

USE VOICE TO ELIMINATE  
THIS ABRUPT TRANSITION

HH ✓



~~Friends and fellow citizens of Minneapolis~~

It was just two years ago that I spoke over this same  
~~radio~~ station in behalf of my own candidacy for the office of  
Mayor of Minneapolis.

File  
Speech for  
Summers

I shall never forget the friendly response to that  
message and the overwhelming support that came to me from  
the voters.

Minneapolis has been good to me and my family.

The privilege of serving as Mayor of this city was an  
honor that ~~shall never be forgotten.~~  
*I shall never forget.*

~~I will never be unmindful of the splendid cooperation  
that I received during my two terms of office.~~

~~It was a real joy and pleasure to work with and for  
the people of this city.~~

I remember the banquets and the picnics -- the parades  
and the aquatennials.

I like to reminisce about the meetings I attended --  
the conferences and the social gatherings.

It was fun, and all of it was a great opportunity  
for service.

Yes, we worked together.

Even after hotly contested political campaigns,

We all settled down to the job of improving Minneapolis  
community life and municipal government.

~~I had no~~  
~~There is no room in my heart for any ill feelings~~  
~~for~~  
~~about any person.~~

My memories are all good ones.

I think about the programs we started together.

The plans and the projects which were made for a  
better and finer city.

Of course, many things are left undone.

There always are things to be completed.

<sup>all</sup>  
There <sup>all</sup> always new jobs to be started and new plans  
and programs for others to undertake.

But somethings did get underway and it is imperative  
that the splendid work of hundreds and hundreds of our  
leading citizenry who were mobilized into committees and

councils be carried forward with understanding and courageous leadership.

~~We must never forget that it is the beginning of the starting of a program that is important.~~

~~Because in that beginning lies the challenge for the~~

In community work and in municipal government there is never an ending to the need of public service.

Everyday brings new problems.

Every generation of our people have new ideas and ~~make new requests~~ and search for new answers.

What is needed is a continuity of direction.

What is needed is competent and constructive leadership that ~~gains~~ <sup>insures</sup> the cooperation and the understanding of ~~the~~ <sup>all the</sup> ~~citizens~~ <sup>people</sup>.

It is for this reason ~~that in this position~~ <sup>that</sup> I have and will continue to support a brilliant, aggressive, and

<sup>Competent</sup> ~~wholesome~~ man to serve as Mayor of this city.

I refer, ~~of course~~ to my friend and ~~my~~ your friend,

JOHN G. SIMMONS, Candidate for Mayor.

All too often in political speeches we expect an attack upon the opponent.

All too often in municipal elections there have been rumors and inuendo and outright *slander* upon the character of the respective candidates.

There is no room for this sort of political trickery ~~and~~ in this or in any other election.

Politics can be just as clean as we want it to be.

It will be just as dirty as we permit it to be.

I have no words of condemnation of the other men who have filed for the office of Mayor.

I know some of the candidates personally.

I have often spoken in words of praise about them.

They have deserved that praise ~~and~~ more than that, kindly words are but good manners.

I ~~always~~ remember that old Chinese proverb --

"It is better to light a candle than it is to curse  
the darkness.

"It is better to speak well of a man than it is to  
condemn him or his associates."

~~I have no words of criticism about any person in this~~

~~election aspiring to the office of Mayor. - I AM FIRMLY CONVINCED,~~

~~HOWEVER, THAT JOHN SIMMONS IS THE OUTSTANDING CANDIDATE~~  
AND I URGE ~~Frankly, I know several of them and they have allowed~~

**YOU TO VOTE FOR HIM**

~~their city by offering themselves as candidates.~~

~~You, Minneapolis is indeed fortunate to have so many~~

~~aspire to the highest office that our citizens~~

~~of this community can offer in one of our fellow citizens.~~

~~I want to commend in you for just a moment.~~

~~I had not intended to make a radio speech in this~~

~~reaction~~

~~Through an ~~unfortunate~~ I thought ~~perhaps~~~~

He has the courage to speak out and work in behalf of important but yet controversial, political, and social issues. John Simmons has earned and he holds the respect of people from all walks of life. He has held prominent positions of leadership in church organizations and in social welfare agencies. He has been a living example of a democratic spirit in the field of human relations. He is loved and respected by Protestant, Catholic, and Jew. His work as a community leader on the North Side of Minneapolis has gained for him the everlasting affection of all races, creeds, and nationalities.

John Simmons has not sat idly by while people suffered under the yoke of injustice and exploitation. It is John Simmons, your candidate for Mayor, who was the chairman of a state-wide committee for a fair employment practices law. It was John Simmons who spoke in hundreds and hundreds of meetings and covered the entire area of our state in behalf of a program of tolerance, understanding, and wholesome human relations. This took courage, and it took time, and it required a sacrifice of ~~his~~ his energy and his very limited financial resources.

John Simmons has proven again and again that he is a man of great character. His unselfishness, his courage, his deep sense of loyalty and integrity are characteristics familiar to every one of his associates, his neighbors and his friends.

Again and again I hear people ask, "Why can't we have good men in politics?" Well, my ~~friends~~ fellow citizens, this is your chance. John Simmons is a good man - good in every sense; spiritually good, intellectually honest, and good in ~~the way~~ that he knows

people and how to work with them. I can never forget the loyal service he gave to the City of Minneapolis during those years I served as Mayor. This service not only covered the field of human relations but it went into every aspect of the social and economic fabric of our community life. I

I <sup>would</sup> ~~want~~ to say a word to my friends in organized labor about John Simmons. I am sure that you have not forgotten what he has done for you. May I refresh your memory for a moment? Do you remember those trying days when we had a nation-wide strike of telephone workers? Do you recall that it was John Simmons, along with our honored and esteemed sheriff, Ed Ryan, and my friend, Bradshaw Mintner, who gave literally hundreds of hours of their time toward promoting a settlement of this strike? ~~I know of no men in Minneapolis who are more highly respected than those I have just mentioned, and John Simmons worked with them in behalf of a fair deal for the workers employed by the Telephone Company.~~ I recall the kind words of both labor and management that were said of John Simmons in that critical period. ~~Yes,~~ if ever a man proved himself a friend of labor and has wholly deserved the unqualified, whole-hearted, and unanimous support of labor, that man is John Simmons.

Now, let me say a word ~~with special reference~~ to my friends in the CIO. Do you recall the Packinghouse strike? Do you recall how hungry those workers were? Do you recall they needed help? Yes, - I remember ~~that John Simmons~~ <sup>that John Simmons</sup> ~~helped them, and I remember~~ what he did. He served as a leader on a state-wide committee to aid the packinghouse employees and their families. These employees and their families needed food. They needed money for rent. They needed coal for their furnaces and their stoves. And it was John Simmons

who went from one end of this state to the other speaking in their behalf. ~~I thought I would just mention this because it appears to me that one ought to remember his friends.~~

~~John Simmons did not forget the people - the working people - in their hour of need, and I can assure you that he will never forget them, no matter what may be the outcome of this campaign.~~

If ever there was a candidate who deserves the whole-hearted support of every member of organized labor it is John Simmons. Oh yes, he has had the courage to disagree with labor, but I will be quite frank with you, I think he was right in his disagreements.

*Equalizing the Days of the Weeks*  
When some elements of organized labor were opposed to ~~the~~ ~~redistricting~~ of the City of Minneapolis - a much needed improvement and one that was adopted - John Simmons was for <sup>this</sup> redistricting. When great sections of organized labor opposed the City Charter changes - changes that were long overdue and are still much needed - John Simmons led the fight in behalf of Charter reform. ~~He~~ I worked with him day and night on this program. I believe in it now, as I did then, and I want to see someone Mayor of Minneapolis who will continue the fight that must be won for good government.

John Simmons will not only continue the fight, he will give it the leadership that is so desperately needed.

Ask yourself whether any other candidate will do this!

I have heard it said by responsible and prominent citizens in Minneapolis that John Simmons has played party politics. I would be the first to acknowledge that he did actively participate in a political party, and he participated with great honor in a noble cause that both Republicans and Democrat-Farmer<sup>laborer</sup> should applaud and all

liberty-loving Americans should acclaim.

What part did he play? He was in the thick of the fight as a patriotic American citizen, devoted to democratic principles in cleaning up a political party that needed cleaning. He had the courage as a plain citizen, not as an office-holder or an office-seeker, to meet the issue of Communism and communistic infiltration in an American political party ~~in a head-on, steadfast, and courageous manner.~~ I know something about that fight and I rejoice to know that I had John Simmons as a partner in doing what I considered to be an honorable job for politics in the State of Minnesota. ~~The issue now is the~~  
~~of Minnesota - one of America - for political elements~~  
~~that do not believe in the free way of life.~~ If a man is to be criticized for political activity because of a fight against subversive elements, then I would say we have lost all hope of maintaining freedom.

~~John Simmons should be praised and congratulated for the role~~  
~~he played in that great battle for democracy.~~ If there are some in or out of the labor movement who oppose him because of his fight against Communism, then I join with John Simmons in welcoming <sup>this</sup> ~~his~~ opposition. There is not a shadow of a doubt, however, that the rank <sup>and</sup> ~~of~~ file of the <sup>and leadership</sup> Union membership of this city, as well as of America, are unalterably opposed to any type of subversive politics or activity in their own ranks, or in America.

~~Labor needs to know, labor must know, every member of Minneapolis~~  
~~labor must know, that it was John Simmons who carried on the fight on a~~  
~~local level that Phillip Murray of the CIO and William Green of the AF of L~~  
~~and Mr. Whitney of the Railroad Brotherhood, have carried on on a national~~  
~~level.~~

Now, I have spoken about John Simmons and labor. But there is much more that needs to be said because John Simmons is a person that recognizes that all segments and all parts of the community are vitally important. Let us take a look at his record.

He has been the President of the Lutheran Pastors Association and the Protestant Ministerial Association. He was the President of the Lutheran Welfare Society. He has been active in the national conference of Christians and Jews, which includes Catholics, Protestants and Jews. He has not only been active as a member but also served as President of the North Side Community Council. He is a board member of the North Side Athletic Club and active in the Y M C A and the Boy Scouts movement. He is a member of the Urban League Board, Chairman of the Blind Services Committee, and ~~Chairman~~<sup>member</sup> of the Council of Social Agencies. He was a member of the Minneapolis Citizens Committee of Education. He served as chairman of the Minneapolis Hennepin County Youth Conference.

That is quite an impressive record. Surely such responsibility, such civic consciousness and such <sup>public</sup> spirited leadership is adequate testimony as to his qualifications for the important position of Mayor of Minneapolis.

A moment ago I mentioned that John Simmons was Chairman of the Minneapolis Hennepin County Youth Conference and had actively participated in Y W C A and Boy Scout activities. I ask the parents of Minneapolis, "Is it not important to have a man as Mayor of the City who understands young people, has worked with them, and has gained their respect and affection?" John Simmons has that respect and has that ability to lead, and to guide, and to work with young men and young women.

There is just one other civic program in which John Simmons has actively participated that I wish to call to your attention. Many people these days are mentioning their work in behalf of housing, and much good work has been done and, ~~much more~~, much more needs to be done. I wonder how many Minneapolis citizens remember back to 1946 when we had a charter amendment election to permit the City of Minneapolis to participate in the Federal program of slum-clearance and low-cost, low-rent housing. ~~Remember~~, Minnesota was one of five states up until 1947 which did not have a state law that would permit cities like Minneapolis to obtain Federal government assistance in cleaning out slums and blighted areas. We were denied millions of dollars of Federal money - money that we paid in taxes, - simply because we did not have a state law that permitted Minneapolis, or any other city, to have a housing authority.

~~It~~ It was John Simmons who headed a committee in behalf of the housing amendment. It was John Simmons who went out and helped raise money so that we could carry the message of housing over the radio and through the press. It was John Simmons who gave ~~many~~ a speech and attended dozens of meetings in order to enlist public support for this amendment. ~~That amendment received approximately 55% of the vote. It required 57% for it to be adopted. But that election served notice on the Legislature that the people - a majority of the people - were in favor of the program.~~

John Simmons was in the fight for housing. He demonstrated his leadership when leadership was hard to find and sorely needed. John Simmons served on the Emergency Housing Committee in the summer and fall of 1945, five or six months before the City Council passed

an emergency housing ordinance. I remember this because it was then that as Mayor of our City that I needed help. We had thousands of veterans and their families registered in need of emergency housing, and John Simmons helped get it. Even before the governing body of the city acted.

John Simmons has a deep and expert knowledge of the housing problem. He will give leadership to a broad and comprehensive housing and redevelopment program in our city. Your Congress is acting to make this possible. John Simmons, as your Mayor, will take immediate steps to insure Minneapolis' participation in this program.

I could go on to tell you more things, probably ~~the~~  
most important the little things, the personal things. *But I must*

*conclude* →

I could tell you that John Simmons never was for me  
or anyone else a yes man.

I never admired John Simmons because he always  
agreed with me, ~~but~~ I admired him because he was one of my  
friends who had the courage to disagree.

John Simmons is one of those rare people you meet in  
life and in politics.

One of those people you can disagree with and who  
can make you like it.

I could tell you that John Simmons is one of the  
hardest workers I have ever known.

~~I think~~ John Simmons will unite the people of this  
community -- all of the people ~~in the community~~ -- business,  
~~labor, professional, all groups, all classes, all creeds.~~

~~In Conclusion~~

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~~I think he will~~ <sup>He</sup> unite them on a program for

municipal betterment. **ON A PROGRAM OF MUNICIPAL  
HONESTY AND INTEGRITY.**

~~I think that he~~ <sup>us</sup> will unite ~~them~~ <sup>our</sup> in solving ~~their~~

housing problem, <sup>our</sup> ~~their~~ problem of industrial peace,

<sup>our</sup> ~~their~~ problem of human relations, <sup>our</sup> ~~their~~ problem of efficient

government, <sup>our</sup> ~~their~~ problem of living together in charity and

understanding in the 20th century.

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~~(position quite clear)~~

On one occasion I was asked by a reporter as to whether or not I supported John Simmons for Mayor.

I said that I did. . . That he is my friend.

He is endowed with great capacities of leadership.

He has proved himself to be a community spirited person.

And he is worthy of the trust and confidence of his fellow citizens.

~~But, it seemed to get around that there was some doubt as to my support of John Simmons.~~

At a later date, speaking to a luncheon audience, in Minneapolis, and a similar one in St. Paul, I had reaffirmed my whole-hearted support of John Simmons.

But many letters have come to me and there have been telephone calls and telegrams, too, saying that ~~I have said~~ they were puzzled because (a)

~~some kind words and made comments of praise about other persons~~

~~who later filed for the office of Mayor.~~

To be sure, my friends, I have said what I hoped were kind words and favorable comments about others who are seeking this office.

Why not?

**MANY OF THEM I LIKE PERSONALLY**  
~~I like many of them personally.~~

I am grateful for their community service.

But I believed then, and I still believe, that John Simmons is the outstanding candidate for this important office.

~~Surely, one is not required to condemn and criticize one candidate in order to show that he is for another.~~

~~There will be plenty of criticism in the campaign without my adding to it.~~

It is not the purpose of this address to attack any

one or to campaign against any of the candidates.

It is my purpose to tell you why I am supporting  
John Simmons for the Office of Mayor — *and to urge your  
support of him.*

I have known John Simmons for a long time.

I knew him before I became Mayor of Minneapolis.

I know John Simmons -- as many of you have known  
him -- as a man who is deeply interested in the welfare of  
Minneapolis and its people.

I know him as ~~one devoted to the highest principles~~  
~~of honesty and honor.~~ — **A MAN OF DEEP  
CONVICTION AND INTEGRITY.**

I know that John Simmons has given unstintingly of  
his time, energy, and ability to the improvement of the com-  
munity life of Minneapolis.

He has extended his hand of fellowship and cooperation  
to business and civic <sup>*and religious*</sup> groups in their worthy projects of youth  
activities and community welfare.



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