

June 12 - Radio Speech
W40L

Friends and fellow citizens--

On Monday, the day after tomorrow, you voters of Minneapolis will go to the polls to select the man who will be your mayor for the next two years. Now that the campaign is nearing its close, it might be well ~~tonight~~ tonight to summarize, for a few moments, some of the highlights that have characterized this campaign.

It has been my desire, in the course of this election period, to conduct my campaign on an informative and education level, without stopping to the tactics of mud-slinging and innuendo so characteristic of our elections in the past. I have asked my opponent again and again, for an open and fair discussion of the issues that confront Minneapolis in the coming period. I had ~~hoped~~ hoped that slander and whisper might be avoided.

Instead, those of you who have been following the day-to-day developments of this campaign, know that slander and false charges and false claims of credit have been the chief weapons of the present administration.

Just a few days ago, a new element crept into this campaign--- in the form of an order from the professional politicians of the Republican Party machine. That order, directed to the Republican voters of this city, insisted that the present administration must be reelected for reasons of state and national politics. Such an order was in open violation of the spirit of your city elections; for three reasons: first, because Minneapolis elections are, according to law, non-partisan, without party designation. Secondly, because this order is an attempt to dictate to the Republican voters of Minneapolis. And Thirdly, because it puts the selfish ambitions of party bigwigs ~~before~~ ahead of the cause of good government in Minneapolis.

In a way, I should be pleased if the political bosses have tried to make the Minneapolis election a guinea pig for national politics. For, ever since that order was given, many hundreds of you members of the Republican party who supported such men as Congressman Judd and Senator Ball have notified me not only of your support, but of your desire to increase your work in my behalf. For that I am extremely grateful. I am especially grateful because the sentiments of these men are ^{akin} ~~minn~~ to mine.

The intrusion of partisanship by a political machine into the present election was only one feature of this campaign. A second feature of importance were the whispers and false charges made by the administration against my candidacy. Last night I learned from numerous sources that I was not even born in the United States and that, in fact, I came to this country from England only three years ago.

At one stage in the campaign, I discovered that I, along with Senator Ball and Congressman Judd, was in the pay of the Wall Street Bankers. Shortly afterward, I discovered that I was in the pay of Harold Stassen. Next I learned that I was being paid by the communists. And finally, from the present mayor's own lips, I learned that I was really in the pay of the Minneapolis racketeers.

The first ~~xxx~~ three of these rumours were so ridiculous as to invite laughter. The last one, however, coming as it did from the mayor himself, was downright slander. In the presence of the newspaper reporters, I called upon the Mayor to either substantiate his charges, or to retract them. I told him that if I was backed by racketeers, the reporters, and you the voters were entitled to know about it. The mayor not only was unable to offer substantiation for this slander, but he replied that "this is politics."

You run your campaign your way, I will run mine the way I want." Yes, ladies and gentlemen, this was politics, the mayor's kind of politics, the kind of politics that not only degrades those who practice it, but that insults the voters, and the citizens of our city as well. Such deliberate falsehoods have no place in the politics of a democracy.

The third highlight of this campaign involves distortions of fact of a different sort. I refer to the claims made by the present mayor for his administration.

The mayor claims, for example, that he has enforced the law, and that law enforcement in Minneapolis is the best it has ever been. Is the mayor so contemptuous of the people of our city as to think they can be fooled by this sort of boast? Does he think that the people of this city are not aware of the fact that Minneapolis is wide-open? Who of us does not know of the open gambling, the illicit sales of liquor to minors, the after-hour night spots, and the numerous other blatant violators of the vice of this city? Does the mayor think he can hide the fact that Governor Stassen, on Dec. 23, 1942 warned local authorities to enforce the law or else the state would move in and do the job? Can he hide the fact that 17 affidavits of illegal Sunday liquor sales was placed on his desk a few weeks ago by Mr. Bourke of this city? Does he deny that he and his chief of police ignored those affidavits? Why was it necessary for the FBI and the Army and Navy Intelligence services to come into our city in order to establish law enforcement standards which would permit the members of our armed forces to be on our streets?

The mayor has claimed that crime among our youngsters has risen only insignificantly in the past two years. This despite the evidence from the county probation office showing that in the past year

alone, criminal complaints recorded against young people have risen by 21 percent, and in the case of girls, by 70 percent.

The ~~mayor~~ mayor claims that he has reestablished the reputation of Minneapolis throughout the nation as a clean city. Ladies and Gentlemen, I have before me a copy of the Chicago Herald American for Sunday, June 13, which is on the stands tonight. In a two-inch banner headline across the first page of its pictorial section are the words-- Youth Crime Hits Twin Cities. Let me read you a few lines from the story itself:

"Juvenile delinquency of undreamt proportions is sweeping the Twin Cities....Burglary, shoplifting, and sex offenses form the alarming gamut of crimes being committed....with increasing frequency by boys and girls in their early teens. The problem has reached such proportions it was brought up by every citizen of this area with whom this reporter talked. All of them are deeply concerned with finding some solution..."

The article goes on to point out that there were more than twice as many cases of juvenile crime in Minneapolis in April of this year than there were for an average month of 1929, the year in which we had our worst era of juvenile crime.

When the law enforcement situation is so bad in Minneapolis as to attract the attention even of Chicago newspapers, how can the mayor dare to claim that the law is being enforced and that the reputation of Minneapolis has been restored nationally?

I could go on at length, citing instances of vice joints that have expediently and temporarily closed their own doors only since the campaign period. I could go on to cite the number of joints that were closed by the Minnesota state police when the mayor himself refused to act. There is no need to, however. For every voter of this city knows

only ~~know~~ too well that Kid Cann and a host of other operators continue their activities unchecked and unmolested.

In view of the overwhelming evidence, by what right does the present mayor claim to have enforced the law?

The mayor has made other claims, which are equally unfounded.

During this campaign, for example, he has claimed credit for the achievement of the Airport Project. But what are the facts? The facts are that he was absent from most of the important meetings at which the Airport Project was being discussed and worked out. He was ~~absent~~ absent, for example, from the meetings of the Park Board two-thirds of the time, and he missed three-quarters of the meetings of the planning commission. Yet, both of these agencies have been directly concerned with the Airport Project. He was absent from the first inter-city meeting called by the mayor of St. Paul to discuss legislation affecting the airport. He was not even present when Governor Stassen called a meeting on Feb. 6 at the State Capitol to discuss legislation on the airport. Even more important he was absent from the hearings held by the Aviation Committee of the State Senate!

In view of the evidence, by what right does the mayor claim to be responsible for the Airport Project?

The mayor has made ~~xx~~ lavish claims for the Civilian Defense Program in Minneapolis. Again, what are the facts? The facts reveal that the Civilian Defense Program was a result not of the present mayor's efforts, but of the efforts of communityminded citizens and the Works Projects Administration. I happened to be state director of the War Services Program at the time that the Civilian Defense Program was setting under way in Minnesota. I know, from first hand experience, and the records will bear me out, that the Works Projects Administration contributed \$150,626 to the Civilian Defense Program

of Minneapolis. And the primary responsibility for the Civilian Defense Program not only in Minneapolis, but throughout the whole state, belongs not to the mayor, but to the War Services Program of the Works Projects Administration. It was they who did the planning and the organizing. A newsletter published by the Minneapolis Office of Civilian Defense on January 15 of this year, which is available to all of you who desire it, will bear me out in this matter. That same publication, incidentally, offers evidence, too, of the fact that the Works Projects Administration is chiefly responsible for the child care centers in Minneapolis. Yet, the mayor devoted a whole radio talk recounting his responsibility for the child care centers that have been established under Civilian Defense.

In view of the evidence, by what right does the present mayor claim credit for the Civilian Defense Program in Minneapolis?

Finally, a word with respect to the mayor's oft-repeated claim of credit for the Sister Kenny Institute. Sister Kenny has done important and noteworthy work in the field of infantile paralysis. But as a letter in the Star-Journal of Thursday, June 10 from Dr. Kottke of the Physiology Department of the University of Minnesota points out it was the doctors of the University Hospital and the Mayo Clinic who were responsible for Sister Kenny's coming to Minneapolis. Equally significant is the fact that the grants of money that have allowed the Sister Kenny Institute to operate have been ~~obtained~~ obtained from the National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis by the University. Not one single cent has been obtained from the foundation by the present city government. Nor will they obtain any money until the institute is taken out of politics. For the sake of everyone concerned - except the mayor - let's leave Sister Kenny to the medical profession, and not to the politicians. The treatment of paralysis victims is too important to be made a polit-

ical football.

False claims, slanderous charges, the intrusion of boss politicians - these have been, unfortunately, some of the highlights of this campaign. As I stated earlier, I had hoped from the beginning that a constructive discussion of the vital issues would be the chief mark of this campaign. With this in mind, I took up point by point in successive radio talks the problems that now confront the government of our city. I spoke, on a number of occasions, of the need for reorganizing and streamlining our city government so that it might become as efficient and economical as possible.

A number of my radio talks were concerned with planning for the years to come, planning for the day when our fighting men and women will return home to Minneapolis, seeking jobs, seeking security, and seeking the democracy for which they are now fighting so splendidly. I spoke of the need for cleaning up our slums and blighted areas. I pointed out the nature of our increasing traffic problems, of our shortage in some cases of hospital, recreational and school facilities.

Other radio talks were devoted to the possibilities of economic growth for Minneapolis. I pointed out our strategic location, our great labor, financial and natural resources, our relationship to the economy of the state and the nation. I believe that Minneapolis has a great industrial future so long as we plan for it, and so long as we can achieve a wholesome unity of purpose between labor and business.

I outlined on a number of occasions a detailed program for law enforcement, and the combatting of juvenile delinquency. I have given a solemn pledge that I will enforce the law.

In other public addresses I have spoken of the nature of democracy, the significance of democracy to the citizens of Minneapolis, and the need for making democracy live by fighting this war against tyranny

with all our strength.

I believe that such discussions as I have outlined were constructive. I hope they were informative. No matter what the outcome of the election on Monday, I shall always be pleased that I was given the opportunity to discuss these matters with you.

In closing, I should like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all of you who have given so generously of your funds, your time and your effort in my behalf. I am proud that I can number among you members of the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, and the Farmer-Labor Party. I wish also to thank the great number of young people - from the churches and youth organizations, and from the University. To the great number of civic groups and independent voters, to be members of the University faculty, to the Trade Unions, to all of you in short who have placed your confidence in me, I extend my deepest gratitude.

Thank you and goodnight.



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