RADIO SPEECH OF HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, JR.

RADIO STATION WLOL
FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1943
10:15 P.M.

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FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF MY CAMPAIGN FOR MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS, I HAVE PLEDGED YOU A PROGRAM OF ACTION, A PROGRAM BASED UPON THE NEED OF VIGOROUS, YET SOUND AND CONSTRUCTIVE LEADERSHIP. | HAVE POINTED OUT THAT THE MAYOR OF THIS CITY CAN DO MUCH FOR PROGRESSIVE, AND SOUND GOVERNMENT; THAT THE MAYOR CAN AND SHOULD BE A COMMUNITY LEADER, NOT A FOLLOWER. I HAVE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF LEADERSHIP IN A TIME OF WAR, A TIME WHEN EVERY EFFORT MUST BE USED FOR THE FULL MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES FOR THE WAR EFFORT. I HAVE POINTED OUT THAT MINNEAPOLIS IS SUFFERING FROM A DISEASE OF DO-NOTHINGNESS IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE. I HAVE POINTED OUT THAT LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN LACKING IN SUCH MATTERS AS SOUND AND EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS TO COMBAT AND OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS OF JUVENILE the revitalization of our gramment DELINQUENCY, GOVERNMENTAL REORGANIZATION, POST-WAR PLANNING, INDUSTRIAL AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT. I HAVE OFFERED EVIDENCE, YES MX FACTUAL EVIDENCE, TO PROVE THAT THE PRESENT MAYOR HAS REFUSED TO USE THE POWER AND INFLUENCE OF HIS OFFICE TO MEET THE CRUCIAL PROBLEMS WITH WHICH WE ARE NOW CONFRONTED. AGAIN, I SAY, THE RECORD PROVES THAT THE MAYOR OF THIS CITY, IN SPITE OF PROMISES AND DECLARATIONS, HAS BEEN FOLLOWING A DO-NOTHING PHILOSOPHY - A POLICY BASED ON STRADDLING THE FENCE AND EVASION OF RESPONSIBILITY.

Some persons would have us believe that the Mayor can't set in motion programs of action because of his position in our form of city government; other people have said, the Mayor's office is so organized under our city charter that the Mayor shouldn't be expected to ax full leadership. To those persons, I say, it is always easy to make rationalizations for inaction and lack of courage. This is no time for weak apologies, this is no time for wishful thinking. The Mayor of this city, by the very letter of the law, has a legal obligation for leadership. By the spirit of the law, he has a moral responsibility for the common welfare. For many purposes of charity, let me give you a brief analogy,

THE MAXINE OFFICE OF MAYOR, AS ESTABLISHED UNDER OUR PRESENT CITY CHARTER, IS NOT WITHOUT POWER OR INFLUENCE. - THINK WE CAN JUSTLY COMPARE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF OUR

(4)

CITY GOVERNMENT WITH THE EXECUTIVE OR PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE OF OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

CALCULATE SHOW

LOOK OVER THE UNITED, CONSTITUTION, ATHE ARTICLE SETTING FORTH THE DUTIES AND RE
SPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRESIDENT. What powers does it give? How specific is the

GRANT OF POWER? YOU KNOWN AND I KNOW, THAT THE ARTICLE IS BRIEF, GENERAL, AND

APPARENTLY ESTABLISHES A WEAK EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT. HOWEVER, A CASUAL REVIEW OF

OUR NATIONAL HISTORY REVEALS, THAT THE EXECUTIVE OR PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE IS AS WEAK

OR AS STRONG AS THE MAN. SUCH MEN AS TYLER, FILLMORE, POLK, HARRISON, VAN BUREN,

HARDING HAVE BEEN KNOWN AS WEAK PRESIDENTS -- WEAK NOT BECAUSE OF THE DUTIES AND

RESPONSIBILITIES AS OUTLINED IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT, BUT WEAK BECAUSE THEY CHOSE TO EXERCISE ONLY LIMITED LEADERSHIP -
BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T VISUALIZE THE POTENTIALITIES OF THE OFFICE. CONTRAST THE

ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE MEN I HAVE MENTIONED WITH THE VIGOROUS LEADERSHIP OF

JEFFERSON, JACKSON, LINCOLN, TEDDY ROOSEVELT, WILSON, YES, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

THESE MEN ARE KNOWN AS STRONG PRESIDENTS -- MEN WHO USED THE BROAD INTER-PRETATION OF EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP. YET, ALL PRESIDENTS HAVE FUNCTIONED AND ADMINISTERED WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION ESTABLISHING THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT. ASK YOU, AGAIN, TO COMPARE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT WITH THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF THIS CITY. BOTH ARE ENTRUSTED WITH ADMINISTERING THE LAW, PRE-SERVING AND ENFORCING LAW AND ORDER: BOTH ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATION AND IN-TEGRATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS, BOTH HAVE VETO POWER OVER THE LEGISLA-TIVE BODY, A VETO WHICH REQUIRES A 2/3 VOTE OF THE CONGRESS OR COUNCIL TO OVERRIDE THE MAYOR OF MINNEAPOLIS, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF OUR PRESENT CITY CHARTER CAN BE A LEADER, CAN BE VIGOROUS IN HIS LEADERSHIP, CAN COORDINATE AND INTEGRATE THE MACHINERY OF CITY GOVERNMENT. THE MAYOR OF THIS CITY DOES HAVE A POSITION OF INFLUENCE ON NUMEROUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS; AS AN EX OFFICIO MEMBER OF THE PARK BOARD, ETC. AL COULD PRESENT THE OVERALL VIEW OF THE CITY, HE COULD AND SHOULD REPRESENT THE WHOLE CITY. YES, JUST AS THE PRESIDENT GIVES TO THE CONGRESS AND THE PEOPLE A REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE NATION, SO THE MAYOR UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF OUR CITY CHARTER, CAN to the citizen to se BRING TO OUR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, TO OUR CITY COUNCIL, A REPORT, AND RESOMMENDATIONS to the people Reports and recommendations

OF THE CITY - THE WHOLE CITY, ALL OF THE PEOPLE. IN PLAIN WORDS, IT ALL DEPENDS ON WHETHER OR NOT THE MAYOR WISHES TO EXERT THE INFLUENCE AND PRESTIGE OF HIS OFFICE, WHETHER OR NOT HE WISHES TO TAKE THE COURSE OF LEAST RESISTANCE, WHETHER OR NOT HE IS WILLING AND ABLE TO WORK FOR PLAN FOR, AND FIGHT FOR A GREATER MINNEAPOLIS.

RECENTLY, MANY OF YOU MAY HAVE RECEIVED A CAMPAIGN PAPER KNOWN AS "THE administration"

RECORD" - A SUMMARY OF THE RECORD OF THE PRESENT MAYOR. FOR JUST A FEW MINUTES,

LET US EXAMINE THIS PIECE OF CAMPAIGN PROPAGANDA. YES, LET'S LOOK AT THE RECORD
LET'S EXAMINE THE RECORD IN LIGHT OF PROMISES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

LET US LOOK FIRST AT THE PROMISES THE PRESENT MAYOR MADE TO THE PEOPLE OF MINNEAPOLIS IN HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN OF 1941:

THE PRESENT MAYOR OF MINNEAPOLIS PROMISED IN THE LAST CAMPAIGN ON MAY 31, 1941,
THAT HE WOULD SOLVE THE GRADE-CROSSING PROBLEM IN SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS. AS YOU ALL
KNOW, A GREAT NUMBER OF THE CITY'S TRAFFIC FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED
IN THIS AREA. THEY HAVE BEEN LARGELY A CONSEQUENCE OF THE TRAFFIC CONGESTION
AT THESE GRADE CROSSINGS. WHAT HAS THE MAYOR DONE-DESPITE HIS PROMISES-TIME TO
MEET THIS PROBLEM? LET US LOOK AT THE RECORD.

SINCE THE MAYOR MADE THIS PROMISE, NOT ONE SINGLE GRADE-CROSSING IN THE WHOLE OF SEXU SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS HAS BEEN ELIMINATED OR IN ANY WAY IMPROVED. NOT ONLY HAS NO IMPROVEMENT BEEN FORTHCOMING, BUT THE MAYOR HAS FAILED SERVED TO DRM DRAMATIZE THIS PROBLEM TO THE PEOPLE OF OUR CITY, OR TO SPARK ANY COMMUNAL EFFORT TO OVERCOME THE SITUATION.

Then again, the present Mayor promised in the Last campaign on June 5, 1941, that he considered the problem of the Washington Avenue Bridge to be the No. One project of his administration. This important crossing over the Mississippi has for years been regarded as one of the greatest hazards of Minneapolis traffic.

What has the Mayor Done ... DESPITE HIS PROMISE ... TO MEET THIS PROBLEM?

Let's Look at the record once again.

THE BRIDGE IS STILL THERE.... A LITTLE OLDER, A LITTLE WEAKER, A LITTLE MORE

DANGEROUS! NOT A SINGLE EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO MEET THE PROBLEM. NOT A SINGLE SPARK OF LEADERSHIP HAS COME FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE TO CREATE IN THE COMMUNITY A CONSCIOUSNESS OF THIS HAZARD, OR OF THE NECESSITY FOR COMMUNITY ACTION TO ELIMINATE IT. NOR HAS ANYTHING BEEN DONE BY THE PRESENT MAYOR TO ELIMINATE OTHER TRAFFIC HAZARDS SUCH AS THE NOTORIOUS, ACCIDENT-SCARRED RAILWAY TRESTLE AT 8TH AND WASHINGTON WHIGH HAS CAUSED SO MANY DEATHS TO OUR CITIZENS.

Then again, the present Mayor promised in the Last campaign on May 9, 1941,

That, if elected, he would constantly be on the Job. Even in his present

CAMPAIGN, HE IS REPEATING THAT PROMISE AND CLAIMING THAT HE TO QUOTE HIS OWN

WORDS -- "PRACTISED WHAT HE PREACHED." HE STAYED AT HOME AND TENDED TO BUSINESS.

YES, THE MAYOR STAYED HOME WHEN HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN IN WASHINGTON, D.C. SEEING TO IT THAT MINNEAPOLIS INDUSTRY AND LABOR RECEIVED THEIR SHARE OF WAR CONTRACTS; HE HAS STAYED HOME WHEN XMRORXXMÓ IMPORTANT LEGISLATION AFFECTING MINNEAPOLIS WAS BEING CONSIDERED IN OUR STATE LEGISLATURE -- WES, HOUSING LEGISLATION, SO THAT WE MIGHT HAVE BETTER HOMES, - YES, LEGISLATION INVOLVING WELFARE, EDUCATION, AND EQUAL RIGHTS FOR OUR MINORITY GROUPS.

What, IN FACT, HAS THE MAYOR DONE TO MAKE GOOD THIS PROMISE? AGAIN, LET US LOOK AT THE RECORD.

One of the most important duties entrusted to the Mayor is the task of attending *** and providing leadership to the various city boards and commissions which serve our community. These boards and commissions perform such vital functions as estimating the community's tax rate, providing library services, public welfare, city planning, and the maintenance of our park and recreation system.

IT WOULD SEEM, THAT LEADERSHIP WITH RESPECT TO THOSE FUNCTIONS WOULD REQUIRE, AT THE VERY LEAST, THE MAYOR'S ATTENDANCE. YET, AN EXAMINATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS REVEALS THE STRIKING FACT THAT THE MAYOR HAS BEEN ABSENT AGAIN AND AGAIN FROM THE MEETINGS.

THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION HAS HELD, SINCE THE PRESENT MAYOR ASSUMED OFFICE, A TOTAL OF 82 SESSIONS, THE MAYOR HAS BEEN ABSENT FROM 37 OF THESE, OR

ALMOST 50% OF THE TIME. THIS DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION IS CONCERNED WITH THE VITAL JOB OF RAISING THE CITY'S MONEY, REVIEWING THE CITY BUDGET, DEXERMEN DETERMINING THE CITY'S TAX RATE IMPOSED UPON OUR CITIZENS, AND SELLING OUR CITY'S BONDS.

Not less important, in view of the pressing need for recreation during war time--is the city's park board. This board had, since the Mayor assumed office, a tobal of 48 scheduled meetings, from which the Mayor has been absent 32 times. This means that the Mayor failed in his duties with respect to the park board, two-thirds of the time.

OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE IS THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION. THIS BODY HAD A TOTAL OF 48 SCHEDULED MEETINGS SINCE ULLY OF 1941, OF THESE 48, THE MAYOR WAS ABSENT 37 TIMES, WHICH IS MORE THAN THREE-FOURTHS OF THE TIME. AND THIS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION IS CONCERNED WITH ONE OF OUR MOST VITAL PROBLEMS—THE PROBLEM OF PLANNING FOR THE MINNEAPOLIS OF TOMORROW.

EVEN MORE STRIKING IS THE FACT THAT THE PRESENT MAYOR SINCE HE HAS COME INTO OFFICE HAS BEEN ABSENT, AS FAR AS CAN BE DETERMINED, FROM EVERY SINGLE MEETING OF THE LIBRARY BOARD. THE LIBRARY, LIKE THE SCHOOL, IS THE VERY CORE OF A CULTURED COMMUNITY. IN OTHER WORDS, YOUR PRESENT MAYOR DOES NOT DEEM IT NECESSARY TO CONCERN HOMSELF WITH THE WELFARE OF YOUR LIBRARY, OR THE BOOKS YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN READ.

THE ONLY BOARD MEETINGS WHICH THE MAYOR HAS ATTENDED WITH ANY REGULARITY ARE THOSE OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE, OF WHICH HE IS CHARRMAN.

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CITIZENS OF MINNEAPOLIS ARE DESERVING OF MORE THAN MERE ABSENTEEISM AND DO-NOTHINGNESS.

FINALLY, THE MAYOR HAS LAID CLAIM TO LEADERSHIP IN THE MATTER OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE.

HE IS, TO BE SURE, THE COMMANDER AND CHIEF, BUT IT IS HARDLY CORRECT TO ASSUME THAT

THE MAYOR ALONE ORGANIZED AND ESTABLISHED CIVILIAN DEFENSE. SURELY HE, AND ALL OF

US MUST GIVE CREDIT TO THE WORK OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE

CIVILIAN DEFENSE CORPS - THE PROTECTIVE SERVICES SUCH AS THE AUXILIARY POLICE, THE AUXILIARY FIREMAN. IT IS A MATTER OF RECORD THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ALONG WITH OUR DEPARTMENT HEADS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROTECTIVE SERVICES.

THEN TOO, THE EXCELLENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE LABOR COORDINATING COMMITTEE, ARE NOT THE PRODUCT OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE. IN FACT, THE MAYOR KNOWS, AND LABOR KNOWS, THAT IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE OF THE INSISTENCE OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF OUR CITY COUNCIL, THAT ORGANIZED LABOR WAS BROUGHT INTO THE CIVILIAN DEFENSE ORGANIZATION AS AN EQUAL AND PARTICIPATING PARTNER. A CIVILIAN DEFENSE REQUIRES MORE THAN ORGANIZATION. IT REQUIRES ABOVE ALL, INSPIRATION - YES, AN INSPIRATION TO CALL FORTH THE VOLUNTARY SERVICES OF WILLING AND PATRIOTIC CITIZENS.

ELECTION IS WHETHER OR NOT THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS IS TO HAVE VIGOROUS, YET SOUND AND CONSTRUCTIVE LEADERSHIP WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO REALIZE THE HOPES AND EXASPIRATIONS OF THE MEN AND WOMEN DEDICATED TO THE TASK OF VICTORY FOR DEMOCRACY.

interest is and community of privile against interest in the prime of quarterial forces in tunisia, we must again reddicate ownships to the principles of democracy. The right to a free election, the right to note, is our herstage of freedom. Men and women of mimeapolis, surely is your sons and brothers can give their lives to protect our way of life, you can give ten minutes at the holing booth on monday, way to the

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CITY GOVERNMENT WITH THE EXECUTIVE OR PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE OF OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

LOOK OVER THE United constitution, the article setting forth the duties and responsibilities of the President. What powers does it give? How specific is the grant of power? You know and I know, that the article is Brief, general, and apparently establishes a weak executive department. However, a casual review of our national history reveals, that the executive or presidential office is as weak or as strong as the man. Such men as Tyler, Fillmore, Polk, Harrison, Van Buren, Harding have been known as weak presidents -- weak not excause of the duties and responsibilities as outlined in the constitutional provisions of the executive department, but weak because they chose to exercise only limited leadership --- because they didn't visualize the potentialities of the office. Contrast the administrations of the men I have mentioned with the vigorous leadership of Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, Wilson, Yes, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

THESE MEN ARE KNOWN AS STRONG PRESIDENTS --- MEN WHO USED THE BROAD INTER-PRETATION OF EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP. YET, ALL PRESIDENTS HAVE FUNCTIONED AND ADMINISTERED WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION ESTABLISHING THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT. I ASK YOU, AGAIN, TO COMPARE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT WITH THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF THIS CITY. BOTH ARE ENTRUSTED WITH ADMINISTERING THE LAW, PRE-SERVING AND ENFORCING LAW AND ORDER: BOTH ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATION AND IN-TEGRATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS, BOTH HAVE VETO POWER OVER THE LEGISLA-TIVE BODY, A VETO WHICH REQUIRES A 2/3 VOTE OF THE CONGRESS OR COUNCIL TO OVERRIDE IT. YES, THE MAYOR OF MINNEAPOLIS, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF OUR PRESENT CITY CHARTER CAN BE A LEADER, CAN BE VIGOROUS IN HIS LEADERSHIP, CAN COORDINATE AND INTEGRATE THE MACHINERY OF CITY GOVERNMENT. THE MAYOR OF THIS CITY DOES HAVE A POSITION OF INFLUENCE ON NUMEROUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: AS AN EX OFFICIO MEMBER OF THE PARK SOARD, ETC. HE COULD PRESENT THE OVERALL VIEW OF THE CITY, HE COULD AND SHOULD REPRESENT THE WHOLE CITY. YES, JUST AS THE PRESIDENT GIVES TO THE CONGRESS AND THE PEOPLE A REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE NATION, SO THE MAYOR UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF OUR DITY CHARTER, CAN BRING TO OUR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, TO OUR CITY COUNCIL A REPORT, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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Yes, As I said in the opening speech of My Campaign, the Real Issue in this election is whether or not the city of Minneapolis is to have vigorous, yet sound and constructive leadership which will enable us to realize the hopes and exaspirations of the men and women dedicated to the task of victory for democracy.

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