

Radio Address

Prepared for Delivery

By Hubert H. Humphrey

Candidate for Mayor

Thursday, June 10, 1943

WLOL 10:15 p.m.

Friends + fellow citizens

To-night I want to preface my talk by thanking the progressives + liberal republicans for the enthusiastic support they are giving me - a support which has grown to such an extent, that the old line machine politicians of the State + Nat. Rep. party have found it necessary to come into the city of mpls + try to dictate how the citizen should vote in what is by law a non-partisan election: ~~To vote~~

They have asked you to vote not on the qualifications + platform of the candidates, but by mere party label.

I have confidence ^{however} in the good common sense of the people of mpls & in their ability to make up their own minds. They need no outside dictation. ~~Let~~ now let us move onto the subject of this discussion.

Friends and Fellow-citizens:

We in America are living in the presence of great and terrible events. We are living through another period of war, a war that will decide whether men shall live in freedom or in bondage, in dignity or in slavery.

In the 18 long months that America has been at war, we have learned many things. We have learned that the war against tyranny is a total war and that it cannot be won by half-hearted measures. We have learned that the war against tyranny involves sacrifices and courage, and in some cases, tears and broken hearts. We are beginning to realize that the keynote of total war is unity, and we have come to know that there must be as much cooperation between economic and political interests at home as there is on the battlefield among our fighting men.

All these things we have learned and many more. Especially have we learned of the courage of our men in uniform, of their splendid and devoted efforts to make a world in which democracy can once again live and prosper. We know how important and difficult is their task. We know, too, some of the things they think about-- and worry about.

And what they think about and worry about is their family, their friends and their sweethearts. In short, their homes. Somewhere in North Africa, the Philippines, Australia, in Iceland, and in the British Isles-- there are boys from Minneapolis, thinking, perhaps at this very moment, about home, about Minneapolis, about the great times they've had here, and most of all, about the day when, with dictatorship destroyed and the war ended, they will be able to return again-- to the home and to the city they know and love.

The picture that is in the head of your uniformed son, or brother or sweetheart is a picture of your city, a picture of Minneapolis, or some part

of it to which he is especially endeared.

Perhaps he remembers the beautiful lakes and parks in which, before the war, he swam and played. He may be thinking of the picnics or the fishing along the shores of the Mississippi.

I have in the last weeks talked with a great number of mothers and fathers and friends of our young men and women who have left Minneapolis for military service. I've even had the good fortune to read some of their letters. They want to know the baseball scores, and particularly the news about the drive of the Minneapolis Millers to capture the league title in the American Association. They recall, in glowing terms, the many happy hours spent at Nicollet Park watching their favorites perform. Or, if they are football-minded, their letters are filled with requests for information about the Golden Golphers of Minnesota: Will they play next fall? Who will be back next year? What are the chances of beating Michigan? These are the questions which constantly reappear in their letters.

The parks, the lakes, the beautiful Mississippi, the baseball and football teams-- these are but a few of the things that represent home to thousands of our men and women scattered at this very moment to the far corners of the earth.

The letters of others are filled with questions about our Symphony Orchestra, about Dmitri Mitreupolos, about the great artists who are scheduled to appear this year. They, too, recall the joyous hours spent listening to our magnificent orchestra, a cultural institution of which we in Minneapolis are justly proud. Despite the foxholes, the deserts, and the sounds of battle, the strains of a beloved piece of music played by our orchestra are fondly recollected.

Other letters speak with yearning of the museum, and of our galleries, like the Walker Art Gallery. Still others remark the lack of reading opportunity and literature available to them at present. They are more than ever

appreciative of the excellent library facilities afforded by our city. They talk of spending many hours using these facilities once the war is over.

A large number of our men and women now in the armed forces were students at our splendid University before they left for military service. Their parents and friends can testify with me to the ~~fact~~ ^{fact} that the University, its activities and its future is a big part of that which they consider home. They talk of returning to finish their courses, and to learn the profession upon which they have set their hearts.

Some of our men and women speak of their former jobs, or the store or factory in which they worked before the ~~war~~. They want to know how the business is getting on. Their letters are full of questions about the possibility of re-employment in their former position, or about job opportunities in general in the post-war period.

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, these are the kinds of things our young men and women want to know about. These are the things which to them are home. These, plus their families and friends, are the pictures of Minneapolis which they carry about in their heads and in their hearts.

Why am I talking about this tonight? What does it all add up to in terms of the coming election? It adds up, I think, to a great deal.

It adds up first to the fact that we must work harder and sacrifice further, if necessary, in order that the war may end more quickly, in order that our men and women can come home sooner. It means that we must get out the scrap and buy bonds, and do, willingly and cooperatively, the numerous little things expected of us.

It adds up, further, to the fact that Minneapolis is a city with great advantages for culture and for recreation and, if we are determined, for great economic well-being.

We must keep in mind that, while we may have sent away boys, they will

come back to us as men. And as men, they will want to return to the home that they've known, the city in which they were reared. They will want to settle here, to rear their families, to send their children to decent schools and give them the advantages of a great city.

This places a great obligation upon all of us who remain at home. It means that we must consciously and willingly take upon ourselves the task of preparing our city for the war effort and for the peace.

We must do all in our power to make Minneapolis worthy of the fine memories that exist in the minds of those who have gone into military service. Unfortunately, like all industrial cities, we are not without our disadvantages. We are not, for example, without our slums and blighted areas, which are so destructive to good living. We know that these areas contribute to crime and delinquency, to the breakdown of family life, to fire hazards, poor health and increased costs of government.

We know, too, that our fine parks and playgrounds and hospitals are not sufficient in number and accessible to all. Some sections of the city have an abundance of these advantages, others suffer from lack of them.

Minneapolis has many beautiful sections and beautiful homes. Yet, other sections of the city have become crowded, their houses pushed close together and with a consequent loss of necessary fresh air and sunlight. Many residential sections of the city are too noisy, too much disturbed by heavy traffic sounds and noises from industrial plants nearby. Such conditions make it difficult for many families to raise their children in a balanced, healthy and normal way. Such conditions must be looked into and corrected if Minneapolis is to be a city worthy of our returning men and women.

In some of my previous radio talks I have in a detailed way pointed out the great commercial and industrial ~~advantages~~ possibilities that exist in Minneapolis. Our strategic location, our skilled labour supply, our financial resources-- these and many other factors offer great hope for the economic life

of our city.

And here is where the elections come in. It should be clear to all of us, by now, that the lead in the prosecution of the war as well as the preparation for the peace must be taken by government. At one time in our history, we expected that government need only keep the peace and enforce the law. But, in the past 50 years, since the rise of industrialism and technology and the growth of great cities, government has assumed new obligations-- the obligations of providing necessary social services to the community. We now expect that government will concern itself with seeing that its people are well-fed and well-housed. We desire government to achieve harmony between various economic interests; we now expect government to concern itself with public welfare, full employment and security for the aged.

We trust in government to prosecute the war against tyranny. We expect that it will protect us against crime, or against illegal profiteering or black markets.

All these are great expectations. We have come to realize that they cannot be achieved without good leaders. If we hope to end the war quickly, if we hope to prepare for the serious problems that will accompany the peace, we must have leadership in government that exhibits determination, vision and courage. This is just as necessary in our city government, as in the state or national governments. For we are coming to learn that just as democracy begins in the local community, so does the answer to many of our problems. We ought first to look to our own city government, and particularly to the mayor who, as chief executive of the city, must provide the spark of leadership so necessary to any kind of community activity.

I have stated in the past, and I repeat now, that if I am elected, I intend to bring to Minneapolis the kind of leadership that I have outlined as being necessary in a great city and in a great democracy. I intend to be

concerned with the two major problems that now confront us-- winning the war and planning for the post-war period.

This will be my task, as it is your task. For the one lesson that we in a democracy must learn is that government is everybody's business. It is, in fact, our biggest business. We are all shareholders in it. How much benefit we derive from our share in government will depend in part upon the quality of the leaders we elect. We can no longer afford to say that we are not interested in politics, for politics is interested in us. Our lives, and the lives of the men and women who are in military service will be intimately affected by the kind and quality of government that we establish.

If only for selfish reasons, therefore, we must see to it that our governments at every level are efficient and conscientious. That means we must elect men who have a genuine moral and social purpose. It means we must have sincere leadership. It means that if Minneapolis is to fulfill the dreams and the expectations of its many sons and daughters who are carrying ~~on~~ the banners of democracy to the front line trenches, we, all of us, must become participants in this, the most promising democracy the world has ever known.

Thank you and good night.

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For the President and



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