

MINNESOTA RADIO TAPE OF FEBRUARY 15, 1963

FOR BROADCAST WEEK BEGINNING FEBRUARY 25

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.

Today, I am not going to offer what reporters like to call  
"hard news." The fact is that there has not been too much hard  
news coming out of Congress lately. During the period between  
Lincoln's Birthday and Washington's Birthday, many members of  
Congress have been traveling throughout the country to attend  
special Lincoln or Washington Day events. As a result, Congress  
has not really been in the top of the headlines for the past  
week and a half.

So I am going to take advantage of this relatively relaxed  
period to tell you about a few incidents recently regarding  
Minnesotans in Washington.

The first involved Dr. Walter Heller. You will remember that he was chairman of the Economics Department of the University of Minnesota until President Kennedy appointed him Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers two years ago.

I was talking with Dr. Heller recently, and asked him who the two other members of the Council are. He answered that one was from Michigan, and the other from Indiana.

And then he said, with a big smile: "We have an 'All Big-10' Council now. We are showing that all this talk about Harvard University dominating the New Frontier is nonsense."

I liked Dr. Heller's comment. And it was appropriate. With all the attention in the press given to government leaders who came from Harvard University, we sometimes forget that high government positions have also gone to many Midwesterners, and--- I'm proud to say---to Minnesotans.

The most recent example was the appointment of Carl Rowan, a former writer for the Minneapolis Tribune, to the post of

Ambassador to Finland. Carl Rowan had served with distinction in the State Department for the past two years. This new appointment was a great honor---and a deserved honor---for a highly competent man and public servant. And it has added significance: Mr. Rowan is one of the few Negroes ever appointed as an Ambassador to a Western European area country.

President Kennedy has appointed many other Minnesotans to important government positions. And he shows that he is aware of our state, its skilled people and its resources in other ways, too.

The most recent example of the President's interest in and appreciation of Minnesota involved two, small pieces of our good Minnesota granite.

These were not ordinary pieces of granite. They were quarried, cut, and highly polished by Mr. John Alexander, of the Cold Springs Granite Company in Minnesota. Mr. Alexander shaped them into two beautiful bookends, and had the official Presidential Seal cut

into the sides.

He asked me to present the two bookends to the President, and a few months ago I gave them to the President personally after a meeting of Congressional leaders in the White House.

Frankly, I was aware that the President receives thousands of gifts every month, and I did not expect him to do anything special with this one.

But on the following week, when I went into the President's private office for another meeting, I noticed that he had removed an old set of bookends on a shelf near his desk, and replaced them with the Minnesota granite bookends. And they are still there.

I was pleased to be able to report to Mr. Alexander in Cold Springs that our Minnesota granite is not only used on many new Federal buildings, but has found its way into the President's private office.

That's all for today. Next week, we'll return to a more serious discussion of the vital and important issues confronting

Congress. But I hoped you've enjoyed hearing just a few stories about Minnesota people---and products---in Washington.

Thank you.

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