

MINNESOTA RADIO TAPE OF JANUARY 14, 1963

FOR USE WEEK BEGINNING JANUARY 21, 1963

Ladies and gentlemen and fellow-Minnesotans---

This is your Senator, Hubert Humphrey, reporting to you from
my office on Capitol Hill in Washington, D. C.

For the past week you have been hearing and reading about a fight
in the Senate over what we call "Rule 22"---the Senate rule which has
permitted small minorities to use the filibuster to kill important
legislation.

I have been in the center of the Senate debate this past week, but
today I want to report that the effort of Administration Democrats
and liberal Republicans to amend Rule 22 is only one of many steps we
are trying to take to give you---the people---better government in the
Congress.

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This year, I am calling on the Congress to modernize itself, to clean its own house of the old and out-dated procedures which hinder the work of legislating for a stronger America.

The last time Congress was able to bring itself up-to-date to meet modern problems and modern needs was in 1946.

Since then, the Nation and the world have changed drastically. We are now in the jet and space age. Travel and communications---even the basic developments of war and peace---are now discussed in terms of hours, minutes, and seconds. But the progress of Congress is still developed in time ranges of years, or months.

We saw the sad result of this ^{by very much} last fall, when Congress became bogged down on petty or minor issues and dragged on for months. I think the American people were ^{properly} indignant over the spectacle of two major committees ^{apparently} holding up the work of the whole Congress for several weeks because they couldn't agree on what room to meet in.

I, too, was indignant, and I am becoming increasingly concerned that the long delays and petty bickering in Congress tend to cut into the confidence of the American people in their government.

(MORE)

Many other members of the Senate and the House of Representatives feel the same way. We are preparing now for a major effort to study in detail the workings of Congress, and to make whatever changes are *proposed, rules, and so on* necessary to equip Congress to meet its national obligations and international responsibilities.

I have already made several recommendations to establish Congressional procedures to improve the efficiency of the legislative branch of our government. These include more joint Congressional committees, more joint meetings of Congressional committees, a reduction in the number of speeches of marginal importance which take up the time of the whole Senate, and more efficient scheduling of Congressional work days. *committee work - in areas that are performed*

Many other steps will be necessary before the Congress is equipped to handle the great demands for legislation to meet national obligations and responsibilities in the sixties. You will be reading about the effort to make those changes and to "reform" Congress.

And you may wonder what all this has to do with you. You may

(MORE)

this not really important.

think that this is none of your business, and is just an internal

problem for members of Congress. But Congress is yours in this ^{representative} ~~govt.~~

representative government of ours. I hope you will follow in the

press and by the radio this year the developments on Congressional

Congress shall be prepared to act
reform. I will be at the center of this effort, and will need your

support.

(END)

*will be at center
of this effort.*

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