

Recorded: May 8, 1956

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WASHINGTON REPORT NO. 10

by

Senator Robert H. Humphrey

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Ladies and gentlemen, and fellow-Minnesotans:

We have a little smorgasbord for you today. There are so many important pieces of legislation coming up that I want to touch on several of them in the brief time we have today. I also want to say a few words later on about my friend, the late Senator Alben Barkley of Kentucky.

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At last there seems to be general agreement on the highway construction legislation which will mean so much to the economy and defense of the nation and will help so greatly in reducing the appalling accident rates. As you may know, the House of Representatives approved the Federal Highway Act of 1956 by a tremendous vote of 368 to 19. As I record this program today in my office the Senate Public Works Committee is considering this bill and is expected to pass it on to the full Senate within a few days.

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Broadly speaking, the bill authorizes a thirteen-year, fifty-one and a half billion dollar program of Federal-State highway construction.

But let's see what this means to Minnesota.

It means first of all that Minnesota would be entitled this July 1 to \$42 million in Federal assistance for interstate, primary, secondary, urban and rural route construction. This would exactly double the amount Minnesota is receiving under existing Federal-aid highway legislation. During the following year, Federal assistance would amount to \$53.2 million, and then to \$60 million in Fiscal 1959.

Over the entire 13-year period, Minnesota would receive almost three-quarters of a billion dollars in Federal funds for highway construction.

And this is important -- two-thirds of this amount, or about \$500 million, would be allocated on a 9-1 matching basis for the construction of 856 interstate highways in Minnesota. That means that Minnesota would pay only 10 percent of the cost of this more than 800 miles of new cross-country highway through Minnesota.

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The remaining \$250 million over the next 13 years would be allocated for use on the regular Federal-aid routes in Minnesota -- on the regular 50-50 sharing between State and Federal.

Now, how is this great program going to be paid for?

Basically, by the people who use the highways -- on a pay-as-you-go basis. It will mean a penny per gallon tax increase on gasoline, special motor fuel and diesel fuel. It will also push the tax on tires and camelback (for retreading old tires) up three cents per pound.

An increased manufacturers' tax on trucks, buses, truck trailers and similar vehicles will pay part of the cost. So will a new annual tax of \$1.50 per 1000 pounds of "taxable gross weight" for trucks and buses weighing over 26,000 pounds which use the highways.

This legislation is badly needed, for we all know what a stranglehold our present inadequate system now is on the economy, and each of us is deeply disturbed by the appalling automobile



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accident rate -- with tens of thousands of deaths each year -- so much of it preventable by wisely-planned highway construction.

I shall do all I can to see that the Senate moves speedily to consider and pass this necessary legislation.

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I am sure that every parent will be interested in the fact that I am doing my best to see that the Congress appropriates funds for a greatly expanded school lunch program. For the fourth year in a row the Administration has come to the Congress asking for the same appropriation for this program to provide good, healthful school lunches to our children through the use of surplus food stocks.

Yet, our school population will have grown by next year from 32 million of four years ago to more than 38 million -- an increase of 16 percent. Furthermore, the present school lunch program covers less than a third of our school children.

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The net effect of the Administration's refusal to expand the Federal portion of the school lunch program has been that state and local governments, and the children themselves have been paying a greater and greater share of the cost. In Minnesota, for example, the Federal share of each school lunch has been dropped since 1952 from about 5 or 6 cents per lunch down to 3 or 4 cents.

The school lunch program is one of the finest humanitarian projects which the Federal Government has ever joined. It has provided a means to make good use of our food abundance. But most of all, it has contributed greatly to the health and well-being of our children. It seems a real shame to me that rather than expanding the school lunch program as the school population has expanded, the Administration has been content to "mark time". That is why I asked the Senate Appropriations Committee this week to raise the budget request for the school lunch program from approximately \$83 million to \$125 million. This would at least restore the effectiveness of the program per pupil as it was in 1952.

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All during this week I have been meeting with the Senate Agriculture Committee in a further effort to develop a new farm bill which will give some help to the farmer and yet be acceptable to the President. By the time you hear this broadcast the Senate may have taken action on this bill. I am presently offering a number of amendments which I hope will improve the House bill.

In the bill at the moment are the provisions for a soil bank, which I have consistently advocated, and which until early this year, the Secretary of Agriculture refused to consider. The most important provisions of the bill sent last month to the President are no longer in the present bill, for he has indicated he will veto again any bill which would provide 90 percent of price supports on the basic commodities.

In the meantime, I have introduced a new bill which would do much to preserve family farming in America -- by liberalizing and broadening the present laws on farm credit.

Nothing can really replace decent prices and decent incomes for



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farmers. But now that the President has blocked our best efforts to restore farm income to a better degree of equality, at least we can help tide farmers over this emergency period. One way is to broaden the availability of credit, and make repayment of farm loans easier by setting up a repayment plan closer to the ability to pay, year by year.

Money is getting harder and harder to get for farmers, and many (especially the young farmers just getting started) are running into real difficulties because of a loss of capital.

This bill would greatly broaden the authority and functions of the Farmers Home Administration. First: by providing needed credit for farmers and related small business in rural areas/<sup>who are</sup> dependent upon agriculture and who are suffering from the economic distress of the farm depression.

Second: by authorizing a special program to eliminate rural poverty in the nation's 500 most poverty-stricken rural counties.

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Third: by lowering the maximum interest rate and permitting larger loans.

Fourth: by directing the Secretary of Agriculture to reactivate the voluntary farm debt adjustment service.

Fifth: by authorizing use of a complete "variable repayment plan", so that a farmer who borrows money under the plan may pay it back according to the way his income varies -- more in a good crop year and less in a bad year.

The Administration has just taken steps to raise the interest rate throughout the country -- on the grounds that it would counteract inflation. But out in the farming areas -- as you well know -- the problem is not inflation, but depression. That is why I have introduced this bill to lower interest rates to farmers, and why so many Senators have come to my support. I have real hope that this bill will pass the Congress and be sent to the President.



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Recorded: May 8, 1956

WASHINGTON REPORT NO. 10

by

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey

Ladies and gentlemen and fellow-Minnesotans:

Last week the Senate recessed for several days in memory of the passing of one of the grand old men of the Congress -- a great liberal and former Vice-President of the United States. I was proud to call Alben Barkley my friend -- my greatly respected and beloved friend. It was my privilege to attend his funeral services last week at Paducah, Kentucky.

You all knew and loved him as "The Veep" -- a colorful and humorous story-teller, a smiling and kindly gentleman.

He was a good friend of Minnesota. Many times -- both as a Senator and Vice-President -- he shared with us his profound knowledge of government and politics, and above all, his kindness, understanding and friendship. We Minnesotans will look to and remember the bright

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spots that were his official visits to Minnesota in 1948, his joining in the 1949 Aquatennial celebration at Minneapolis, and his tour of Duluth in 1951.

Yes, Alben Barkley loved life and loved people.

Yet under the gay, delightful exterior of Alben Barkley beat the strong heart of a dedicated public servant. Working up from humble beginnings in his home state of Kentucky, Senator Barkley was to become a friend of President Wilson and a leader in the World War I and post-war Congress. He was to be one of the pillars of strength in the Congress during the dark days of the depression. His experience and skill in legislative matters, his personal charm, and his dedicated devotion to the good of his fellow man were strong influences in the shaping of those badly-needed reforms that put this nation back on its feet in the thirties.

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From President Roosevelt on down, the leaders of the New Deal Administration looked to Alben Barkley to lead their program through the Congress. The legislation of the first 100 days of the New Deal, the Wagner Act which emancipated labor, the great Social Security Act of 1935, the Civilian Conservation Corps which took so many of our youngsters off the city streets and put them out-of-doors in our national parks and forests, the magnificent system of public works to which we owe so many of our fine schools, roads and public buildings -- in all of the great humanitarian achievements of the New Deal, Alben Barkley played a leading role.

During World War II, as the Senate Majority Leader, he was a rock of strength. Without him, lend-lease might have been postponed until too late.

With the end of the war in sight, Alben Barkley turned willingly to the great tasks of building a secure and lasting world peace. He was one of the earliest and most powerful supporters of the United Nations, leading the debate on the United Nations Charter ratification.



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Today, with our participation in the United Nations accepted as a matter of fact, it is difficult to recall just how hard a battle had to be fought to bring the United States into this official family of nations after a hundred and fifty years of relative isolation. Senator Barkley's long championship of a constructive foreign policy -- the Truman Plan which rolled the Communists back from Greece and Turkey in 1948, the Marshall Plan, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, Reciprocal Trade, Point Four -- contributed in no small way to the initiation and support by the Congress of these magnificent programs developed during his term as Senate Majority Leader, and finally, as President Truman's able Vice-President.

The difficult Korean War period found him again a great public servant and ambassador of good will, working to strengthen our alliances, encouraging our friends, giving heart to our own people,

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It would take far longer than a short broadcast to list all the accomplishments of this great American. But he summed up his lifetime of honor and service in the words with which he fell.

He said, "I would rather be a servant in the house of the Lord than to sit in the seat of the mighty."

That was Alben Barkley -- a great and unselfish man. His passing is a sad loss to the United States Senate and to his country.

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Recorded: May 22, 1956

Per Broadcast: Week of May 25-31, 1956

WASHINGTON REPORT NO. 11

by

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey

Ladies and gentlemen, and fellow-Minnesotans:

Almost five months of this second session of the Eighty-Fourth Congress have gone by. We are less than ten weeks away from adjournment. And it has been a busy session from the very first week in January.

I think it may be interesting to look back at the legislature record of the whole Congress -- both sessions. It will give you some idea of the enormously complicated problem which your Senator faces in keeping abreast of new legislation .

Up through May 18, more than 4300 bills and resolutions had been introduced in the Senate since January of 1955. Over 12,500 had been introduced in the House of Representatives. Many of these bills are of relatively small importance. Yet, a great many of them represent



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critical issues; some are greatly controversial and demand the closest attention and study.

Only in the past two weeks a number of important pieces of legislation, which have undergone long and intensive study in committees, have finally come out committee and either have been acted upon by the Senate or are awaiting action any day now.

The new farm bill, of course, will have been sent to the President before you hear this broadcast. As I record this broadcast, the conferees representing the House and the Senate are deciding on a bill on which both the House and the Senate can agree. I should like to come back in a few minutes to discuss the farm bill with you at some length. It is most important that not only our farmers in Minnesota, but also our Main Street merchants, and our city workers and businessmen and women and housewives understand exactly what this new bill does.

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But let us take a few moments to cover briefly two or three of the other really important bills which are now getting action.

Improvements in our Social Security program which will affect most of us directly or indirectly are written into the bill which will probably be reported out of the Senate Finance Committee this week. Some important sections of my original eleven-point program to improve the social security structure have been incorporated in the form of amendments to the bill now before the Committee.

Among these amendments, are provisions to extend old age and survivors' insurance to dentists and lawyers, and to decrease the eligibility age for women from 65 to 62.

There is some disagreement as to whether the age should be lowered for all women or just for widows. It is possible that the Senate Committee version will restrict this only to widows, but if this occurs, I plan to fight hard on the Senate floor to make sure that all eligible women are paid old-age benefits at the age 62.

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I am disappointed that my proposals to raise the benefit payments for our aged and disabled under the Social Security program have not been adopted by the Committee; nor has my proposal to provide disability payments to permanently and totally disabled persons at the age of 50. Again, it may yet be possible to have these provisions adopted as amendments on the Senate floor.

While I had hoped the bill would provide broader benefits for all congenitally disabled children, at least provision is made to continue benefits after age 18 to disabled children of old-age beneficiaries or of parents who died when insured under OASI.

All in all, the new provisions will strengthen our system, and will make life for many of our people in the twilight years more comfortable and happy.

I think we will all agree that Social security has been one of the happiest undertakings of our Federal Government, a tremendous



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success and a splendid testimony to the ability of enlightened democratic government to solve the age-old problem of poverty in the later years.

Still, we should not be content with what we have. We can always improve. There are always inequities and injustices to remedy. That is what we are here for, and that is why I intend to continue to work to perfect our system of Social Security.

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Now, there are two other important bills coming before the Senate this week and next. One of them is the Housing Bill, which came out of the Senate Committee on May 15 recommending 135,000 public housing units per year. This was in sharp contrast to the 35,000 units per year for two years requested by the President. This bill will be a great step forward in our slum clearance and urban renewal program. Another important provision of the Housing Bill provides 100 percent insurance of housing for elderly persons by the Federal Housing Administration. This will give our elderly,

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low-income people who do not have the cash for the relatively large down payments now required for an FHA mortgage a chance to own their own homes at last.

Another interesting provision is the new ceiling on FHA home improvement loans -- now up to \$3500, with up to 5 years to repay the loan. I am hopeful that the final bill as passed by the House and the Senate will retain these excellent provisions.

The big highway program is also coming up. To Minnesota, this bill will mean \$42 million in Federal aid for highways next year, and a total of nearly \$750 million over the next 13 years. Half a billion dollars of Federal aid will go to construction of 856 miles of superhighway, interstate highways in Minnesota.

Last week, I introduced a highway safety bill which I hope will be added to the highway bill when it reaches the Senate floor. This bill would direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a comprehensive study of all phases of highway traffic safety. Up to now, the Bureau

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of Roads has felt itself limited to studying only design and physical characteristics of highways as related to safety. This safety bill has strong backing from such private groups as the Triple-A, who feel, as I do, that our shocking toll of 40,000 probable traffic deaths this year on American highways is nothing short of a national disaster.

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In passing, I am pleased to report that I joined in the successful effort last week to pass the Niagara Redevelopment Authority -- a bill which will give New York State the authority to construct a power facility to generate 10 billion kilowatt hours per year -- and directs New York to give equal preference to counties and municipalities, state departments and agencies, REA co-ops, and defense agencies.

Coming on top of Elk River Electric Co-op's long and successful fight to get Atomic Energy Commission approval for an atomic steam generating plant, our REA's have had a very good month indeed. I am especially proud to reflect that two years ago I secured the amendments



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to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 which made possible REA co-op participation in the development of peaceful atomic power.

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Now, let's have a look at the revised farm bill, which, by the time you hear this broadcast, should be on its way to the President.

As the bill now stands, it leaves much to be desired. Yet, at the same time, it provides many improvements and safeguards for agriculture that would not have been provided if we had followed alone the guidance and recommendations of this Administration.

The bill does not go as far as we Democrats felt and still feel was necessary. It does go further than Republicans and this Administration wanted to go. It is obviously a compromise -- but it is the best we can get enacted with an Executive Branch that has shown an unwillingness to abide by the judgment of the Congress on farm policy.

Anything that came from a Democratic source, apparently, automatically made the measure a "bad bill", in the eyes of the Administration.

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Anything that came from the Eisenhower Administration, apparently, was automatically assumed to be a "good bill".

The truth is that a serious, bipartisan, constructive effort has been made by the Democratic leadership and the Democratic-controlled Senate Committee on Agriculture right from the start to enact the best possible bill.

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Any newspaper reader would gather the impression that after defeat of the Democratic farm bill, all we are enacting now is what President Eisenhower and Secretary Benson wanted.

It is amazing, and it is untrue.

The present bill has some 65 or more significant changes from what the Administration hastily submitted to this Congress.

If it is now a "good bill" as the Administration spokesmen say, it is "good because the Democrats would not give up our fight

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to write something "good" in it -- even if we could not get all that was needed.

There is much in this bill that the Administration never thought of, or, if it thought of it, refused to sponsor. ~~Now, suddenly, it wants credit for the whole pie we baked just because they threw our first pie out the window.~~

It was action of the Democrats that kept support prices from being dropped as low as the Administration obviously wanted to drop them.

It was action of the Democrats that compelled a higher support level for dairy products this year.

It was action of the Democrats that froze the transitional parity formula from falling still lower pending a study by the Department of an entirely new formula.

I am pleased that both the parity study and the higher dairy supports, in the original form, were my own amendments in committee.



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They have been kicked around and abused, but their merit has been recognized in the end.

I am proud, too, that my amendment providing for marketing research and price reporting on timber products has been kept in the bill, along with amendments which I sponsored or co-sponsored to protect the normal competitive relationship of soybeans and cottonseed, to expand funds for using voluntary agencies in overseas relief distribution of surplus commodities, to authorize payment of ocean freight on such commodities, to authorize processing of surplus foods into form suitable for relief distribution, to give a greater local voice by soil conservation districts and state foresters in administration of the soil bank, and to expand the corn allotment this year to 51 million acres.

Many other constructive changes have been made in the bill from the limited program this Administration proposed.

We have taken wildlife conservation interests into account,

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and provided for soil, water, wildlife and forest conserving uses on conservation reserve lands instead of limiting it to soil conservation. We have lengthened the time of conservation reserve contracts to 15 years to encourage tree planting, and increased by \$100 million the funds for this phase of the soil bank program.

We have expanded the list of commodities covered by the acreage reserve program, tightened safeguards for cattlemen and dairymen against use of new pasture land to graze additional livestock, and provided for control of noxious weeds.

We have improved safeguards for tenant farmers, under the soil bank program, We have provided a vastly stepped-up surplus disposal program, including calling for specific recommendations on setting up a food stamp plan and a program of strategic defense reserves of food and fiber. We have provided for expanding the barter program, by authorizing transfer to the supplemental defense stockpile strategic as well as other

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materials acquired by the CCC in barter for surplus farm products.

We have limited the use of government-owned lands in producing price-supported crops competing with other farmers. We have authorized an additional \$500 million to supplement Section 32 funds for purchases of perishable products such as pork and beef. We have provided a bipartisan commission to recommend legislation for the increased industrial use of agricultural products. We have provided for food donations to certain penal institutions. We have authorized a trial of the two-price certificate plan on rice.

With all these changes, and many, many, more, this then is the bill Congress is enacting -- a bill the press would have the public believe is just what President Eisenhower asked the Congress to enact.

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We in Congress have given the Administration all it

*We can, and more.*



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They now say they accept it as a "good bill". Let us hope they administer it that way.

Properly administered, this measure could still help check the dangerous decline in farm income.

Improperly administered, or administered reluctantly by those who do not really believe in farm programs at all, no legislation can offer much help.

My appeal is for sympathetic administration -- for stretching every point in favor of the hard-pressed farmer, for trying to protect our entire economy -- now -- by halting this deplorable situation in agriculture.

I am convinced that time will justify every position I have taken in this long farm fight -- and time will eventually see enacted into law and public policy many of the efforts to improve conditions in agriculture which this Administration has scorned and successfully sidetracked.

c/ro (and VL)

Recorded: 23 May 1956

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WCCO BROADCAST

of Saturday, May 26, 1956

by

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey

Ladies and gentlemen, and fellow-Minnesotans:

Today I thought you might like to have a report on what we call our Minnesota projects. You see, while a great deal of my time and energy goes into committee work and floor work on legislation of national scope, I never forget that I am a Senator from Minnesota -- with unique responsibilities to the people of Minnesota.

So, while much of my attention is concentrated on such legislation of national importance as is now pending -- the Social Security amendments, the Highway Bill, the Housing Bill, foreign aid appropriations, and the Farm Bill, and we hope soon, the School Construction Bill -- my job as I see it is to make sure that Minnesota and Minnesotans share fully in the many constructive activities of the Federal Government.

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To be quite frank, Minnesota is just one of forty-eight states, Each state has urgent problems which, in many cases, only Federal assistance can solve. And Federal agencies, with strictly budgeted funds and limited personnel, can undertake only so many projects of the many that need doing.

As one of Minnesota's two Senators, I feel that one of my most important tasks is to speak and act for Minnesota, to be its "friend at court", to make sure that when one of Minnesota's state agencies, or one of Minnesota's communities or private organizations takes up a matter with any agency of the Federal Government, the matter will get full, fair and prompt consideration.

Further than that, when I see an opportunity for Minnesota, I get out and try to get it for my State. In the friendly competition on Capitol Hill in Washington, what really counts is the ability to get there "fastest with the mostest", as General Nathan Bedford Forrest of the Southern Armies once said.



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Transportation, for example, is the life of commerce, as we all know. And consequently, I am always watchful for opportunities to improve Minnesota's transportation facilities. That is the reason why I have been pressing so hard in the past weeks with the Army Engineers and the Senate Committee on Public Works to secure approval of the nine-foot navigation channel in the Minnesota River. That is why I have been working day in and day out with the Corps of Engineers and Minneapolis' fine engineers and city officials to ensure that completion of the Upper Harbor at Minneapolis is approved by the Corps of Engineers and the Congress. Both projects will tie Minnesota more firmly and successfully into the great river network which stretches from the Alleghenies to the Gulf of Mexico, and north to Minnesota, and along which so much of American industry is established. Both of these projects, I am convinced, will be approved -- with great benefits to Minnesota in terms of new industry, lower costs and higher living standards. For the same reason,

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I worked hard to push through earlier this year legislation to authorize the deepening of the connecting channels of the Great Lakes -- the one barrier which would keep ocean-going vessels from coming up the St. Lawrence Seaway fourteen hundred miles to Minnesota.

Air transportation facilities are also critically important.

And to see that Minnesota's needs for airport construction are met, I find it useful to stay in touch with the Civil Aeronautics Board, which has a certain amount of discretionary authority in the allotment of Federal funds for airport construction, and which will be deciding on the distribution of several hundred million dollars for this purpose between now and July 1.

Let me emphasize: these projects don't just happen. With so many worthwhile undertakings being advocated, it is critically important to see that Minnesota's interests are protected actively, constantly, and personally.

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Flood control is a case in point. Almost every state is subject to floods, and they all want something done about them. The Federal Government has a broad and active program of flood control going on throughout the nation. But to make sure that Minnesota's needs along the Red River, the Minnesota, The Rainy River, the Mississippi and their tributary streams are considered fairly, I feel it is an important part of my job to study the local needs, to talk over the local situation with leaders in the area, and to represent them in Washington as their spokesman. Through such efforts, year in and year out, we secure Congressional authorization and appropriations for Minnesota flood control projects -- such as the continuing program on the Red River, and the projects recently recommended by the Board of Engineers at Ruffy Brook and Lost River, and at Mankato and North Mankato on the Minnesota River.



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On these Corps of Engineers projects, each of which is listed under the subject of Rivers and Harbors, a long and exhaustive procedure must be carried out before a shovel full of dirt is turned. First must come authorization from the Congress to make a preliminary study; then there may be the question of securing funds for the study itself. Next, the Engineers must review the project at four levels before they recommend approval. And before the Congress is asked to authorize the project officially, the Governor and state and local organizations must review the Engineers' report. Next, the Congress must be persuaded to authorize the project, and finally, to appropriate the necessary funds.

Each stage is critical. At each point, the decision must be favorable or there will be no project for Minnesota. It is my task at each stage to lend every assistance I can to see that the case for the project is made effectively and studied with care and attention.

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During the past several weeks, a great deal of the time of myself and my staff has also been devoted to the task of working with the various appropriations subcommittees of the Senate in securing funds for other projects of special interest to Minnesota.

For example, knowing that Minnesota's needs are critical for new general hospital construction, I cited these figures to the Committee and urged that the budget request for funds under the Hill-Burton Act for Federal aid to the states for hospital construction be raised from \$88,800,000 to \$100,000,000. I am glad to report that the Committee reported out the amount I asked. I have urged considerable increases over the budget request for the medical research programs of the National Institutes of Health -- not only because these programs are very badly needed, but also because our own great University of Minnesota Medical School will share heavily in the Federal programs.

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When the agricultural appropriations bill came up, I asked for inclusion of two special projects which I am glad to report were approved -- an item to establish a forest products research laboratory at Grand Rapids, and a hydrological laboratory designed to study the water situation in our northern forest areas. In addition, I asked for special funds to study such problems as the infestation of the gypsy moth, which is doing so much damage throughout the Upper Midwest. Again, I am glad to report that funds for this necessary project were included by the Committee.

Another project of major importance, on which I have been working for several years, is the establishment of a Bureau of Mines Minerals Research Laboratory in Minnesota, designed to study and develop the great untapped mineral resources of Minnesota -- such as non-magnetic taconite, and manganese ore -- both of which Minnesota has rich deposits. Although this laboratory is the top priority minerals laboratory on the list of the Bureau of Mines,



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the Bureau of the Budget under the present Administration has consistently refused to recommend it to the Congress. To break this log-jam, therefore, I have secured the co-sponsorship of Senator Murray of Montana of a bill to direct the establishment of this laboratory. Senator Murray occupies the key position of Chairman of the Committee on Interior Affairs, and his co-sponsorship means a great deal in gaining the acceptance of the Committee and the full Senate. I have high hopes that this bill will come before the full Senate in the near future.

Another major project which is a possibility for Minnesota is the proposed multi-million-dollar atomic research facility which the Atomic Energy Commission will build on one of fourteen Midwestern University campuses. Naturally, our great University of Minnesota is a very strong candidate. Since the first week of April, I have been working closely with the University to plan the necessary steps to ensure that the University is given every consideration in the choice to be made eventually by the Atomic Energy Commission.

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At President Morrill's request, however, neither I nor Congressman McCarthy nor Congressman Wier have contacted the Atomic Energy Commission in behalf of the University, in order not to jeopardize the extremely delicate negotiations going on among the Midwest Universities themselves -- who were to recommend three of their number to the AEC for final consideration. Just as soon as we are informed that our University is among those three, there will be a strong effort made by the entire Minnesota Congressional delegation to secure the big atomic laboratory for Minnesota.

Speaking of atomic energy, the great new development at the Elk River Co-op has been a project to which a great deal of my efforts have been directed -- beginning in 1954 with my successful amendment of the basic Atomic Energy Act to permit cooperatives and local governments to participate in the development of peacetime atomic power. Through all the months of delay and frustration that followed Elk River's first application for an atomic reactor,

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I worked closely with the co-op and with the Atomic Energy Commission and the Rural Electrification Administration to overcome the reluctance of those agencies to support Elk River's fine proposal. The announcement at long last that the REA would participate in the financing of this historic effort brought to a close two solid years of continuous efforts on my part and on the part of the whole Minnesota delegation to secure this vital project.

Another continuing project which is very much in the news this week is the effort to be of real assistance to our Minnesota Indians. The Governor's Conference on Indian Affairs on June 1-2 will bring into sharp focus the problems of poverty and illness and lack of proper training facilities for our Minnesota Indians. For years I have been working with the State Department of Welfare and the Bureau of Indian Affairs in an effort to work out a better program for Minnesota. During this Congress, I have introduced with Congressman Marshall, legislation to provide a completely new program, headed by a specially



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created Minnesota Indian Administration which would revamp our whole Indian welfare, education and training program from the ground up -- and which would serve both the Indian who wishes to enter the main stream of American life and also the Indian who wishes to continue the traditional life on the reservation. Something simply must be done, for the present program is resulting only in poverty and unhappiness and delinquency for our Minnesota Indians. They deserve far better.

Some of my work on Minnesota projects involves what we might call "trouble-shooting". From time to time, Federal agencies, being made up, after all, of men with the faults of all men, make big mistakes. Sometimes they are capricious and even irresponsible. The current effort by the Veterans Administration, for example, to decentralize the death claims section of the VA operation at Fort Snelling and Philadelphia, would involve not only the sudden uprooting of about a hundred Twin Cities VA employees, but it would also result in poorer service to the dependent survivors of our veterans throughout

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the Midwest. When the Veterans Administration refused to delay the decentralization until the Congress had a chance to study the proposal, I asked the House Veterans Affairs Committee to investigate this uneconomical and unwise move. The Committee is beginning this study on the weekend of the twenty-sixth. Whether or not we can prevent the beginning of this decentralization, I feel that close study by the Congress may block any further decentralization and breakdown of the efficient operation at Fort Snelling.

I hope that I have been able to give you some idea of my work as your Senator, which is certainly not exclusively concerned with legislation.

Before I close, I should like to tell you just briefly about two little sidelights which may illustrate that a Senator can be a kind of ambassador from Minnesota to the Nation's Capital. During Minnesota Hospitality Week, which Governor Freeman recently proclaimed, asking every Minnesotan to invite at least one person to come to visit Minnesota, I found the opportunity to invite each member of the

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96 members of the Senate to visit Minnesota -- by reading an open letter to them on the Senate floor. Each Senator next morning had a hand-delivered copy of the Congressional Record on his desk.

When President Sukarno of Indonesia was in Washington last week, I found myself in a friendly conversation at the dinner with our own President. It was an opportunity too good to be missed, and while I did discuss the foreign aid program with Mr. Eisenhower, we had a most enjoyable discussion also about Minnesota. I suggested to the President that when he found himself with more time on his hands, he would be a most welcome guest in our great North Star State.

C/ro





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