

MINNESOTA RADIO TAPE OF DECEMBER 12, 1963

FOR BROADCAST WEEK BEGINNING DECEMBER 15

Ladies and gentlemen----

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

Today, in my final report of the year to you, I want to  
discuss briefly the record of Congress for 1963, the unfinished  
business for 1964, and the role of Congress in our Nation.

The record of this first session of the 88th Congress was  
far from perfect. I have been outspoken in expressing my view  
that Congress should have completed action on several major  
programs which are still pending.

But the excessive criticism of Congress in recent months  
has been unreasonable. This was not a "do-nothing" Congress.

Those who use that phrase should be reminded of the following:

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After a long and responsible debate, the Senate approved ratification of the treaty banning nuclear weapons testing in the atmosphere---the most significant step in the field of disarmament and peace since the end of World War II.

Within a few days, Congress will complete action on the most comprehensive aid to education program in history---including a loan and grant program for higher education, an aid to vocational and technical schools program, and expansion of both the National Defense Education Act and the Aid to Impacted Area Schools programs.

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Congress also sent to the President for ~~signing~~ into law these major programs: a new Mental Health program, an Aid to Medical Schools program, legislation which settled the rail dispute, and a new and effective/ feed grains program.

Above all, the critics should be reminded that the 88th Congress lasts two years. We are half way through the time we have to do the work of the 88th Congress. And we are well more than half-way through our work on other major pieces of legislation.

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My bill to establish a Youth Conservation Corps, for example, has already been approved overwhelmingly in the Senate and was voted out of the House Committee on Education and Labor. It now requires action by the House Rules Committee and a vote by the full House---both of which---I am confident---will come next year.

The major challenges to Congress for 1964---during the second session of the 88th Congress---will be to act on the civil rights and tax programs.

The first---the civil rights program---is a moral responsibility for the Nation and for Congress. The letters pouring into my office and other Congressional offices demand this program as "a fitting memorial to the late President Kennedy." Our new President, Lyndon B. Johnson, is deeply committed to this program. As Majority Whip of the Senate, I am determined to win action on civil rights early, as are the other Congressional leaders.

The second---the tax reduction program---is a fiscal responsibility

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for Congress and the Government. This tax legislation is essential to give new thrust to our economy, to strengthen the base of our prosperity, and to create new jobs for our unemployed.

Let me offer a ~~final~~ word on the role and character of Congress today. In a free society with representative government, we can not expect perfection and infallible efficiency. Those qualities can be found only in the Kremlin. But we can and ~~must reform~~ some of the procedures, traditions and structures of Congress which permit small minorities of members to thwart the majority from bringing an issue to a vote and a final decision. I favor Congressional reform which will assure that the majority of Congress can reach a decision and vote after reasonable time for hearings and debate.

Finally, let me thank this radio station for bringing my reports to you. The commendable public service policy of this station is of great value to the community.

Mrs. Humphrey joins me in wishing all of you a Joyous Christmas and a successful New Year.

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