

Ladies and Gentlemen---

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

Today I will report briefly on some of the problems now facing
our senior citizens in Minnesota and what efforts are now being made
at the state and federal level to ~~us~~ solve these problems.

First of all...let me thank all of ^(YOU) ~~the persons~~ who have written
to me on these problems of the ^{elderly} ~~aged~~. Our files are literally bulging
with letters that tell me of the ~~is~~ need for more nursing homes.....
housing for the elderly....more adequate health insurance....and more liberal
social security payments.

I am sure that ^(MOST) ~~one~~ of you listening can cite a personal problem
which now confronts youor a member of your family. Let me assure ^(you) that
there is a growing awareness in Congress and at the state and local level
that something must be done.

Fortunately in Minnesota....we have an excellent working relationship between your Congressional delegation, federal agency officials and the Minnesota Department of Health so ably administered by Dr. Robert Barr.

In the past decade there has been a concerted effort to upgrade nursing homes...hospitals.....senior citizen housing in Minnesota. I am sure that most of you can point to new buildings as you drive around in your community which will serve the needs of our senior citizens in the years ahead.

Literally millions of dollars have ~~been~~^{ee} returned to you in the form of grants and low-cost loans to get these projects underway. Such programs through the Housing and Home Finance Agency, Urban Renewal Program, Accelerated Public Works Program and the Hill-Burton Hospital Construction Program....all have contributed to the welfare of our people.

At the outset...let me say that there has been no Federal Agency standing over you twisting your arm into conformity....in Minnesota it has been the result of local people presenting programs which are

oriented towards need....and the ^{Federal} assistance and funds ~~through an orderly~~ provided.

Let me illustrate this point....in Minneapolis and St. Paul we have fine new senior citizens housing developments....new nursing home facilities have been built in all sections of the state.

Under the Accelerated Public Works program to areas of persistent unemployment...several million dollars have been granted for construction of fine new facilities....in areas where it is very hard to raise the money necessary for these projects.

In the coming months ahead more funds will be granted in these areas...so as you can see...this concerted program of partnership with state and federal agencies is moving ahead.

All of these programs have been successful....I have not heard any loud complaints of a meddling federal bureaucracy...if anything we always are short of funds for these programs... I am convinced more must be done in this area and I will continue to support the many Minnesota communities ^{that} ~~who~~ are arising to their responsibilities to the aged.

In addition to housing and nursing home programs for the elderly.... I am greatly concerned over the problems of health insurance and medical care for those over sixty-five years.

Every day I receive letters from our retired citizens in Minnesota that they are having real problems making ends meet on their pensions and social security payments.

Many have recently completed payments on their homes...they are pretty much free from debt after a hard struggle in past years....now they are finding increased real estate taxes....increased living costs ...and the ever present worry that a serious illness would wipe out all of their meager savings.

The fact of the matter is that neither public assistance...nor private health insurance offers the solution to the problem of paying health costs in old age.

The recently passed Kerr-Mills legislation in Minnesota is only a stop-gap measure ...and a costly one....besides the \$200 deductible provision seems patently unfair to those who face the problems of just making ends meet each....

For this reason I will press again for early consideration of the President's Health bill...of which I am co-sponsor...which would provide our senior citizens with a means by which they could receive medical care

with dignity and privacy without regards to a means test.

In closing...I would like to say that we are progressing rapidly
in Minnesota in attacking problems now facing our aged....with your
help and cooperation we shall move forward....not only because it is
right....but because it is the least we can do for those who have
given their best in years past for the prosperity and comfort we
enjoy today

Thank you....

*basic problems affecting our
senior citizens affecting the elderly.*

MINNESOTA RADIO TAPE OF JUNE 28, 1963
FOR BROADCAST WEEK BEGINNING JULY ~~14~~ 7

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First of all...let me thank all of the persons who have written to me on these problems of the aged. Our files are literally bulging with letters that tell me of the ~~importance~~ need for more nursing homes..... housing for the elderly....more adequate health insurance....and more liberal social security payments. *& job opportunities.*

I am sure that each one of you listening can cite a personal problem which now confronts youor a member of your family. Let me assure that ^{you} there is a growing awareness in Congress and at the state and local level *more needs to be done.* that something ~~must~~ be done.

Fortunately in Minnesota....we have an excellent working relationship between your Congressional delegation, federal agency officials and the *state bodies. We have a fine body in the* Minnesota Department of Health so ably administered by Dr. Robert Barr.

In the past decade there has been a concerted effort to upgrade nursing homes...hospitals.....senior citizen housing in Minnesota.

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rate of illness - a special problem
Hospital care is costly - that is why
because its high quality.



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