

MINNESOTA RADIO TAPE OF APRIL 29

FOR BROADCAST WEEK BEGINNING MAY 6

Ladies and gentlemen---

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

We are lucky to live in this age and in this Nation.

We reap the benefits of modern techniques and modern knowledge  
which were developed by our fathers and their fathers.

Modern medicine is one example. The skill and dedica-  
tion of our doctors, our laboratory workers, our medical  
researchers and scientists have all combined to give our  
citizens a better chance for health and long life than  
ever before. All of us can remember diseases which just  
a few years ago or a few decades ago took tragic tolls of  
human lives, but today are conquered.

Yes, we are lucky to live in this age and this Nation--- with all its opportunities for modern medical treatment and facilities.

But the fact is that not all of us can take advantage of these modern opportunities for up-to-date medical care and treatment. Yes, our larger cities have excellent hospitals and medical centers and complex equipment. Our cities and larger communities do not lack competent medical personnel, and adequate numbers of doctors. But the story is different in many of our small towns---particularly in rural areas.

The actual pattern of medicine today is that new and young doctors tend to leave medical schools to practice in the larger cities. Their reason for this is understandable. They want to work, to serve their patients, with the best equipment, facilities and hospitals which are available. The best of all those are in cities, not in small

towns or rural areas.

In short, the day of the horse-and-buggy country doctor is over. Modern medicine requires more than a few simple instruments and a skilled hand.

I believe that every citizen deserves a chance for the best medical treatment modern science has devised. That is why I have introduced in the Senate a bill titled "The Health Services Facilities Act."

This bill is based on the idea of local, voluntary<sup>1</sup> action. Throughout our Nation, citizens in smaller communities have joined together to form voluntary, non-profit associations which offer prepaid health service programs. Through these associations, it is possible to construct modern medical facilities with up-to-date equipment which today's physicians require.

My bill provides for a loan program to assist such local associations. If the people in a community with inadequate health facilities form a voluntary health plan organization---and are prepared to assume the local financial responsibilities---they could then apply for low-interest, long-term loans from the government. These loans would help them establish the medical facilities they need---facilities which in turn would attract more doctors and specialists.

I repeat that this bill would establish a loan program. These loans would be repaid to the treasury. I have confidence that the people of our smaller communities and rural areas would build a good record of repayment.

We can make no better investment than an investment in the health of our people. The "Health Services Facilities Act" offers us a chance to make that investment---and to give all the people of our country an opportunity to reap

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the benefits of modern science and medicine.

(END)



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