

MINNESOTA RADIO TAPE FOR WEEK OF AUG. 19, 1964

FOR BROADCAST WEEK OF AUGUST 23, 1964

Ladies and gentlemen. . .

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

Today I want to give a wrap-up report on the 88th Congress. We
are in a position now to look back over it and view its accomplishments. The
88th Congress has been without doubt one of the most productive Congresses in
American history. It may well turn out to have been the most productive. Yet
less than a year ago there was an open season on Congress in which political
commentators felt free to castigate Congress for being log-jammed, for doing
nothing, for wasting time, and for general impotence. Some of us knew better,
and I predicted at the time that the second session of the 88th Congress would
show the results of the great amount of solid work that was being done. Now,

I believe, that some of us in the Congress have a right to call attention to the score at the end of the ball-game.

The great landmark legislation was undoubtedly the Civil Rights Act of 1964. One hundred years after the slaves were freed, their descendents were brought at last into full citizenship. If the Congress had been slow heretofore in this area, it was because the nation at large had been slow in coming to grips with this problem as a moral one. The conscience of America found itself however, and when it did the Congress reflected it. If we had succeeded in doing no more than this in the last two years, the record of the 88th Congress would have been a good one. For this alone, it will be known as the Freedom Congress.

It might well be known also as the Education Congress. Not since the Administration of Abraham Lincoln, has as much been done for education in America. One hundred years ago in the Land Grant Acts, we laid the foundation for the higher educational system in America. To meet exploding college enrollments, our institutions of higher learning must double present capacity by the 1970's. In this 88th Congress we have taken the first significant steps to bring that about, in addition to meeting the needs for technical institutes and vocational schools. For educational concerns alone this Congress would get a grade of A.

Or this Congress might be called a Health Congress. The United States is

rightfully proud of having the highest standards of medical service in the world. Yet we found that our nation was falling behind in ~~medical~~ facilities for training doctors to keep up those standards. This Congress moved to expand those facilities and to provide scholarship to help train more doctors. In addition for the first time, the Federal government moved to make an attack upon the problems of mental retardation.

In many ways indeed, the 88th Congress might be known as the Economic Opportunity Congress. In Manpower Development and Training, in Area Redevelopment, in depreciation allowances, and in the largest Tax Cut in history it has moved to stimulate the private economic resources and salvage the human skills and resources, ^{*It has more acted*} to permit our economy to function at its peak efficiency and at full employment of our growing population. Already some of the effects are being felt. We have crossed the seventy-two million mark in employment--an all-time high. For the first time in ~~14~~ six years, the unemployment rate has dropped below 5 percent. There is more to be done, but we have also passed legislation to enable fundamental study of Automation, Technology, and Manpower Development

And we have begun the all-out attack on poverty in America. We discovered that it was possible to have a growing ~~prosperous~~ economy and a rising production of wealth and still leave some people in poverty. But we also decided

that this was not right. Every American can and should be economically independent. In the Great Society which President Johnson has set as a goal, no American will be condemned to poverty for reasons outside his control.

I must mention also the limited Test-Ban Treaty--the first step in 18 years to halt the atomic arms race, and take a step, however small, away from the brink of war.

All of this is only to mention highlights. It has been a great Congress, and I am confident history will so record it.

Thank you.

Radio Tape for Week of August 19, 1964

For Broadcast Week of August 23, 1964

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

Today I want to give you a wrap-up report on the 88th Congress . . . without a doubt one of the most productive Congresses in history. It may well be that historians will record it as our most productive.

This Congress at one point was being judged rather harshly. Less than a year ago political commentators had declared open season on Congress, criticizing it for being log-jammed, for wasting time, and for inability to get moving.

The criticism missed the mark because a lot of solid work was being done behind the scenes. I predicted at that time that the present session of Congress would show the results of this work and become known as one of the hardest working in our history.

So, in view of this background of criticism, I think it is fitting that we call attention to the score at the end of the ballgame.

Perhaps the greatest achievement is the most recent one--the Civil Rights Bill signed into law last month by President Johnson. This act, which was a long time coming, makes the constitution applicable to all our citizens. It was possible because the conscience of America found itself . . . and the Congress reflected this important change.

The present Congress, for the civil rights act alone, may well be called the Freedom Congress. But this is by no means its only accomplishment.

Not since the administration of Abraham Lincoln has so much been done for education in America. The Land Grants College Act of 100 years ago laid the foundation for our higher education system. Now, to meet our obligations in the face of exploding college enrollments, much more has to be done.

This Congress also might well be known as the Education Congress for its support of colleges and universities . . . for expanding loan funds that will permit more students to attend college . . . for supporting vocational education . . . and for expanding support for technical schools so the kind of workers our society increasingly needs can be trained.

For the first time our government has made a frontal attack on problems of mental health and mental retardation. Congress recognized at last that this problem--with its social and economic hardships--was one the nation could no longer afford.

So it passed legislation providing funds for construction of mental retardation facilities and community mental health centers . . . and financing research into causes of these handicaps. It provided funds to expand training facilities and provide more scholarships for doctors. This is why the 88th Congress may well be called the Health Congress.

The Congress also has applied itself to the problem of providing economic opportunity for all . . . and of making an all-out attack on poverty. It has provided accelerated public works, area redevelopment, and job retraining . . . all programs to give self-respecting work to people caught in America's job revolution. It has provided tax credits, depreciation allowances and the biggest tax cut in history. All release productive powers of our free enterprise economy . . . and all indicate the 88th Congress could well be called the Economic Opportunity Congress.

This Congress also approved the limited test ban treaty--the first step in 18 years to halt the atomic arms race. It is a step, however small, away from the brink of war.

All of this is only to mention the highlights of this productive Congress. It has been a great Congress . . . and I am confident that this is the way the American people will evaluate it--and that historians will record it. Thank you.

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