

"Politics"

RADIO ADDRESS

by

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, JR.,

Candidate for Mayor

of Minneapolis

over WLOL

Tuesday, May 25, 1943

at 10:15 p.m.

Friends and Fellow Citizens:

Tonight I am opening the second phase of my campaign for the office of mayor of Minneapolis. On May 10 the people of Minneapolis nominated me for this high office after leaders representing all sections of the community and people in all stations and in all walks of life had rallied to my support.

During the primary I conducted my campaign on a high level of sound and constructive discussion of the broad, fundamental problems confronting our community. I avoided personalities. I avoided mud-slinging. I avoided innuendo and half-truths.

That the people of Minneapolis indorsed this type of campaigning was attested to by the fact that they accorded me a place on the ticket. Their support as you know, was spontaneous and sincere. The responses that I had to my many radio talks convinced me that the people of Minneapolis has grown weary of conducting, year after year, the campaigns for mayor on the basis of mud-slinging and slander.

My nomination was extremely gratifying. And I wish at this time to extend to the people of Minneapolis my most sincere thanks and to restate that I shall, if elected, justify the profound confidence that the people have placed in me.

It had been my hope that the entire campaign might be conducted on a high level. It had been my hope that the present mayor might see fit to meet my challenge to discuss the important issues of this campaign without recourse to mud-slinging and slanderous invective.

The campaign, however--contrary to my desires--today suddenly took a turn which plunged my opponent's program into the lowest depths that it can reach.

I am referring to the headlines of this evening's newspapers. In a report of a talk prepared for delivery this evening The Mayor was quoted as charging me with having the support--and I quote from the Minneapolis Times--of "racketeers."

Let me read you the salient portions of this newspaper story:

"The racketeers are back in this campaign, upon the side of my opponent, armed with vicious and diabolical schemes to discredit what I have done.

"Some of these racketeers, let me add, introduced my opponent to the labor movement in Minneapolis and helped foist him upon the honest working people of this city as a standard bearer."

Immediately after this slanderous charge appeared in the early editions of the evening newspapers, I called the reporters of the newspapers to ask them to accompany me to the mayor's office where I would ask the mayor to produce the evidence to substantiate the charge. The newspaper men accepted the invitation and accompanied me to the mayor's office.

In the presence of the newspaper men I asked the Mayor point blank to produce the evidence to substantiate this charge.

The Mayor's only reply was, "This is politics."

In the course of a half-hour interview, I repeatedly asked the Mayor to produce one item, one bit of evidence to substantiate his charge.

Each time the Mayor said, "This is politics. I will run my campaign the way I want and you can run your campaign the way you want."

I challenged the Mayor to produce the evidence to substantiate specifically the charge that racketeers introduced me to the labor movement.

Again he said: "This is politics. I will run my campaign; you run yours."

At that moment I informed the Mayor that this was not politics--that this was nothing more nor less than a deliberate lie and falsehood which he had neither the right to say nor the evidence to support.

To this statement, the Mayor made no reply.

Again I reminded the Mayor that excerpts from his speech were unworthy of a man in public office. The vicious attack, I told him, added neither dignity to his campaign nor constructive argument on the issues confronting the people of Minneapolis.

If racketeers exist in this city, I said, they exist because of the lack of law enforcement on the part of the present administration.

At this point the Mayor stated that he did not know what was in the speech and that he had not had time to read it.

Obviously, the Mayor is permitting other people to prepare his campaign speeches without having had the opportunity to read the contents or to verify the material with the evidence.

This is not responsible administration; this is not even politics.

Such reprehensible attacks prepared and written for the Mayor and not even reviewed by the Mayor are irresponsible acts in the highest office of our city.

To you, the people of Minneapolis, I say, I demand that the mayor substantiate his charge by fact, and to do so at once.

I demand that the mayor of Minneapolis either retract this statement publicly or deliver to my office affidavits substantiating his charges.

If this sort of campaigning continues, we have reached a new low in city politics. The Mayor not only falsely charged me with support on the part of racketeer interests but even more important, he directly accused the working men and women of Minneapolis who have supported my candidacy with being fooled and misled by their duly elected representatives in the delegated assembly of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union.

The Mayor not only owes me an apology; he owes the labor movement of this city an apology, and he owes you, the people of Minneapolis, a clear-cut statement, giving you either the facts to substantiate his claim or a formal retraction of the charge.

I might add, on this matter of slander in the campaign, that the incident of today came as a culmination to a vicious and insidious whispering campaign.

Whispering campaigns have always been the weapon of those who can find no basis for a substantial and real attack. Whispering campaigns discredit only those who are the purveyors of such nonsense and slander.

But I am not worried about such insidious and vicious whispering campaigns because I know that the people of Minneapolis will rebuke such statements and those who carry them as do the free people of America rebuke the lies of the Fascist and Nazi propagandists.

To you, the people of Minneapolis, I come with clean hands. I desire neither the financial nor moral support of those who would defile our government or degrade our city. I would rather lose this campaign than to win through political trickery or deceit.

Now is the time for those who are interested in vigorous and courageous law enforcement and those who are interested in sound and efficient government to rally to the support of one who will fearlessly challenge all false statements and rebuke all those who would cheapen our municipal life.

Let us be frank with ourselves. Minneapolis has not been cleaned up. Minneapolis today has after-hour liquor joints; gambling is rampant; our laws with respect to Sunday sales of liquor are not being enforced.

The Governor of the state of Minnesota only last winter warned all officials of municipalities to enforce the liquor and gambling laws or the state would take action. On Sunday, December 28, 1942, state officers raided two night spots in Minneapolis, in spite of the denials by the Mayor that there were illicit places operating in Minneapolis.

Moreover, only last week there were placed on the mayor's desk affidavits charging ten establishments with illegal off and on-sale of liquor on Sundays. Yes, whether the Mayor will admit it or not, every citizen of Minneapolis knows that the laws are not being enforced, and that after-hour clubs and gambling houses are in operation.

In my conference with the Mayor this afternoon, I told him directly that the town was not cleaned up, that the town was as open as it has ever been. In reply to this, the Mayor said: and I quote:

"You will learn a great deal about this city, if you get into the mayor's office."

What this implies apparently is that he had not been able to enforce law or drive out racketeers. In fact, if the mayor has driven out the racketeers, how can it be that there are any racketeers left to back me?

Ladies and gentlemen, let there be no mistake about this. If you elect me mayor, I want the responsibility for law enforcement; and I will enforce the law. I am convinced the police force wants to enforce the laws, and I know the public desires the laws to be enforced. I give you my solemn pledge--and let this be a warning to those who now degrade our government and our city by making unholy alliances that permit illicit operations--I give you my pledge that the laws will be enforced.

As mayor of this city I will actively and wholeheartedly cooperate with our county sheriff and our county attorney and our city council and all other duly constituted authorities responsible for law enforcement.

I had planned in my radio talks between now and the general election to discuss the really important problems confronting our city and our city's government. Tonight I had planned to discuss with you in some detail the machinery of our city government and how it operates. Unfortunately, because of the nature of the charge leveled against me and the publicity given to it, I felt it necessary to come directly to you, the people, and give the story of subsequent events.

At all times I will speak out boldly and fearlessly. I have told the press that every meeting at which I speak they are welcome to attend. I invite questioning and can assure you that the answers are forthright and honest.

Tomorrow night at 8:30 I am scheduled to speak at a mass meeting to be held at the Ark Auditorium, 3044 First Avenue South. Nothing would be more gratifying than to have the present mayor on the platform with me. Let the people ask both of us questions which they deem vital and let there be brought into the open the mayor's charge and the whispering falsehoods. I want to meet this malicious charge now, and I want to meet it conclusively, and I want to deal with it in the presence of the voters of the City of Minneapolis.

The sponsors of tomorrow night's mass meeting inform me that efforts will be made to have the mayor present. If for any reason he is unable to appear tomorrow evening, I stand ready to speak from the same platform at any date of his choosing and at any place of his choosing. I will cancel any previous engagements. I want to deal with this matter at once, so that I can return to the discussion of fundamental issues as outlined in my advance publicity.

I have asked the mayor to cease this sort of low politics and to get up onto the high level of intelligent discussion based upon fact and reason. In my radio talks between now and June 14 I wish to discuss with you not only the present difficulties that confront Minneapolis, but the problems of post-war employment, of housing, of industrial expansion, of labor relations, and of the building of our city into a greater metropolis.

I should like, in short, for this campaign to prove informative and educational. I wish to view this campaign as an educational forum directed to the objective of promoting an intelligent understanding of the problems of our city government.

Yes, I propose to keep this campaign clean and constructive. I propose to discuss issues, not personalities. I propose to present facts, not fancies. I propose to present a program of action looking to the future, not a recitation of the mistakes and sins of the past.

The good people of Minneapolis wish to see this city clean and our government efficient. Government responsible to the people will do this job, but you the people must be militant in your support of a candidate who is willing to fight for what he knows to be right.

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Radio address

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~~Quote~~ "The racketeers are back in this campaign, upon the side of my opponent, armed with vicious and diabolical schemes to discredit what I have done.

"Some of these racketeers, let me add, introduced my opponent to the labor movement in Minneapolis and helped foist him upon the honest working people of this city as a standard bearer." ~~unquote~~

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Let us be frank with ourselves. Minneapolis has not been cleaned up. Minneapolis today has after-hour liquor joints, gambling is rampant, our laws with respect to Sunday sales of liquor are not being enforced.

The governor of the state of Minnesota only last winter warned all officials of municipalities to enforce the liquor and gambling laws or the state would take action. On Sunday, December 28, 1942, state officers raided two night spots in Minneapolis, in spite of the denials by the mayor that there were illicit places operating in Minneapolis.

Moreover, only last week there were placed on the mayor's desk affidavits charging 10 establishments with illegal off and on-sale of liquor on Sundays. Yes, whether the mayor will admit it or not, every citizen of Minneapolis knows that the laws are not being enforced, and that after-hour clubs and gambling houses are ⁱⁿ operation.

In my conference with the mayor this afternoon, I told him directly that the town was not cleaned up, that the town was as open as it has ever been. In reply to this, the mayor said: *and I quote —*

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I might add, ~~as a final word~~ on this matter of slander
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a vicious and insidious whispering campaign. ~~which has variously~~
~~described me as "a communist," "a fascist," "a stooge for labor,"~~
~~"a stooge for the Interior Chamber of Commerce," "a big business~~

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~~Minneapolis~~ Now is the time for those who are interested in vigorous and courageous law enforcement and those who are interested in sound and efficient government to rally to the support of one who will fearlessly challenge all false statements and rebuke all those who would cheapen our municipal life.

Let us be frank with ourselves. ~~The day of incredulity and naivete is past.~~ Minneapolis has not been cleaned up. Minneapolis today has after-hour ~~joints~~ liquor joints; gambling is rampant; our laws with respect to Sunday sales of liquor are not being enforced.

~~The mayor~~ In my conference with the mayor this afternoon, I told him directly that the town was not cleaned up, that the town was as open as it has ever been. The mayor made no denial. And yet he ^{dares} ~~has the affrontery~~ to campaign on the issue that his police administration has cleaned up the city.

The mayor made a highly significant statement-- a statement which I think is the most important ^{remark} ~~statement~~ that he has made in this campaign to date. The mayor said that he had come into office hopeful that he could clean up the city, but that he had learned a great deal, and he now knows, he said, that it is impossible to clean up the city. He said, quoting him directly, "You will find, if you are elected, that there are some people in high places who don't want the laws enforced."

The governor of the state of Minnesota only last winter ~~on December 28, 1942~~ warned all officials of municipalities to enforce the liquor and gambling laws or the state would take action. On ~~the following day~~ Sunday, December 28, 1942, the state officers raided two night spots in Minneapolis, in spite of the denials by the mayor that there ~~were~~ were illicit places operating in Minneapolis.

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propose to ~~discuss~~ present facts, not fancies. I propose to present a program of action looking to the future, not a recitation of the mistakes and sins of the past.

The good people in ~~xxxxx~~ Minneapolis wish to see this city clean and our government efficient. Government responsible to the people will do this job, but you the people must be militant in your support of a candidate who is willing to fight for what he knows to be right.

Introduction

We ~~xxx~~ now present an address by Hubert H. Humphrey, Jr., who was nominated for the office of mayor in the primary election in Minneapolis May 10. Mr. Humphrey:

End

You have been listening to an address by Hubert H. Humphrey, Jr., who was nominated for the office of mayor in the primary election in Minneapolis May 10. The general election will be ~~June~~ Monday, June 14. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Mr. Humphrey will speak again over WLOL Thursday of this week at 10:15 p.m., and each Tuesday and Thursday of the next two weeks~~x~~ at the same time.

Friends and Fellow Citizens:

Tonight I am opening the second phase of my campaign for the office of mayor of Minneapolis. On May 10 the people of Minneapolis nominated me for this high honor after leaders representing all sections of the community and people in all stations and in all walks of life had rallied to my support.

During the primary I conducted my campaign on the high level of sound and constructive discussion of the broad, fundamental problems confronting our community. I avoided personalities. I avoided mud-slinging. I avoided innuendo and half-truths.

That the people of Minneapolis indorsed this type of campaigning was attested to by the fact that they accorded me a place on the ticket. Their support, as you know, was spontaneous and sincere. The responses that I had to my many radio talks convinced me that the people of Minneapolis has grown weary of conducting, year after year, the campaigns for mayor on the basis of mud-slinging and slander.

My nomination was extremely gratifying. And I wish at this time to extend to the people of Minneapolis my most sincere thanks and to restate that I shall, if elected, justify the profound confidence that the people have placed in me.

It had been my hope that the entire campaign could be maintained on a high level. It had been my hope that the present mayor would see fit to meet my challenge to discuss the important issues of this campaign without recourse to mud-slinging and slanderous ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ invective.

The campaign, however-- contrary to my desires-- today suddenly took a turn which plunged my opponent's program into the

lowest depths that it can reach.

I am referring to the headlines of this evening's newspapers. In a report of a talk prepared for delivery this evening Mayor Kline was quoted as charging me with having the support-- and I quote from the Minneapolis Times-- of "racketeers."

Let me read you the salient portions of this newspaper story:

"The racketeers are back in this campaign, u on the side of my opponent, armed with vicious and diabolical schemes to discredit what I have done.

"Some of these racketeers, let me add, introduced my opponent to their movement in Minneapolis and helped foist him upon the honest working people of this city as a standard bearer."

Immediately after this slanderous charge appeared in the early editions of the evening newspapers, I called the reporters of the newspapers to ask them to accompany me to the mayor's office where I would ask the mayor to produce the evidence to substantiate the charge. The newspapermen accepted the invitation and accompanied me to the mayor's office.

In the presence of the newspapermen I asked Mayor Kline point blank to produce the evidence to substantiate this charge.

Mayor Kline's only reply was, "This is politics."

In the course of a half-hour interview, I repeatedly asked Mayor Kline to produce on item, one bit of evidence to substantiate his charge.

Each time the Mayor said, "This is politics. I will run my campaign the way I want and you can run your campaign the way you want to."

I challenged Mayor Kline to produce the evidence to

substantiate specifically the charge that racketeers introduced me to the labor movement.

Against he said: "This is politics. I will run my campaign; you run yours."

At that moment I informed the mayor that this was not politics-- that this was nothing more nor less than a deliberate lie and falsehood which he had neither the right to say nor the evidence to support.

To this at present, the mayor had no reply.

Again I reminded the mayor that excerpts from his speech were unworthy of a man in public office. The vicious attack, I told him, added neither dignity to his campaign nor constructive argument on the issues confronting the people of Minneapolis.

If racketeers exist in this city, I said, they exist because of the lack of law enforcement on the part of the present administration.

At this point Mr. Kline stated that he did not know what was in the speech and that he had not had time to read it.

Obviously Mr. Kline is permitting other people to prepare his campaign speeches without having had the opportunity to read the contents or to verify the material with the evidence.

This is not responsible administration; this is not even politics.

Such reprehensible attacks prepared and written for the mayor and not even reviewed by the mayor are irresponsible acts in the highest office of our city.

To you, the people of Minneapolis, I say I demand that the mayor substantiate his charge by fact, and to do so at once.

I demand that the mayor of Minneapolis either retract

this statement publicly or delivery to my office affidavits substantiating his charges.

If this sort of campaigning continues, we have reached a new low in city politics. The mayor not only falsely charged me with support on the part of racketeer interests but even more important, he directly accuses the working men and women of Minneapolis who have supported my candidacy with being fooled and misled by their duly elected representatives in the delegated assembly of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union.

Mr. Kline not only owes me an apology. He owes the labor movement of this city an apology and he owes you, the people of Minneapolis, a clean-cut statement, giving you either the facts to substantiate his claim or a formal retraction of the charge.

I might add, as a final word on this matter of slander in the campaign, that the incident today came as a culmination to a vicious and insidious whispering campaign. ~~xxxxxxhasvariouslyx
xxxxxxhasxxxxxxcommunists,xxxxxxfascists,xxxxxxnegroesxxxxxx
xxxxxxhasxxxxxxJewsxxxxxxChinksxxxxxxGooksxxxxxx~~

Whispering campaigns have always been the weapon of those who can find no basis for a substantial and real attack. Whispering campaigns discredit only those who are the purveyors of such nonsense and slander.

But I am not worried about such insidious and vicious whispering campaigns because I know that the intelligence of the people of Minneapolis is of such caliber that they will rebuke such statements and those who carry them as do the free people of America rebuke the lies and propaganda of the fascist and nazi

propagandists.

To you, the people of Minneapolis, I come with clean hands. I have no desire to have either the financial or moral support of those who would defile our government or degrade our city. I would rather lose this campaign than to have to win through political trickery and deceit.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Now is the time for those who are interested in vigorous and courageous law enforcement and those who are interested in sound and efficient government to rally to the support of one who will fearlessly challenge all false statements and rebuke all those who would cheapen our municipal life.

Let us be frank with ourselves. The day of incredulity and naivete is past. Minneapolis has not been cleaned up. Minneapolis today has after-hour joints, liquor joints; gambling is rampant; our laws with respect to Sunday sales of liquor are not being enforced.

~~Three days in my conference with the mayor this afternoon, I told him directly that the town was not cleaned up, that the town was as open as it has ever been. The mayor made no denial, and yet he has the effrontery to campaign on the issue that his police administration has cleaned up the city.~~

~~The mayor made a highly significant statement-- a statement which I think is the most important statement that he has made in this campaign to date. The mayor said that he had come into office hopeful that he could clean up the city, but that he had learned a great deal, and he now knows, he said, that it is impossible to clean up the city. He said, quoting him directly, "You will find, if you are elected, that there are some people in high places who don't want the laws enforced."~~

The governor of the state of Minnesota only last winter ~~was~~ warned all officials of municipalities to enforce the liquor and gambling laws or the state could take action. On ~~the~~ Sunday, December 28, 1942, the state officers raided two night spots in Minneapolis, in spite of the denials by the mayor that there ~~were~~ were illicit places operating in Minneapolis.

Moreover, only last week there ~~was~~ were placed on the mayor's desk affidavits ~~charging~~ charging 10 places with illegally ~~making~~ making ~~business~~ off and on sale of liquor on Sundays. Yes, whether the mayor will admit it or not, every citizen of Minneapolis knows that the laws are not being enforced, and that ~~the~~ after-hour clubs and gambling houses are operating.

In my conference with the mayor this afternoon, I told him directly that the town was not cleaned up, that the town was as open as it has ever been. In reply to this, the mayor said:

"You will learn a great deal about this city, if you get into the mayor's office." What this implies apparently is that he has not been able to enforce law or drive out racketeers. In fact, if the mayor has driven out the racketeers, how can it be that there are any racketeers left to back me?

~~I~~ Ladies and gentlemen, let there be no mistake about this. If ~~you~~ you elect me ~~mayor~~, I want the responsibility for ~~the~~ law enforcement; and I will enforce the law. I am convinced the police force wants to enforce the laws, and I know the public wants the laws enforced. I give you my solemn pledge-- and let this be a warning to those who now degrade our

~~to~~ 7

government and our city by making unholy alliances ~~xxxxx~~ that
~~xxxxx~~ permit illicit operations-- I give you my pledge that
the laws will be enforced. As mayor of this city I will actively
and wholeheartedly cooperate with our county sheriff and our
county attorney and our city council and all other duly constituted
authorities.

*Low
paw* (There ~~xxxxxx~~ good people in Minneapolis ~~xxx~~ wish to
see this city clean and our government efficient. Government
responsible to the people will do this job, but you the people
must be militant in your support of a mayor who is willing to ~~be~~
fight for what he knows ~~xxxx~~ right.

I had planned in my radio talks between now and the general election to discuss with the really important problems confronting our city and our city's government. Tonight I had planned to discuss with you in some detail the machinery of our city government and how it operates. Unfortunately because of the nature of the charge leveled against me and the publicity given to it I felt it necessary to come directly to you, the people, and give you the story of subsequent events.

At all times I will speak out boldly and fearlessly.
I have told the press that every meeting ^{at} ~~in~~ which I speak they
are welcome to attend. I invite questioning and can assure
you that the answers are forthright and honest.

Tomorrow night at 8:30 I am scheduled to speak at a mass meeting to be held at the Ark Auditorium, 3044 First Avenue South. Nothing would be more gratifying than to have the present mayor on the platform with me. Let the people ask both of us questions which they deem vital and let ~~there be brought into the open~~ ^{there be brought into the open} ~~mayor's~~ ^{mayor's} the charge and the whispering falsehoods. I want to meet this malicious charge now and I want to meet it conclusively and I want to deal with it in the presence of the voters of the city of Minneapolis.

The sponsors of tomorrow night's mass meeting inform me that efforts will be made to have the present mayor present. If for any reason he is unable to appear ~~xxxxxx~~ tomorrow evening, I stand ready to ~~xxxxxx~~ speak from the same platform at any date of his choosing and at any place of his choosing. I will cancel any previous engagements. I want to deal

with this matter at once, so that I can return to the discussion of fundamental issues as outlined in my advance publicity.

Yes, I propose to keep this campaign clean and constructive. I propose to discuss issues, not personalities. I propose to present present progress, not past mistakes, looking to the future, not to the past. I propose to present present facts, not fancies. I propose to present a program of action looking to the future, not a recitation of the mistakes and sins of the past.

Insert
last para.



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