

"TOMORROW IS YOURS"
Tuesday, January 13, 1948
4:15-4:30 PM

*corrections
cuts-*

~~REVIS~~

ANNCR: The Minnesota School of the Air presents -- Tomorrow -- Is Yours!

MUSIC: UP BRIEFLY AND FADE TO BG FOR...

BOY #1: Community chest? What's that got to do with me?

GIRL #1: The Mayor's supposed to take care of the town---why should I worry about it?

BOY #2: Who cares about how the city's run -- it's how the country's run that counts.

ANNCR: Tomorrow Is Yours.....a program for those young people soon to be the parents, businessmen, housewives, and leaders of their community. A program to remind you that what you do today determines what you are tomorrow. And remember --
Tomorrow -- Is Yours!

MUSIC: UP AND TO FADE OUT UNDER

ANNCR: And now we take great pleasure in introducing our guest commentator for today's program....the HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS...
Mayor Humphrey.

MAYOR: Thank you, and good afternoon, young people. What we're going to talk about today is a subject dear to my heart---your community and mine. Perhaps we should begin by asking exactly what is a community?

BOY #1: Community? I guess that's a city or a town or something....

MAYOR: That's true enough---as far as it goes. But a community is more than just a group of buildings or a lot of streets and stores. A community is primarily a group of people---yes, just plain people---and all the stores and houses and streets are simply things to help make life better for those people. That's the first thing to remember---that your community is made up of

MAYOR:
(CONT)

people, living together and working together---yes, and in a democracy, governing themselves together. It seems that most people enjoy living together, ~~but~~ they enjoy living in communities more than they do living by themselves. So we've had a great movement---^{all over america} it's still going on --- of people coming into the cities and towns to live ~~all over the United States.~~

Now let's stop a minute and take a look at what this part of the country was like when it was the frontier, and people were scarce---say about 100 years ago. Sure, there were towns here and there. Some of them were built right up off the ground by people coming in ^{by} wagon, ~~and from further west.~~ ~~Right off,~~ When a group of newcomers decided to stop and set up house-keeping they were faced with a lot of things that had to be done, but which couldn't be done by any one of them by himself. First of all they had to put up shelter, and they soon found out that if they all pitched in together they could build their houses a lot faster and a lot better than if they tried to struggle along one by one. One of the next things they ran up against was how they could begin producing food and other things, like clothes and candles and bulletts. Here again, they found ~~that~~ things were easier if they worked together---~~by~~ sharing one plow among several farmers (Plows used to be scarce, you know). At the same time they divided their labor, so that instead of every man farming corn or shoeing his own horses, that one man who was particularly good as a blacksmith would give up farming and go to shoeing horses for everyone in the community---that is everybody around those parts. So your first towns would

MAYOR:
(CONT)

develop a blacksmith shop and a general store and several little businesses that could furnish the farmers around those parts with goods and services better than the farmers could make them; and, of course, they would receive payment at first in actual food---pigs, corn, and chickens. About the same time, in these frontier towns, people began to look for protection against thieves and raiders, and for some means of settling their differences without gunfire. ~~After a few killings and raids perhaps a vigilante committee would be organized for law-enforcement, but that was rather inefficient, and people saw that what they needed was a further division of labor.~~ So--- the result was that they elected a staff of officials, who were to settle disputes and protect the lives and property of the community. ~~For now it was a real community, with people sharing their work, protecting each other, and helping each other to live a better life.~~

Pass. cut

GIRL #1:

But that's how things were ~~100~~ years ago --- what about now?

BOY #1:

Yes, what's this have to do with my community?

MAYOR:

Of course the answer to that is ~~that~~ your community is the same one I've been talking about---only it's now grown-up, more complicated and more crowded. Essentially, the people of a community today want the same things that our grandfathers did, except that now that our communities are so crowded and complicated, we've had to develop other cooperative actions in order to keep our people safe and satisfied. For instance, so many people living together began to create a fire hazard and a sanitation problem. Where were you going to get enough pure water for everyone, and how were you going to dispose of all the refuse of the community? Well, we tackled that problem, too,

NAYOR:
(CONT)

and built water mains and sewers and organized a community fire department. And later on, as your communities continued to grow, traffic problems and slum problems rose, and the problem of how we could find room in a crowded community for children to play and to see some green grass and trees. Those are some of the things we're still working on. New problems--new things that need doing--will continue to come up, and the community will continue to attack them by planning and by working together--not by letting someone else do it or letting someone else tell us how to do it.

possible cut

Now, as we've seen, a community produces and distributes goods and services among its members. And we've seen how community government came into being because it was needed--to protect people from being slugged or murdered or annoyed and to keep property from being stolen or burned up. And we've also seen the growth of new problems which the community had to face. ^(Now) In

many cases the way in which the (new) problems were attacked was through city government action--that is, the citizens appointed new officials to work on the problems, or they loaned more power to the government than already had. Suppose that we look, for a minute, at what we do for each other by means of our modern community government....

BOY #1: Well, it gives us protection--from robbery and murder....and from fire....and it helps to protect our health.

GIRL #1: Yes, through hospitals and pure water and good sewage systems.

BOY #2: How about other things besides protection? Look at our parks and playgrounds...and the schools!

MAYOR:

That's right...one of the aims of your community government is to make community life enjoyable. But of course, local government isn't the only method of building a better community. Other, non-governmental, groups are working toward the same ends. The Community Chest, The Red Cross, the Salvation Army are examples of community action on a common problem--that of poverty. And such organizations as the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts and the young people's programs of the churches of our communities all try to provide a better, more exciting and interesting life for you young people especially. On the other hand, the community government is concerned with exactly the same problems as these non-governmental organizations; often you will find the official government---the officials to whom the people of the community have loaned the power of the community---working with volunteer groups, who make suggestions and study problems. In Minneapolis, for instance, we have many of these volunteer committees, made up of private citizens interested in a particular problem. We have the Mayor's Council on Human Relations, which studies the problem of segregation and discrimination and makes suggestions on how to overcome them. We have a committee on Housing and one on Law Enforcement, and another on Juvenile Delinquency, all made up of private citizens interested in making your life safer, more interesting, and more enjoyable.

So you see what your local government does is important to you. Every plan it makes is going to ~~affect~~ affect you directly. And every step it fails to take is also going to affect you. Suppose, for instance, that the city government decides to cut the police force in half. What would that mean to you? Possibly something like this.....

SOUND: SIREN PULLING IN AND STOPPING OF POLICE CAR

COP: What's the matter, lady?

LADY: (EXCITED) This man came in....and hit my husband....and stole all our cash...What happened to you? I called the police a long time ago....

COP: (APOLOGETICALLY) Well, lady we can't be in two places at the same time....we got here as fast as we could, but (FADING) we have to cover so much territory, you know.....

MAYOR: Or perhaps something like this might happen in your community...

WIFE: My goodness---here's another article in the paper about how so many teachers around the country are leaving their jobs for better pay!

HUSB: Yeah! And what about here. I heard at the office today that the city's in such bad shape for money they're going to have to cut the school appropriation....

WIFE: I don't know what the children are going to do.....I wish (FADING) somebody'd do something about it.

MAYOR: Well, that's the story of what your community means to you--what your community service organizations and your local government do for you personally.

The next question is--if your community is so important to you, how important ^{are you} you/are to the community? Do you just take it for granted that your police force or your water plant or your building inspectors all run along automatically, and that somebody'll vote the right men into office? Do you depend on some one else to make that contribution to the community chest? I certainly hope not. You see, your local government is a democracy, and what you as a voter will do or not do will decide

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MAYOR:
(CONT)

what kind of a city government and what kind of a community you're going to have. A democratic government is a kind of mirror--a mirror which reflects its citizens. If the government is corrupt or lazy it's merely reflecting its citizens. If its short on finances it's because the voters are unwilling to pay for the advantages we talked about a month ago. That's one thing we've all got to remember -- it's our government---it's your government. In a few more years you'll be the voters, and the mirror of your local government will be reflecting you. Let's talk about this matter of democracy for a moment. Some people may say that local government is unimportant compared to the state and national governments. But think of this a moment-- ~~Where~~ can you learn democracy better than in local government, ~~There~~ the actions of the men and women your parents elect are right in front of your eyes. ~~There~~ you can see and feel the results of an election immediately. The best way to find out how a democracy works, and to find out how to keep democracy, is right in your own community. Local government is the core of our whole American democracy. If the core is rotten the whole democracy will be rotten. If the citizens of a community -- and remember, in a few short years you will be voting citizens--if the citizens of your community can't keep their own town or city an honestly-run, efficient democratic community, then how are they going to maintain true democracy on the state, national and international level? You see, your part in the community has an added importance. Not only will you soon be in direct control ~~of the community~~ by exercising your right to vote, but you'll be developing the democratic technique for use in state, national, and even international affairs.

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MAYOR:
(CONT)

But of course, your part in the community will not be merely to mark one of the names on a ballot-slip. That's a sort of minimum effort, and, by itself, doesn't indicate what your true importance is to the community. In the first place, you will be important as a tax payer...

JOHN:

Well, Mary, I understand they're going to pave our street soon.

MARY:

But won't that mean higher taxes?

JOHN:

Maybe a little....not much. But it's worth paying for to have a paved road run by our house. I'm for it!

MAYOR:

Yes, everything has to be paid for in some way. And our miles and miles of streets and street-lights, sidewalks and curbs alone cost a lot of money and effort. Like parks and public buildings, the street system is built because the people of the community want it and need it, and because they're willing to pay for it. After you----as a voter----have decided what improvements are to be made in the community, then you----as a tax-payer---will pay for them. That's part of the democratic process too---sharing the burden of paying for community improvements, and taking pride that your schools and streets and your police force and firemen are really yours. You're part owner.

Pan. cut

~~But of course, your importance to the community will not be measured exclusively by how you vote and what you pay in taxes. As a citizen of a community, not only will you be called on for civic duties such as serving on juries, but you will find things that need doing outside of your local government.~~

Many needed

reforms and improvements are thought out and presented to the government by groups of interested private citizens. Up on

MAYOR:
(CONT)

the north side of Minneapolis a while back, for instance, some citizens decided that their children were being forced to run in the streets because there wasn't playground room. Well, they got together and presented an intelligent plan for a playground to the government, and now they have their children off the streets. That's a thing to remember----nobody knows what toe pinches except the man that's wearing the shoe. It's up to the people directly concerned to start things moving if the community officials don't see the problem, because a few men down at city hall can't see everything. Let me give you another example of how you as a citizen can be important to your community. Some years ago I used to be a scoutmaster--and believe me, the boy scouts are a real community organization...

Well, over a period of six years we had twelve boys paroled to us from the juvenile courts. All twelve of those boys would ordinarily have had to go to the state reformatory, but the people of this community, through the scouts, took those boys in, and they all turned out fine--all of them served in the armed forces and became valuable citizens. That's community

spirit. You can see community spirit and cooperation in the hundred of volunteer workers that served on the advisory committees to the Mayor here in Minneapolis. And you can see it by riding through a town where people keep their houses and yards neat and clean, and teach their children to be good citizens.

Now that may show you how important you will be to your community--and how you are important now, even though you're not yet old enough to vote. But, of course, it's not enough to know your own importance to the community and to realize what your

MAYOR:
(CONT)

community means. Right now is the time to begin thinking about what you can do to fill your future position...to play an intelligent part in the community of tomorrow...

GIRL #1:

I know one thing---we can learn to know our city....who our officials are and what they do....

BOY #1:

And right now we can join...*Community*.....
Driven, and we can study things like traffic problems and housing and all those things we'll be voting on in a few years....

MAYOR:

That's right....now is the time to begin digging into this matter of municipal government, and to be studying all those questions which keep popping up in a modern community, and which it'll be your job some day to answer. Put your roots down into the soil of your community now---learn what makes it tick. Get so interested in it that you'll know who to vote for and what to vote for. Get so interested in it that you will vote---so many people don't vote, you know; they just let somebody else do their governing for them. And even if you can't vote yet, you can keep an eye on the local news and help out when there's a hand needed. If you'll do these things, you'll have a community you can be proud of---democratic, progressive, and pleasant to live in. And furthermore you'll have a community that will be proud of you---now and in the time when you take over the direction of the community---a few years from now, when tomorrow is yours. Goodbye and good luck to all of you.

MUSIC:

UP BRIEFLY AND FADE TO BG FOR...

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ANNCR: You have just heard the Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey, Mayor of the city of Minneapolis, as guest commentator on the program, "Tomorrow Is Yours." Heard in the dramatic cast were:

all members of the University Radio Guild. "Tomorrow Is Yours" is produced by _____ and written by William Connell. Next week the guest commentator will be _____ in a program on _____

Your announcer has been

This has been a Minnesota School of the Air presentation.

MUSIC: UP AND TO FINISH



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