

MINNESOTA RADIO TAPE OF JULY 28, 1963

FOR BROADCAST WEEK BEGINNING JULY 7

Ladies and gentlemen--

This is Senator Hubert Humphrey, reporting to you

from my office on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C....

Today I depart for once from my regular discussions of specific  
issues, and report to you on my approach to the job of United States

Senator from Minnesota.

The other day, a student came into my office and asked: "Senator  
Humphrey, why is it you have to work such long hours? All you really  
have to do is cast your vote in the Senate, and answer your mail from  
Minnesota."

In one sense, the student was right. Most of the work of a

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Senator is ultimately focused on the responsibility to decide---  
to vote on the legislative issues in Congress---and to respond to  
the needs and ideas of his constituents as expressed through their  
letters.

*We get a lot of letters come  
into mail room. 1000-1200  
1500  
minutes*

A vote takes only a few seconds to cast, but the background to  
that vote may include weeks and even months of intensive study and  
work by the Senator. *his staff* I am not the type of Senator who specializes  
in a few, particular subjects, and then votes a "party line" on all  
other issues. For me, the responsibility to understand fully the  
issues involved applies to every vote and every decision I must make.  
*I have responsibility to make  
my own decision*  
No one and no single organization controls my vote or my choice. That  
is why I must spend a great part of my time studying and understanding  
every issue faced by the Senate.

In the same way, a letter to a constituent may be composed of  
only a few lines, and take only a few minutes to dictate. But often,  
the work required to respond to a Minnesotan's request or idea will take

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*of staff or myself.*  
hours, and even days. I do not believe that a Minnesotan who writes to me with a specific need or suggestion should receive individual attention and, when necessary, action on my part. *to try to make it prompt action service.* To me, a letter from a Minnesotan is like a personal visit to my office---and must receive personal attention.

Yes, the responsibilities of a Senator to vote, and to serve his constituents take time---a big part of my time. But I believe that my responsibility as a United States Senator requires more. *than this*

It requires leadership. The honor of elective office at the national level, and the opportunity of that office for influence, *legis* commits a man to seek progress for his State and Nation.

This commitment, I believe, requires a Senator to move a bit ahead of the times, to look forward to programs and policies which might not be acceptable at the moment but which will be needed in the future. *You must be prepared to take some risk.* This is why I have never been content with the easy and acceptable solutions of the moment, and instead have searched and worked for new ideas

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and new programs to strengthen America and freedom. I will mention just three examples: the Food for Peace program, the Peace Corps, and the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. At the time I first suggested these programs, <sup>many</sup> others were indifferent, or even mocking. <sup>boiled</sup> But hard work---and time---brought them to reality and success. <sup>intent leadership advice edit reaction</sup>

There is a final duty which I consider extremely important. The duty of leadership, the duty of a Senator, <sup>inform</sup> is to educate. <sup>myself try to</sup> If I learn of a problem, I do not try to hide it. If I believe in the need for a new program or policy, I do not isolate my effort to achieve it. My duty is to inform you of the problem or the need. Ours is a representative government, <sup>as citizens</sup> and you must be involved and informed. <sup>We have a</sup> That is the reason for these broadcasts, and for my continuing efforts <sup>responsibility to being to being them</sup> through the press and my speeches to report on my work and my goals.

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

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