From the Office of
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For Release: Sunday a.m.
June 22, 1958

TACONITE DEVELOPMENT VITAL TO NATION'S FUTURE, SENATOR HUMPHREY SAYS

A dependable domestic source of iron ore will be vital to the nation's economic interest in decades ahead, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) declared last night in an address at Babbit, Minnesota.

"That ore need can be met only through an increase in taconite concentration capacity," Senator Humphrey declared, predicting that within 25 years American taconite production might go as high as 50 million tons, "with 30 million tons coming right out of the Minnesota Iron Range."

> "This nation is still expanding. Our people are still growing. Our resources are still vast. Our technology is improving. There is a natural buoyancy and vigor in our people which will--given half a chance--result in even higher living standards in the coming decades.

"This means that steel production is going to be increasing over the coming years," he declared, estimating that within 25 years "we will probably need another 25 or 30 million tons of ore each year, beyond amounts now produced.

"Even with now-projected expansion of taconite production, domestic ore output would only meet about half of the needs of expected expansion of the steel industry," he declared.

Senator Humphrey called attention to the success finally achieved in getting funds cleared for erection of the long-needed and long-delayed Bureau of Mines Research Laboratory in the Twin Cities, and declared it should be of tremendous economic importance in stimulating necessary research toward new "break throughs" of progress toward increased utilization of non-magnetic taconite rock, other minerals and ores, and Minnesota's vast peat resources, in cooperation with the University of Minnesota and the Iron Range Resources Commission.

Senator Humphrey described taconite development as a successful "test-tube experiment," demonstrating the ability of a free society--a flexible, enterprising, and courageous society--to deal with major problems.

(OVER)

He voiced high praise for the "courage and daring" of such men as E. W. Davis, formerly of the University of Minnesota, and for all the "scholars and scientists and political leaders and engineers and investors" who made possible the successful development of taconite.

"If our American economy is going to expand sufficiently to meet and crush the new Soviet economic challenge, we need more of the united efforts of vision, courage, and brains that went into the creation of this great industry," he declared.

"Adequate research, the development of gifted individuals who spearhead research, and proper incentives to those who can exploit new ideas to the utmost, must be keystones of our national policy for economic progress," Senator Humphrey declared.

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Address by
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
Babbitt, Minnesota

June 21, 1958

Few events in the history of this state are of greater historical significance than the discovery eighty-seven years ago of iron-bearing rock right here near Babbitt. It is particularly fitting that this taconite works has been named after Peter Mitchell, whose discovery touched off the first acquisition of taconite lands in northern Minnesota, and began the long chain of events resulting in the first production of taconite pellets at the E. W. Davis Works less than three years ago.

It is impossible to single out all those whose

courage, vision and skill have contributed to the creation of this entirely new concept in mining. Surely there is honor and distinction enough for all. Yet it would be difficult to overestimate the role of the one man without whose genius there would simply have been no taconite industry today, and after whom the first commercial taconite agglomeration plant at Silver Bay was so aptly named.

Professor E. W. Davis -- still very much in evidence throughout the taconite area wherever important decisions are being made and where new experiments are

being tried -- deserves the gratitude of our nation, as well as of our Minnesota Iron Range.

a Patriot - every bit as great as a 5 star general.

It was his rock-like perseverence -- as hard and enduring as the taconite rock itself -- that gave direction and significance to the efforts of mining engineers, political leaders, and investors, and Fine labor spurred the great decisions to invest literally hundreds of millions of dollars in a new kind of industrial enterprise.

Reserve mining Co Bros. Kelley + Associates Mr Kingsbury

E. W. Davis is one of the great men in Minnesota's first hundred years, and I take real pride in saying this. He is the living demonstration of the idea that

Hibbing Taconite

progress results only from dedicated research.

Everything stems from the idea. And it was the idea burning in Professor Davis' mind at the University of Minnesota that finally ignited the imagination and energies of hundreds and thousands of his fellow-Minnesotans and fellow-Americans. It was the idea, held fast through forty years, that gave birth to these giant machines, these incredible complexes of men and machinery here at Babbitt, at Silver Bay, at Aurora, and at Taconite Harbor.

Reserve Mining

Erie Mining

It is his idea still that leads men to plan for a taconite industry eventually producing 30 million

annually
tons on the Minnesota Iron Range, employing more men, providing more income for families than was ever possible in the best days of the direct-shipment ore.

Few events in history have ever demonstrated more clearly the necessity for "planning early" and "planning well" than the early research efforts on the taconite process and the complicated political and economic planning which took place, most of it, over ten years before any construction was begun. How important it was that men of vision pointed out a generation ago, and without pause, have continued to stress that

the Minnesota Iron Range of the old days, the Range with unlimited supplies of direct-shipping iron ore, would not last forever.

Their prophecies have been borne out.

Today ~~the~~ our direct shipping ore is running low. ~~We are scraping the very bottom of the barrel.~~ If we had not been alerted years ago by the taconite pioneers, and if we had not had the political leadership of such men as Congressman John Blatnik, Tom Vukelich - Bill Hatila Fred Cina, and others, the future of the Minnesota Iron Range today would be

Loren Rutter
Pete Fugina
Later
Bill Hatila

~~black indeed.~~ much less encouraging.

The pattern of the steel industry is changing very rapidly. Just in the last few years, vast new direct-shipping deposits of iron ore have been developed, not only in Labrador, but in Venezuela. and How

There is clearly a major new development taking place in Brazil this year. - and more to come.

The most recent estimates by a special study mission from the International Cooperation Administration indicates that within ten years the Brazilian iron ore production will possibly triple to about four million tons total.

Much to be said in other Parts of World -

The percentage of imported iron ore continues to rise, even during those years when steel production falls below its peaks, and even when there is a tremendous drop in steel production such as has taken place during the past few months. I ~~might say that~~ this pattern, in which some steel companies continue to increase their imports of direct-shipping iron ore, making their cutbacks in the Iron Range of Minnesota, is very disturbing to me. Congressman Blatnik and I have joined with Governor Freeman and other State leaders in encouraging those sections of the leadership of the steel industry which have been

cutting back the percentage of operations on the Minnesota Iron Range (in favor of increased operations in foreign ores) to speed their plans for taconite development here in Minnesota

If these elements of the steel industry continue to postpone development of domestic taconite production capacity, they are going to force the Congress to give serious consideration to proposals for restricting iron ore imports, possibly through a system of flexible quotas operative in years of low steel production.

But above all, the problem of the Minnesota Iron Range, and of the taconite industry itself on the Iron Range this year, is the same problem faced by our whole nation. The recession, with its ~~tremendously~~ reduced purchasing power and the consequent drop in the demand for steel to something like one-half, is the major problem. Men and women are out of work all over this country, and I am very frankly discouraged about the way the Administration has moved to alleviate these conditions. The difference between a short recession and a long recession and perhaps a depression, you know, is largely in the way the President and ~~his~~

Loss in corporate $ Billion in Gross Nat. Product $18 Billion

react to the recession. If they move to restore purchasing power and to create new jobs and new business opportunities through Federal programs and tax reductions, the recession can be checked. There are tremendous built-in powers and controls available to the if he will but use them.

Therefore, in the short-range (that is for the next year or two) what happens to employment and production on the Minnesota Iron Range is going to be largely up to the President and his advisers.

For the long pull, for the decades to come, I

am far more optimistic. This nation is still expanding. Our people are still growing. Our resources are still vast. Our technology is improving. There is a natural buoyancy and vigor in our people which will, given half a chance, result in even higher living standards in the coming decades.

This means, that steel production is going to be increasing over the coming years. Even more iron ore will be needed in a few years than we needed during World War II. In another twenty-five years, we will probably need another 25 or 30 million tons of ore

International needs for steel are just to come!

each year just for our own steel production. By that time our United States open-pit direct-shipping ores will be furnishing a far smaller proportion, and a far smaller gross tonnage than today. Imports of foreign ores will be badly needed. Perhaps nearly half of the ore the steel industry will then use will have to be foreign ores.

Yet it will still be in the vital national interest to have a dependable domestic source of iron ore. That ore will be produced ~~only~~ mainly through an increase in taconite concentration capacity. In that twenty-five years it is reasonable to expect that

Defense needs!

Submarine Prod-Supply

the total United States taconite production might have to go as high as 40 million tons, with 30 million tons coming right out of the Minnesota Iron Range. By 1984 the Iron Range may not be producing as much total tonnage of iron ore as during the peak of war-time years, but there will be more men employed, and more families supported through the iron mining industry than ever before.

Research will make it possible well before that time, I firmly believe, to utilize our vast reserve of non-magnetic taconite, as well as much of the

tremendous peat resource we have here in northern Minnesota.

The new Bureau of Mines Minerals Research Laboratory, for which Congressman Blatnik and I have ~~fought~~ worked for so many years, is at last becoming a reality. Last year we got the planning money, and this year we ~~got~~ obtained from Congress the construction money, with the help of such good friends as the Chairman of the Interior Committee of the Senate, Senator Murray.

The Bureau of Mines ~~people~~ personnel & scientists are very grateful. They have been trying to get this laboratory since 1950, and indeed they even persuaded President Truman

to request funds for the laboratory in the 1953 budget.

That budget was revised by the Eisenhower administration,

which struck out the request for the laboratory. But, despite the opposition of the Administration we are going to have the laboratory. It is going

to work on the large problems of non-magnetic taconite.

It is going to work on the development of our

manganese resources. It is going to work on the

better utilization of Minnesota peat.

Hope for the future!

I firmly believe that, in cooperation with the

University of Minnesota and the Iron Range Resources

Commission, ~~there~~ inside of five years this laboratory will

make significant progress toward the utilization of these resources.

Research will be increasingly important, too, in the better utilization of the timber resources of northern, and particularly northeastern, Minnesota. We managed to get a substantial increase this year, both in the facilities at the Lake States Forest Experiment Station down at Grand Rapids ~~this year,~~ and ~~also to increase~~ in the budget for the operation of the Station.

Generally we ~~[illegible]~~ increased the funds for forestry research throughout the country. All of this will pay off eventually in more income, more

St. Lawrence Seaway a new factor in Minn economy

employment, more business in these first areas of northern Minnesota.

Conservation Youth Conservation Corps

Taconite, of course, is not the whole answer on the Minnesota Iron Range, and we must have more than one string to our bow.

Taconite, however, does provide and increasingly will provide, a very stablizing and steadying influence in the northeastern Minnesota economy. @ St. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

As we look to the years ahead, particularly as we consider the aewsome problems surrounding our relationship with the Soviet Union, research and the

Deepening Channels

Harbor — Duluth. Superior Twin Harbors

development of the gifted individuals who spearhead research, and who can exploit a new idea to its utmost, must be a keystone in our national policy.

We must by every means seek to make possible the full educational development of our naturally gifted young people. We must in every way seek to keep open the avenues of professional and economic opportunity, to keep our economy flexible and growing, to insure that new ideas in industry as well as in government have an opportunity for expression and development. For it is ideas, and not things, that are truly crucially important.

a growing economy needed

Before the machine must come the idea for the machine. Stress

Before the process must come the idea for the process.

Before the great financial investment must come the willingness to dare, to bet on something that is not a "sure thing" --the way Reserve Mining Company and its associates, Erie Mining and its associates, and indeed, the people of Minnesota through their elected representatives were willing to bet.

~~In some ways~~, the state of the world today is one great tremendous problem and difficulty. It is so complicated and so difficult, that men of small courage are tempted to turn away from it and to try to forget

it. Yes! In a sense, the problems of the world are like this great billion and a half-ton mass of taconite that we are all standing on and on which this taconite works is built.

A few years ago, this bed of rock was an almost indigestible mass -- so large and so tough that most people despaired of its ever being reduced to a useable resource. But it has been solved. It has been fragmented. It is being reduced to a valuable and manageable resource.

And the great problems of world poverty, illness and fear, and of major war can also be solved. If

ever a demonstration was needed that nearly any problem can be solved, given sufficient intelligence and tenacity and courage and cooperation, the saga of taconite has demonstrated it.

The Iron Range economic problem can be solved.

This [redacted] recession that grips part of our country today can be solved.

The aching problems of poverty and illness which plague not only most of the world, but great sections of our own people, can be solved.

Peace and its blessings are obtainable -- despite

the black picture of the arms race, international distrust, racial and religious and political hatred, that grips the world today.

I do not think that these problems are going to be solved all at once. I do not expect any millennium to come five years, ten years, or even a generation from now. But if we have the dedication and the devotion and the intelligence necessary, we can break down these problems into manageable units. We can refuse to be awed by the tremendous overwhelming size of all the problems put together. We can roll up our sleeves and go to work, just as this wonderful

community of scholars and scientists and politcal leaders and engineers and investors have done here on the Minnesota Iron Range.

Here has been demonstrated the ability of a free society, a flexible, enterprising and courageous society -- to deal with major problems. In a sense, this taconite development has been a kind of "test-tube" experiment. As vast as the sums of money involved have been, as huge as these new industrial complexes may be, they are truly infinitesimal by comparison with the staggering costs and the towering political

and social problems of fashioning a new kind of world -- reasonably free from want and fear and pain.

Yes ~~Nevertheless~~, this experiment in research and engineering, government and economics has a real application for the larger problems facing us all. Let us hope that the lessons learned here in Minnesota can be more broadly applied, and that this highly successful experiment in planning and living can serve as a pilot operation for undertakings of even broader scope and significance. — Here and abroad!

We will surely need a lot more of the kind of joining of brains and courage that went into the

creation of this great industry, if our American economy is going to expand sufficiently to meet the massive Soviet challenge.

Let us hope that we as a nation will have the maturity to reassume the political and economic initiative we have so largely lost during the past few years.

We can regain the initiative, and we can regain our position of leadership! We can build a new kind of world relationship -- based on the United Nations -- a relationship for peaceful pursuits,

rather than an alliance for destruction.

For despite the continued and implacable Soviet hostility to our way of life, the Soviet leaders themselves eventually must face up to the fact that the only alternative to co-existence with us is no-existence. There is no future in blowing each other up. And so long as we can match their military capabilities, they are going to have no other choice but to compete with us in non-forceful ways -- economically, politically. We should welcome this opportunity to compete in this way. This is our meat and drink, if we could only see

it. challenge on the world front

We are builders, essentially. We grow things. We make things. We Americans are basically constructive, by our very nature. This plant and this town of Babbitt are clear proof of that idea.

Let us, then, be true to our nature. Let us be constructive. Let us seek to build new markets abroad for our industry. Let us seek to provide markets here for new industry abroad. Let us strengthen the bonds of trade; let us expand our program of technical assistance to the have-not peoples. We

Minn today has over 200,000 workers in export trade

should be sending our engineers and technicians out on a far broader scale -- showing these peoples how to help themselves.

It is not, after all, a question of sharing our wealth with the rest of the world, but of creating new wealth -- of sharing potential wealth. There are vast new pools of wealth in the future -- nuclear power, new propulsion chemicals, cheap electricity, cheap heating, new metals and plastics, new foods.

Certainly a world in which relative wealth is common is a dream today. So was taconite a dream a

generation ago. One has become, the other can become a reality.

Minnesota
Historical Society