

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

NORWAY DAYS
MINNEHAHA PARK

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

JULY 11, 1976

AS ALWAYS, IT IS A SPECIAL AND PERSONAL PLEASURE
TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU THE NORWEGIAN HERITAGE THAT IS
SHARED BY SO MANY OF US IN MINNESOTA.

LAST YEAR AT INDEPENDENCE DAY, IT WAS MY PRIVILEGE
TO BE IN STAVANGER, NORWAY, TO CELEBRATE THE DEPARTURE
ON JULY 4, 1825, OF THE RESTAURATION BRINGING THE FIRST
ORGANIZED GROUP OF NORWEGIANS TO SETTLE IN AMERICA --

h THE NORWEGIAN MAYFLOWER, I CALL IT.

IN OCTOBER, WE CELEBRATED THE ARRIVAL OF THAT
SLOOP AND HIS MAJESTY KING OLAV V HONORED US WITH
HIS PRESENCE IN OUR CITY AND OUR STATE.

h THIS FRIST GROUP OF 52, AND A BABY BORN AT SEA,
WAS THE VANGUARD OF WHAT WAS TO BECOME A WAVE OF
NORWEGIAN IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES.

IN FACT, EXCEPT FOR IRELAND, NORWAY GAVE TO AMERICA
A LARGER PORTION OF ITS POPULATION THAN ANY OTHER
NATION.

TODAY NEARLY THREE MILLION NORWEGIAN-AMERICANS
LIVE IN THE UNITED STATES. THEY HAVE BROUGHT TO
AMERICA THEIR QUALITIES OF CHARACTER: A PIONEERING
SPIRIT; COURAGE AND ADVENTURE; OPTIMISM AND SELF-
CONFIDENCE; THE TRADITION OF HARD WORK AND SELF-
RELIANCE; BUT ABOVE ALL, A PASSION FOR FREEDOM --
POLITICAL, INTELLECTUAL AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR OF OUR NATION'S
FREEDOM, AS WE HONOR THE TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS WHICH
MADE AMERICA GREAT, WE CAN LOOK WITH PRIDE TO THE
SCANDINAVIAN INFLUENCE WHICH HELPED SHAPE OUR NATIONAL
CHARACTER -- ESPECIALLY HERE IN OUR OWN STATE OF
MINNESOTA AND THROUGHOUT THE GREAT MIDWEST.

AS THE NORWEGIANS ARRIVED ON AMERICAN SOIL IN THE 19TH CENTURY AND MOVED WESTWARD, THEY PUT THEIR STAMP ON EVERY ASPECT OF AMERICAN LIFE. NORWEGIAN INFLUENCE IS FOUND IN THE ARTS, IN EDUCATION, IN MUSIC, IN AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE, BUSINESS AND POLITICS. INDEED, SINCE OCTOBER 9, 1825, EVERY ASPECT OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN ENHANCED AND ENRICHED BY THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF NORWAY.

THESE FIRST NORWEGIAN PIONEERS HAD NO GUARANTEES ABOUT LIFE IN THE NEW LAND.

THEY SET SAIL NOT WITH CERTAINTY BUT WITH HOPE; NOT WITH ASSURANCES BUT WITH CHALLENGE. THEY BROUGHT WITH THEM NOT GOLD AND SILVER, BUT SKILL, PERSEVERANCE AND CONFIDENCE. AND THEY WERE STRENGTHENED BY A LONG TRADITION OF RESPECT FOR THEIR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS.

THEY KNEW THAT MEN AND WOMEN WITH COMMON GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS CAN WORK TOGETHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL,

AND THEY USED THESE QUALITIES TO TAME AND DEVELOP THE GREAT FRONTIERS OF AMERICA,

THESE EARLY NORWEGIAN PIONEERS BELIEVED IN SELF GOVERNMENT AND HELPED TO STRENGTHEN, BY THEIR SENSE OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, THE YOUNG AND EXPANDING DEMOCRACY OF AMERICA,

MY MOTHER WAS BORN AT TVEIT NEAR KRISTIANSAND,

HER FATHER AND MOTHER BROUGHT THE FAMILY TO AMERICA IN THE 1880's, BUT THEIR LOVE FOR AMERICA NEVER DIMMED THEIR AFFECTION FOR NORWAY,

MY GRANDFATHER, ANDREW SANNES, WAS A SEA CAPTAIN, HE SAILED FROM STAVANGER AND KRISTIANSAND. HE HAD THE SEA IN HIS VEINS, AND HE TOLD ME WONDERFUL STORIES ABOUT THE NORWEGIANS WHO SAILED TO FAR AWAY LANDS,

MY MOTHER INSTILLED IN HER CHILDREN A FEELING OF WORTH, AND SHE TAUGHT US THAT WE HAD A RESPONSIBILITY TO USE OUR TALENTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS AND FOR OUR COUNTRY.

--WE WERE TAUGHT THAT LIFE IS TO BE ENJOYED, NOT JUST ENDURED, SO WE HAD GREAT FAMILY GATHERINGS,

--WE WERE BROUGHT UP TO BELIEVE THAT RELIGION WAS MORE THAN A SUNDAY EXPERIENCE. ITS TRUE MEANING WAS TO BE FOUND IN LOVE, COMPASSION AND JUSTICE.

--AND I LEARNED THAT POLITICS -- INVOLVEMENT IN GOVERNMENT -- WAS TO BE A PART OF DAILY LIFE, NOT MERELY AN EXERCISE TO BE PURSUED IN YOUR SPARE TIME.

I WAS TAUGHT THAT IF YOU WANT GOOD GOVERNMENT YOU HAVE TO WORK FOR IT. THESE LESSONS FROM A NORWEGIAN MOTHER HAVE GIVEN DIRECTION TO MY LIFE.

THOSE OF US OF NORWEGIAN DESCENT WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BE BROUGHT UP IN HOMES WHERE THESE CHARACTERISTICS OF PIONEERING AND ADVENTURE, CONFIDENCE AND FAITH, FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY WERE THE STANDARDS TO BE OBSERVED.

MODERN NORWAY CONTINUES TO BE A STRONG AND FAITHFUL ALLY OF THE UNITED STATES AND A COURAGEOUS DEFENDER OF WORLD PEACE THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION.

YES, PEACE WITH FREEDOM IS THE DEDICATION OF THE NORWEGIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR GOVERNMENT.

WITH EQUAL IMPORTANCE, NORWAY HAS SET THE STANDARD FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE CARE OF ITS PEOPLE.

IT HAS BANISHED POVERTY AND ILLITERACY. IT CARES FOR ITS ELDERLY. IT OFFERS OPPORTUNITY FOR THE YOUNG. IT ASSURES HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AND COMPASSION FOR ITS UNFORTUNATE.

WE AS AMERICANS CAN SEE NORWAY AS A LIVING
TESTIMONIAL TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF
HAPPINESS.

AND IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR, LET US REDEDICATE
OURSELVES TO THE DREAMS WHICH HAVE GUIDED BOTH NORWAY
AND THE UNITED STATES.

LET US WORK TO SUSTAIN OUR LONG AND CLOSE
FRIENDSHIP. AND LET US PURSUE THE VISION WHICH
CAN KEEP US FREE NATIONS.

#

"NORGEH ER ET PAINT, FREET LÄND, MÖ DE
ALLTEED VAERE SO!"

July 8, 1976

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator

FROM: Lou

RE: Norway Day -- Minnehaha Park, Minneapolis -- July 11

This is the 44th annual Norway Day. Between 5,000 and 8,000 persons are expected.

The program will include a worship service from 11 a.m. until noon.

Beginning around 1 p.m., the program will include:

- Music by Larvik School Band, Larvik, Norway
- History reading -- Dr. Carl Chrislock, Augsburg College
- Jack Strom will impersonate a number of the Founding Fathers of the U. S. in his piece, "The Price Tag of Liberty."
- Dramatic readers from Northfield, Minnesota, doing a piece from Ole Rolvaag's "Giants in the Earth"
- Musical numbers, both vocal and instrumental, ending with folk dancing.

Mayor Stenvig of Mpls. will be present, along with Norwegian Vice Consul Hartley Antonsen.

Governor Anderson will be represented by Mr. Enebo.

Norway Day is sponsored by the Norwegian National League, which is a federation of all Norwegian-American organizations in Minneapolis.

NOTE: As you know, this event is strictly non-political.

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

NORWAY DAYS

MINNEHAHA PARK

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

JULY 11, 1976

JHB
OK
J.H.H.

As always, it is a special and personal pleasure to celebrate with you the Norwegian heritage that is shared by so many of us in Minnesota.

Last year at Independence Day, it was my privilege to be in Stavanger, Norway, to celebrate the departure on July 4, 1825, of the RESTAURATION, ~~bringing~~ bringing the first organized group of Norwgians to settle in America-- the Norwegian Mayflower, I call it. ~~Later On October~~ ^{In October,} ~~October 9,~~ we celebrated the arrival of that ~~ship,~~ ^{sloop,} and His Majesty King Olav V honored us with his presence in our ~~City~~ City and our State.

This first group of 52, and a baby born at sea, was the vanguard of what was to become a wave of Norwegian immigration to the United States.

In fact, except for Ireland, Norway gave to Amercia a larger portion of its population than any other nation.

Today nearly ^{three} million Norwegian-Americans live in the United States. They have ^brought to America their qualities of character: a ~~■~~ pioneering spirit; courage and adventure; optimism and self-confidence; ~~■~~ the tradition of hard work and self-reliance; ~~■~~ but above all, a passion for freedom -- political, intellectual, and religious freedom.

~~As we honor the ta~~

In this Bicentennial year of our Nation's freedom, as we honor the traditions and customs which made America ~~great~~ great, we can look with pride to the Scandinavian influence which helped shape our national character -- especially here in our own State of Minnesota, and ~~throughout~~ throughout the great Midwest. ~~Since October~~

As the Norwegians arrived on American soil in the 19th century and moved westward, they put their stamp on every aspect of American life. ~~Now~~ Norwegian influence is found in the arts, ~~in education, in music, in agriculture, science, business and politics.~~ ~~Since October~~ Indeed, since October 9, 1825, every aspect of the American experience has been enhanced and enriched by the sons and daughters of Norway.

These first Norwegian pioneers had no guarantees about life in the New Land.

They set sail not with certainty but with hope; not with assurances but with challenge. They brought with them not gold ~~and~~ and silver, but skill, perseverance, and confidence. And they were strengthened by a long tradition of respect for their fellow human beings.

They knew that men and women with common goals and aspirations can work together ~~for~~ for the benefit of ~~the~~ all community.

And they used these qualities to tame and develop the great ~~frontiers~~ frontiers of America.

These early Norwegian pioneers believed in self government and helped to strengthen, by their sense of political and social responsibility, the young and expanding democracy of America.

My mother was born at Tveit near Kristiansand.

Her father and mother brought the family to America in the 1880's, but their love for America never dimmed their affection for Norway.

My grandfather Andrew Sannes was a sea ~~captain~~ captain. He sailed from Stavanger and Kristiansand. ~~He had the sea.~~ He had the sea in his veins, and he told me wonderful stories about the Norwegians who sailed to far away lands.

My mother instilled in her children a feeling of worth, and she taught us that we had a responsibility to use our talents for the benefit of others and for our country.

-- We were taught that life is to be enjoyed, not just endured, so we had great family gatherings.

-- We were brought up to believe that religion was more than a Sunday experience. Its true meaning was to be found in love, compassion, and justice.

-- And I learned that politics -- involvement in government -- was to be a part of daily life, ~~not~~ not merely an exercise to be ~~per~~ pursued in your spare time.

I was taught that if you want good government you have to work for it. These lessons from a Norwegian mother have given direction to my life.

Those of us of Norwegian descent were fortunate enough to be brought up in homes where these characteristics of pioneering and adventure, confidence and faith, freedom and responsibility were ~~the~~ ^{under} the standards to be observed.

~~Norway~~ Modern Norway continues to be a strong and faithful ally of the United States, and a courageous defender of world peace through the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance.

Yes, peace with freedom is the dedication of the Norwegian people and their government.

With equal importance, Norway has set the standard for social justice in the care of its people.

It has banished poverty and illiteracy. It cares for its elderly. It offers opportunity for the young. It ~~assures~~ ^{care for} assures health ~~for~~ all, and compassion for its unfortunate.

We as Americans can see Norway as a living testimonial to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. ~~And this~~

And in this Bicentennial year, let us rededicate ourselves to the ^{dreams} ~~visions~~ which have ~~guided~~ ^{guided} both Norway and the United States. ~~And let us~~

~~And let us~~ ~~us~~ ~~frame~~ a recommitment to the ~~its~~ ^{vision} ideals vision which ~~has~~ ^{of} a long future of freedom. ~~Recommit ourselves~~

~~to~~ Let us work ~~to~~ ^{Sustain} ~~continue~~ our long and ~~close~~ close friendship. And let us pursue the vision which can keep us free nations.

"NORGEH ER ET PAINT, FREET LÄND.
MO DÈ ALLTEED ~~VAERE~~ VAERE SØ!"



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