

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

MINNESOTA PRESS CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

Minneapolis, Minnesota

January 30, 1976

Well. Who says there's no heat in Minnestoa in January?

I have finally seen the famous "freedom of the press" at work. It's in the Constitution, and so I suppose I have to be for it.

But I'll tell you something -- if it were any more free, we'd have to tranquilize it and put it in a cage.

It's enough to make a fellow want to issue a few "gag orders" of his own.

But now that I'm on my own equal time, I want to tell you that you'd better treat your prime source of news a little more kindly.

After all, if you media folks didn't have Hubert Humphrey to kick around any more, the news business in this state would be a depressed industry.

Poor Al Eisele would be put out on the stockyard beat. Of course, he always had a good nose for news.

And look at Scott Long and Jerry Fearing -- if they had to quit producing those graceful and elegant caricatures of me, why they'd be out on the street looking for house-painting jobs.

The papers would be terribly thin, with nothing in them except Charlie Stenvig's dome, some wire stories, the gardening page and the horoscope.

Television wouldn't be hit quite so hard. WCCO could have Dave Moore ad-lib for a half an hour, KSTP could show re-runs of "Bowling for Dollars."

But you can rest easy. Hubert Humphrey is here to stay. In fact, I couldn't leave the spotlight even if I wanted to -- that would mean that the two best-known Minnesotans in Washington would be Fritz Mondale and Barry ZeVan.

Of course, a lot of people are saying that there ought to be a Minnesotan in the White House next year. I'm not sure who, but Fritz has decided that he doesn't want it, and Barry's record on foreign policy is weak.

That seems to leave me. There was a time when I thought that way myself -- but then I thought that the Vikings were going to the Super Bowl this year.

Still, there's been an awful lot of talk about my running for the Presidency. And an awful lot of it has come from people right here in Minnesota.

In fact, I was just talking to Dick Chapman the other day. He said, "Hubert, are you getting any support out here for a presidential campaign?"

I said, "Dick, you wouldn't believe it! Why, just this morning I got a long call from Wendy Anderson . . . (pause) . . . and one from Warren Spannaus . . . (pause) . . . and one from Don Fraser!"

And I was talking to Bob Short, and he was all for it. I figured he probably just wanted to have the Leamington Hotel named as a convention center.

But it turns out that I was wrong. He thinks I'd be a natural choice for the presidency. He thinks its a natural progression for things to go from Lakers to Senators to Giants.

Well, by this time I was getting pretty interested, so I got ahold of Fritz Mondale and asked him what he thought.

Fritz is a straightforward guy, and he gave it to me straight. He said, "Withdraw -- and get into the late primaries."

Then I called Harold Stassen and asked his opinion. The last I heard, he was still thinking about it.

I stopped in on Gene McCarthy, but it didn't help much. He said that I should run on the slogan of "I will go to Angola."

You know these poets, they can't resist a good line.

Miles Lord didn't give me much help either -- he said that he's keeping his feelings in reserve.

But the best advice of all came from my friend Al Hofstede. He seemed really excited about the idea. He said, "Listen, Hubert, I'll tell you how to run your campaign -- just keep a low profile, stay off the television, and you can't lose!"

# # # # #

⑦ Walter Heller - with economists like this, ~~you~~ you can't elect  
al Eisele Gov Econom

"I accept the nomination"

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

MINNESOTA PRESS CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

⑧ V. Karp super bowl - I went to locker room -  
failed to come out  
for 3rd quarter

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

✓ whiskey money - milk money!  
Biggest fund raiser since AMPI Conventions  
\$1500. Fund Raiser Tonite -  
JANUARY 30, 1976

Jane Kva \$100.00 from AFH-CIO (\$4 on the Dollar)  
that's for Debt Payment  
not contributions

al Eisele - I thought his news stories were fake, but I  
didn't know he was a professional.

⑧ Sam Rayburn - why be  
stupid + weak  
when for 2 drinks you  
can be Smart + Strong

⑨ I must be a candidate  
otherwise there would  
be said all these  
scurious thing

⑩ Message in this  
long session

I Promise  
I Promise

to shorten my speeches!

This is not  
a Roast  
its an  
elephants  
Pregnancy!

⑩ Why Do People think I talk  
-1- too much?

L WELL, WHO SAYS THERE'S NO HEAT IN MINNESTOA IN JANUARY?

L I HAVE FINALLY SEEN THE FAMOUS "FREEDOM OF THE PRESS" AT

WORK. L IT'S IN THE CONSTITUTION, AND SO I SUPPOSE I HAVE TO BE

FOR IT = just about as much for it, as Boston  
& Geo Wallace are for Busing.

L BUT I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING -- IF IT WERE ANY MORE FREE,

WE'D HAVE TO TRANQUILIZE IT AND PUT IT IN A CAGE.

L IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE A FELLOW WANT TO ISSUE A FEW "GAG  
ORDERS" OF HIS OWN.

L BUT NOW THAT I'M ON MY OWN EQUAL TIME, I WANT TO TELL  
YOU THAT YOU'D BETTER TREAT YOUR PRIME SOURCE OF NEWS A LITTLE  
= =  
MORE KINDLY.

L AFTER ALL, IF YOU MEDIA FOLKS DIDN'T HAVE HUBERT HUMPHREY  
TO KICK AROUND ANY MORE, THE NEWS BUSINESS IN THIS STATE WOULD  
BE A DEPRESSED INDUSTRY.

L POOR AL EISELE WOULD BE PUT OUT ON THE STOCKYARD BEAT.

OF COURSE, HE ALWAYS HAD A GOOD NOSE FOR NEWS.

L AND LOOK AT SCOTT LONG AND JERRY FEARING -- IF THEY HAD

TO QUIT PRODUCING THOSE GRACEFUL AND ELEGANT CARICATURES OF ME,

WHY THEY'D BE OUT ON THE STREET LOOKING FOR HOUSE-PAINTING JOBS.

L <sup>male</sup> THE PAPERS WOULD BE TERRIBLY THIN, WITH NOTHING IN THEM  
EXCEPT CHARLIE STENVIG'S DOME, SOME WIRE STORIES, THE GARDENING  
PAGE AND THE HOROSCOPE,

L TELEVISION WOULDN'T BE HIT QUITE SO HARD. L WCCO COULD HAVE  
DAVE MOORE AD-LIB FOR A HALF AN HOUR, KSTP COULD SHOW RE-RUNS  
OF "BOWLING FOR DOLLARS."

L BUT YOU CAN REST EASY. HUBERT HUMPHREY IS HERE TO STAY!

IN FACT, I COULDN'T LEAVE THE SPOTLIGHT EVEN IF I WANTED TO --

THAT WOULD MEAN THAT THE TWO BEST-KNOWN MINNESOTANS IN

WASHINGTON WOULD BE Fritz Mondale AND BARRY ZEVAN!

L OF COURSE, A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE SAYING THAT THERE OUGHT

TO BE A MINNESOTAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE NEXT YEAR I'M NOT

SURE WHO, BUT FRITZ HAS DECIDED THAT HE DOESN'T WANT IT,

AND <sup>zevano</sup> BARRY'S RECORD ON FOREIGN POLICY IS WEAK.

L THAT SEEMS TO LEAVE ME. THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I THOUGHT

THAT WAY MYSELF -- BUT THEN I THOUGHT THAT THE VIKINGS WERE

GOING TO THE SUPER BOWL THIS YEAR.

L STILL, THERE'S BEEN AN AWFUL LOT OF TALK ABOUT MY RUNNING  
FOR THE PRESIDENCY. AND AN AWFUL LOT OF IT HAS COME FROM  
PEOPLE RIGHT HERE IN MINNESOTA.

IN FACT, I WAS JUST TALKING TO DICK CHAPMAN THE OTHER DAY.

HE SAID, "HUBERT, ARE YOU GETTING ANY SUPPORT OUT HERE FOR A  
PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN?"

L I SAID, "DICK, YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT! WHY, JUST THIS  
MORNING I GOT A LONG CALL FROM WENDY ANDERSON . . . (PAUSE)  
. . . <sup>then</sup> AND ONE FROM WARREN SPANNAUS . . . (PAUSE) . . . AND  
<sub>1</sub> ONE FROM DON FRASER."

L AND I WAS TALKING TO BOB SHORT, AND HE WAS ALL FOR IT. !  
I FIGURED HE PROBABLY JUST WANTED TO HAVE THE LEAMINGTON HOTEL  
NAMED AS A CONVENTION CENTER.

L BUT IT TURNS OUT THAT I WAS WRONG. L HE THINKS I'D BE A  
NATURAL CHOICE FOR THE PRESIDENCY L HE THINKS ITS A NATURAL  
PROGRESSION FOR THINGS TO GO FROM LAKERS TO SENATORS TO GIANTS.



L WELL, BY THIS TIME I WAS GETTING PRETTY INTERESTED, SO I  
GOT A HOLD OF FRITZ MONDALE AND ASKED HIM WHAT HE THOUGHT.

*now*  
L FRITZ IS A STRAIGHTFORWARD GUY, AND HE GAVE IT TO ME

STRAIGHT, L HE SAID, "WITHDRAW -- AND GET INTO THE LATE PRIMARIES,"

L THEN I CALLED HAROLD STASSEN AND ASKED HIS OPINION. ~~He~~  
*said, he couldn't advise me, since he*  
~~LAST I HEARD, HE WAS STILL THINKING ABOUT IT.~~  
*had never given any thought to the primary*

L I STOPPED IN ON GENE MCCARTHY, BUT IT DIDN'T HELP MUCH.

HE SAID THAT I SHOULD RUN ON THE SLOGAN OF "I WILL GO TO ANGOLA."

L YOU KNOW THESE POETS, THEY CAN'T RESIST A GOOD LINE.

L MILES LORD DIDN'T GIVE ME MUCH HELP EITHER -- HE SAID THAT

HE'S KEEPING HIS FEELINGS IN RESERVE.

BUT THE BEST ADVICE OF ALL <sup>came</sup> ~~came~~ FROM MY FRIEND AL HOFSTEDE <sup>o</sup>

h HE SEEMED REALLY EXCITED ABOUT THE IDEA. <sup>h</sup> HE SAID, "LISTEN, HUBERT,

I'LL TELL YOU HOW TO RUN YOUR CAMPAIGN -- JUST KEEP A LOW PROFILE,

STAY OFF THE TELEVISION, AND YOU CAN'T LOSE."

~~It though~~

#####



# Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



[www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org)