

MINNESOTA RADIO TAPE FOR APRIL 15, 1964

FOR BROADCAST WEEK OF APRIL 19, 1964

Ladies and Gentlemen . . .

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

I want to report to you today on Minnesota's inspiring efforts to make living more pleasant for its senior citizens. I want to tell a story of initiative, concern and cooperation by local communities, religious groups and the federal government.

The Federal Housing Administration tells me that a much smaller proportion of older people leave Minnesota than is the case in most other states. This story shows one reason why these senior citizens prefer to live in Minnesota.

I want to tell you about 10 projects - in eight different Minnesota communities - which have been made possible through a cooperative procedure that makes use of federal guarantees but does not involve federal expenditures.

One of those projects - a million dollar Senior Citizens Manor in Rochester - has been made possible by a unique example of interfaith cooperation. It is the first interfaith senior citizens' center of its kind in the United States.

This new institution - now at the ground breaking stage - is being built by an organization called America Religious Town Hall Meeting, Incorporated. It is an organization of Roman Catholics, Protestants and Jews designed to bring about a better understanding among all peoples.

Financial obligations for this fine building are insured by the Federal Housing Administration - which is better known in the home financing field as the familiar F-H-A. This project represents years of planning in demonstrating Americanism in its truest form and practice as the three great faiths work together in one common cause.

The F-H-A also has secured loans for nine other Senior Citizens projects in Minnesota - four of them already completed and five in some stage of construction. The total cost of all these insured projects, including the big interfaith home at Rochester, is seven million dollars.

The four completed projects are the Paul Watkins Memorial Methodist Home at Winona; the Retired Center of Wright County at Buffalo; the Community Memorial Home at Osakis, and the St. Luke's Lutheran Home in Blue Earth.

The five projects in various stages of development are the Grand View Christian Home in Cambridge; the Mount Olivet Home Number Two in Minneapolis; the Heritage Home in Minneapolis; the Good Shepherd Lutheran Home in Rushford, and the Sauer Memorial Home in Winona.

I want to make it very clear that the seven million dollars involved in these 10 projects is private, local money provided by banks and other lending institutions - and all of it will be paid back.

The F-H-A does not put any tax dollars into this at all . . . what it does is provide insurance for these loans and set standards necessary to obtain this private financing.

This federal agency looks into each project before it insures the loan, checking to see if value is being received and that the home involved is designed properly for the senior citizens it will serve. It checks such things as whether hallways are wide enough for wheel-chairs, whether stair risers are the correct height for older people, whether there are proper handholds in bathrooms.

The Federal government insists that the unique specifications involved in building a home for senior citizens be met.

All of the projects I have described are inspiring evidence that Minnesota - and the federal government - are aware of the needs of our senior citizens and are doing something to provide for them.

Every person should be able to look forward to growing old with dignity. Our senior citizens like Minnesota, its climate, its beauty, and its friends and neighbors of a lifetime.

We like them, too, and we care in our state. We have the bright sunshine of human warmth in Minnesota, and there is no better kind.

Thank you.

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