

KSTP 5:30
W 7:10-10 P.M.
SAT June 12

Friends and Fellow Citizens:

This evening I want to review for you a campaign in which my opponent, the present mayor of Minneapolis, has deliberately tried to confuse, mislead, and deceive the voters of this city, a campaign in which those who oppose me and the other liberal candidates have stooped to the lowest depths of political deceit and trickery, a campaign that has been characterized by the kind of tactics that the voters of Minneapolis will ~~justly~~ have a chance to ~~justly~~ repudiate on Monday. June 14th

Let me review the record of the campaign against me-- a record which is duplicated in the tactics used equally against Robinson and Rustad and certain candidates for aldermen.

On May 25 the mayor of this city in a slanderous attack upon my candidacy charged that I was supported by racketeers. I know and you know what took place following those charges, but, for purposes of clarity, let me briefly review the record.

Upon hearing of the mayor's attack upon me I proceeded immediately to his office, accompanied by several newspaper reporters and told the mayor that he had an obligation to the citizens of Minneapolis to substantiate his charges or immediately retract them.

His only answer and his oft-repeated answer was: "This is politics-- you run your campaign the way you want to, and I'll run mine the way I want."

I then asked the mayor of this city to campaign upon the issues and to keep this municipal election on a high plane based upon ~~sound~~ ^{and} constructive examination of the issues that confront our city.

The following week I had reason to believe that this would be done. My supporters, however, were repeatedly confronted by gossip and vicious rumors. There seemed to be an endless flow of falsehoods and political deceit.

By the way,
One of the amusing things-- in what is otherwise a serious and tragic situation-- is that when I add up the rumors that I am the candidate of the racketeers, of big business, of labor, of the churches, of the Republicans, of the Townsendites, of the Democrats, in fact of every group in the community-- I wonder ~~how my opponent~~ *is going to get any votes at all. who can be supporting my opponent?*

Many of the rumors that were circulated in this insidious whispering campaign were much more vicious-- assailing my character and the character of my family. In reply to such political deceit and trickery I want to say that I have confidence in the good judgment and good common sense of the people of Minneapolis. Those who have endorsed my candidacy by resolution, by letter, and by advertisement, are the highest type of people in our community-- people of all parties, people in all walks of life-- business leaders, church leaders, labor leaders, youth leaders, and civic leaders, and I am proud of the character of my real supporters.

Ladies and gentlemen, if the kind of campaign conducted by the present mayor is the kind of campaign that he wants to run-- if this is what he calls politics, then, I say, there is only one course open to the citizens of Minneapolis next Monday.

You may ask why my opponent resorts to such tactics. The answer is apparent to all. My opponent resorts to charges which he cannot substantiate, to vicious whispering campaigns because he is unwilling or unable to discuss the real issues facing the people of this city. He is unwilling or unable to discuss law enforcement. He is unwilling

or unable to discuss governmental reorganization. He is unwilling or unable to discuss a positive program for post-war planning. He is unwilling or unable to discuss relations between capital and labor. He is unwilling-- or unable-- to discuss intelligently the meaning of democracy in local government and the moral purposes of the struggle in which we are now engaged.

Having longplanned an easy campaign with a picked opposition candidate-- a factor which did not materialize because of your primary vote-- the ^{present} ~~the~~ mayor suddenly realized that the people of Minneapolis were responding to ^{my} ~~an~~ appeal ^{which was} based upon a sound ~~and~~ ~~constructive~~ discussion of our problems.

Because he found that his defense of his two-years~~x~~ in office was inadequate to secure him re-election and because he was unwilling or unable to discuss the important issues, he became panic-stricken and called in the political machine of his recently-adopted party.

The cry of the hour in my opponents camp is not one of victory in the war effort. It is not one of unity in this community. It is not one of progressive governmental administration. It is not one of constructive leadership. The campaign of my opponent, in fact, has degenerated into one of pure partisanship-- a partisanship of machine politicians and political bosses, a partisanship that asks you-- the voters of this city-- to vote not on the basis of qualifications, educational experience, or administrative ability, but on the basis of mere party label.

The liberal and progressive Republicans who have enthusiastically rallied to my support will repudiate this attempted dictation just as they did when they elected Dr. Walter Judd to Congress.

But you know as I know that if there ever was a time when

officials should be chosen on the basis of their qualifications, educational background, and experience, when the voter should look behind the narrow confines of party label and special interest, it is now. This my opponent has refused to recognize and he has dedicated himself to re-election at all costs, regardless of community or national welfare.

You know what I mean. You know to what I am referring. The political machine of the Republican party on a national, state, and county level has been called into this city to violate the law and spirit of a non-partisan election. We have witnessed political emissaries from southern Minnesota, from St. Paul, and from out-of-state interfering in our city election and attempting to dictate to the voters of this city.

But the plan has not worked. My opponent knows and his brain trusters know that thousands of progressive and independent Republicans who have supported Mr. Stassen, Senator Ball, Congressman Judd, and Mr. Willkie are now going from door to door in support of my candidacy. These fine people have put community interests above partisanship. They have refused to knuckle down to the dictates of political bosses, who only but a few months ago-- and even now-- are out to defeat the ~~idealistic~~ leadership of Mr. Willkie and those who stand with him.

Apparently these men cannot remember that reaction and isolationism is a thing of the past in Minnesota and in Minneapolis. They are blind to the political realities of an enlightened public which is devoting its whole effort to the winning of the war and to the building of a better world.

Ladies and gentlemen, the plan of my opponent to this date has failed. First, came the charges that I was supported by racketeers. I demanded substantiation or a retraction. My opponent did not have

the evidence-- because there is no evidence-- ~~xxxxx~~ ~~for substantiation~~
~~of the charge~~ ~~and~~ nor did he have the courage for a retraction.

Second, came the whispering campaign. They, too, have failed. Such tactics have insulted your intelligence and you, the people, have answered the insult by your enthusiastic and whole-hearted support of my candidacy. Third, came the introduction of partisan politics. This, too, failed. The progressive-minded men and women of the Republican party have repudiated the dictates of carpet-bagging political bosses. And so as this campaign has drawn to a close, the desperation of my opposition has become increasingly evident as their political schemes all collapsed.

But now at the eleventh hour we have another-- the fourth-- political trick pulled out of my opponent's bag, and this is the most treacherous scheme of them all.

Today's newspapers have brought into your home a story concerning an indorsement of my candidacy by a certain Mr. V.R. Dunne, whom, ~~as I said~~, I have never met and whom I have no desire to meet-- an indorsement that I never solicited and that I hereby repudiate and denounce as an insidiously conceived plot to discredit my candidacy and to disillusion my supporters.

Here is an indorsement that comes from a person who, in his own weekly partisan newspaper, has condemned me and attacked me; an indorsement that comes from a person who, in the primary campaign, spent all of his time and energy assailing my social, economic, and political philosophy-- which, as you know, is based upon a sincere and firm belief in the American system of private enterprise and political democracy.

Yes, This is a strange story. It has elements of sinister purpose. In 1939 and in 1941 this same Mr. Dunne-- then in ~~the~~ a position of

leadership in the labor movement but more recently repudiated and thrownout of organized labor-- supported the candidacy of Mr. Eide-- the same Mr. Eide who slowly and half-heartedly crept into an indorsement of my opponent.

As a matter of record, as you well remember, my opponent in his campaign against Mr. Eide in 1941 made the support of Mr. Eide by V.R. Dunne his chief campaign issue.

This is an interesting episode in our municipal political life. It is almost like a fairy tale.

V.R. Dunne and his ~~own~~ crowd know all too well that an indorsement from them is supposed to be the "kiss of political death." They indorsed me in order to aid my opponent in his frantic effort for re-election.

Yes, here we see the Kline-Dunne combination in action. First of all, Mr. Eide throws his support to my opponent. This is supposed to bring a large section of labor votes into my opponent's camp. Then, Mr. Dunne, the original supporter of Mr. Eide-- according to my opponent's own words-- indorses me in order to damage my candidacy.

~~And now here is the most interesting item of them all. While I am-- they think-- receiving the "kiss of death" from Dunne, several of Dunne's old cronies, now supposedly forgiven for their past misdeeds, are giving their blessing to my opponent, who, after scouring the lists of more than 60,000 members of organized labor, was able to find only seven members of organized labor who were willing to endorse him.~~

Now, what does all this add up to? It adds up to a long-planned, supposedly well-timed ~~X~~ Kline-Dunne combination which seeks to maintain political control of Minneapolis politics at all costs.

Ladies and gentlemen, as I stated throughout this campaign, I had hoped that this campaign could be maintained on a high level of intelligent discussion of our community problems.

At a time when the common people of the world are fighting for democracy and freedom, when our nation is engaging in the most serious struggle in its history, when our city is faced with gigantic problems-- candidates for public office here are under imperative obligation to come to grips with the real problems that confront us, a real obligation to raise themselves up to a level of discussion/ that is consonant with the serious times in which we are living.

We have a war to win. We have a peace to secure. We have a promise to fulfill. Unless we can dedicate ourselves to this task we are not fit to serve the people of our great democracy.

Sat. June 12th [1943]

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