

RADIO ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HUBERT H. HUMPHREY - KSTP - 8:30 P.M., APRIL 23, 1948

Good Evening friends and neighbors:

I have waited for this privilege of sitting down to talk with you about a decision I have made.

Let me state my decision clearly and simply so that everyone may understand: Under the banner of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party I shall file as a candidate for the United States Senate in the coming elections. To this statement I attach no conditions, no qualifications.

Drop voice

For some months now, many of you have been helping me to make this decision. From all over the state you have sent me messages urging that I enter the campaign for the United States Senate. And even though I had not yet declared myself, you--as individuals and acting through your organizations--have gone on record in support of my candidacy.

To me--as they would be to any man--these expressions of confidence have been gratifying and heart-warming.

But they mean more than this.

For any man who is a candidate for political office is part of a common enterprise. And when he declares his candidacy he joins in a partnership with all of the people who share his purposes and ideals.

Your expressions of faith and confidence show that you are willing to join hands with me in this important political struggle.

Tonight thousands of friends of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party are gathered together throughout the State. They are determined that their Party shall be an honest and principled progressive organization.

In these various meetings, plans are being made for the precinct caucuses of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party to be held one

week from tonight. To those of you meeting tonight I extend a special word of greeting.

I have said that I will be a candidate of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party for the United States Senate, but I recognize that the issues of this campaign transcend all partisan considerations. I am a loyal party member, but I will not place my party above my country or my principles. The political party is a mechanism for expressing a public policy. The approval of this policy must be voted by the people of all sections, ~~all~~ classes, and all groups.

Our DFL Party must be so steadfast in its loyalty to democratic procedures and humanitarian and liberal progress that it can command the respect and the allegiance of the overwhelming majority of our citizens. My message tonight, therefore, is directed to all the citizens of Minnesota, and in my campaign I shall seek the advice and counsel from everyone who is sincerely concerned with the pressing issues of our time.

Let us not deceive ourselves. No political party nor any one individual has a monopoly upon wisdom or political virtue.

I have made my decision to become a candidate for the United States Senate and you have urged me to make this decision because of certain critical issues which I wish to discuss with you.

People everywhere are deeply troubled about the great national and international questions of our time. It is ever more clear that the important business today is the business of politics. The campaign for the elections in November has already begun. In state after state citizens ~~already~~ have cast their ballots for presidential nominees. In the coming months parties, programs and candidates will be examined and tested by the people of this country.

✓ In Minnesota the people are looking carefully at the record of the senior Senator of this state. The people of Minnesota have a right to demand that their representatives in Congress protect and advance the legitimate interests and aspirations of our state and nation. ⁷⁷ What does the record of Minnesota's senior Senator show? The record reveals clearly that the incumbent Senator has shown an indifference to the problems of our veterans, the problems of our farmers, and the difficulties facing our working people.

By his vote and by his leadership he has obstructed social and economic programs designed for the betterment of all the people.

✓ He speaks and votes that philosophy of government which repudiates a working partnership between government and the people. This man who once campaigned as a liberal is now the national symbol of reaction on domestic policy.

✓ In foreign policy the record of the incumbent Senator is even more alarming. His policies have followed a zigzag course that has run the cycle from isolationism to internationalism, and back to isolationism again.

He stood as the leader of those forces in the United States Senate that opposed the European Recovery Program. In so doing, he told us to turn our backs upon the suffering of millions of people oppressed by the aftermath of war. By his actions he has discouraged genuine efforts at international cooperation which would strengthen the democratic, political and economic institutions of Europe.

The Senator who was once proud to call himself an internationalist, is now the apostle of a new brand of isolationism.

During the course of this campaign there will be ample time for full discussion of the many ~~EX~~ specific issues and measures upon which this

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judgment is based. The record of the incumbent Senator is clear. My
stand on these matters is also clear. I am confident that the people
of Minnesota will weigh these records and their decision will be a wise one.

The senior Senator is this country's spokesman for old-style reaction. This old-style reaction has now been joined by a new and strange ally--the new style reaction found in the third party. ~~This third party does not deny its alliance with the American Communist party. And some of its members shout~~ ^{its leaders} ~~peace as if they alone of all people had a monopoly on the desire for peace.~~

Its leaders tell us that the road to peace is appeasement. We have tried appeasement and we know that it will not work.

Its leaders criticize every act of American foreign policy. But they remain strangely silent about the aggressive acts of Russian foreign policy. An honest party must ^{constructively} criticize all nations including its own. ~~We have the right to criticize other nations as frankly as we criticize our own.~~

Americans in every political party dread the thought of a third world war. But most Americans will not lose their heads and run to the camp of the appeasement party. Nor will they lose their heads and run to a war party.

We are ready--and we shall always be ready--to join in any honest program for world cooperation and world government. We too are opposed to any program of American imperialism. We too believe in the century of the common man. But we are not prepared to see the century of the common man become the century of the Comintern.

In Minnesota this third party is attempting an incredible campaign. This third party which openly opposed the Marshall Plan for European Recovery; this third party which has openly declared that its purposes are not the purposes of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party; the

third party which has already declared that it is a separate organization with a separate identity; this third party, through its leaders, has said that it intends to capture, control, and use, the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party of Minnesota.

This is the issue of the D-F-L precinct caucuses to be held on April 30.

~~Political democracy depends upon a clear presentation of the issues to the people. But the~~ People cannot make a clear decision if parties, labels, candidates, and programs, are hopelessly confused. *Our* Political ~~democracy~~ ^{Party system} cannot survive if the men who control ~~the~~ ^{one} party are at the same time openly working for another party.

We must recognize this pattern for what it is. This is not an isolated problem peculiar to Minnesota. This is a part of a deliberate and skillful program of undermining the democratic process throughout the nation and throughout much of the world. This is why the Democratic-Farmer-Labor precinct caucuses a week from tonight are so important to every citizen of Minnesota. *This is why you must attend these caucuses.*

The people of this state will not support a political party which has as the keystone of its program the appeasement of the imperialist aims of international Communism. Our people will not support a party or a program that would undermine the hopes of world peace. Our people are determined to play their part in the rebuilding of a war-weary world. Our people are not isolationists old-style, or isolationists new-style. Our people are neither appeasers nor war mongers. They are neither right nor left. They believe in a militant and vigorous democratic ~~middle~~ ^{the middle - a program of} program of political freedom for ourselves and other people, and economic opportunity for mankind everywhere.

The people of Minnesota, as well as in the nation, are asking that those who fight for the progressive cause develop a political party which is decent, clean, militant and constructive.

I pledge myself to this task, and I call upon each and everyone of you to join with me.

As a people we stand at the crossroads of our civilization. What we do in the immediate period ahead will determine whether the world can avert a catastrophic war or whether we shall create the techniques that will bring us lasting world peace. We, as a nation, must choose between the high road of genuine international organization that will lead to a ^{free} ~~peaceful~~ and secure world, or the low road of isolationism and narrow self-interest which will lead to world depression and international anarchy.

These are days which demand the most honest, vigorous and intelligent expression from our national leaders. This world cannot be saved by high sounding phrases of peace, progress and prosperity.

The hope for world peace rests in a meaningful and effective program of action. I mean action in America that develops our human and physical resources; action that insures an ever expanding economy; action ^{on civil} ~~rights~~ _{rights}

that guarantees equality of opportunity; action that builds our national defense not only in the Armed Services, but even more important, in the health and welfare and the security of our people.

We must have action on an international level that assures the continuation and the strengthening of the United Nations--action in economic and political terms that provides for the rehabilitation of the democratic institutions everywhere. We must have action that embodies within it an understanding that man does not live by bread alone.

The United States Senate, the greatest deliberative body in the world, should echo with the voices of men who fight for the preservation of the great human values of western civilization.

We have had enough of mediocrity and reaction. We need men with a deep faith in democracy and men who understand that democracy is a constant challenge to the improvement of our political, economic and cultural institutions. We cannot look to the past. We cannot, because of partisanship, blind ourselves to the mistakes that have been made. We must be true to ourselves, and true to our faith.

To us is given the opportunity to revitalize and rebuild a great progressive political force.

This is our challenge. This is our responsibility. With a belief in ourselves, in our people, and in the democratic faith by which we live together we shall go forward to complete this task.

It is in this spirit that I declare my candidacy for the United States Senate.

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