

file Excerpts from speech at mass meeting Ark. Auditorium 11-1-41

It has been my hope that this entire campaign could be maintained on a high level of debate and discussion worthy of the democratic process. It has been my hope that the present Mayor would see fit to meet my challenge to discuss the important issues confronting the people of Minneapolis and its government without resorting to mud slinging or slanderous invective. Yes, I wanted to make this campaign a sort of educational forum. The critical days in which we live leave no room for cheap politics. As it has so often been stated, this is a time for greatness; this is a time for thoughtful discussion; this is a time when issues of importance to the prosecution of the war, postwar planning and sound and economic administration of government should receive the attention of the average citizen.

Throughout the course of my campaign, I have presented a program of action, positive and constructive in its nature. I have tried to look to the future as well as to the present. I have tried to visualize the potentialities of the Mayor's office and the possibilities for leadership that exist in our form of municipal government. I have discussed governmental reorganization; I have analyzed with you and talked with you about juvenile delinquency, giving to you a program of action and positive proposals worthy of community consideration. I have spoken about postwar planning, utilizing the reports of our City Planning Commission, and pledging that I would institute a postwar civic development council capable of carrying through constructive civic

and community development. ' Yes, I have spoken of law enforcement. Under the terms of our city charter, the Mayor has legal responsibility for the maintenance of law and order. There is no need of arguing this point; it is specific and well-defined. Again let me state, I want the responsibility for law enforcement and I will enforce the law. As Mayor of this city, I have pledged that I will actively and wholeheartedly cooperate with our county sheriff, our county attorney, and our City Council and all other duly instituted authorities responsible for law enforcement. It is my opinion that such a program is on a high level, that such a program is devoid of mud slinging and that you, the people, are interested in such proposals.

One more word about law enforcement. I do not have to tell you whether there is adequate law enforcement. I do not have to tell you whether there are illicit operations, such as gambling, racketeering, after-hour liquor joints. You know what goes on in this city. You have seen for yourselves. Your friends know what is going on. You read the papers. You heard the statement of our former Governor. You know whether or not your boys and girls are permitted to go into liquor establishments. Yes, you know whether or not this city is clean. Again let me state, I intend to enforce the law as established by our state legislature and I do not intend to ask to be relieved of the responsibility. ' Even now the present Mayor is asking to be relieved of this duty. He has recently stated, "I did not ask for the Police Department or the responsibility for law enforcement." Anyone campaigning for the office of Mayor or holding that position need not ask for

the duty or responsibility. It is there by the terms of the charter and it cannot be sidestepped.

Yes, I promised to those persons supporting my candidacy and to the community as a whole that I want to keep this campaign clean and constructive but yesterday the present Mayor of Minneapolis saw fit to place this campaign on a different level - a level of low politics. He charged me with having the support of racketeers; he charged me with being foisted upon the labor movement by racketeers. These charges were stated specifically in the newspapers of our city and over the radio as of last night. Upon reading the statement of the Mayor, I immediately called the reporters of the respective newspapers and asked them to accompany me to the Mayor's office. I did this so that if the Mayor had any evidence to substantiate his charges, if he had any basis of fact upon which to rest his claim that you, the people of Minneapolis, could know the truth and that you could know it at once. You have a right to know the program, the policy, the support of any candidate.

The newspapers of today have reported the nature of the conference but again let me restate some of the important happenings: I specifically challenged the Mayor to offer proof for his accusations. He had none to present. His only statement was, "This is politics. You run your campaign and I will run mine." This was only one issue in the conference and only one purpose for it. That issue and purpose was whether or not the Mayor of this

city could substantiate his charge against me or whether or not he was resorting to malicious political deceit and falsehood. I shall continue to demand from the Mayor either an apology or evidence to substantiate his charge. ~~xxxxthxxxxradixixntxnightx~~
~~ixxrequested~~ Last night I requested over the radio, by telegram, and by special delivery registered mail letter that the Mayor appear on this platform with me in order that we could discuss the issues of this campaign before the voters of the city. Open debate is a cherished American custom. I shall continue to ask the Mayor to meet me in debate at any time, at any place, or before any group of his own choosing. As I have stated in my radio broadcast of last night, "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."

Again let me say that you, the people, have a right to know who is right in this matter and who is wrong.

Now let me summarize for you all that has happened these last two days. The Mayor has charged me with the support of racketeers. He has charged that I have been foisted upon the labor movement by racketeers. He must either produce the evidence or retract his statement and he knows and you know that there is not the slightest degree of evidence for such an absurd charge. He owes an apology to me; he owes an apology to the labor movement, and he owes an apology to my supporters and to the people of Minneapolis. When I ^{pressed} ~~presented~~ the Mayor to name just one

racketeer he pulled out of his hat one of our citizens, a man by the name of George Murk. I want to ask the Mayor here and now, is he willing to say that Mr. Murk is a racketeer? Let me tell you something about Mr. Murk and let me also state he did not introduce me to the labor movement. First of all, Mr. Murk was appointed by the District Court as a member of the Minneapolis Charter Commission; he is a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce; he is a duly elected president of the Musicians' Union; he is also a member of a local draft board; he was a leader in the blood donor drive, and he was a leader in the scrap salvage campaign. Do you, Mr. Mayor, claim such a man is a racketeer? I want a definite answer and I am sure that the people of Minneapolis want an answer.

On behalf of the citizens of Minneapolis, I charge the Mayor with supplying adequate and full answers to the following questions: 1. What really did happen to your first chief of police, Mr. Hansen? 2. Why did your first Chief of Police turn in his badge? 3. What is your reply to the ten affidavits by Mr. Bourke of this city? 4. Did you not say to the Governor of this state that there were no all-night spots operating in Minneapolis?

I have been asked by some of my friends and by some of you who are in this audience why I received the endorsement of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union and its affiliated American Federation of Labor unions. On November 1, 1940, I accepted a position with the Federal government as district

supervisor of adult education activities for the Twin City area. Many members of trade unions were students in the classes. At a later date, serving in the capacity of state director of vocational training and reemployment with the federal government, I served on committees which included members of organized labor. Finally, as assistant area director of the War Manpower Commission I had numerous contacts with the labor movement of this city as a counsellor and as a federal government administrator. Apparently my service was satisfactory and having filed for the office of Mayor, I received the support of labor and its endorsement.

I have made no commitments to labor; in fact, labor has not asked me for any favors nor for any commitments. I have made no commitments to business and business has asked for none. I am campaigning for the office of Mayor for the city of Minneapolis; I represent no particular group nor any special interest. I wish to represent all groups in this city. I wish to be known as the candidate who views the city of Minneapolis as a ^{ied}unifying community dedicated to victory.

It has been my hope that this entire campaign could be maintained on a high level of debate and discussion worthy of the democratic process. It has been my hope that the present Mayor would see fit to meet my challenge to discuss the important issues confronting the people of Minneapolis and its government without resorting to mud slinging or slanderous invective. Yes, I wanted to make this campaign a sort of educational forum. The critical days in which we live leave no room for cheap politics. As it has so often been stated, this is a time for greatness; this is a time for thoughtful discussion; this is a time when issues of importance to the prosecution of the war, postwar planning and sound and economic administration of government should receive the attention of the average citizen.

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Mayor to be here
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