

MINNESOTA RADIO TAPE OF FEBRUARY 5, 1964

FOR BROADCAST WEEK BEGINNING FEBRUARY 9

Ladies and gentlemen --

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

Last week I reported on some correspondence with Minnesotans dispersed around the globe. I want to take a moment today to report on a letter from a Minnesotan at home. He is Donald Malecha. He is aged 12, lives near Faribault, and attends sixth grade in a County school on Highway 60, four and one half miles east of Faribault.

Donald's occasion for writing is the receipt of the new Minnesota Legislative Manual. Among other things in it, he has read about Senator Humphrey. Donald does not have any special requests. He is just impelled to write his Senator a friendly letter. He is complimentary. He says: "You always look jolly and have a smile." I certainly hope so. Life is too rich a blessing to wear a frown about. I know troubles can come and sometimes do. But whatever other prescriptions are necessary from doctor or druggist - and I know something about that to - a smile makes them work better.

Donald asks me if I am proud of Minnesota when I am with other Senators. As I have replied to Donald I certainly am. Not only do I find it a pleasure to tell other Senators about the beauties and advantages of Minnesota, but I do not let other national and foreign leaders say goodbye without imparting my pride and yours, in our State. One of the greatest sources of my pride is that fine people like Donald Malecha live there.

Donald closes a well-written, friendly, thoughtful letter by saying that although he cannot vote, he will put in a good word for his Senator Humphrey, wherever he can.

Such letters make a Senator's work load easier, pride in his State and people even stronger, and resolve to serve them better.

I am also pleased to report today an allotment by the Department of Agriculture for planning a program of land conservation and utilization.

Four hundred thousand dollars has been allotted to plan ten projects in eleven states. Minnesota has a heavy share of this.

2,426,820 acres of land in Minnesota are involved in five counties: Swift, Kandiyohi, Pope, Wadena and the eastern part of Otter Tail County.

This area lies in West Central Minnesota, about 150 miles west of the Twin Cities. The soil there is derived from glacial drift. It is sandy and gravelly and much of the agricultural land is marginal or submarginal. Much of the area is subject to severe drought and erosion.

The project objectives include converting marginal cropland to pasture, developing recreational use, developing watersheds for multiple use of water, accelerating land treatment, and providing low-rate and long-time credit.

The benefits expected from development are equally numerous. The income of the family farm will be improved. The general economy of the region will be benefitted. There will be more recreational facilities for local, city, and out-of-state people. More employment opportunities will grow out of this planning.

Many local organizations are sponsoring this and indeed they must carry the programs out. The Soil Conservation Service will assist in the planning and be the channel for the planning funds from the Department of Agriculture.

The planning should take about a year. Even though local resources will be primarily responsible for carrying out the plans, existing Federal authorities may be able to help implement part of them. And as additional funds are appropriated for Rural Conservation and Development, they can be used also to further the program.

I am pleased to report this as an example of the Federal willingness to help locally initiated and sponsored projects that will provide additional economic opportunities to our people. It is this cooperative enterprise on the part of local, state, and national government that has made our nation strong, and which will keep it that way. Thank you.

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Thank you.



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