

SPEECH BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY AT TRUMAN DAY CELEBRATION  
LOWRY HOTEL, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, NOVEMBER 3, 1949

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*Not returned*

Mr. President, the people of Minnesota welcome you to their great and progressive North Star State. You have honored us by your visit on this historic occasion.

Tonight we celebrate two great events in the history of a growing and expanding American democracy--the Minnesota Centennial and your miraculous victory in November, 1948.

One hundred years ago America was in the midst of a great internal controversy over the issue of slavery versus freedom. The establishment of Minnesota as a territory and her subsequent admission as a State gave strength to the forces of liberty and emancipation in the tragic conflict which later on convulsed our nation. Then, as now, there was a struggle for the minds of men. Then, as now, the principles of democracy were being challenged within and without.

In the year 1948 we saw a world in the midst of a

great controversy. The issue now, as a century ago, was whether or not a people can live half slave and half free. To be sure, the stage for the great human drama <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ in the dimensions of a world and not merely a nation, but the principle in our generation is the same as that of a hundred years past. And, as if history would repeat itself, the people of Minnesota again made a great contribution to the cause of human freedom. That contribution, Mr. President, was their confidence and faith in you. That contribution was made real and tangible by the overwhelming vote you received from the people of Minnesota in that crucial election of 1948. Our people now, as one hundred years ago, place their faith and hope in the principles of the dignity of the individual, freedom of conscience, and a brotherhood of man.

These are not merely idealistic pronouncements or comforting phrases of a democratic ritual. The dignity of

the individual has real meaning in the social, economic and political fabric of our State. We jealously guard and protect as inviolable that sacred principle of freedom of conscience. We not only preach and proclaim the brotherhood of man, but as a State of almost three million people we tirelessly work towards its realization.

Yes, Mr. President, if ever one State could justifiably claim that it represented the dynamic spirit of America, our State of Minnesota feels justified in making that claim.

Permit me to indulge myself in a recitation of our case for this honor.

Here in Minnesota people from all sections of the world have learned how to live, to build and to work together. Our people represent the finest qualities of every race, creed and nationality. Our standard of honor and respect is not that of birth or race. Our standard of honor and respect is that of achievement and of individual ability.

We have placed our faith, Mr. President, in the people. That faith has been justified by the accomplishments of our people ~~in a free America~~. Here before you tonight, *Mr President,* you see living testimony to the virtues and truth of the democratic way of life.

Less than a century ago this vast expanse of land which now is known as Minnesota was an undeveloped and almost unknown region. Today it stands out as one of the most progressive and prosperous areas of a strong and mighty nation.

The pioneers, the immigrants, the sons and daughters of those who came from many lands, have applied their minds and bodies to creating a prosperous and democratic society. Our people have taken the iron ore from the earth to supply the steel furnaces of the industrial East. Our woodsmen have cut the forests to produce the timber and the lumber required by growing America.

Our seamen have sailed the ships from the great harbor of Duluth, Minnesota, to carry the iron ore, the grain and the lumber to the processing and manufacturing plants in other areas of our nation.

Our farmers have tilled the soil and produced the food that was needed by <sup>an expanding</sup> ~~a growing~~ population.

Yes, Mr. President, there is no place in all the world where one will find a more industrious, a more enlightened, a more devoted and a more patriotic people than here in Middle America.

We have created new industries. We are rich with a supply of skilled labor. Our workmen take justifiable pride in their productive skill and ability.

Our industry<sup>ies</sup> and business community have demonstrated unusual initiative and ingenuity.

Minnesota points with pride to its hospitals, its

clinics, its programs of public health and recreation, its great State University and its many colleges, its splendid system of public and parochial schools.

We have emphasized the human values. We have believed, and will continue to believe, that the richness of America is in its people. It is because of this faith of the people in themselves that we have placed particular emphasis upon the health and the welfare and the education of our people.

Like you, Mr. President, we believe in human welfare and we have dedicated much of our efforts and a sizeable portion of our resources to the creation of a social, economic and political environment that is conducive to the betterment of the people.

We in this State know that a deep concern for human welfare yields dividends. This emphasis upon the welfare of people has given us a rich and productive economy. It has

given us an enlightened citizenry that is capable of conserving and improving the great storehouse of natural resources in land, water, forests and mines with which God so generously blessed us.

We in Minnesota in this generation have repudiated not only the exploitation of human and physical resources-- we have likewise repudiated for once and for all the false doctrine of isolationism.

We are of the people--yes, of the people of all the world. Therefore we are interested in people no matter where they may be or who they may be.

We do not need to ask ourselves the question Am I my brother's keeper. We already know the answer. Our political and social convictions are deeply rooted in a religious faith. We gratefully acknowledge our humility before one God. We know that man does not live by bread alone. Our strength is not merely that of material blessings. Our strength and

faith are guarded and protected by a sense of religious and spiritual obligations ~~and principles~~.

It is in this spirit, Mr. President, that we welcome you. What has been said of our State typifies your character, your philosophy and your program.

You, too, are of the people. You have placed your confidence in the people. Your great victory in 1948 was made possible because you went to the people with your message. They received you and gave you inspiration to carry on.

You, too, Mr. President, are known for those sterling qualities of honor, integrity, industry and a man of deep faith.

You are in the midst of many friends--friends not only in the social sense, but friends in spirit and mind.

There is a bond of fellowship between our people and their President.

Introduction

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I have the honor and the privilege of presenting to

~~you the President of the United States, the~~

~~S. Truman.~~

Ladies & Gentlemen —  
The President of the United  
States



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