

1313 New Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C.  
Capitol 4-3121, Ext. 2424

JANUARY 13, 1964

The following <sup>ARE</sup> excerpts of a transcription of an interview of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) filmed for Minnesota area television stations. Reporters interviewing Senator Humphrey are William Broom and William Sumner of the Washington Bureau of the Ridder Publications.

The interview includes comments on these subjects:

- \* The Vice Presidency
  - \* Legislative Outlook
  - \* Civil Rights
  - \* Reform of Congressional Procedure
  - \* Senator Goldwater's views on the test ban treaty
  - \* Outlook for disarmament
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FROM THE OFFICE OF:

SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
1313 New Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C.  
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FOR RELEASE: MONDAY A.M.  
JANUARY 13, 1964

HUMPHREY TV REPORT -- FILMED 1964

INTERVIEWED BY BILL BROOM AND BILL SUMNER

BILL SUMNER: Since the assassination of President Kennedy, there's been a great deal of more thought given to the office of Vice President. A lot of people have been giving a great deal of thought to Hubert Humphrey. I'd like to ask you if nominated, would you run, if elected, would you serve?

SENATOR HUMPHREY: Well, I gather, Mr. Sumner, that this is a highly hypothetical question because the Democratic Convention will make this decision in August of 1964 and that decision, of course, will ultimately be made by the Democratic nominee for President whom I'm sure will be President Lyndon Johnson. But on the basis of that preliminary analysis and discussion, if the Convention should offer me the opportunity to be a running mate with President Johnson, I would be honored, of course. I think any member of our Party, any American would be honored to serve in that position.

However, I must say in all candor that the President really hasn't spoken to me about this. There have been some fellow Democrats that have indicated their interest and for this I'm extremely grateful. But let me just add this final word. I have the position of one of the two United States Senators from Minnesota. I'm the senior Senator from our great

state and I'm very honored by it and I like my job in the Senate. I think you gentlemen know that and I have also the opportunity to serve as the Majority Whip, the assistant Majority Leader, which is a position of some responsibility and authority. I like that job even though it's a very demanding one.

So really, I'm not shopping around for new jobs and I want to make it quite clear. I have no intention of waging any campaign whatsoever for any position in government at this particular time. I may want to announce that I'm going to be a candidate for re-election to the United States Senate after 1964. But up until then, gentlemen, I am happy and satisfied.

BILL BROOM: Senator, let's bring things into the arena where you work almost every day now. I think everybody is wondering what's going to happen on civil rights. The House Rules Committee began hearings very recently and the House is expecting action, but what will happen when the bill gets to the Senate?

SENATOR HUMPHREY: Well, we do expect the House to act on the civil rights bill not later than the early part of February. I am hopeful that that bill can be over to the Senate somewhere around the first week or the second week of February. I think that's being realistic about it. In the meantime, it would appear that we will have before us in the Senate, if our schedule of activities works as planned, the tax bill, and that would mean that we would complete action first on the tax bill and then move to take up the civil rights bill. And of course, once that takes place, there will be a very long, and I'm afraid, a very hard fought contest

and debate on the civil rights measure.

BILL SUMNER: Can the bill remain intact throughout that long debate?

SENATOR HUMPHREY: Yes, I think it will greatly depend on the degree of bipartisan cooperation we get. I want to say just a word about that. And this isn't anything new. You gentlemen have been at a lot of press conferences and you know my feelings about this.

Civil rights to me, the civil rights issue, is very much like the foreign policy issue. It's a matter that should be beyond partisan politics. It's a national issue. It's an issue, it's a moral issue, as President Johnson put it. And we ought not to judge the civil rights question on the basis of whether you're a Democrat or a Republican or an Independent. I

It ought to be an issue that we face up to as Americans. And we're going to have to have in the Congress of the United States particularly in the Senate, bipartisan support, if we pass the civil rights program. There's no use in kidding anybody about it.

The Southern Senators are not going to vote for the civil rights program. I regret this very much and I think some of them might regret it. But they feel that they can't do it and survive politically and many of them have strong feelings about the substance of the program. So we shouldn't have any cooperation from them and I must say therefore, that we'll need a minimum in the Senate of 23 to 25 Republican votes, if we can't get that, I think we're going to be in very serious trouble.

Therefore, I appeal to the Party of Abraham Lincoln, the Republican Party and its leadership to act in the spirit of Lincoln, the great

emancipator just as I appeal to the party of Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson, to act in the spirit of those two great Americans. And I might say also in the spirit of our contemporary Americans, Franklin Roosevelt and John Kennedy, both of whom were dedicated to civil rights.

BILL BROOM: A number of Senators in both parties, Senator Humphrey, say that they have very grave doubts about the public accommodations<sup>O</sup> section of the bill. Is it possible to get this bipartisan support that you say is necessary to finally get the bill up for a vote, is it possible that that or some similarly important section might have to be dropped?

SENATOR HUMPHREY: No, I don't think that it will have ~~to~~ be dropped. There are those that think that it might have ~~to~~ be modified, but I've been examining the House bill rather carefully and it has a rather limited application.

It does not, for example, affect certain areas of activity such as barber shops and beauty shops, I mean the smaller type of enterprise. It applies primarily to the larger interstate enterprises so that there be equal access and equal accommodation and equal privileges for <sup>E</sup>people regardless of race, color or creed.

I hope that there will be no basic adjustment or modification of that provision because this is the heart of it, this is the emotional part. I think you know that most of the demonstrations at lunch counters, the sit-ins and all that has been about this issue.

If there's any major weakening of the civil rights bill, I would consider it a rather significant setback and I don't think it will be helpful to those Republicans that join in it. So I think we're going to

have to stand our ground even if it means a long debate and try to bring cloture and maybe just wear people out.

BILL SUMNER: Speaking of these rules of the road in the Senate, talking about cloture and whatnot brings up some of the criticism we've been having about Congress, increasing over the last few months. Now some seem to have some validity and others seem to be written by people that don't believe in Congress. How would you assess some of this?

SENATOR HUMPHREY: Well, I think there are problems in Congressional procedure and I think there's a need for constant re-evaluation of these procedures.

I've recommended a continuing joint committee of the Congress to constantly study the institutions of Congress and the rules and to make periodic recommendations, periodically of necessary changes. I've also recommended the establishment of certain joint committees, like the joint committee on National Security. I feel that there should be a greater body of experts available to the Congress.

I proposed what we call a Congressional Institute where we could reach in to the private community, into the universities, into the technical schools, and make available to the Congress more brain power, so to speak, that the Executive Branch of the Government has.

I don't believe that just because any President, whoever he might be, proposes something, that means we ought to automatically accept it. If that's the case, there isn't much use in having a Congress around. Our job is to look things over, to evaluate, to test these proposals that are sent to us with the public, to examine them carefully, and when

we do so we are generally able to make rather significant improvements and modifications and I believe, therefore, people should not become impatient with this Congressional process, as such. If you want quick and sudden decisions, then I guess what you have to do is to eliminate representative government because we have here 535 willful men and women, people of ability and competence and when you get a majority of them to go any one direction any time, it takes a good deal of the mobilization of public opinion in what we call a consensus. Now improvements are needed. We don't need a sort of a rubber stamp Congress and I would be opposed to that.

BILL BROOM: Do you believe that some of the slow movement has been due to the nature of a lot of the legislation you've been getting. I mean, very controversial, far-reaching....

SENATOR HUMPHREY: Yes, very much so. When you have a tax bill that is as far-reaching as this one and you have civil rights legislation that is the most comprehensive proposal every presented to the Congress and that is loaded with controversy, both substantive and sectional. You're bound to have a slowdown. It's just inevitable. And I've said a number of times that when we finally complete work on the civil rights bill, it will be like we're removing a tumor from the body. We'll begin again to be somewhat more normal and will be healthier as a political institution.

BILL SUMNER: When asked in the last session, one of the pieces of legislation that was the most interesting, of course, was the nuclear test ban treaty and its subsequent ratification. I understand that Senator Goldwater in a speech in New Hampshire this week has suggested that it might be a good idea to resume testing, if necessary, if he thought

it would be to the country's advantage. Do you think that this question of a test ban or the resumption of tests is likely to become an issue in the next campaign?

SENATOR HUMPHREY: I hope it doesn't but if it does I think Senator Goldwater will have selected the worst of all issues because we have adequate atomic strength, we have an actually over-atomic strength. We have tremendous atomic power and even some of the critics of the test ban treaty have <sup>12</sup>come around now to recognize that it is a desirable treaty and that it is in our national interest. So I don't think Senator Goldwater is going to make any points on this one at all because I think it will be a political liability for him.

BILL BROOM: Do you see any steps forward for disarmament this year or in the next five years.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: I doubt that there's going to be any great agreement but there will be some slowdown on the arms program which to me it seems is highly desirable. President Johnson has taken the lead on this and he is to be highly commended. Well, gentlemen I see that our time is just about over.

Thank you.



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