

HHH 15-MINUTE WASHINGTON TV REPORT
JANUARY 8, 1963

INTRODUCTION: This is Washington, and this is Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota. The 88th Congress has just convened, and as Assistant Majority Leader, Senator Humphrey is at the center of new developments. Now, here is Senator Humphrey's report:

SENATOR HUMPHREY: Ladies and Gentlemen and my fellow citizens: First I want to wish each of you a belated but a most sincere Happy New Year. Then, too, may I express a note of thanks to the television station that brings you this telecast. This is a public service broadcast, and I want to compliment our Minnesota area television stations for not only bringing you reports from Washington, but for the many fine activities which are carried on by our television stations and the television staff members.

Now let me give you a little report about some of the developments here in Washington. I'm going to do this every two weeks and I hope that you will tune in again to this station two weeks from today. We hope to make these telecasts very interesting for you. I shall bring to this camera and to your screen some of the top leaders of this government, and I hope to be able to bring you some of the outstanding leaders of the world. It has been my privilege as a member of the Senate, particularly as a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, to know as friends many of the men who today guide the destiny of some of our great nations.

The 87th Congress, Second Session, was the longest session of any peace-time Congress. I think that you recall it - I surely do. I don't recall any time when I was more weary after a Congressional session. It

lasted until October 13, 1962. Then I returned home to Minnesota but, as you recall, we were called back to Washington, a few of us, during the Cuban crisis when our Nation was faced with a very serious decision and at a time when the President of the United States confronted Mr. Khrushchev with the power of this Nation and insisted that the Soviet Union withdraw its offensive weapons from this hemisphere. This was a great act of diplomacy. It was based upon solid fact relating to Soviet activities and then firmness and resolution on the part of our President and the leaders of our country.

Then, of course, we had the campaign and we in Minnesota know about that because it is still on, so to speak, with the problem we have over the gubernatorial election.

I stayed on in Minnesota to work and to visit with many of our constituents. It is a joy to talk about our state. I only hope I can do it a little more. The last few years have been very confining in the Congress and have kept me away from many of our community activities--- the county fairs, the State Fair (I haven't been able to get to the State Fair in recent years.) It is possible we can be a little closer in our relationships if these telecasts and the other ways we have of communicating can be meaningful in terms of programs and issues that are here in the Nation's capital that face the people of Minnesota.

I ought to give you a little report, too, on my journey into Central America---part of the great Latin American area. On the 28th day of November, I journeyed to Venezuela, then went to several of the Central American countries and finally into Mexico, returning to the United States

on the 19th day of December. I visited with each of the Presidents of these countries and the Cabinets. It was my privilege to address the Congress of El Salvador, one of our Central American republics. This is a very friendly country, a little country, but very lovely. I sat down with the leaders of the Congress of both houses in Venezuela, one of the most important countries in all of Latin America. I addressed the Senate of the Republic of Mexico. I visited with the rural people. I can honestly say that we walked hundreds of miles in these rural areas visiting with people that have so little. They're impoverished. They're illiterate. There are bad conditions of health and sanitation. And yet these people want to live a better life, and they look to the United States for hope. I visited with their workers and their factories and the shops. I visited trade schools and the colleges and the universities. And let me just say this to you. I know many people who have indicated that Americans aren't liked in Latin America. That is just not true. The people like the American people. The people admire the United States of America. Oh, there are some of their political leaders who think that it is "wise" politics. I think they are wrong, and they are finding out that it's wrong to attack the United States, to speak disparagingly of us. Basically there is a great friendship for the American people and for what we stand for in this world. Wherever I've been I found this, and I surely found it in Latin America. I found it in Mexico, a great country. We need to know more about these countries. You know, our books really do not give us an honest picture; sometimes, even our television doesn't. We often

vizualize a Mexican as a fellow who just crossed the border, rather slovingly and lazy and taking his siests, and ignorant. But that's not true. Mexico is a modern republic. They are making great strides. They are fine, educated and cultured people. Of course, they have their poor people - far too many. But they are proud, and they're sensitive, and they have a sense of history. They're deeply patriotic and nationalistic and we need to understand that, and we need to treat them as responsible, respective people - as equals.

I spoke quite frankly to Mexicans. They need to know something about us, too. All to often their literature and their propaganda paints Americans as villains or sort of grasping capitalists, just seeking to exploit. Now this, of course, is nonsense. American business in these countries, in the main, is doing a great job. In fact, we lead the way. The point that I want to make is that we need better understanding on both sides, and when we get that, then our foreign aid program will work a little better. I can give you a very short report on this. The Alliance For Progress is our new diplomatic, economic, political effort of cooperation with our neighbors in Latin America. It was announced two years ago by President Kennedy. Alliance For Progress is just what it says - it is an alliance, it is a partnership, it is a method of cooperation. It is beginning to work. There are improvements. There are hundreds of new schools. Oh, I wish you could see the schools that are being built. They are very simple and very ordinary. In the back country there are water wells, there are sanitation systems, there are roads, there are thousands of homes being built. The Alliance for Progress is beginning to work. There is a ray of

hope. The Communists are ready to retreat. Castro is loosing face, and the United States of America is beginning to be looked upon again as the good neighbor, the good friend. I don't want to skip over it too quickly. I realize we have many problems, but believe me, we're beginning to make real progress under the Alliance for Progress. We're doing it together, we and our friends in Central America, and in the Caribbean area. This is what I report to you.

Now I've got to tell you a little bit more about one or two other items very quickly before I get into a legislative matter. I want to mention that the first thing that we are doing in this Congress is trying to modernize the rules of the Congress. Here we are in the 20th Century. We are living in a time when weaponry, for example, as to its effectiveness, and our ability to defend ourselves against an enemy, is measured in seconds. We talk about seconds - 10 seconds, 15 seconds, or minutes. We have to be able to make decisions. But the Congress has the same rules that it had a hundred years ago for all practical purposes. We need to modernize these rules. We can't afford to have a spectacle of the Congress, bogged down in unlimited argument and debate and getting no place. The American people want representative government, but representative government must be responsible and respectable, and therefore, some of us are encouraging a change in the rules to modernize and up-date them. Remember that the Constitution says that a majority of the members of either House shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of doing business. Regretably, a majority can't do business around this Senate, or even in the House, because a little minority will block it through filibuster, through the tyranny of

words, through trickery of the rules, using the rules to block legislation. Now, I'm not opposed to having legislation voted upon, in fact, that's what I'm here for, to get it voted upon. I don't say that all legislation should pass, but I do say that legislative proposals should be voted on, yes or no. And what a filibuster does is to deny the opportunity to come to any decision by a yes or no vote. So we're trying to amend the rules of the Senate, to make them a little bit easier to bring the issue to a conclusion, and finally a vote.

I ought to talk to you now about another matter - legislation. You know, I'm very interested in our young people and I know we all are, and we talk a lot about our young people. We need to be interested in what our young people are doing, and some of us aren't doing very much or doing very well through no fault of our own. This is an urban society now. This isn't as much a rural America as it once was, and we need to think about what can we do for these young men and women who are dropping out of school, where there are no jobs, where the rate of unemployment is going up and up, and it's up as high as 16 per cent for teen-agers. School dropouts and the rate of delinquency rises. If you'll bear with me a minute I'll get some letters to show you. I want to show you what the people are saying about a proposal that I had made and which we hope will be enacted in this Congress. In fact, this proposal is known as S. 1, Senate 1, the first bill in the Senate. It has Administration support, and it has wide support throughout the Nation. It is the Youth Employment Act. Some of you will recall that we once called it the Youth Conservation Corps Act, but call it what you will, it provides an opportunity to gain full employment for our

young people, young men who need jobs, and we want to get these young men in the out-of-doors, and working in our parks, in our national forests, and working too at many other civic projects. We can do this. The cost of unemployment is tremendous. The cost of delinquency, my friends, is a minimum of \$25,000 per delinquent child. You could employ these young people for years on positive outdoor projects if we but set ourselves to the task, and we've got to do this. Now look here. Here are just a few letters - I don't know whether the camera will pick them up. They're from all over the United States. I had not even introduced the legislation when these letters came in. These letters came in before Christmas. There are two or three hundred letters here. Here is a petition from Massachusetts signed by over a hundred people. People from every state in the Union have written in - judges, veterans groups, women's groups, professional groups, police associations, and municipal associations. I ask you to join with me to give me support for what we call the Youth Employment Act, the Youth Conservation Corps, to put our young people to work in gainful projects to help build their bodies, to help improve their minds and their souls and spirits and to help America become a better country.

I'm going to be back with you two weeks from now. I hope you will keep tuned to this television station. I'd like to report to you, and by the way, if you have something you would like to talk to me about, drop me a note, won't you. Good day.

CLOSE: Reporting from Washington, you have just heard Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota.



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org