

MINNESOTA RADIO TAPE OF JANUARY 9, 1964

FOR BROADCAST WEEK BEGINNING JANUARY 12

Ladies and gentlemen - -

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

Today, at the beginning of the second session of the 88th Congress, I should like to discuss the main tasks of the New Year.

There are three main tasks before us:

The first will be to complete action on the Tax Reduction Bill proposed by the late President Kennedy. I hope we can put this bill on President Johnson's desk on the date that he wants it, which is the first of February.

Secondly, we must pass a strong Civil Rights bill. In all likelihood there will be a Southern filibuster on this issue and we will have a hard time shutting off the debate. But we will not adjourn until we enact this vital legislation.

The third major task is medical care for the elderly. I am optimistic that the House will pass such a bill and confident that we have the votes to pass it in the Senate.

President Johnson gave a stirring State of the Union message putting himself firmly and unequivocally behind these tasks and more. I knew he would and so reported to you before. Nevertheless I was most impressed, as I am sure the Nation was, at how completely and authentically President Johnson has made the Kennedy program his own personal program. Said President Johnson:

"Let us carry forward the plans and programs of John Fitzgerald Kennedy--not because of our sorrow or our sympathy--but because they are right."

In those words we heard more than an echo. Here is the voice of a leader. In the best American tradition and in the words of Thoreau, President Johnson "marches to his own drumbeat." That beat is measured to what is the right thing to do.

The State of the Union message did not merely give firm support and urgency for a Tax-cut, Civil Rights, and medical care for the elderly. It outlined a comprehensive 10 point program for all America. The program is one to make a war on poverty and deprivation; in employment, education, and housing--for all Americans. It announces an offensive for Peace--for all mankind.

The President gave evidence of executive action already taken to make the major cuts in a budget which will give us fiscal responsibility in carrying out our unfinished business. He has initiated the shifts in resources and programs which will give us the means to do our tasks at home, while keeping security in the world.

As they say in Texas, President Johnson is "sitting tall in the saddle."

The President's message asked for legislation to lift the bars of discrimination against those who seek entry into our country. I shall be testifying next week before the Immigration subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, on behalf of legislation I have been sponsoring for some time to rectify the injustices in our present immigration laws. At present, we have a national origins quota system with the outmoded, nonsensical,

and aristocratic judgment that some blood is better than other blood, some skin better than other skin. Not only does the present law discriminate this way, but it compounds the felony by not permitting unused quotas to be re-allocated. I believe that the Committee will bring out a good bill to correct these and other inequities. I shall lend all my energies to its adoption. Such a bill will go a long way toward restoring the image of the United States as a progressive and tolerant member of the international community. It will reap great gains in reuniting many families here in the United States and invigorate our national life through the infusion of new persons, new cultures, and new ideas.

We have a lot of work cut out for us this year. I pledge you my best. I trust your support.

Thank you.

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Thank you.



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