

14 Minute TV Report for Minnesota - Taped March 20, 1963. Questioned by Bill Roberts and Carl Coleman of TIME-LIFE Broadcasting.

-----questions and answers and with two veteran newsmen of the calibre of Mr. Roberts and Mr. Coleman, I know we are going to get some good questions. Now we will see about the answers.

First, I turn to you Mr. Roberts and see what you have in mind.

BILL ROBERTS: Well, my first question, Senator, concerns something a lot of people in Washington are asking - when will the Senate actually start doing something.

HUMPHREY: Well, Mr. Roberts, I might have expected that you would ask that question because you good newsmen what you really want is a good fight. I said to you the other day that you are real fight promoters. But in all seriousness in response to your question, the Congress is already doing something. In fact, it is doing very much. The Congress does not automatically legislate. The Senate requires, as does the House, that a good deal of Committee action be done. Everything has to start by the presentation of bills, the referral of those bills to Committees, the referral of those bills in Committees to subcommittees, then the bringing together of many witnesses upon key pieces of legislation, the taking of testimony, the marking up of the bill at the subcommittee level, reporting it out of the full committee and then to the Senate Floor. It is a long process and every year it is the same and every year we get the same questions - when are we going to start to do something and the answer is when the bills come from committee. We have already passed a number of bills. They aren't the big measures of the administration program, but soon we will have the Youth Employment
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Act before us. It will be voted on before Easter. We will have dairy legislation before us, hearings are on that right now. The feed grains program hearings are now in process and it is ready to be acted upon in the House and soon in the Senate. The tax legislation - the hearings are already started on that, the programs for medical education facilities, for higher education, for the manpower retraining act, all of these matters are now in legislative process. They will be reported to the calendars of the House and the Senate in a very short time.

QUESTION: Is this Youth Opportunities Bill the only one you expect to get out by Easter.

HUMPHREY: Of the President's main program, yes. We would expect that as the main first item. Of course there will be some of the appropriations that will be pretty well along the way. I think we should let our listeners and viewers know that every day we are having hearings on appropriations and I find myself tied in on committee hearings day in and day out.

QUESTION: Senator, regarding the Youth Opportunities Bill, what happens if Republicans in the House, especially, tack on the civil rights rider on that bill.

HUMPHREY: I wish our Republican friends were as interested in civil rights on every measure as they seem to be on this one. When we have a real civil rights bill up on its own merits, we have a difficult time getting the kind of bipartisan cooperation that we need to put that bill across. In other words, we run into the stubborn resistance of the more or less conservative wing of the Republican Party. Now there has been a

suggestion made in the House, as you have indicated that a so-called civil rights rider be attached to the Youth Conservation Corps. Frankly it is not needed, it is only an obstructionist tactic, we have already all the authority the Federal Government needs to see to it that equal opportunity is provided for people. What is more, the real opportunity that young people need today is the opportunity for wholesome and constructive work and a youth conservation corps offers that chance for a number of young people. I regret that these obstructionist tactics are being used and that is what they are. ~~THAT~~ If such an amendment is offered here in the Senate I shall personally resist it and my record in the field of civil rights legislation I don't think requires any explanation. It is a record of steadfast support. But I know how people like to kill bills around here. This is a hard fought piece of legislation.

QUESTION: This would kill it - a civil rights amendment.

HUMPHREY: I think that it would - at least impair its progress and its passage. First of all, if you bring it up here in the Senate you will have a filibuster and that means that we will get no bill, and that is exactly what some people want to see happen. No bill. Now this - I regret this because I wonder how Senators and Congressmen are going to explain to their constituents that they are really ~~not~~ uninterested in youth employment opportunities and that is what this bill provides. It provides opportunities for young people to get an education, school drop outs go back into education providing them an opportunity to work in constructive employment in the fields of conservation, ~~in~~ our national parks our state parks, our national and state forests, to do something to help the community

as well as to help themselves. How much are they going to get paid? \$60 a month.

QUESTION: Senator, a few Republicans have raised the question what trade can a young man possibly learn by working in a national forest for six months.

HUMPHREY: Well, he can learn something about forestry. I think he will learn more working in the forest than he will standing on a street corner.

QUESTION: What good would this do him when he returns to the city? There aren't many opportunities for forest work there.

HUMPHREY: Well, everybody doesn't have to work in the city. I want to say that first of all this is a common place opposition argument - that the young man is not going to learn enough in this program. Well, what he will learn first of all is self-respect. He will learn how to take care of himself. He will learn that he owes something to the community as well as to himself and he will be doing gainful work. Plus the fact that the bill I am privileged to sponsor, known as the Youth Employment Act provides a minimum of ten hours per week vocational and technical training to be provided by contract with the local schools in the area where the young man works in the Youth Conservation Corps. Now this isn't as much as I would like, but it is more than we have had before and interestingly enough, the very same people - and it happens to be the Republican opposition here - who are talking about that young people under this program will not get enough vocational training are the same people who knocked out of the manpower retraining bill of two years ago the feature that provided special training for young people. Then they said we don't want it. We mustn't

this young people's vocational training. So they voted en masse against it. Now the argument is made under the Youth Employment Act under the YCC program that not enough is being given to vocational training. I just ask them to make up their minds what they want. I think I know what they want - they want no bill, but I have some news for them - we are going to pass this bill, the public is overwhelmingly in support of this bill. I do not know of a single organization in America that is of a reputable nature that does not support the Youth Employment Act and the provisions of that bill.

QUESTION: Senator, on another subject, you were quoted in Geneva as saying April 1 might be a deadline of sorts for the nuclear test ban talks. We are getting near that now with no progress. Isn't it about time we just called it quits.

HUMPHREY: What I said in Geneva and it is a matter of transcript so there can be no doubt of it - I said that unless considerable progress had been made by some time in April or in spring that I doubted that any progress would be made. And as I said, you can just as well whistle Dixie nothing that ~~something~~ will really come of these negotiations and I still say that is the case. That unless we see some degree of progress on the nuclear test ban talks by April ~~th~~ it is very dubious that there will be any progress that will lend itself toward an agreement. And I think we are sensing that right now - the adamant position of the Russians is very discouraging, the Soviet delegates have been uncompromising, unwilling to consider any proposal, even though we have offered what I think are very constructive suggestions and proposals.

QUESTION: Well in that case, wouldn't it be better simply to call the thing off?

HUMPHREY: No, I don't think so. I think we always have to be in the position of being willing to sit and talk and to work and if need be to wait for progress in slowing down the arms race. Now when I say that, I mean slowing down on the basis where we protect our own national security to make sure that the armament reductions do not leave us in an unfavorable position, that those armament reductions or controls over arms must be reciprocal and they must have international inspection and there must be controls so that you don't get fooled and this is what, of course, we have provided for in our treaty proposals.

QUESTION: Senator, in the past couple of weeks or so there has been much said and much written about Soviet overflights of our ships on the high seas and also over Alaska. Can we stand for this or what should we do.

HUMPHREY: Well, overflights of our ships on the high seas is one matter and it is entirely different from what I call over our territorial areas - over Alaska. The high seas are high seas. This is open territory and I don't like it but we have to expect that this would happen. But when overflights over our territory which are not accidental but which are pre-mediated the first action on the part of our government is what we have already taken, namely a sharp and strong protest. If that isn't adequate then you will have to send up your pursuit planes to either flush them off and get them out or take even more stern action which has been taken by the Soviet Union itself. The Soviet Union did shoot down a U-2 plane of ours. So did the Cubans shoot down a photography plane. The Soviets

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some years ago, you may recall, destroyed or shot down certain planes up in the Baltics that they said had invaded their air space. Now this is very hazardous, I know that, but I believe we have to make it crystal clear to the Soviets that we will not tolerate the violation of our air space by Soviet overflights. We ought to make this clear, as I said first by diplomatic formality, the formal protest. Secondly, I would say stepping this up by seeking to scare off the planes and thirdly, if need be, by the defense of our territorial jurisdiction.

QUESTION: Senator, you mentioned Cuba. Are there any better prospects now for combined Latin American action with us against Castro in any form?

HUMPHREY: Yes, I think so. I really believe that President Kennedy's visit to San Jose, Costa Rica, was a milestone in cooperation between our areas, two areas.

QUESTION: That was only six nations, how about the rest of them?

HUMPHREY: Well, the Caribbean area of course is the most sensitive area and the Presidents of the Republics in the Caribbean area and add to that Venezuela, Columbia and Panama, and you have nine then, and plus ourselves, ten. This represents the most immediately concerned, or the most openly concerned area of the Latin American countries about Cuban infiltration, Castro-Communist infiltration and penetration. This conference took place in San Jose and did mobilize the Caribbean area with the United States. We are taking now counter action. We are taking actions to strengthen the police forces, for example, in the respective nations. We have promised

military aid. We are taking actions to see to it that there is no movement of Castro people or subversive agents into the area by actually controlling the boundaries and the shorelines of the Caribbean countries. I think the President made it quite clear that we are going to isolate Castro. We are going to quarantine Castro. And as he put it, not to build a wall of concrete and brick which is ugly, but a wall of determination of free men and determined not to let this vicious influence of Castro Communism penetrate the Western Hemisphere by activating not only our counter-forces, our forces of resistance, but also by the programs of the Alliance for Progress of a better life in Latin American areas.

QUESTION: Senator, is there time for a quickie?

HUMPHREY: Yes, try it.

QUESTION: I was wondering about the outlook for any more taconite moves up on the Iron Range.

HUMPHREY: Can I first say that on the Communist Castro Latin American question I have just written a long report on my two visits and I believe a very good report if you will pardon me ~~to say, it is so~~ for saying so. It is documented very carefully and I outlined there some programs of action. I want our people to write in and ask for it if they care for it I will send it to you.

Secondly, yes we are still working on new taconite developments for Minnesota, contacting different companies, urging them to make investments. I am very happy over the U.S. Steele announcement, the Ford Motor announcement. We hope that we might have some other announcements that are coming and there were others.

QUESTION: ANY hot prospects?

HUMPHREY: WELL, I'll see you later on that.

Gentlemen, we have to conclude. Time's out. See you two weeks from now, and thank you for listening and viewing us.



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