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DRAFT SCRIPT FOR CONGRESSMAN JOHN BLATNIK
FOR SENATOR HUMPHREY'S RADIO PROGRAM

April 25, 1957

Ladies and gentlemen and fellow Minnesotans. This is Congressman John Blatnik of Chisholm. Senator Humphrey has asked me to report to you this week on his five minute radio program from Washington. As you know, the Senator himself is in the Middle East on Senate Foreign Relations Committee business. As the Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on the Near East, Senator Humphrey at the moment is in Cairo, Egypt. In a few days he will proceed to Lebanon and Israel. With the Middle East again at the explosion point and with our newspaper headlines bringing us a constant stream of rapid developments, there is no place in the world where a Senate Foreign Relations Committee member could be closer to the scene of historic developments. I know that we will all look forward with special eagerness to the first reports which the Senator is able to send back with his on the spot evaluation of events.

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In the meantime I wanted to bring you up to date on quite another matter. Your Minnesota Congressional delegation is proud of the frequent cooperation and common interests shared by its members. I myself am particularly proud to have cooperated with Senator Humphrey in the introduction of many important measures over the past few years since we have both been in Washington. In recent weeks we have worked very closely together on a major new piece of legislation in the social security field. Because of our mutual interest in this legislation I thought you might like to hear about the new Humanitarian and Old Age Rights Act which Senator Humphrey has introduced in the Senate and which I have introduced in the House of Representatives.

This bill is intended to amend the public assistance provisions of the Social Security Act to eliminate certain inequities and restrictions and permit a more effective distribution of Federal funds. It is well publicized that the people in the United States are today enjoying unequalled prosperity and the highest standard of living

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in the world. Wherever you go, whatever magazine or newspaper you read, you are confronted with this supposed sense of well-being for all.

Yet, my fellow Minnesotans, surely realize that a large segment of our population points a guilty finger at the United States Congress because we have failed -- unintentionally, I think, to assure them their God-given right to human dignity. These people are the less fortunate in our society -- those who must depend on the public assistance section of our Social Security Act to live -- our needy aged, blind, physically handicapped, and dependent children. Plain old-fashioned human dignity to them has become a luxury they enjoyed while they were producing and helping to build the prosperity we now enjoy. With the coming of old age or the loss of job and income because of circumstances beyond their control, they now are required to pay the price for poverty. When they apply for public assistance they are firmly stamped "pauper" by the restrictive laws the majority of our States have imposed under the harsh means test provisions of the program.

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Now some of us in Washington might be inclined to pass the responsibility for this condition back to the states when the stream of complaints comes over our desks. I personally feel, and I know that Senator Humphrey feels, that the State of Minnesota has been in the forefront of those states which have taken a real responsibility for the welfare of its citizens. Nevertheless, the Congress of the United States has a responsibility which it can not avoid.

The Humanitarian and Old Age Rights Act which Senator Humphrey and I have introduced will, if enacted, go far toward achievement of the goal I have briefly outlined here today -- humanizing our public assistance program.

Here briefly are the ten provisions of the bill:

1. The age requirement for Old Age Assistance recipients would be the same as that established for Old Age Beneficiaries under the Old Age and Survivors Insurance Program -- 65 for men and 62 for women.

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2. The aged and handicapped on Public Assistance would be allowed to earn up to \$50 per month, the parents of needy children up to \$30 per month, and the needy children, themselves, up to \$30 per month to supplement their assistance checks.

3. Recipients may own a home of an assessed value, less all encumbrances, up to \$5,000 free from the imposition of a lien.

4. Household furnishings, and an insurance policy or burial arrangements up to \$500 in value would be exempt. A floor of \$1200 would be established under the amount of personal property which a single recipient is allowed to have.

5. The practice of enforcing collections from the relatives of recipients would be eliminated.

6. The program would be administered by each State so as to ensure uniform treatment of the needy in all its political subdivisions.

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7. Publishing the names of recipients would be prohibited.

8. The state-imposed residence requirement now allowed by the Federal Government from 5 years would be reduced to 1 year.

Should an otherwise qualified person not meet State residence requirements, the Federal Government would pay its share direct to the person until the residence requirement is met.

9. No person receiving such public aid would hereafter be deemed a pauper and no warrant drawn in payment would contain any reference to indigency or pauperism.

10. The value of any U. S. Surplus Food ~~is~~ made available to the recipient would not be deducted from his or her aid.

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These are the ~~the~~ major provisions of the bill which

Senator Humphrey and I have introduced to amend the public assistance provisions of the Social Security Act. With their adoption millions of Americans can look forward with greater confidence to their later years of life.

Once more, it seems to us, we will be striking a blow for justice and human dignity.

This is Congressman John Blatnik from Washington.

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~~DRAFT SCRIPT~~

*Min Radio
week of
Apr 22
[1957]*

Ladies and gentlemen, and fellow-Minnesotans:

This is Congressman Eugene McCarthy from Saint Paul.

Senator Humphrey has asked me to take over his five-minute report from Washington this week. First of all I wanted to tell you a little about the Senator's trip to the Middle East, which he is starting ~~ina~~ very few days. In fact by the time some of you hear this recording he will be well on the way to Cairo, Beirut, and Tel Aviv -- where he will confer with leaders and officials in this critically important and explosive area of the world. As Chairman of the Senate's Subcommittee on the Near East, Senator Humphrey is anxious to see and talk with the men and women who are making the day-to-day decisions on war and peace in the Middle East.

A second mission of his trip to the Mediterranean is to discuss with our military representatives in the area their problems

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of backing up our extensive commitments in the Near East and southern Europe. The recent announcement of the British cut-backs in conventional armed forces, for example, poses serious questions for our own forces. They will have increased responsibility now for backing up the Eisenhower Doctrine, and other commitments which we have made to the Baghdad Pact nations along the southern perimeter of the Soviet Union.

Senator Humphrey has a third very important goal on this trip -- and that is to encourage the broader use of the President's powers under Public Law 480 to dispose of agricultural commodities abroad in a constructive and useful manner. As you may know, the Senator was largely instrumental recently in securing Senate approval for extension of this program, and he hopes to see it in actual operation, in Greece and Spain particularly. He has often said to me that he does not feel that the Department of Agriculture and the State Department were doing near the job they

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could be doing to back up our foreign policy with our food and fiber.

All in all, when he returns to the Senate next month, Senator Humphrey is going to have a wealth of fresh, first-hand information to supplement his eight years of experience on the Foreign Relations Committee and as a delegate this past year to the United Nations. He tells me that he hopes to make recordings at intervals along the way -- perhaps one from Rome, and others from the Near East -- to share with you his impressions and thoughts about conditions in this important part of the world.

For those of you who might wish to keep up with Senator Humphrey on your maps, this is the schedule that he has planned: Departs Wednesday, April 24; Rome and Naples -- 25th to 28th of April; Cairo on the 29th of April until the first of May; Lebanon on the 2nd and 3rd of May; Israel from the 4th to the 8th of May; Greece on the 9th and 10th of May; and finally on to Spain for the 11th to the 13th of May.



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