

TV SCRIPT - DECEMBER 12, 1963

BOB COAR: This is Washington and this is Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota. Today for his final report of the year, the assistant majority leader discusses significant events of the past session of the Congress. ~~It~~ Now, here is Senator Humphrey.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: This is my yearly report, or should I say my final television report to you for this year of 1963. The very first thing I want to do is to thank each and every one of you who have been ^{our} ~~the~~ viewers and listeners for the attention that you've given to these reports, and then let me also express a very sincere thank-you to the television stations that have been gracious enough and kind enough to carry these public service reports. I hope that I've been of some help in an educational manner because after all one of the duties of a person in public life is to attempt to inform the public to convey information and to do it as honestly and as objectively as he can. >

As I visit with you in your homes, I want to talk just a little bit about this Congress, the 88th Congress, ~~the~~ ^{what} Congress that we have and what we've been doing in this Congress, the unfinished ~~tasks~~ are for the next year, and then the role of Congress itself in our public affairs, because after all ~~the~~ Congress is one of the coordinate and equal branches of government and it is, in fact, the heart of representative government.

Therefore, ~~before~~ we need to understand the Congress, its procedures, its institutions, its traditions and, indeed, its limitations as well as its ~~its~~ assets. Now many people, particularly the reporters and the columnists, have seen fit to analyze our Congress a great deal. It has been under a microscope--careful scrutiny, analysis, and sometimes severe criticism. It has even been called a "standstill Congress" or a "do-nothing Congress;" both phrases, I personally believe, are not fair ~~is~~ They are unfounded and

they are excessive in terms of criticism. This Congress, the first session of the 88th Congress, has completed a rather substantial share of the ~~presidential~~ ^{Presidential} recommendations for the entire 88th Congress. In fact, when we complete our work here this December, we will have passed, both Houses of Congress will have passed approximately 70 per cent of the recommendations that were given to us by the late President Kennedy and President Johnson. We will, of course, have some very significant pieces of legislation to complete in the second session of the 88th Congress, which reminds me that maybe I shouldn't take for granted that we all understand what we mean by a Congress. When I say the 88th Congress, I want to call to your attention, once again, that that means two sessions of Congress--1963 and 1964. Now we're half way in terms of time finishing up 1963. We are actually about a little over 3/5 of the way in terms of accomplishment, so the next year we ~~w~~ ought to be able to have a rather, I'd say an impressive record in completing legislative business and fulfilling ~~presidential~~ ^{Presidential} recommendations. For a moment, I want to share with you a thought or two about our new President. Every one of you knows that I worked very closely with President Kennedy. I'm sure you know that his loss was a shock to me and a deep personal sorrow. In fact, I would be less than honest if I didn't tell you that I still can't quite shake that sorrow and remove from my thinking and my emotions ~~the~~ ^a the grief and the pain of it all. I miss him and miss him terribly. Our new President, Lyndon Johnson, is a ^{long-time} ~~personal~~ friend of mine and a personal acquaintance and a Senate colleague. I worked very closely with Lyndon Johnson when he was the Majority Leader of the United States Senate. We are, as I have said, personal friends. Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Humphrey are friends, close friends, and our families have been together on many occasions. We have visited the Johnson home in Texas, and President and Mrs. Johnson

when they were in the Senate visited the Humphrey home, not once, but several times. We've had family picnics together. I guess that's about as close as you can get in friendship. I have worked along side of President Johnson when he was Vice President, sitting in on the conferences at the White House with he and President Kennedy, and I worked closely in the legislative fields here in the Senate so I believe that I know the man and I ~~do~~ know him to be skilled and trained in the art of government. His whole life is dedicated to public service. He gives of himself unstintingly to the public good. He is, above all, a true patriot. He loves his country. And I'm ~~am~~ sure you know that he has a remarkable record of service in the Congress ^{of} ~~in~~ the United States, and during his period ~~of~~ as Vice President under President Kennedy, he traveled broadly; he became much more acquainted with the world in which we live; ~~he~~ he has met the leaders of the nations of the world and he comes to the office ~~of~~ ^{of} presidency fully equipped to do the job and to do it well. That ~~the~~ sentence of his in his address to the Congress a few weeks ago, (you may recall it), that sentence, "let us continue," That represents what President Johnson intends to do--to continue the programs and policies of a fallen leader, President Kennedy. The Johnson Administration is dedicated to the fulfillment of the unfinished part of the Kennedy administration. I consider it a rare honor and privilege to know both of these men and to have worked with both of them. What more could you really ask in public service than the privilege of walking along side of and working along side of the President of the United States. It's a wonderful thing, and I am so grateful for it, and I only hope that I can be of real help and I believe possibly that I can be of some help. I can report to my neighbors and constituents that President Johnson has called on me many times these past weeks, and I have tried to respond in a cooperative,

helpful, and friendly manner. > Well now, let's just say a few more words about the Congress. If we didn't do anything else in this first session in the 88th Congress than to have completed action upon the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty ^{that} ~~that treaty~~ prohibited further nuclear testing in the atmosphere and outer space and under water. If we had done nothing else than that, it would have been quite a record. This was a major step ~~it/it~~ towards peace, ^{it} it was the major contribution towards peace. ^{it} it was the first limited disarmament agreement since World War II. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Disarmament, I worked for this objective for seven ^{1/2} years. I've been the outspoken advocate of such a treaty when others did not speak out. I know of no debate in the history of the Senate, ~~of~~ at least in the last one hundred years, that equaled the quality of debate relating to the ratification of this test ban treaty. It was a high mark of performance and of competence in the record of the United States Senate that was accomplished. Then there was passed in both Houses of Congress a series of bills relating to our educational structure-- Federal Aid to Education. There is nothing more important in this country than a good education for our young people. ^{improving} Improving the quality of education as well as the quantity of educational opportunity, ^{to} to upgrade our educational competency, to upgrade the skills of our workers, to improve the learning, we passed a program of assistance to higher education, ^{our} our colleges-- aid to community and junior colleges. We've adopted a program of broadly-expanded vocational and technical education for our young people and for many of our citizens that have come from backward areas of the country, ^{training} Training people to do their job. Many of the unemployed today in certain areas of our country just don't know how to do the job, if they had a job. So we're going to expand the

manpower-training program, the vocational-training program, the technical-training program, and its a tremendous program recommended by the President and passed by the Congress. We're expanding the National Defense Education Act so vital to the security of our country ^{and} ~~but~~ aid to those communities where there are many federal activities like military reservations and defense plants. No Congress ever adopted, or even came close to adopting, as broad a program as Federal Aid to Education. So I think we did something in the 88th Congress worthwhile. Then we ~~z~~ adopted a mental health program ~~and~~ a program to combat mental retardation--the most comprehensive, far-reaching program of mental health, aid and of the aid for those who are mentally retarded, of any country that ^w has ever adopted at any time or ^{at} any place--aid to medical schools, nursing schools, pharmacy schools, aid for medical technicians, dental technicians. This is a substantial program. And then in the field of ~~a~~ agriculture, we adopted the long-range feed-grains program that ^{has improved} ~~is important to~~ agricultural income. We ^{'ve} regulated and improved the regulatory powers of some of the agencies such as the Security Exchange Commission. ^{We} adopted a tremendous program in military construction, foreign aid, the expansion and continuity of the Peace ~~Chair~~ ^{Corps}. These are achievements, and we have work ahead of us in the second session. The Civil Rights Bill which is a moral issue and we will pass it; the President is committed to it. The Tax Bill to give thrust to our economy, ^{n p} New Power, to add new strength to our economy, releasing capital for investment in consumer purchasing power, to provide jobs for those who have no jobs, and to increase our general prosperity. And then the Youth Employment Act for our young people, a national service ~~Chair~~ ^{Corps} to give some of our people an opportunity to help their neighbors in a well-directed program. Well I think we'll do fairly well. I don't want to claim any great honors, but I think we'll come

along. I can add to that a program that mean^s so much to our conservationist out home-- the Wilderness Preservation Bill which will preserve our great areas of wilderness and beautiful country. This has passed the Senate and will pass the House. Now can I just conclude here with a few suggestions as to what we might do to improve things, because it's quite obvious we've had delays, ~~we~~ we need to modernize the machinery of our Congress; we need to keep it updated. I ~~had~~ ^{made} some recommendations only recently in an address before the organization known as the Fund for the Republic--a marvelous organization at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions out of Santa Barbara, California. I pointed out that we needed, first of all, a joint committee on national security to improve the consideration of national security matters by Congress so that the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense together could come ^{to} ~~as~~ one committee to talk to us about national security matters, a joint committee of the two Houses just as the President has his own national security council, I've recommended a continuing joint committee on Congressional reorganization so that we constantly look at whether ~~of~~ not this Congress of ours, this institution of representative government, is geared properly for the present-day, modern-day conditions and to take a little look ~~at/it~~ ^{ahead}, and finally, I proposed a Congressional Institute, a sort of what you might call a center of learning, of intellectual capacity as a sort of an addition to the Congress, bringing into one pole of intellectual power some of the scholars of the country that can aid us in looking ahead, in planning ahead, in study ^{of} in the real problems of automation, of industrialization, of urbanization. These are some suggestions for the future. Now let me wish you all a Happy or Merry Christmas and a very Happy and prosperous New Year. Thank you



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