

FOR BROADCAST WEEK BEGINNING JANUARY 19, 1964

Ladies and gentlemen - - -

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

The atmosphere this week in Washington has been wonderful. It looks just like home in Minnesota. I am speaking of the weather mainly. We have had nine inches of snow--the biggest fall here in years. The temperature is low. Therefore the snow is crisp and swirls in the wind, is slow to collect dirt and retains its pure, clean whiteness. However, there the similarity with Minnesota ends.

You would probably be tolerantly amused at what happens to us in such a snow. Nine inches in Minnesota is little more than you would send

of it easily. Here in Washington it brings into being emergency plans 3 through 8. Kids are kept home away from school. Nobody gets to work on time and some don't make it at all. Traffic is snarled, and banner headlines about snow drive both foreign and domestic politics off the front pages of the newspapers.

I am not exaggerating. We get all fouled up down here by something you would have no trouble with. You have a right to smile and possibly hope that it is good for Washington; that it may cool down the Potomac fever a bit.

But we Minnesotans down here still get some work done. I introduced this week in the Senate a bill to create a Commission on Automation, Technology, and Employment. This bill would establish a Hoover-type commission representing

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the Executive and Legislative branches of government, and also representing business, labor and local governmental areas of our life. The Commission would study all aspects of the effects of automation and technology on our economy and employment situation. It would come up with positive recommendations for better management long-range planning and present those to the President and the Congress.

All this is important to Minnesota and the Nation because at present, automation and technology are eliminating more jobs than they are creating. This need not be so. As President Johnson has said, if we have brains enough to invent these machines, we have the brains to see that they are a boon, not a bane, to humanity.

Many new products can come from our new knowledge--if we plan it. Hundreds of new

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industries can come and thousands of new jobs, enough to insure full employment for all in an expanding economy can come--if we plan it.

Likewise, I believe that some of our fabulous brainpower can design a regional development for America that will preserve its historic character.

A dangerous trend in America has been too long taken for granted. We have assumed a kind of inevitability that our people will end up in vast cities, hugging the nation's coastline and draining the heartland save for a handful of managers and foremen to run an agricultural factory. This would be a disaster. The sturdy virtues of America: independence, self-reliance, neighborliness, community feeling, civic pride and virtue--all have essential components bred in the small cities, towns, and rural areas of America. They are irreplaceable.

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Along with solving city problems, for big cities will remain, I want to see thought given to a balanced dispersal of economic opportunity and regional development all over the country. I do not believe that I am provincial at all in believing that what is good for Minnesota and the Midwest here is also good for the Nation. It will be good also for the South, the Far West, the Mountain States and all other regions which should share in a total application of our new knowledge to people where they are.

To do some rethinking about the trends and possibilities of automation and technology in terms of the whole economy and national development is a large task. It will take much study and much cooperation at all levels of government, Federal, State, and Local.

I want us to begin this study seriously and urgently, now. Thank you.



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