

MINNESOTA RADIO TAPE FOR WEEK OF MAY 20, 1964

FOR BROADCAST WEEK OF MAY 24, 1964

Ladies and Gentlemen - -

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

Today I want to report on progress that is being made to develop more
economic opportunities in northeastern Minnesota in the wood products industry.
We all know, and we have been distressed by the fact, that northeastern Minnesota
has suffered from declining iron ore mining and declining agricultural employment.
At the same time however there is an economic resource in timber that is not
being used. Much more timber could be cut. Indeed, for the welfare of the forests
much more should be. This development has suffered however from the absence of
fundamental research into the uses of wood products, and from lack of related
marketing research. The absence of this research is severely limiting to new
employment and economic opportunities on the land and in new wood-based industries

that might be attracted to the region.

We can ill afford the luxury of unused timber resources. Therefore I am pleased that the Interior Subcommittee on Appropriations has approved a \$230,000 appropriation to establish a Wood-Products Marketing and Applied Utilization Laboratory at Duluth, Minnesota. This laboratory will find ways in which local forest resources and forest industries can make a greater contribution to the social and economic welfare of the people of northeastern Minnesota. It will provide a necessary link in the ^{chain} ~~chain~~ that connects trees in the forest to finished wood products for both a domestic and a world market.

Let me emphasize that the basic resource is there. In the past 10 years, the total volume of standing timber in the five northeastern counties of Minnesota, has increased 53%. While there has been an expanding volume of timber, the cut has been declining. A desirable cut of timber, from a forestry point of view, exceeds the current cut by more than one million cords. What is worse is that in this case a resource not used is not saved--it is just wasted. The Forest Service tells me that an accumulating volume of mature and overmature timber will be lost through decay and death.

For the proper care of our forests then, as well as to develop the potential for new economic opportunity, we must develop industry here. Unemploy-

ment averages 10 per cent or more of the labor force throughout the area.

Whether or not this area can gain a larger share of the national prosperity will depend on the more complete utilization of the available timber resource.

There are many possible new uses of aspen and northern white cedar, which we have in abundance. There is not only a much larger domestic market to be developed, but the port of Duluth is an avenue to world markets. With rising standards of living in many underdeveloped parts of the world, large markets are waiting to be satisfied.

The new laboratory will provide information on new processes for wood products. It will locate markets specifically, estimate their potential, and devise ways to transport forest products more economically. It will do this in close cooperation with local wood users, community officials, state conservation and business development agencies and all who are interested in expanding the economic opportunities of the Northern Lake States area.

The basic value of public and private forests alike is affected. Without markets, even the future productivity of many timber stands is threatened. To make necessary thinning and cuts to improve the stand, there must be more market for the products cut.

In short, we have the wood, we have the labor force, we have an interest

and need to expand the use of this valuable resource. This new laboratory can provide the key to unlock economic opportunity for northeastern Minnesota and the northern Lakes region in general.

This will represent a small investment. It should pay large dividends

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Ladies and gentlemen . . . this is Senator Hubert Humphrey speaking to you from my office on Capitol Hill in Washington . . .

I want to report today on progress in developing economic opportunities in the wood products industry in northeastern Minnesota. We have been distressed by the fact that this area has been hit by an economic setback caused by declining iron ore mining and declining agricultural employment.

At the same time, however, the area has tremendous potential in valuable timber stands that could be used. In fact the forests would be improved if the cut were stepped up. The development of this economic resource has been slow . . . there is no doubt that it would be helped immensely by more

fundamental research . . . into new wood product uses and into the problems of expanding markets.

The lack of sufficient research in these areas severely limits new employment and economic opportunities on the land and makes it difficult to attract new wood-based industries to the area. Unemployment in the counties involved averages about 10 per cent. We can ill afford the luxury of so much unused manpower and timber.

Therefore I am pleased to tell you that the Interior Subcommittee on Appropriations in the Senate has approved a \$230,000 appropriation for a wood products laboratory at Duluth. This laboratory will find ways that local forest resources and industries can expand--and provide more jobs and income for northeastern Minnesota. It will provide the links connecting timber with finished wood products for both the domestic and world markets.

Although the annual cut in this region has been less and less each year, the stand of timber has been increasing. In the past 10 years the volume of standing timber in this area--mostly aspen and white cedar--has increased 53 per cent. The Forest Service tells me we could cut another one million cords a year in this area and still observe good forestry management. What is bad about the situation now is that this surplus timber is being wasted--a heavy volume of mature timber is being lost because the trees die and decay.

We have to develop this industry--both for the proper management of the forest and for the development of new economic opportunity. There are many possible new uses for aspen and white cedar. There is potential for both an expanding domestic market and for an opportunity to ship--through our port of Duluth--to underdeveloped parts of the world where standards of living are rising.

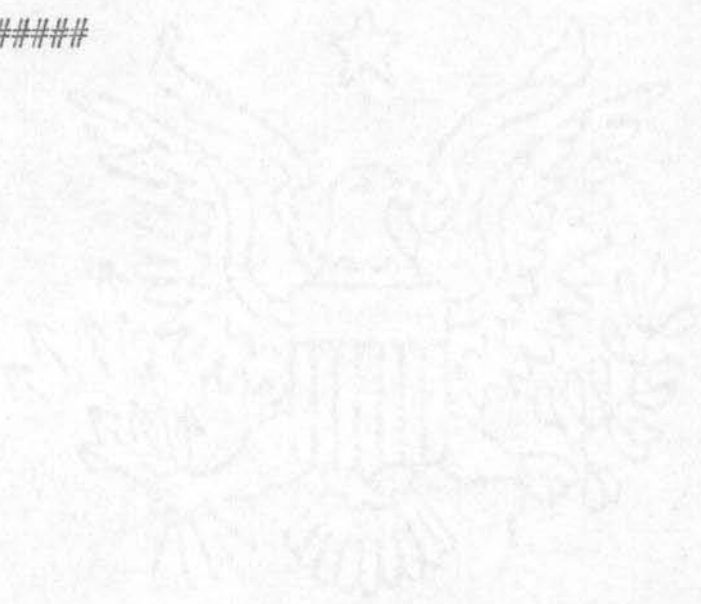
The new laboratory at Duluth will provide information on new processes for wood products, locate new markets and assess their needs and potential, and suggest cheaper ways to ship wood products. Working with the laboratory will be local wood users, community officials, state conservation people, business development agencies . . . and all who are working to expand economic opportunity in the northern lake states area.

The basic value of public and private forests alike is at stake . . . without markets even the future productivity of these timber stands is threatened. New markets will make it possible to carry on the thinning and cutting necessary to improve the stand and make the forests a permanent source of wealth and economic opportunity for this area.

In short we have the wood, the labor force and the interest needed to develop this valuable resource. Now, when

we get this new laboratory in operation, we will be able to unlock economic opportunity for northeastern Minnesota and the entire Northern Lakes area. A small investment is involved here . . . but it is sure to pay big dividends in both new jobs, new industry, and economic development in general. Thank you.

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