must expand existing retail and industrial establishments. In short there must be profit for business and jobs for labor.

I am pledged to this program. No amount of scare campaign on the part of the opposition -- no amount of ridiculous charges and deliberate falsehood can alter the fact that I have presented a program of industrial expansion and a constructive approach to labor and industrial relations which will do much to make possible a growing and prosperous Minneapolis.

This raises the fundamental question, what type of city do we want our fighting men and women to return to?

Since the very beginning of this campaign I have made it clear that I wanted the issue of law enforcement to have its proper place within a total program of civic betterment. And I have repeatedly stated, in no uncertain terms, that, when I am elected mayor, I will enforce the law. I will enforce the law impartially, and without fear or favor to any group or any combination of interests.

~~I fully realize that Minneapolis is a great metropolitan city. It is the metropolis of the Northwest. Thousands of persons come here each year on business and pleasure trips and many of them expect entertainment in our cafes, our theaters, our night clubs and other places of amusements. Many of our fine citizens have large investments in such establishments and these investments should not be jeopardized by the small minority who would defy the law and go beyond our city ordinances.~~

relating to gambling & sale of liquor

I contend that the present laws are liberal. The present laws afford ample opportunity for profit in business and respectability in the community.

If there are those in this community that feel these laws are too liberal or that feel that these laws are too strict, the answer to their problem lies in the State Legislature. The mayor of this city is obligated under the terms of our Charter to enforce the law. He has no authority to alter or make ~~a~~ new laws.

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Adequate and proper law enforcement is an integral part of my over-all community program. There must be an end to laxity in law enforcement. There must be ^{an} end to special privilege for special interest. There must be an end to the mysterious and insidious influence that seems to have the key to the mayor's office. There must be an end to an invisible government -- a mysterious and secret force responsible to no one which seems to have control in this city. ~~I say this invisible government, responsible to no one seems to have control because right now, during this general election, the mayor of Minneapolis is either incapable or unwilling to enforce the laws and to prohibit wide-scale violation of gambling and liquor laws.~~

~~Never in the history of Minneapolis municipal elections has the city been, what is commonly known, as "wide open" until this election. The mayor is either powerless to act or he senses defeat and is unwilling to act. No amount of explanation, no amount of rationalization can obscure the fact that laws are not being enforced.~~

I see little need to engage in a lengthy and detailed statement of charges to prove that organized rackets have existed and continue to exist in our city. I believe that every informed person in my listening audience has seen sufficient evidence in our daily newspapers to convince them that such is the case.

Is there anyone who believes that there has not been during the last four years open violations on an extensive scale of our gambling, liquor, and white slavery laws?

Is there anyone who believes that there is no something basically wrong with our city government in this matter of law enforcement?

I would like to quote just briefly an editorial from The Minneapolis Star-Journal under date of January 25, 1945: "The fact is that Minneapolis is and has been for years an open town -- not a wide open town, but one in which racketeers and criminal rings have been able to operate without much molestation as long as they kept within certain bounds which have not been the bounds of the law but the bounds of public and official tolerance!"/2

I should like, too, to remind you of the report of the October-November 1944 Hennepin grand jury. In that report the grand jury said that there was open flaunting of the laws on gambling and liquor sales, and that this condition revealed one of three things:

First, that the police are stupid or inefficient.

Second, that somebody is getting paid.

Third, that our police are told to lay off on orders from the higher ups.

The first of these -- that the police are stupid or inefficient -- is not true. This is not the cause of the open violations. The rank-and-file police officer is an honest, conscientious, hard-working citizen, who wants to maintain his self-respect and do a good job.

That there were open violations the grand jury clearly demonstrated, and the possible explanations advanced by the jury certainly is convincing evidence that something is fundamentally wrong with the administration of our mayor's office.

It is in the mayor's office that the responsibility for law enforcement rests, and to blame the police department is to blame a department that operates on its orders from the mayor's office.

I fully recognize the pressures, the trials and the difficulties encountered by the mayor of this city in the matter of law enforcement. I do not wish to be unfair in my criticism. I know all too well that the responsibility of law enforcement is a serious one. No mayor or police force can make this city pure and without law violation. There will always be a few to violate the laws but it is the organized, the commercial professional ⁵ racketeers ^{which} who must be squelched.

~~I think we could well take notice of our sister city, St. Paul, which had its troubles and became known as one of the centers of crime for many years until an enlightened public opinion and a changed administration decided that it would no longer tolerate such deplorable conditions. St. Paul has moved from the position of being one of the worst cities in America, as pertains to law enforcement, to one of the cleanest and one of the best. Minneapolis can do likewise and will do if if the people of this city, ^{ing} work in cooperation with the mayor and the law enforcement officers, are willing to accept the challenge and break the strangle hold which organized rackets have upon our municipal life.~~

~~In short, the responsibility for these conditions is squarely up to the mayor -- as the grand jury pointed out.~~

Just within recent weeks our federal government found it necessary to send the F.B.I. into Minneapolis for the purpose of cleaning up white slavery conditions which had flourished to the point where Minneapolis had become the recruitment center for the entire nation.

When Federal Judge Gunnar H. Nordbye sentenced the men convicted as a result of the F.B.I. white slavery investigation, he said, and I quote: "conditions such as these which have been brought to light in this case are nauseating and certainly are a blight on our community... From testimony in these cases, it is apparent that so-called north Minneapolis night spots served as a rendezvous for procurers and panderers plying their nefarious trade and procuring young local girls to work for them in this city and elsewhere. There can hardly be any criminal activity more despicable than to arrange for the transportation of women in interstate commerce for the purpose of prostitution" (end quote.)

These conditions are not of recent development. They have existed for at least the past four years. It is ridiculous for the mayor and his enforcement officers to say that they ^{did} not know that such conditions existed. ~~In fact, two years ago in a conference with the present mayor I told him the town was not cleaned up, that the town was as open as it had ever been.~~ *The responsibility for these conditions is squarely up to the mayor - as the grand jury has pointed out!* ~~In reply to this the mayor said, and I quote: "You will learn a great deal about this city, if you get into the mayor's office," end quote.~~

~~What this apparently implies is that the mayor had not been able to enforce the law and that no one else would be able to do so either.~~

~~Is this why the present mayor does not want the responsibility ~~for~~ for law enforcement? Is it because he is too lacking in courage to face the problem and undertake a program that will provide decent conditions in our city.~~

Ladies and gentlemen, let there be no mistake about one thing. If you elect me mayor, I accept the responsibility for law enforcement, and I will enforce the law.

I am convinced the police force will and wants to enforce the laws. I know that the public desires that the laws be enforced. I give you my solemn pledge -- and let this be a warning to those who now degrade our government and our city by making unholy alliances that permit illicit operations -- I give you my solemn pledge that the laws will be enforced.

~~I am determined that my administration shall solve this problem of law enforcement. I know that this means I must have not only the determination and the will to enforce the law, but I must also have a positive program for crime control and prevention that has the full support and whole-hearted backing of the public.~~

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Law enforcement is not merely a matter of police administration and activity. A peaceful, harmonious and law abiding community comes only when people live in conditions which are conducive to normal and healthy community relationships. There is a direct relationship between full employment at decent wages and respect for law. There is a direct relationship between good housing, modern parks and playgrounds, progressive schools, adequate library facilities and respect for the laws and ordinances of the community. It has been with this thought in mind that I have placed before you a constructive program which includes the expansion and development of our libraries, parks and playgrounds -- a program which includes new and better housing for Minneapolis -- a program which demands industrial expansion. All of these things mean a better Minneapolis. All of these plans and programs provide a wholesome and healthy environment for the people of Minneapolis.

If we remove the social and economic causes of crime and if we fortify our positive efforts with an extensive program of crime prevention and control, the problem of law enforcement, as we we now know it, will be minimized. We must think in terms of the old adage that "an ounce of prevention is worthx a pound of cure". When we see evidences of ~~the~~ flagrant violation of the law, positive action must be taken. But no amount of police protection -- no amount of law enforcement alone can cope with the increase of crime which comes from environmental and social conditions that breed delinquency and criminal behavior. We must direct our thinking in terms of building finer and better citizens. We must become positive and constructive in our approach. We must attack the source of delinquency and crime and not merely wait to take action when the criminal is on the loose.

Yes, law enforcement is becoming increasingly important every day. During the war years juvenile delinquency has been on the increase, and, unless adequate precautions are taken, we can expect a recurrence of what happened after the last war.

Tonight's Minneapolis Star-Journal gives us adequate evidence of what results from tolerating conditions which produce delinquency and criminal behavior. Let me quote to you from the news article: "Petty crime operations of almost fantastic proportions were under investigation today by the Juvenile Division police who laid 200 to 300 theft and other cases to a dozen north side boys, 14 to 18 years of age. Detectives said it was the most gigantic tangle of crime they have been asked to tackle in the history of the department."end quote. Such outstanding cases of juvenile delinquency coming from the north side of Minneapolis surely must bring to our mind some of the appalling conditions of blighted and slum areas which exist in that section of our

city, To merely place in custody those who are guilty of the crimes committed is not an answer to the problem. It is imperative that slum and blighted areas be cleaned up and that crime prevention programs on a massive scale be instituted at once.

After the last war, under the impact of social changes created by the war, the rate of delinquency skyrocketed. We must act now to prevent this from happening again.

Juvenile delinquency and inadequate law enforcement go hand in hand. Thus, a positive program aimed at cleaning up Minneapolis must deal realistically with the problem. And dealing realistically means mobilizing the public in support of a courageous program that -- without fear or favor -- enforces the existing laws.

I wish to outline a 7-point program that I believe will provide a realistic attack upon the problem of juvenile delinquency. This program, coupled with courageous law enforcement and backed up by a determined and interested citizenry, will go a long way in ensuring that our children will have a wholesome environment in which to grow up.

First, we should strengthen our police facilities by increasing the amount of specialized training of officers dealing with juvenile problems.

Second, we should re-enforce existing social agencies and expand social welfare activities and services for young people.

Third, we should open our school facilities to the greatest possible extent for supervised recreation in after-school hours.

Fourth, we should provide ^{adequate} supervision for playgrounds, boys clubs and settlement houses.

Fifth, we should establish supervised facilities particularly for younger children of parents engaged in war work.

Sixth, we should encourage more church groups to open their recreational facilities to young people, and

Seventh, we should coordinate the various social agencies that are in existence in order to determine areas of danger.

This program of crime prevention is essential to the success of over-all planning for civic betterment. We must have many new homes and many civic improvements, but these are important only as they improve the living conditions of our people. The control of juvenile delinquency and the adequate enforcement of the laws are "musts" on our program for the building of a Greater Minneapolis.

The good people of Minneapolis want law enforcement, just as they want good housing, industrial expansion, efficient administration, and community redevelopment.

Government responsible to the people, government cooperating with the people can do these things, but the people must be militant in their support of a candidate who has a sound program and who will fight for what he knows to be right.

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The war has brought many changes in our economic life. Already thousands of servicemen have returned to our community, and future months will find many more thousands on their way home.

This raises the fundamental question, what type of city do we want our fighting men and women to return to?

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Adequate and proper law enforcement is an integral part of my overall community program. (There must be an end to laxity in law enforcement.) //

There must be an end to special privilege for special interests. There must be an end to the mysterious and insidious influence that seems to have the key to the mayor's office.

I see little need to engage in a lengthy and detailed statement of charges to prove that organized rackets have existed and continue to exist in our city. I believe that every informed person in my listening audience has seen sufficient evidence in our daily newspapers to convince them that such is the case.

" Is there anyone who believes that there has not been during the last four years open violations on an extensive scale of our gambling, liquor, and white slavery laws? "

Is there anyone who believes that there is not something basically wrong with our city government in this matter of law enforcement?

But, I would like to quote just briefly an editorial from The Minneapolis Star-Journal under date of January 25, 1945: "The fact is that Minneapolis is and has been for years an open town -- not a wide open town, but one in which racketeers and criminal rings have been able to operate without much molestation as long as they kept within certain bounds which have not been the bounds of the law but the bounds of public and official tolerance." "

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from the higher ups.

Now the first of these -- that the police are stupid or inefficient -- is not true. This is not the cause of the open violations. The rank-and-file police officer is an honest, conscientious, hard-working citizen, who wants to maintain his self-respect and do a good job.

That there were open violations the grand jury clearly demonstrated, and the possible explanations advanced by the jury certainly is convincing evidence that something is fundamentally wrong with the administration of our mayor's office.

It is in the mayor's office that the responsibility for law enforcement rests, and to blame the police department is to blame a department that operates on its orders from the mayor's office.

In short, the responsibility for these conditions is squarely up to the mayor -- as the grand jury pointed out.

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In reply to this the mayor said, and I quote: "You will learn a great deal about this city, if you get into the mayor's office," end quote.

What this apparently implies is that the mayor had not been able to enforce the law or drive out the racketeers, and that no one else would be able to do so either.

Is this why the present mayor does not want the responsibility for law enforcement? Is it because he is too lacking in courage to face the problem and undertake a program that will clean up our city?

"Ladies and gentlemen, let there be no mistake about one thing. If you elect me mayor, I want the responsibility for law enforcement, and I will enforce the law."

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I am determined that my administration shall solve this problem of law enforcement, and I know that this means that I must have not only the determination and the will to enforce the law, but that I must also have a positive program for crime control that has the full support and whole-hearted backing of the public.

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the last war. After the last war, under the impact of social changes created by the war, the rate of delinquency skyrocketed. We must act now to prevent this from happening again.

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The good people of Minneapolis want law enforcement, just as they want good housing, industrial expansion, efficient administration, and community redevelopment.

Government responsible to the people, government cooperating with the people can do these things, but the people must be militant in their support of a candidate who has a sound program and who will fight for what he knows to be right.

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