

REMARKS TO CENTRAL BUSINESS AND CIVIC ASSOCIATION.  
Tuesday Noon, November 20, 1945

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Business expansion is not only dependent upon the establishment of new industries and business facilities. Prosperous and stable economic enterprise is possible only in a community where educational facilities are the best, where parks and playgrounds are modern and extensive, where homes and housing facilities are adequate and where people have a civic pride. Programs of community development must have the support of the merchant on the street. This is particularly true in a great wholesale and retail center such as Minneapolis. Community leadership is the responsibility of every merchant. It is not enough for a business man to think only in terms of his own enterprise. His success or failure is in part dependent upon the general conditions prevailing in the community. There is a program for Minneapolis - a program that merits and needs your support.

First of all, we must encourage and support policies which tend to develop our educational and recreational facilities.

Second, we must dedicate ourselves whole-heartedly to an extensive program of urban redevelopment and clearance of our blighted and obsolete areas. Only the rich can afford slums. A sound and constructive community development demands that blighted areas and sanitary conditions and dilapidated buildings must be done away with.

Third, Minneapolis needs and must have adequate municipal hospital facilities. Business people should recognize that public health is an essential to a normal and prosperous community. There is no profit to be made from people who are uneducated, unhappy, and ill.

Fourth, Minneapolis must think in terms of an improved and expanded municipal auditorium. Our present facilities are inadequate ~~and~~ for many of the conventions, conferences, and community gatherings which a modern auditorium readily serves. We are without a theater section. Our present auditorium is without adequate conference and small meeting rooms. Minneapolis ~~has~~ a convention city and as a growing municipality must plan its municipal services to meet the needs of the future.

Fifth, It is of the utmost importance to the business people of Minneapolis that our Police Department be adequately manned and properly equipped with modern facilities. Law enforcement is a protection not only to human rights but also to property. The property owners cannot receive adequate protection with a department that lacks sufficient personnel. My request for additional officers is one of the "musts" that demands your support.

Sixth, and finally, our financial structure for city government must be thoroughly analyzed and studied with the objective in mind of finding new sources of revenue to meet ever increasing costs of government and municipal services. A growing city cannot meet its responsibilities on a revenue base of a generation ago. A bigger Minneapolis and a greater Minneapolis requires sufficient tax revenue to provide municipal developments and services which are equal to the needs of a metropolitan area.



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