

Minnesota Radio Tape For Week of July 22, 1964

For Broadcast Week of July 26, 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 the continuing progress being made in Minnesota on the problems of water pollution. It is a story of local, state, and federal cooperation. These various levels of government have been working in smooth and efficient cooperation in what amounts to a model of the proper way the different branches of government ought to work together everywhere.

Bread may be the staff of life, but water is equally important. In fact ~~it~~^{water} is one of our most precious natural and national resources. Only in recent years have we begun to realize just how precious it is. As our population has grown there have been greater demands for water. But it is absolutely essential that the water be pure. There is no other single health hazard as great to a

community as an impure water supply, or one that can be infected by industrial waste, sewage pollution, or any other form of contamination. Yet as communities have grown in size and number; as industries have developed and poured more waste products into the streams, we ~~were~~ have been making our waters more and more unclean. We have been increasing the actual and potential danger to public health, safety, and welfare. We have also been endangering domestic, commercial, industrial and recreational use, as well as livestock, wild animals, birds, fish, and other aquatic life.

This problem has been growing in the United States. Minnesota, however, recognized it as long ago as 1945. It created a special State Commission to handle a problem that had grown beyond the resources of the State Board of Health. Minnesota ~~then~~, ^{then} was ^{progressive} one of the few states which began an active program to control water pollution before the federal government recognized a national concern and began a federal grant program in 1956.

Since 1956 we have made great progress. Under the original federal program, a municipality could obtain a grant up to 30% of the cost of a project or \$250,000, whichever was smaller. Since 1961, the percentage has been maintained but the money limit has been raised to \$600,000. More liberal provisions for joint projects were also granted.

In the last seven years \$8 million has been expended in federal grants in Minnesota for more than a hundred projects. These same communities have spent or obligated themselves for more than \$22 million of their own funds on these projects. These projects are sewage treatment plants and connecting sewers only, since the federal grants are limited to such.

In addition, the Accelerated Public Works Act ~~was~~ provided 19 grants this past year for sewage treatment plants in Minnesota, amounting to \$700,000. In this case, the municipalities aided were in poor financial condition and few, if any, of them would have constructed sewage treatment plants without federal aid.

I am not suggesting that the federal program has done either all of the job or even a major portion of it. As I have noted, even in communities aided, *those communities* ~~they~~ have spent nearly three times as much of their own money. Other communities, not participating in federal aid have spent \$35 million more.

The people of the local communities have made a very substantial investment and given material evidence of their willingness to provide and pay for water pollution control. Furthermore, much work has been required on the part of the State Commission and its staff, in order to make federal aid available and useful.

Today 90% of the sewerred municipalities in Minnesota have a sewage treatment program, as compared with 65% in 1945. The population in these communities is nearly 100% served today as compared to 85% in 1945. And programs for treatment of industrial waste have greatly accelerated.

It took concerned local people in local communities, an alert State to provide a State Commission of Control, and on the whole only modest help from the Federal government to achieve this. This is a model of the way our Federal system ought to work and I am proud that the people in Minnesota have understood it so well.

Thank you.



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