

CAMPAIGN SPEECH - W C C O

Every two years, under the terms of our State law and City Charter, the people are afforded an accounting of the stewardship of public office holders. This we refer to as our municipal election. On Monday, May 12, the people of this City will determine by their vote those persons whom they wish to be the final contestants for the General Election to be held Monday, June 9. ~~This is our election process. We go to the voting precinct. We register. We ask for our ballot, and we select those persons in whom we have confidence and trust. The decision of our people is final, and may it ever be so! This is what we in America call government by the consent of the governed.~~ The free election, the secret ballot, ~~are~~ the basic foundation of our democratic liberties. ~~We cannot take this responsibility lightly. The power of the vote is our secret weapon in our unceasing struggle for a better society. That right and privilege of casting a vote has become ever more precious in this post-war world.~~

I make this plea to you tonight. Take an active interest in your local government. This is your City. Its destiny rests in your hands. It would be a singular tragedy if by our indifference we failed to have an overwhelming demonstration of civic participation by a big vote on election day. ~~When we go into that election booth we are participants in government, and those who receive the majority have accepted~~

an obligation and a responsibility which goes far beyond any private will or desire. Public life and public duty are great honors, but at the same time impose heavy obligations.

All too often our municipal elections have resulted in a minority of our people selecting those who are to be our public servants. This is not majority rule. This does not give us an expression of the public will. A militant and informed electorate is a basic essential to our civic life and governmental institutions.

In America today, as in no other country, the success of government must rest upon the capacity of the individual citizen to understand or manage his own political affairs.

Frequently
~~All too often~~ American politics, and particularly local politics, has found itself to be the plaything of those who feel no sense of responsibility and those who are willing to use any and every means of gaining power. Too often have whispers and slander and personal insults overshadowed the real issues. ~~Too often~~ *Too often* there have been those who would "bear false witness against their neighbor" and against their opponent for the sake of momentary advantage. > ~~I want every one of you to know that I hold the Mayor's office in high esteem. I could never, under any circumstances, abuse that office through cheap, petty, partisan politics.~~ > ~~I want you to know that~~ I am not willing to be a party to *such a* campaign of rumors, falsehoods, or slander, nor shall I attack the character, personality or the family of those who are my opponents in this election.

I ask you, as my friends--and now I speak especially to those of you who have pledged your support to me--to conduct

yourselves on a high level of intellectual honesty and decency. We can have municipal elections without rancor and animosity. Men in public life can argue and debate the issues without a sense of bitterness. ~~This world of ours is~~ already too full of fear and hate. It is sick at heart and weak in spirit because of the selfishness and greed of men. Every election should be conducted in the spirit of peace on earth and good will towards men.

I propose during this campaign to speak directly to you about our City government, about our community, about our accomplishments, and--yes--about our limitations.

To be sure, I recognize that I have made mistakes. Like all others who have served in public life, I have been limited by my experience, my knowledge, and my associates. ~~we have~~ ~~tried, and at times we have failed.~~ Then, again, ~~we have~~ ~~tried, and we have succeeded.~~ The only question is--does the balance sheet of ~~this~~ two years of being your Mayor add up to a better Minneapolis, to an awakened citizenry, and to a community which is moving ahead?

In the minutes which remain I ^{wish} ~~want~~ to discuss with you an over-all review of my service as Mayor since July 2, 1945. I shall attempt to be very frank. Throughout the campaign I shall emphasize different aspects of my administration, giving special reference to such matters as taxation and finance, law enforcement, public health, housing, youth welfare, and many other problems with which we have been fundamentally concerned.

I ~~pledged to you two years ago in my first radio address,~~ and I quote, "The Mayor's office could, and should, serve as a

clearing house for community planning and development," and *as mayor*
~~further pledged that~~ "I shall do my utmost to make our citizens
aware of our government and of our community."

Since becoming your Mayor, I have appeared before hundreds
of groups and organizations, discussing the important problems
of Minneapolis government. I am convinced that this type of
honest and free discussion promotes the electorate's under-
standing of our government and ~~the problems~~ *the community*. Through speech,
radio and press, I have attempted to bring to your attention
the programs in which we are engaged and the challenges which
we face.

I pledged to you that I would do everything possible to
promote a closer understanding between city and rural areas.
Today there is a closer understanding and better cooperation.

Close ~~personal~~ relationships have been maintained with
municipal officials of other cities. We have actively par-
ticipated in the work of the League of Minnesota Municipalities
and the U. S. Conference of Mayors, along with the American
Municipal Association. Minneapolis is represented on the ex-
ecutive boards of these organizations. We are in a position
today to help determine policy on a national level because of
this participation and representation.

Our contacts with government offices in Washington have
been maintained on a day by day basis, and we have been able
to obtain advantages and results for our City. I refer spe-
cifically to such achievements as the extension of the Child
Care Center program, which came because of our personal inter-
vention in Washington. I am sure you will recall that because

of direct appeals to the President and the Secretary of the Navy we were able to obtain an emergency hospital for the care of our polio patients. Then, too, possibly you remember that because of direct appeal to the Secretary of War, we were able to speed up the demolition of the Gopher Ordnance Works. This was vital to our housing program. Critical materials were available, and we were able to get them because we went directly to responsible authority. Many other examples are evident where close contact with federal authorities has been of help to Minneapolis.

I have often said that the development of Minneapolis could not, and did not, rest upon the shoulders of any one person in public office. It has been my policy to recruit capable ~~assistance~~ ^{aid} from the citizenry. Civic leaders from business, labor, fraternal and veterans organizations have been brought into the official life of our government by serving upon important Mayor's Committees. When men and women come face to face with a problem, they are better able to understand some of the perplexities and difficulties which confront a growing municipality. We have had a type of "on-the-job-training" in community action. These various Mayor's Committees are composed of citizens whose competence and interest in the particular fields have been recognized and demonstrated. They meet regularly to discuss and analyze the specific problems assigned to them, and each is evolving a program which ultimately will become the basis, or has become the basis, for official governmental action.

} ✓
✓
✓

~~Men and women of the stature and reputation as those who serve on the Mayor's Committees are priceless assets to our community welfare. Their willingness to serve is a brilliant demonstration of their unselfish devotion to the well-being of our City and people.~~

The accomplishments of these citizens' groups have been manifold. The Mayor's Council on Human Relations successfully sponsored a fair employment practices ordinance and the community self-survey. The Smoke Prevention Committee has instituted a program of smoke prevention and control, and was instrumental in securing the appointment of a qualified smoke inspector. The Mayor's Health Advisory Committee has provided the information and the program for the improvement of our public health services, our civil service standards for public health personnel, and constantly assisted the City Health Department in its extensive projects, such as the Community Chest X-Ray Survey. The Mayor's Tax and Finance Commission, through the cooperation of hundreds of our business people and labor organizations, has sponsored a complete administrative and finance study of our City government. The Mayor's Youth Welfare Committee has assisted in promoting a closer cooperation between the juvenile Bureau of the Police Department and the Community Social Agencies. The Emergency Housing Committee gave early leadership in the temporary housing program for veterans, ~~and acted as a sponsor for the "Shelter A Vet" campaign, the trailer camp projects, and served in an advisory capacity in all housing matters.~~ The record is filled with accomplishments, ~~but even more important is the intimate knowledge that hundreds of our citizens~~

have received of our community because of their service upon semi-official responsible commissions and committees.

~~In conclusion, let us just briefly look at the record of these past two years.~~ Our outstanding achievement is in the field of law enforcement. Two splendid superintendents of police--Ed Ryan and Glen MacLean--have given honest, efficient and courageous law enforcement to Minneapolis. Every responsible citizen in this community knows, and may I say even those in other parts of the State recognize, that organized crime and vice have been broken in Minneapolis. The Police Department has been revitalized. Administrative reforms of far-reaching importance have been made. A modern system of records has been installed. Police training is a part of our regular routine. This outstanding record of law enforcement has been achieved despite a lack of personnel and a lower per capita cost for police service. No amount of half truths, no amount of shouting or distortion of fact can alter the record of achievement and accomplishment. >

These past two years have witnessed a strengthening of our financial position. Hospital costs are now being financed on a current basis. Pension funds which were facing deficits and insolvency in 1945 now are in the black and have reserves. Additional revenues have been provided for expanded library, park and recreational programs. Our municipal debt has been reduced as of July 1, 1945, from \$63,029,508 to \$53,430,908 as of April 1, 1947. This is approximately a \$10,000,000 reduction in debt in less than two years! Interest payments are down. Our bonds are all within a ten year limit. We have begun to reverse the

long established dangerous policy of continued deficit financing, and have moved along the lines of pay-as-you-go and at the same time made definite strides in a sound debt retirement program. Our accomplishments in the Legislature of this year are of singular importance. We will be able to meet our obligations ~~of current expenses~~. There will be no deficit ~~in our current expense fund, despite the tremendous rise in costs of materials, services, and labor, all of which the City of Minneapolis must purchase, as does any other business institution.~~

In this recent legislative session ~~the City of Minneapolis~~ ^{we} presented a comprehensive, over-all finance program. ~~This program was worked out through numerous meetings of the Tri City Finance Committee, representing Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth.~~ It was a program planned in conjunction with the other municipalities of the State. It can never be said that Minneapolis was without a program. We had one. We fought for it. We outlined it, and in part we achieved it.

The Mayor's Tax and Finance Commission, through its sub-committees on Debt, Revenue and Expenditures, made a comprehensive survey of municipal finances. An independent survey by public administration experts has produced the factual material which will now be used for programs of re-organization.

I have brought to the attention of our City Council and our Boards and Commissions such policies and programs as the rezoning of our city, which is now under way and will mean so much for the future development of our industry and residential areas. I consistently presented the need of comprehensive housing legislation and urged upon the Governor and the Legislature from 1945 to 1947 the passage of such legislation. This program is now the law of the state. It was from the Mayor's Office in Minneapolis that the first request for anti-eviction legislation came. This was passed by the Legislature. As a member of the Planning Commission I recommended and urged passage of legislation which would afford the city an opportunity to enter into the construction and the financing of municipal parking lots. This legislation was adopted. A program for the modernization and expansion of our General Hospital is under way. Planning funds from the federal government have been obtained. Likewise action has been taken to insure the planning and ultimate construction of a public safety building and a new public library.

These are not dreams. These are matters of record and accomplishment.

After some fifty years of rankling over the grade separation projects, the year 1947 saw the realization of a program and a plan which was acceptable to all parties. The grade separation program is

now in the Engineer's hands. The designs and drawings are being made, and as soon as materials are available, construction will be under way.

One of our municipal hospitals, the Parkview Sanitarium, under an arrangement with a private non-profit ~~organ~~ corporation, is now being operated as a convalescent and chronic hospital for persons of old age. This accomplishment will save the City of Minneapolis, during the next ten years, not less than \$2,000,000. This is not a promise. This is ~~is~~ a matter of record--an accomplishment.

Minneapolis, like every other major city, has been faced with a tremendous and critical problem of housing. This is a nationwide situation. I know of no single activity to which we have given more time, more thought, and more work.

Start
My first act as Mayor was to call a conference of architects, engineers, contractors, veterans, labor representatives, and ~~the~~ others to design a program to meet the housing emergency. This group formed itself into a committee. It met regularly. It examined and surveyed every possibility to utilize existing housing to full capacity, and to obtain temporary housing wherever it could be found. At one time, the Mayor's office had over 8,000 applications for housing.

With a sense of humility, I point to our accomplishments. A trailer camp of over one hundred units was established, and has been fully occupied, giving shelter to over 600 persons. Every trailer is occupied by a veteran, his wife, and one or more children. Every precaution was taken in terms of health and sanitation. Playground space is provided. Recreational rooms for adults were established.

In addition to the program of obtaining temporary units,

an all-out "Shelter-A-Vet" campaign was conducted with the cooperation of business, press and radio to obtain spare rooms and any other available living space. This resulted in the opening of approximately 1,500 housing units to veterans and their families. Churches were called upon to make house-to-house solicitations for unused space. Women's clubs were organized into an over-all city committee and staged a "House a Hero" campaign. This endeavor yielded living quarters for over 800 veterans and their families.

Every week through the radio and the press I have appealed for housing space. The Minneapolis Housing Bureau has handled thousands of requests and found living quarters for 6,217 veterans and their families.

As a part of our emergency housing program, I appealed to the City Council to declare a housing emergency and to empower the Board of Public Welfare to act. \$150,000 of funds were provided. The Motley School was converted into apartments. The Stowe School was likewise remodeled. Application was made for temporary housing units from the federal government. Today approximately 500 families are being housed in quonset huts under this program. An average of 35 new homes

per week are being completed. *To date we have provided housing for over 8000 veterans & their families.*
Always confronted with shortage of critical materials, direct

appeals were made to Washington and other cities. Every available means at our disposal has been ^{and is being} used to speed up the housing program. (X) *Insert*

~~I say in all fairness, that many times I have been heartsick over the suffering that ~~there~~ has existed in this community because of the housing shortage. While much has been done, much more must be done.~~

~~Through the cooperation of the Housing Bureau, the Council of Social~~

Agencies, the Board of Public Welfare, the City Council, and the Mayor's Office, along with the programs I have mentioned, thousands of units have been made available to veterans and their families.

As Mayor of this City, I have appealed to our City Charter Commission on three successive occasions to place before our people a revised Charter which would strengthen our municipal government. That program is under way. a new charter ~~It is definite and it~~ will be before the people in a special election this fall.

Following the polio epidemic, in cooperation with the University of Minnesota Medical staff and the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, we formulated an organization known as the Minnesota Polio Research Commission. The program of this Commission, which was worked out in the Mayor's Office, resulted in an extensive grant of money to the University Medical School for polio research.

As your Mayor I have worked towards better relationships between management and labor in Minneapolis. Our record since V-J Day has been an enviable one. It has been marred only by the occurrence of the nationwide dispute between the Telephone Company and its employees. We have had a minimum of violence, a minimum of property destruction, a minimum of labor-management strife. Nor have I as Mayor sidestepped the issue in these economic disputes. I have actively participated in the settlement of a dozen or more major labor disputes. > I refer to such examples as the labor-management difficulties involving the hospital employees, the school teachers, the Northern States Power Company, the Minneapolis Moline Company, the Honeywell Company, the millworkers, and several other less significant cases. (In each instance it has been my privilege to receive letters of commendation from both labor and management.

could go!

I have brought these items of record to your attention because in our busy lives we often forget that which has transpired. These are not my accomplishments alone. We have worked together in all of these matters. It has been with your help and your understanding that Minneapolis has boldly faced its problems and has planned for tomorrow. Minneapolis can, and will, move on to a greater future. We will continue our program of law enforcement and observance. We will move ahead with our industrial expansion and community redevelopment. We will meet our problems of housing, of public health, We will improve our parks, libraries and educational facilities, and, even more important, together we will revitalize our municipal government. All of these plans and programs now under way and in stages of fulfillment will provide a wholesome and healthy environment for the people of our City.

* * * * *

RADIO SPEECH OF MAYOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
TO BE DELIVERED OVER STATION ~~WCCO~~ ON MAY
9, 1947 AT 11:30 A. M. KstP.

* * * * *

Well, good morning ladies and gentlemen. I know that the women folks are busy right now preparing lunch for their husbands and families. It will be just a few moments when your children will be coming home from school. That's the way it is out at our house, because at twelve o'clock Nancy comes back from Tuttle School and Skipper and Bobby are already in their chairs at the table with eager appetites and ever moving hands. ~~just waiting for the food to be placed on the table.~~ I'll make a confession to you. I really miss not being able to be with them at noontime. In fact, I'm with them so little that there is a feeling of lonesomeness in my heart a good deal of the time. The demands upon my time as Mayor have necessitated my being away from our family practically every evening, and, of course, all during the day.

But we do have our "get togethers" out at our house. You should be around there early in the morning. I can assure you that there is a genuine roar of activity. There is always the argument between Skipper and Bobby as to ~~just~~ who will bring me the morning paper. Then, of course, there are those inevitable arguments about breakfast food and the latest prize to be offered. I imagine that you have been saving box tops too for the atomic ring or the cowboy set, or some of the other gadgets which are offered by the breakfast food ~~manufacturing~~ companies. My only complaint ~~about this whole affair~~ is that when the box tops are sent in, it seems to take so long for the prize to arrive. Every morning our children stand guard at the mail box

and quickly go through the mail looking for that precious gift which required ten cents and three box tops--all of which adds up to make a happy home life, and, believe me, that is pretty important these days!

[I want to make another confession to you. Just after I became your Mayor in July, 1945, it became perfectly obvious that Mrs. Humphrey and I were to be constantly attending meetings and banquets--that there just wouldn't be anyone around to bring up the family--so we arrived at an agreement, and we have adhered to it very carefully. It seemed that one member of the Humphrey family being out with the public should fill the bill, and that mother would be performing the greatest service ~~in the~~ ~~world~~ to this community and to our family by Being a good mother in the home.

~~I know of no greater contribution to the welfare of this nation and of this city than that of a wholesome, faithful family life. That is only possible when husband and wife understand each other, recognize each other's problems, and then arrive at their decisions for the benefit of the family circle.~~ Well, that's the way we have tried to work things out in our household. I do the speaking, take care of my job as Mayor, and Muriel, my wife, devotes the major portion of her time to our little home at 890 - 19th Avenue Southeast, ~~and she has been doing a wonderful job in caring for our children and the home.~~ Of course, she goes ^{some} to ^{banquets} with me, ^{and we} ~~always find at least~~ ^{Try to arrange for at least} two nights a week that we can be together. I can frankly tell you--and I am not proud of it--that it is an unusual occasion if once during the month I can have dinner with my family, ~~and~~ Those dinners are really good after you have been attending the up town banquets

night after night, and noon after noon.]

~~You know, ours is just a normal family. We belong to the PTA, Mrs. Humphrey is in the Mother Singers, we attend ^{our} ~~the First~~ Congregational Church and the children are regularly at Sunday School.] I have been actively interested in the Boy Scout movement, having spent six years as a Scout Master. We have our friends in now and then, but, ~~again~~, generally we get together after 9:30 in the evening and spend a couple of hours in just talking about our children and some of the little things of life. That is really relaxing, and I recommend it as the best type of mental hygiene and the finest tonic for a weary and tired body.]~~

I have talked about all of this because I wanted you to have just a brief glimpse into our household. There is much more I could say, but if you will just look around in your home, you will find it to be very similar to ours. ~~[Yes, we're still making payments on it, and I suppose we will be at it for a long time, but we enjoy it and we not it is ours, and it gives us a sense of security and peace.]~~

Now I want to take you from the home to the office--and I mean your office, because the Mayor's office at 127 City Hall belongs to the people of Minneapolis. Many of you have been in the Mayor's office, and I suppose many of you have tried to see the Mayor and found ~~out~~ I was in a meeting, ~~a~~ conference, or was out. That often bothers me because I like to see people, and I want very much to better know our people in Minneapolis. I found out, however, that it is literally impossible to see everyone who calls for an appointment or drops in just to say "hello."

I manage to keep about 25 to 30 appointments per day, which, of course, includes several Board and Commission meetings.

Folks around the Court House tell me that the Mayor's Office these days is a beehive of activity--yes, many of them have told me they have never seen anything like it in the many years they have been here. The doors open at 8:30 in the morning, and seldom close before ten or eleven at night. There is hardly an evening that passes by but what I stop in on my way home, check the mail and get things set for the next morning. We keep open Saturdays until noon, and then I use the afternoon for study and appointments. ~~There just has to be some time available for concentrated study and thought, and generally the Saturday afternoons provide it.~~ Sunday, of course, we try to keep as our day at home, but I have always had a Sunday afternoon or evening broadcast--I trust that some of you have listened to it--giving a report of the past week's activities. Then there are always one or two important gatherings Sunday afternoon or evening to which Mrs. Humphrey and I are invited and would like to attend.] ~~occasionally I will slip down to the office Sunday afternoon just to do a little reading. I am sure you have found out that Sunday afternoons at home are not conducive to reading. It is either a~~ *a drive around the parks or a play* ~~nap, or the rough and tumble session with the children, both of which are highly enjoyable, but occasionally conflict with some work which must be done.~~

Along with the regular work at the Mayor's Office there are innumerable civic activities in which we have a part. I am sure you remember our splendid Victory Clothing Drive, the Minneapolis Emergency Food Collection, the Veterans' Rehabilitation and Re-employment projects, City Charter meetings, Public Health ^{and} conferences, /Tax and Finance sessions. These, and a host of others, are part of our regular schedule. ~~And, by the way, when~~

I mention the food collection and the clothing drive, it is heart-
ening to remember that those two programs produced remarkable re-
sults. We collected over three million garments when our quota
was only half a million, and we collected over 500,000 cans of
food, plus thousands of dollars in cash--all of which were sent
to people in need in foreign countries. ~~Many~~ I owe a great
debt of gratitude to the people who served on our committees.
They really performed a great public service. Yes, the Mayor's
Office should be, and I am proud to say that it is, the people's
office. It is here where a deluge of details, problems, activi-
ties and requests covering a tremendous sweep of group and indi-
vidual endeavors are centered. That is part of the thrill of
being Mayor. You grow to know your community--you grow to under-
stand that there are many, many more good people than there are
those who are selfish and indifferent.

all over!

Being Mayor of Minneapolis gives you a sense of confidence
in the future of this community because I can honestly say that
I have never called upon a citizen to help me or to work in be-
half of the City, but what he or she has responded. Possibly that
is why we have had so many committees, and why they have done such
a great job. People like to know they are a part of things and
the measure of successful leadership is one's ability to obtain
help and assistance from those who are desirous of working in
behalf of their community and fellowmen.

Now, just a few more quick glances at the activities in
the Mayor's Office. There are five telephone lines coming in and
out, and they are constantly ringing. There is a staff of three
stenographers, the Mayor's Secretary and Assistant, along with
the volunteer workers. I have also been able to obtain the aid
of a young friend of mine who is a World War II veteran from the

Marine Corps, ~~wounded in action in action and who~~^{He} has an intimate knowledge of veterans' problems ~~and~~^{served as} has ~~been~~ our Veterans' Assistant. ~~[He has given his time freely. He has been on the job every afternoon while he completed his course in Law School. He has done this for our City--our veterans--and he has been a spark plug in our civic services.]~~

As Mayor, I am required to serve on ~~thirteen~~^{many} Boards and Commissions, and, believe me, this keeps you jumping. ~~[Sometimes two Boards will meet at the same hour on the same day in different places, and that is no easy task if you intend to be on time at both places. Obviously I have to miss one, or share the time between the two. The work of the Boards and Commissions is never done, and I have felt that as Mayor I should act as a coordinating influence. Frequently I have brought to the attention of the Boards and Commissions important community problems.]~~

It is to the Mayor's Office that hundreds of letters come. ~~In fact,~~ Our mail averages over one hundred letters a day, and in some of these letters I receive justifiable complaints and many commendable suggestions. Each letter is answered--we have prided ourselves on that--and proper referral is made to the appropriate City Council Committee, Alderman, Board, or Commission. ~~We keep a check file on these requests so that we can follow up.~~

As a member of the Planning Commission, I suggested the necessity of rezoning our City in order that we could properly chart our future development. This is being carried out. I also brought to the attention of the Planning Commission the necessity of new legislation so that we could construct large municipal parking lots to relieve the parking problem and traffic congestion. We have worked tirelessly ~~on that Commission~~ⁱⁿ on behalf of the grade

separation program and our over-all City post-war planning. ~~I~~
~~really enjoy serving as a member of the Planning Commission.~~

~~Our Park Board has always carried out a fine program for~~
~~the people of Minneapolis.~~ To the Park Board I have referred
such items as expanded music and community sing programs, the de-
velopment of ~~anywhere~~ an outdoor civic theatre, playground
facilities for veterans and their families in the emergency
housing areas, and a host of other suggestions.

As a member of the Board of Estimate and Taxation, I have
been vitally concerned with our City finances. I have insisted
that we set aside money to pay our debts and, *because of this policy*
~~as I have stated~~
~~before,~~ we have been able to reduce our municipal debt by ten
million dollars these past two years, ~~and have been able to pro-~~
~~vide the necessary money to continue the operation of our municip-~~
~~al services.~~

~~My main responsibility on a Board or Commission is in~~
The mayor serves as
~~the Board of Public Welfare. I am~~ Chairman of the Board of
Public Welfare, ~~and as such have some direction of its activities.~~
We have been making real progress in our City Health Department,
which is part of the Welfare Board's program. The present Com-
munity Chest X-Ray Survey is being carried out under the leader-
ship of the City Health Department. Last summer our Health De-
partment and Hospital *faced heavy*
~~were under tremendous~~ responsibilities in
the polio epidemic, ~~and~~ They performed their obligations in a
most commendable manner. Never has a City been called upon to
meet such an emergency and to have done it so well! Hundreds of
groups cooperated and we were able to provide hospitalization and
treatment for over 1500 patients. The Board of Public Welfare
has given its attention to the *modernization*
~~coordination~~ of our City Hospital

and its expansion. This program is ready. We are only waiting for ~~materials and~~ construction costs to come down to a reasonable figure. This same Board has had the responsibility for the emergency veterans' housing program. That within itself has been a task of great proportions.

The City's official business requires constant meeting with the members of the City Council and the Boards. Numerous papers and documents of an official nature are ever present requiring examination and signature. Then, of course, there are the conferences with business and civic leaders. We have co-operated closely with business and labor organizations in their worthwhile programs. This may be appropriately described as the public relations function of the Mayor's office--or bringing the City government and the citizens' group in closer relationship, ~~thereby affording the people an understanding of the problems which confront their government.~~

I am sure that you know since becoming your Mayor I have appeared before hundreds of groups and organizations, discussing the important problems of Minneapolis government. I am convinced that this type of honest and free discussion is worth while. What we need in Minneapolis is a reawakening of the citizens. A government is only as active as its people. It has been my hope and ~~I~~ aim to arouse a public interest in the many problems which confront us so that we could mobilize for action. If I can justly claim credit for any achievement of these past two years, I think it can be fairly said that the people of Minneapolis have heard more about their government, and come in closer touch with it than ever before.

We have fearlessly examined every department--and every

activity. That was the real purpose I had in mind when I appointed the Mayor's Tax and Finance Commission. ~~This Commission has been given a free hand. I told the membership, which represented business, labor and civic groups, that it was their responsibility to give the City government of Minneapolis a critical and constructive examination, and from this examination to make final recommendations for improvement. That has been done.~~ ^{has been} Outside expert assistance ~~was brought in.~~ As yesterday's editorial in the Minneapolis Daily Times stated, and I quote - "Minneapolis will do well to give careful consideration to the summary report of the Public Administration Service which was made yesterday to the Mayor's Tax and Finance Commission. This report represents certain conclusions which are based on the survey which the Mayor's Tax and Finance Commission has been conducting in Minneapolis. Its value lies chiefly in the expert and impartial background of the survey makers. The Public Administration Service is a Chicago organization with no axes to grind--no fences to build in Minneapolis. For eight months it has been studying the operation of our City government and has conscientiously tried to evaluate its points of strength and weakness." - end of quote.

~~Minneapolis is a growing community. We can not continue to move forward if we ignore some of the basic problems of municipal administration. Out of these reports and recommendations of the Mayor's Tax and Finance Commission will come the basis and the informational material for strengthening our municipal government, and for fundamental charter revision. We must have the courage to face the facts and to make whatever improvements are necessary.~~ ^{needed.}

Recognizing the necessity of demonstrating our hospitality

as a community, and appealing for a common understanding of our mutual problems, I have attempted as your Mayor, whenever possible, without sacrifice to my duties at home, to appear before audiences throughout the State and to speak before convention groups on the broader issues of the interrelationship between our City and other communities of our State, and nation. In this manner we have been able to combat and refute the idle rumors and gossip which all too often have been used against our beautiful City in other areas of the State. Today we can stand before any group and honestly say that Minneapolis has a cleaner record in law enforcement than any major City in the nation. We can honestly say to our friends and neighbors in other areas of the State that Minneapolis offers ~~to their children~~ a wholesome environment for family life and economic opportunity. It has given ~~many~~ me a real sense of pride to be able to tell our story of our parks and playgrounds, our schools, our public health facilities, our museums and art galleries, our beautiful symphony orchestra, and our many other civic institutions. It is with even greater pride that I can stand before any audience and honestly say that Minneapolis is making a determined effort to improve its government and to meet its own problems, ~~because that is exactly what we are doing today.~~

Close relationships have been maintained with officials of other cities. We have actively participated in the work of the League of Minnesota Municipalities, the U. S. Conference of Mayors and the American Municipal Association. Minneapolis is now represented on the executive boards of these organizations. We are in a position today to help determine policy on a national level. Our contacts with government offices in Washington have been of

Early in my first year, by going to Washington D.C.

great benefit to the City. I was able to secure extension of our Child Care Center programs. I am sure you will recall that because of direct appeals to the President, and the Secretary of the Navy, we were able to obtain an emergency hospital for the care of our polio patients. Through direct contact with the Secretary of War we were able to speed up the dismantling of the Gopher Ordnance Works, thereby obtaining critical building materials which were so necessary for our housing program.

These are but a few examples of what I mean when we say that we have worked closely with other agencies of government.

It has been my policy to recruit aid from some of our prominent citizens. Civic leaders in business, labor, veteran and fraternal organizations -- have been brought into the official ^{life} ~~light~~ of our government by serving upon important citizens' or Mayor's Committees. Hours of time and service have been willingly given by ^{many} civic minded persons ~~on such committees as the Mayor's Law Enforcement Advisory Council, the Mayor's Health Advisory Committee, the Tax and Finance Commission, the Mayor's Council on Human Relations, the Citizens' Traffic and Parking Committee, the Mayor's Youth Welfare Committee, the Emergency Housing Committee, and others of a more temporary and emergency nature.~~ Yes, ~~I have appointed many committees, because I believed that people want to participate in their government. I have appointed committees because out of the exchange of ideas which comes from a group meeting regularly, constructive plans and programs are formed. These Committees have not been established to give recognition to a group of faithful political followers. There~~ ^{not} ~~has been, nor will there ever be, a question of political affiliation~~

~~in the selection of the~~membership. Such civic leaders as Rev. Reuben Youngdahl, Dr. Roy Blakey, Professor R. E. Summers, Donald R. McReavy, Mrs. David Shearer, Miss Katherine J. Densford, Mrs. John C. Benson, Dr. Gaylord Anderson, Angus H. Taylor, Dr. E. J. Heunekens, Roy W. Wier, James T. Wardlaw, Bradley L. Morison, Judge Edward F. Waite, Henry Rutledge, Patrick Carr, Stanley Hawks, A. Whittier Day, ~~Honorable Theodore Knudsen~~, Willard Esau, Mrs. Irvine McQuarrie, Arnulf Ueland, Arthur Upgren, David Winton, Gottfrid Lindsten, Hubert Kennedy, and a host of others of equal prominence are giving their time and effort freely without compensation to make Minneapolis a better community.

~~It is understandable that during a campaign that the op-~~
~~position will use every weapon at its command.~~ My opponents have criticized my family. They have criticized my office associates. They have criticized my administration. They have indulged in campaign propaganda which borders on libel and slander. They have spread ugly rumors and deliberate falsehoods. This I can take,
But I resent the fact that anyone could be so malicious, so dis-
courteous and possess such audacity and downright effrontery as
to even ^{insinuate} intimate that men and women of the character and caliber
as I have here mentioned would, or could, become just figureheads
do-nothing artists in civic life.

(~~or~~) but when the opposition attacks the members of the Mayor's Committees--men and women of outstanding character and standing in this community--that I say is not only unfair, it is not only cheap politics ^{This is not an attack upon me} ~~it is an~~ insult to the integrity and the ability of these public spirited people and I don't like it!

I make this request of you--take an active interest in

your local government. This is your City. ~~This is the community~~
~~in which you will rear your family.~~ ^{Municipality} This City can only be as
good and as wholesome as we, the citizens, wish to make it. Our
City's destiny rests in our hands. It would be a singular
tragedy if by our indifference we fail to have an overwhelming
big vote on election day. ^{Monday May 12.} All too often our municipal elections
have resulted in a minority of our people selecting those who are
to be our public servants. This is not majority rule. This does
not give us an expression of the public will. ~~You can rest as-~~
~~sured that those who are interested in special privilege those~~
~~who live by illegal enterprises and illegitimate activities will~~
~~do everything in their power to elect their candidates to public~~
~~office. These are the public enemies which we must meet and de-~~
~~feat. These are the people who will spread whispers and rumors~~
~~and personal insults and will use every means of villification to~~
~~destroy all that we have gained in law enforcement and in a more~~
~~decent community.~~

There are those who are willing to use any and every means
of gaining power. I tell you in all sincerity that this type of
campaign sickens me. It is an insult to the intelligence of our
people, and it is a degradation of all that we mean by democracy.
I will not stoop to such methods. ~~I will not attack my opposition~~
~~by false words, rumors and slander, nor shall I attack the character,~~
the personal^{ity} nor the family of those who are my opponents. This
world of ours is already too full of fear and ~~hate~~. It is sick at
~~heart~~ and weak in spirit because of the power madness, the selfish-
ness and greed of men. It is necessary for the plain, ordinary,
decent people of this city to stand up and fight for a continuance
of our program of law enforcement. We must move ahead with our

industrial expansion and community redevelopment. In this post war period we can not fail in our responsibilities to the veteran and to the families of those who have given so much for our country. We must meet our problems of housing, of public health. We must work to gether to improve our cultural facilities of parks, libraries and schools. We must solemnly pledge to revitalize our municipal government. We must have confidence and faith in each other!

* * * * *

W404

May 11

Campaign Speech

Good evening, friends. Tomorrow, Monday, May 12, is an important day in the ~~unimportant~~ life of every Minneapolis citizen.

We are privileged to exercise our right of the ballot ^{on} Primary Election Day. It is at this time that we will select those persons whom we wish to see as the final contenders for public office in Minneapolis. This is important business, and particularly is this true when we realize that in so many areas of the world free elections are no longer known, and that where men and women do have the right of the ballot, it has come about only because millions of men and women have been willing to lay down their lives for freedom.

~~unimportant~~ I have tonight to discuss with

you

yes, Political elections are important. It is ~~unimportant~~ in the voting booth where we participate in the formulation of public policy. Our vote is symbolic of our interest in free institutions. Our vote demonstrates our love for the principle of government by the consent of the governed. We have taken much of this for granted. ^{Some people have} ~~We Americans have~~ come to believe that the basic rights which we so proudly possess can never be lost or taken away from us. The history of the modern world should be ample proof of the fallacy of such an assumption. It is only when a people is eternally vigilant and when they are ever alert to the issues of the day that democracy is preserved. Our vote is our secret weapon. It is the strength of our way of life.

The decision of our people is final, and may it ever be so. Yes, the free election, the secret ballot, is the basic foundation of our democratic liberties.

I make this plea to you tonight--take an active interest in your local government. This is your city. Its destiny rests in your hands, and it would be a singular tragedy if by our indifference we fail to have an overwhelming demonstration of civic participation by a big vote on election day. Yes, when we go into that election booth, we are active participants in government, and those who receive the majority have accepted an obligation and a responsibility that goes far beyond any private will or desire. Public life and public duty are great ^{honors} ~~honors~~, but at the same time they impose heavy obligations.

All too often our municipal elections have resulted in a minority of our people selecting those who are to be our public servants. This is not majority rule. This does not give an expression of the public will. A militant and informed electorate is a basic essential to our civic life and our governmental institutions.

In America today, as in no other country, the success of government must rest upon the capacity of the individual citizen to understand and manage his own political affairs. We cannot afford the waste and extravagance of being indifferent to the social, political and economic problems which face us. ~~Amman~~

I recognize, as you do, that local government in ~~mm~~ comparison to our federal government is a small business. Nevertheless, we must prove our capacity for self-government in our own community before we can expect honest and efficient administration at the higher levels. Isn't a pity that American politics, and particularly local politics, has often been found to be the plaything of those who feel no sense of responsibility and those who are willing to use any and every means of gaining power? ~~0-1-23~~

It is about time that the people demand of those who hold public office and aspire to it that a code of ethics, a set of standards, be adhered to in the election process. We can have municipal elections and national politics without injecting idle rumor, rancor or animosity. Men in public life can, and should, argue and debate the issues without a sense of bitterness. This world of ours is already too full of fear and hate. It is sick at heart and weak in spirit because of the selfishness and the power-madness of men. Every election should be conducted in the spirit of "peace on earth and good will towards men." This philosophy is based upon a concept of men of good will speaking and acting responsibly, always viewing the public interest, and recognizing the danger of false leadership.

Minneapolis is a city that has a great future. It has become known all over America as a community of fine homes, beautiful parks, and picturesque churches. We have every reason to be proud of our city. As a business and a commercial center, we are second to none in this Upper Midwest. As a center of the arts, literature and science, we have gained an enviable reputation. Minneapolis has become one of the great medical centers of our nation. We have gained international fame because of our ~~unusual~~ care of polio patients and the accomplishments of our research laboratories. All of these things add up to a dramatic story of a great city. ~~Unusual~~

Our community, however, like others, is facing an entire new set of circumstances. Sometimes we almost forget that World War #2 ~~is~~ changed this world and it has changed and affected Minneapolis just as it has every other city. The effects of this

change are noticeable in every home and every block and every Ward of our city. All we need to see is the appalling situation which faces us in the housing of our returned veterans. This indicates clearly enough what I mean when I say that we are confronted by almost overwhelming problems. Our city has grown from a large retail ~~mmmm~~ and wholesale center to an industrial area. Literally hundreds of new industries have sprung up during and since the war. A metropolitan area with great industries has within itself problems of social relationships, public health, education, recreation and leisure time activities that go far beyond that which we have ever known before. This is why we must take renewed interest in municipal affairs. This is why citizen participation in government is of such fundamental importance. There must be a partnership between government, business and labor. There must be a close understanding between all groups in our community. We must do everything within our power to ~~mm~~ learn the art of living together. Men and women of all races, creeds and nationalities must grow to respect one another. We must come to understand that our nation and our city are strong and prosperous primarily because we had practiced the principle of equal opportunity for all people. We threaten that prosperity, we destroy that unity only when, because of bigotry or intolerance, we set one group against another or fail to appreciate the contribution that every group and individual can^{make}/and has made to the general welfare.

Our Minneapolis is like a little United Nations. People of all nationalities, of all faiths, of different political parties, of diverse occupations have blended themselves together into one great family. We have demonstrated our ability to work

together in such fine civic enterprises as civilian defense, the Red Cross, the Community Chest Drive, the Victory Clothing collections, the Emergency Food Collections, and a host of other activities. What a thrill it is to be a part of this great community! What an experience in democratic living we enjoy when we join forces for that which is good and constructive. A hundred times over we have proven that if we want to do something, if we have made up our mind, to put across a program, there is no power that can stop us. It seems to me that somewhere I read where a great American said (quote) "We have it within ourselves to make this world over again." (end of quote) You and I know that is a great challenge. I for one know, however, that before we can make the world all over again, before we can assure ourselves of international peace and good will, we must begin at home, because it is here in our own city, on our own main street--on Hennepin and Nicollet Avenues--that we lay the groundwork and build the foundations of a strong America.

There are those today who are talking about a depression or a recession. There are those who view the future with fear and apprehension. People are constantly looking to Washington for help and guidance. We say it this way--pass ~~making~~ a law for this or that, and we look to Congress or to the assembly of the United Nations for our security. I wonder how many of us have thought about the operation of our own municipal government. Isn't it quite obvious that if we here in Minneapolis cannot so govern ourselves as to produce the type of a program that will make a better city, that this within itself will have some effect upon

the national pattern? It has always been my philosophy that we make our contribution to a better world and a better society by beginning at home. Such matters as juvenile delinquency ~~and~~ cannot be solved in Washington. This is a problem which rests in each and every home in the city and in each and every agency and institution of our civic life. We will make better citizens by strengthening our own community, and by searching out the points of infection and corruption in our own ~~town~~ ^{city}. It is up to us here in Minneapolis to so strengthen our educational, recreational and social services that we provide a wholesome environment for every citizen. In this manner we directly participate in building a better America. Problems of unemployment and labor management relationships are, of course, national in scope and importance, but if we here in Minneapolis can provide new jobs for willing workers, if we can work out a pattern of cooperation between labor and management, we will have made a direct contribution to the national welfare. I think it is only fair to say that already we have gained ~~a~~ recognition all over the nation for the splendid record that we have been able to maintain in this post-war period of production and of peaceful relationships between our management and labor. There isn't a city in the nation which has had a better record. We cannot be content, however--we must move along to even greater accomplishments.

It has been a great honor and privilege to be Mayor of this city. Mrs. Humphrey and I shall be ever grateful to the people of Minneapolis for the trust you have placed in us and the honor which you have bestowed upon us. I have but one wish, and one desire--to serve all the people of this fine city to the best of my ability, to dedicate my time and my efforts to the enrichment

of the lives of all of our citizens.

The government of the city of Minneapolis should serve all the people and that means that it should serve labor as well as it serves business--it should serve the poor man just as well as the rich man. It has been with your help and your understanding that Minneapolis has faced its daily problems and has planned for tomorrow. Minneapolis can and will move ~~on~~ to a greater future. We will continue with our program of industrial expansion and community redevelopment. Together we will meet our problems of housing, ^{and} /of public health. ~~and many other things~~ We will improve our parks, our libraries and educational facilities. Together we can and we will revitalize our municipal government. We must have faith in each other and trust and confidence in our ability to be masters of our own destiny.

CAMPAIGN SPEECH - WCCO - JUNE 3, 1947 - 5:45 P.M.
BY MAYOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

I imagine the dinner hour around your home is very much the way it is at ours. There is always a beehive of activity when Dad returns from work or when the members of the family come in from their respective jobs and children gather around for the evening meal. Unfortunately, because of the nature of my work as your Mayor, I have missed these evening dinners with my family. ~~In fact, I have missed so many of them that the evening meal is one where Mrs. Humphrey and the children never expect me.~~ But I do know that in the average home in our city this period just before six o'clock is one where you have a few moments to sit down, read the paper and possibly to visit with your family for a while.

I greatly appreciate your willingness to give me 15 minutes of your time while I review for you some of the activities and programs of these past two years.

We are
~~I look to you as~~ shareholders in our government. This campaign provides a means of reporting to the shareholders in our municipal corporation. Together we can total up the balance sheet of the past two years and plan our programs of improvement and development for the future.

Yes, I say, let's open up the books--let's look at the record. I became your Mayor on July 2, 1945. I found our city deep in debt. Every cash reserve with the exception of that earmarked for the upper harbor project was gone. Certain pension funds were in the red. Vast improvements were needed in our public buildings, our mechanical equipment and our municipal facilities. During the war years, municipal government like many private business establishments went along without any expenditure for new structures or new equipment.

I look back upon that day of July 2 and I remember my first reactions to the financial plight of our municipality. From 1940 to 1945 we had heavy payrolls in Minneapolis--wartime profits--but during that period the previous administrations had not attempted to pay off the debt or to build up reserves. We went along leaving the tax structure as it was and basically ignoring the effect of the rising costs of materials and labor. You know what this means. We^{had} used our extra resources. We^{had} exploited that which we had. I found a city in 1945 that was coming into a period of inflation, with demand for additional services, and increased costs for materials and labor--a city without extra money, a city in debt to the tune of approximately 66 million dollars, a city that needed repairs and modernization in every branch of its government.

No, this is not to complain, but you, as stockholders--as shareholders in this municipality, must know these things. < Then what did we do? What was the program?

First of all, I made it my business to call into the service of municipal government some of the outstanding civic leaders of our community. One program after another was mapped out. The Mayor's Tax and Finance Commission set itself to the difficult job of studying our municipal finances. That program has been carried out and today the final report was made at a special meeting. A^{city} finance program was developed for the Legislature. That program in part was accomplished. Deficits which were staring us in the face have been eliminated. Our city government has been on a "pay-as-you-go" basis. City equipment which was worn out during the war years has been replaced. New police cars, new city engineering equipment, repairs to our hospital and our workhouse, repairs to our streets and boulevards--all of these things which were left undone during the war years have been undertaken and are either completed or in the final stages of completion right now.

~~Yes, I have made it my business to call upon the people of this city to work with me. Ours is a job of working together. This is our city. It does not belong to any one group and it surely does not belong to me. I am happy to say that I have always received the cooperation of our civic leaders. Never have I called upon a group to help but what the assistance was generously offered.~~

I think, however, that we should keep in mind that it isn't possible to rehabilitate and repair an entire city in a period of a few short months. Take for example our municipal debt. We have been accumulating that for a half a century and it cannot be eradicated or eliminated over night. I am proud to say, however, we have reduced that debt by over 10 million dollars in two years. Then, to speak of taxes and finance, and in view of some of the ill-founded and unsubstantiated comments of my opposition, it is important to know that an analysis of our tax structure reveals only a 14% increase in city taxes for all purposes including schools since the early 1930's. In the meantime, our county rate has increased 62% and our state property tax rate has increased 86%.

Your municipal government has not been extravagant. To be quite frank with you, it just hasn't had the money to be extravagant or wasteful nor under our charter do we have the powers to obtain such money. I am proud to say that we have lived within those revenues and at the same time made a marked reduction in municipal debt.

~~I have often wondered during this campaign when I have heard these "Johnny-come-lately" financial wizards criticize this city just where they were when the Legislature was in session. You see, Minneapolis pays a great deal of money to the state treasury and we have asked for a fair and equitable sharing of that tax money. Where was my opposition when that fight was being made? Those who now cry crocodile tears over the financial situation were~~

conveniently absent when we were seeking financial aid from the Legislature. That was the time when we needed support from every one in Minneapolis. We had a program that provided a sound and firm revenue structure for your city today and tomorrow.

Municipal government is more than a tax-collecting agency. Your city government is part of your family. It's part of your business. It's part of your life. Your city government gives you hundreds of direct and personal services. The streets you drive on, the parks and playgrounds you use for recreation, your schools, your libraries, the public health facilities all come out of your tax dollar through your city government. The protection of your property through building codes and zoning comes from your city government. The protection of your property and personal safety is provided through your Fire and Police Departments. In case of an accident or a sudden health emergency, your city hospital stands ready to serve you. Yes, your city government stands beside you as a partner.

Our city government is so close to us, and we are so much a part of it, that it is clearly understandable why we generate so much heat and emotion during a municipal campaign. But, let's try to look at it objectively. Of course, laboring people are interested in city government. Of course, the trade unions are interested in who will serve as aldermen or as Mayor. So are the business people. So are those in the professions and so are our old people who depend upon government for aid and help in the twilight of their life.

After all, why shouldn't people be concerned about government. Government in this country is the people's business and, believe me, if the people want good government, they had better take care of it. ~~Good government requires that people go to the ballot box and cast their vote.~~

~~Government by the consent of the governed is only possible when~~

~~people demonstrate sufficient interest in their government to give their consent or register their protest.~~

~~Having reviewed briefly the tax and finance situation, let us open the account book of our record to other matters.~~ *now, back to the record -*

As your Mayor, I secured extension of the Federal Aid Program to our Child Care Centers. I obtained payment from the Federal government of approximately \$175,000 for materials requisitioned from the City of Minneapolis prior to the war. I sponsored in the Board of Public Welfare consolidation of our public health and community health nurses, making it one integrated program, thereby providing better public health service to our people. As your Mayor, I helped to initiate and sponsor the present community chest x-ray survey. This program gives free chest x-rays to all Minneapolis citizens above fifteen years of age at no cost to the individual and no additional cost to the taxpayers of this city.

The report further reveals that as your Mayor I sponsored the transfer of our Parkview Hospital to a non-profit medical corporation, thus providing a saving of not less than \$150,000 per year to Minneapolis taxpayers.

We all remember the serious polio epidemic. As your Mayor, I established the Emergency Polio Committee and gave personal direction to the work of that committee. I called upon our Health Department and the Community Agencies to establish an Emergency Polio Center in order to coordinate all medical services in this city for polio treatment. Fort Snelling and Wold Chamberlain Naval Hospitals were given free of charge to Minneapolis because of my direct request to the President of the United States. The Minnesota Polio Research Commission was established, and today vast programs of research are being carried out at our University under the auspices of this Commission-- an organization which was created and inaugurated in the Mayor's Office.

Extensive repairs have been made to our municipal hospital. A complete survey of its facilities, has been made by the U.S. Public Health Service. Plans for a new and modernized hospital have been completed and a federal grant of over \$90,000 has been obtained so that we could prepare these plans and specifications. Relief costs have been the lowest in the history of the city. These are but a few of the achievements in the field of public welfare and health.

I will not dwell upon our record in law enforcement. You know it! Never in the history of this city, according to impartial observers, has Minneapolis had a finer program of law enforcement. The Police Department has been reorganized. New systems of accounting and records have been established. Constant in-service police training is an integral part of our law enforcement activity. Every officer has been trained in first aid. Squad cars are equipped with fire extinguishers, first aid equipment, and other emergency materials. The outstanding record of our former Chief of Police, Ed Ryan, and our present Chief, Glenn MacLean, is a challenge to every law enforcement officer in the nation.

In the field of human relations we can point with justifiable pride to our record. The Mayor's Council on Human Relations, under the chairmanship of Reverend Reuben Youngdahl, has done an outstanding job. A Fair Employment Practices Ordinance has been passed. A similar Commission has been established. An extensive community self-survey, directed towards eliminating racial and religious intolerance, has been completed.

In the field of youth welfare services, we have undertaken expansion of our park and recreational facilities. Our juvenile bureau of the Police Department has been strengthened. Our school patrol has been expanded. Specific

projects of community park development have been assigned to civic groups. At this very hour we are in the process of organizing a Minneapolis Youth Commission which will make an extensive inventory of every facility and every agency in this community at work in the field of youth welfare. This Youth Commission will likewise plan and formulate more extensive programs of youth welfare for the future.

~~Yes, we have been at work in a score of different fields of endeavor. Even such apparently unspectacular activities as Smoke Prevention have been given our attention and a smoke inspector has been appointed and he is doing his job.~~

Others have spoken to you about our efforts in behalf of the veteran and his family. As your Mayor, I have deemed it a privilege to have actively participated in such programs as the reinstatement of G. I. Insurance, Veterans Re-employment and Rehabilitation Programs. I established a veterans' consultation service in the Mayor's Office, employing out of our meager expense funds a World War II veteran, experienced in veterans' re-employment and rehabilitation services.

We have ceaselessly attacked the critical housing shortage. You know --and I know--that seldom a day has gone by but what some new effort has been made in behalf of veterans' housing by the Mayor's Office. I am proud to point to our record of accomplishment. Over 8,000 veterans and their families in Minneapolis have been housed under these emergency programs. I pledge with all my faith and honor a relentless drive to overcome this housing shortage and to give to our veterans the helping hand of this community as they seek to establish themselves and their families in Minneapolis.

Time does not permit me to go into detail about our plans for a modern public library, a public safety building, and our efforts towards the fulfillment of our dream of a civic center, but I can tell you this--that we

are hard at work upon these projects and they offer us new challenges for the future.

That persistent problem of fifty years standing--the grade separations, or as we commonly say, the grade "crossings" in south Minneapolis, has now been mastered. We are ready to go. Final plans and designs are being completed. Construction will be under way and that blight upon our community which has resisted all efforts of settlement for a half a century has now been conquered. The year 1948 will see work upon Cedar and Franklin grade crossings and then we will move to the Washington Avenue viaduct.

Friends, I submit to you that this is a record of hard work. This is performance. This is action--not reaction! But, we have just begun to fight. We have just begun to look forward. This city of ours is the metropolis of the Upper Midwest. It is a city of homes, of fine decent people, of alert and ingenious businessmen, and of competent and skilled workers. We will move ahead in making Minneapolis the "city beautiful." I offer you a call to action --a call to community service. The next two years will find us bending our efforts towards modernizing and strengthening our city government through charter revision and through the creation of a central Department of Finance and Budgeting to provide economy and efficiency of government operation.

We will proceed with our public works and civic development to include completion of the modernization and expansion of our General Hospital, the creation of plans leading to the construction of a new Public Safety Building, and a modern central Library. We will move from plans on the engineers' drafting boards to construction in the streets on the grade separation program and the Washington Avenue viaduct. We will immediately utilize the new State legislation which gives us the opportunity to promote projects leading to the solution of parking and traffic in our business district. We will fundamentally attack

our emergency and long-range housing program through the establishment of a Municipal Housing Authority--an authority with power to act in emergency veterans' housing, low-rent housing for low income groups, slum clearance and urban redevelopment. We will create a Municipal Youth Commission to coordinate and implement all youth welfare programs. We will carry out the recommendations of the Mayor's Tax and Finance Commission for municipal government reform. We will give unceasing effort to our programs of expansion and improvement of education, park and recreation facilities. We will dedicate our efforts, our resources, to continuing the progress in our programs of public health, human relations, law enforcement, and care for the dependent and the aged. We will establish a formalized program of labor-management relations, on a municipal level, which will guarantee to Minneapolis industrial expansion and high economic productivity.

This is our call to action! Let no man delay us. Let no special group or vested interest stand in our way. The people of Minneapolis see a bright future. The dawn of a new day has come to us and we are hard at work in the sunlight of our strength.

SPEECH BY MAYOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY ON WCCO ON JUNE 6, 1947

In America today as in no other country the success of government must rest upon the ability of the individual citizen to understand and manage his own political affairs. The challenge of democratic living is one that imposes heavy responsibilities. Our politics and the manner in which we conduct ourselves in campaigns and in public office is of great importance to democratic government. Our way of life requires a sense of self-discipline and an everlasting crusade of seeking the truth. We believe in competition. However, our competitive system is surrounded by rules of order and fair play. The law of the jungle, the technique of the power hungry--these are foreign to our way of life.

In my first radio address of May 5 I pledged to the people of this city that I would not resort to a campaign of slander, of rumor, or of untruth, nor would I attack the character, the personality or the background of my opponent. ~~I respect my opponent and his family, and I will repudiate any attack or smear by any person made against him. It is my feeling that I was merely reciting the rules of fair play in clean American politics. All too often American politics has found itself to be the plaything of those who feel no sense of responsibility and those who are willing to use any and every means of gaining power and destroying the reputation and character of the opposition.~~ <Too often have whispers and slander and personal insults overshadowed the real issues.> ~~Too often there have been those who would bear false witness against their neighbor and against their opponent for the sake of a momentary advantage. I thought that we could conduct this election campaign in the spirit of truth and honest discussion of issues.~~ I believe that we can have municipal elections without resorting to the tactics of the racketeer or the political boss. Men in public life can argue and debate the issues without a sense of bitterness. In this spirit I have tried to conduct my campaign upon a high level of intellectual honesty and decency. ~~I have presented our program. I have~~

~~reviewed my record, and I have issued to the people of this city a call to action~~
~~--a call to community service in behalf of a finer and better Minneapolis.~~

Tonight I must confess that my opposition has not seen fit to carry out this type of campaign. Their ads in the newspapers, the radio speeches, the campaign meetings, have clearly revealed a contempt for decency and fair play. They have resorted to the tactic of telling the "Big Lie" and telling it over and over again in the hope that people will believe it. The theme of my opposition has been-- "destroy Humphrey"--"tear him down"--"get things into the record that will destroy the confidence of the people in their Mayor." If I correctly interpret the wishes of our people, they are sick and tired of cheap, slanderous, petty politics. The American people are intelligent citizens that want to have an honest discussion of issues. ~~It is an insult to their intelligence to make a political campaign a~~
~~"police gazette."~~

So let's be on with the campaign. Let's get out of the political gutter and move to the high ground of discussing issues and programs.

My opposition has been acting very much like that story book character, Don Quixote--charging full steam ahead, striking in all directions in a frantic and futile hope that they may hit upon an issue.

The first charge of my opponent was that our law enforcement program was a myth--that it just didn't exist. Then came along the truth, not only from the official reports of the FBI, not only from our Hennepin County Sheriff Ed Ryan and the chairman of the Governor's Law Enforcement Committee, Mr. Bradshaw Mintener--but the newspaper editorials have made it crystal clear that the charges of my opponent are untrue and demonstrate either a gross ignorance of the situation or a willful distortion of the truth. Wednesday night of this week my opposition admitted in clear-cut terms that the laws were being enforced. ~~It~~ ^{I trust} ~~is~~ that issue is now disposed of. The Mayor of this city has enforced the law. The people say so, the press says so,

the FBI says so, and even now my political opposition admits it.

Having found out that the ^{tactic of the} "Big Lie" didn't work in their attack upon our law enforcement program, the opposition moved to new fields. What was the next issue ~~that they~~ ^{my opposition} so loudly proclaimed? ~~They~~ ^{have} declared that we ~~had~~ failed the veteran in the veterans housing program. That was strange talk to be coming from the opposition camp because the gentleman who made that speech is the very same person who, as a state senator and chairman of the Senate Public Welfare Committee, voted ^{would make a greatly expanded} against provisions in the General Housing Bill which ~~was~~ possible, an emergency veterans housing program--an article which would have relaxed building codes so that emergency veterans housing could be more readily provided, an article which would have asked the State of Minnesota to share with the municipalities the responsibility for emergency veterans housing. This was done despite the fact that when I appeared before the Senate Committee asking for this additional assistance, I was supported in my request by representatives of every veterans organization in the state, along with many civic and fraternal groups. My opposition knows this to be true, and the shameful spectacle of deliberate falsehood is not becoming to men who are in public office, or who aspire to it.

Then what is the true record in veterans housing? My first act as Mayor was to call a conference of architects, engineers, contractors, labor representatives, and others to design a program to meet the housing emergency. This group formed itself into a committee. It met regularly. It examined and surveyed every possibility to utilize existing housing to full capacity, and to obtain temporary housing wherever it could be found. At one time, the Mayor's Office had over 8,000 applications for housing.

With a sense of humility I point to our accomplishments. A trailer camp of over one hundred units was established, and has been fully occupied, giving shelter to over 600 persons. Every trailer is occupied by a veteran, his wife, and one or

more children. Every precaution was taken in terms of health and sanitation. Playground space is provided. Recreational rooms for adults were established.

In addition to the program of obtaining temporary units, an all-out "Shelter-A-Vet" campaign was conducted with the cooperation of business, press and radio to obtain spare rooms and any other available living space. This resulted in the opening of approximately 1,500 housing units to veterans and their families. Churches were called upon to make house-to-house solicitations for unused space. Women's clubs were organized into an over-all city committee and staged a "House A Hero" campaign. This endeavor yielded living quarters for over 800 veterans and their families.

~~Every week through the radio and the press I have appealed for housing space.~~

~~The Minneapolis Housing Bureau has handled thousands of requests and furnished~~
~~a total of 6,217 housing units for~~
~~veterans and their families.~~

As a part of our emergency housing program, I appealed to the City Council to declare a housing emergency and to empower the Board of Welfare to act. \$150,000 of funds were provided. The Motley School was converted into apartments. The Stowe School was likewise remodeled. Application was made for temporary housing units from the federal government. Today approximately 500 families are being housed in quonset huts under this program. An average of 35 new homes per week are being completed. ^{through all these programs} To date we have provided housing for over 8,000 veterans and their families.

Always confronted with shortage of critical materials, direct appeals were made to Washington and other cities. Every available means at our disposal has been, and is being used to speed up the housing program. It was because of my direct request to the President of the United States and to the War Department that we were able to speed up the demolition of the Gopher Ordnance Works. This

was vital to our housing program. Critical materials were made available, and we were able to get them because we went directly to responsible authority.

During my two years as Mayor I requested special sessions of the Legislature to deal specifically with the emergency veterans housing problem. Repeatedly I outlined programs which were working in other areas of the nation and urged that these be adopted in our state. Again and again I requested general housing legislation, and I say quite candidly that it has been because of these requests, because of the effort we have put forth, along with hundreds of others, that today we have a general housing law--a law which came to us 10 years late--a law which was passed after all federal funds for assistance had been expended in other states --but at least we have a law, and it will be helpful.

I submit to you that our record has been one of action--not one of reaction. We have been on the job in the field of housing and the hundreds of veterans in this community who have been housed because of these programs are today adequate witness to our achievement. The veterans of Minneapolis appreciate our work. Never will I forget ~~the~~ when on my birthday a group of veterans and their wives from our emergency housing projects came to my office and presented me with a lovely birthday cake along with hundreds of birthday cards. These veterans are supporting me in my campaign. They know ^{well} ~~that at all times as Mayor of this city~~ ^{we} have given preference to veterans in appointments and have worked with them on every occasion in such programs as veterans' rehabilitation and re-employment, the reinstatement of G.I. insurance and in innumerable personal matters. Tonight I express my thanks and appreciation to them and their families. Their infinite patience, their cooperative spirit, and their good citizenship are a testimonial to their character and greatness.

But my opposition and their ghost writers have moved to what they consider more fertile fields of criticism. What is the topic? You guessed it--city finances!

How they cry crocodile tears over the financial situation. But, what did they do when the Legislature was in session? a Legislature which has supreme power over this city and which tells us what we can do and what we can't do in terms of taxation and finance? I wonder, is my opposition so grossly unaware and ill-informed of our charter that they do not know that the City of Minneapolis is rigidly limited in its tax powers. Are they so uninformed that they do not know that every single activity of our government even to the point of snow removal and the trimming of the trees on our boulevards is financed under a tax which is definitely set in the charter and not within the discretion of our public officials? It would seem to me that when one aspires to be Mayor of the City of Minneapolis, a knowledge of the charter would be a basic essential.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the opposition camp just hasn't read the charter or attempted to understand it. Nor have they studied honestly and intelligently the finance situation and the tax situation in this city. Listen to this ridiculous charge. My opposition, as of February 1945, openly stated we were engaging in a "spend and spend and tax and tax policy," and even recommending such fantastic expenditures as a 20 million dollar bond issue for municipal improvements. What sort of a wild dream is this! What madness grips men's minds to make such ridiculous statements. Let's just take a look at the record and see what has been done. I became Mayor of this city July 2, 1945. I found our net municipal debt to be approximately \$63,600,000. I found every reserve gone. I found our mechanical equipment in every department had been exploited during the war years with no replacement. ~~and~~ our pension funds ^{were} in the red. I found not a single cent of reserve capital other than that earmarked for the upper harbor. I found that during the war years, when we had big payrolls and huge war profits, instead of paying off our city debt, instead of accumulating reserves to take care of needed replacements when materials and equipment were available after the war,

I found that we had coasted--gone along borrowing money to pay bonds, we had used whatever resources we had, we had failed to repair our buildings and replenish our equipment--all in the name of what some people would call "economy," but what I call being penny-wise and dollar foolish. Well, here's the record, my friends. Despite all the shouting and protesting of the opposition, our municipal debt has been reduced approximately Eleven - as of June 1. ten million dollars in less than 2 years. Interest payments are down. Our bonds are all within a 10 year limit. We have reversed the dangerous policy of deficit financing and have been moving along the lines of pay-as-you-go. We presented to the Legislature for the first time in many a year a well-organized and comprehensive municipal finance program. We have eliminated deficits from our budgets. We have done all of this despite the tremendous rise in costs in services, materials and labor. There isn't a man in the city or a housewife but who will agree that living costs have gone up and labor costs and material costs have rapidly increased. These costs, my friends, are likewise reflected in your city government. The city must buy materials. The city hires labor. The city requires professional services. The city in its care for dependent people purchases food, clothing and rent. Despite all of this postwar inflation, the municipal taxes including schools have increased only 14%, and out of that 14% increase we have paid \$11,000,000 for reducing debt; we have paid the costs of our hospital which in prior years was financed by borrowing; we have expanded our park, library and educational programs; we have accumulated reserves for our pension funds; we have replaced our equipment in the City Engineering Department; we have bought new squad cars which were needed for our Police Department; we have repaired our public buildings; and we have been able to pay our city workers a living wage.

I submit to you that this is a good record in municipal financing, but to it I add that for the first time we have had a complete study of our city finances by a Tax and Finance Commission under the chairmanship of one of the nation's fore-

*What did they do when the Legislature was in Session -
a legislature which has supreme power over this city, & tells
us what we can or cannot do in taxation.*

most tax experts--Dr. Roy Blakey of the University of Minnesota. We have analyzed every Department of our city government through the expert services and facilities of the Public Administration Service of Chicago; we have proposed drastic charter reform to give us a centralized Department of Budgeting and Finance. Now, compare this with what has been going on in other places. Can the State of Minnesota say that it has reduced its taxes and curtailed its expenditures when you and I know that state expenditures have increased since 1937 by almost 300%. Is my opposition unaware of the fact that in the tax statement you receive, the Hennepin County government increase has been 62%, and the state government property tax increase has been 86%? Compare that to the city increase of 14%. Where is all of this extravagance? Where is this "spend and spend" program? If there is any of it, apparently the opposition is in the wrong city with its speeches. Where was my opposition when we needed help in our struggle to receive a fair and equitable share of state collected revenues? This would have relieved the tax problem in Minneapolis. Could it be that their time was consumed in an attempt to obtain 15 extra liquor licenses, and in fighting the Governor's slot machine bill. If I can read the newspaper reports correctly, during the Legislative session that is exactly what they were doing. Now, the "holier than thou" attitude comes out, but when the Legislature was in session, those who now oppose me were opposing Minneapolis.

Together during these past two years we have constructed a program for making our city a finer place in which to live. We are on the way. We are not going to be stopped. We will let no ^{special} ~~public~~ interest or special privilege group hold us back. We will revise and revitalize our city government through charter reform. We will continue our aggressive program of law enforcement. We will expand our facilities for youth welfare. We will improve and maintain our schools, parks, and libraries. We will courageously move ahead in the clearance of our poor housing districts and blighted areas. We will dedicate our efforts and our resources to improve our

programs of public health, human relations, and the care of the dependent and aged. We will establish a finer pattern of labor-management relations which will guarantee to Minneapolis industrial expansion and high economic productivity. This is our call to action. The people of Minneapolis see a bright future. The dawn of a new day has come to us and we are hard at work in the sunlight of our strength.

Call Mrs. Mantener in R
Dinner some eve
16 7780.
~~17th 78th or 20th~~

SPEECH BY MAYOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY ON W.C.C.O. JUNE 6, 1947

In America today as in no other country the success of government must rest upon the ability of the individual citizen to understand and manage his own political affairs. ~~Our government is government by the consent of the governed. We have repudiated for once and for all minority rule, or dictatorship. We as Americans, and as believers in democracy, hold in contempt dictatorship, whether it be dictatorship of the right or of the left. Fascism and its followers, Communism and its fellow travelers, have no place in the American way of life. Our answer to them and their creed must be a working democracy—a nation which has dedicated its energies towards the development of individual personality and the enrichment of the lives of every citizen, regardless of race, color, or creed.~~ The challenge of democratic living is one that imposes heavy responsibilities. Our politics and the manner in which we conduct ourselves in campaigns and in public office is of great importance to ~~the~~ democratic ^{government's} ~~purposes.~~ ~~Our political system is based upon high moral principles: the dignity of the individual freedom of conscience and the brotherhood of mankind.~~ Our way of life requires a sense of self-discipline and an everlasting crusade of seeking the truth. We believe in competition. ~~We believe in it in the market place, but even more, we believe in competition of ideas.~~ However, our competitive system is ~~circumscribed~~ and surrounded by rules of order and fair play. The law of the jungle, ~~the tactic of the barbarian,~~ the technique of the power hungry—these are foreign to our way of life.

~~I must confess, however, that in this campaign, in these past few days, just as in the last days just before the Primary Election, my opposition has seen fit to resort to the tactic of the Nazi and the Communist—the subtle and subversive underhanded technique of telling the big lie. Yes, that's what Hitler said—tell the people lies. Tell them big lies and tell them over and over again and~~

~~they will believe them.~~ In my first radio address of May 5 I pledged to the people of this city that I would not resort to a campaign of slander, of rumor, or of untruth, ~~I said that I would~~ ^{now} ~~not~~ attack the character, the personality or the background of my opponent. ~~I stated categorically that I respect my opponent~~ and his family, and ~~that I would~~ ^{will} repudiate any attack or smear by any person made against him. It ^{is} ~~was~~ my feeling that I was merely reciting the rules of fair play in clean American politics. ~~All too often American politics has found itself to~~ ^{But} be the plaything of those who feel no sense of responsibility and those who are willing to use any and every means of gaining power and destroying the reputation and character of the opposition. Too often have whispers and slander and personal insults overshadowed the real issues. Too often there have been those who would bear false witness against their neighbor and against their opponent for the sake of a momentary advantage. I thought that we could conduct this election campaign in the spirit of truth and honest discussion ^{of} ~~issues.~~ I believe, and ~~I will continue to conduct myself,~~ that we can have municipal elections without resorting to the tactics of the racketeer or the political boss. Men in public life can argue and debate the issues without a sense of bitterness, ~~and I have asked that this election be conducted in the spirit of peace on earth and good will towards men.~~ In this spirit I have tried to conduct my campaign upon a high level of intellectual honesty and decency. I have presented our program. I have reviewed my record, and I have issued to the people of this city a call to action—a call to community service in behalf of a finer and better Minneapolis.

Tonight I must confess that my opposition has not seen fit to carry out this type of ~~they have used the~~ campaign. Their ads in the newspapers, the radio speeches, the campaign meetings, have clearly revealed a contempt for decency and fair play. The theme of my opposition has been —"destroy Humphrey" — "tear him down" — get things into the record that will destroy the confidence of the people in their mayor. ~~and~~

They have resorted to the tactic of telling the "Big Lie" and telling it over & over again in the hope that people will believe it.

opposition has openly admitted by public statement that they do not believe it possible to defeat me, but that they must cut me down to size and stop me ~~any~~ ~~tactics~~ lest I be a threat to what they term their political power and aspirations. It is my understanding that this campaign is for the office of Mayor, not one of vilification and character assassination. If I correctly interpret the wishes of our people, they are sick and tired of cheap, slanderous, petty politics. The American people are intelligent citizens that want to have an honest discussion of issues. It is an insult to their intelligence to make a political campaign a police gazette. ~~It is a repudiation of American ideals to employ the Soviet technique of telling the big lie, and telling it over and over again in every conceivable means.~~

So let's be on with the campaign. Let's get out of the political ~~sewer~~ ^{gutter} and ~~move~~ ^{move} to the high ground of discussing issues and programs. ^{My} My opposition has been acting very much like ~~the old story of~~ ^{that Storybook character,} Don Quixote--charging full steam ahead, striking in all directions in a frantic and futile hope that they may hit upon an issue.

^{charge of} The First ~~it was categorically stated by~~ ^{was} my opponent, that our law enforcement program was a myth--that it just didn't exist. Then came along the truth, not only ~~from our reports of efficient law enforcement,~~ ^{the F.B.I.} not only from ~~my supporters~~ ^{the Chairman of the Governors Law Enforcement Committee,} ~~like our Hennepin County Sheriff Ed Ryan and a distinguished citizen such as~~ ^{have} Bradshaw Mintener--but the newspaper editorials, ^{Capital} made it ~~quite~~ clear that the charges of my opponent ~~that we had failed in the field of law enforcement was simply~~ ^{are} ~~untrue~~ ^{untrue} and demonstrated either a gross ignorance of the situation or a willful distortion of the truth. Wednesday night of this week my opposition admitted in clear-cut terms that the laws were being enforced. So that issue is now disposed of. The mayor of this city has enforced the law. The people say so, the press says so, the F.B.I. says so, and even now my political opposition admits it.

~~I wonder if my opposition realizes that one of the major tasks of the mayor of this city is the responsibility for the police department and law enforcement.~~

~~That is a responsibility which is clearly outlined in our Charter. The Police~~

~~Department is the one department in the city over which the mayor has command~~

~~and supervision. I think it is a great tribute to my administration that my~~ *as your mayor I have fulfilled my responsibility*

~~political opposition frankly confesses that I have done a good job and that the~~

~~Police Department is enforcing the city ordinances and the state laws. I express~~

~~my thanks to my opposition for their belated recognition of this accomplishment.~~

Having found out that the "big lie" didn't work in ^{their} ~~an~~ attack upon our law

enforcement program, the opposition moved to new fields. What was the next issue

that they so loudly proclaimed? ~~Ah, here it is--late as it was, the opposition~~ *they*

~~finally came to the conclusion that we had failed the veteran in the veterans~~ *declared*

housing program. That was strange talk to be coming from the opposition camp

because the gentleman who made that speech about our supposed and alleged failure

~~in veterans housing is the~~ *is the person who* very same gentleman who, as a state senator and chairman

of the Senate Public Welfare Committee, voted ~~against Article 5 of the General~~

~~Housing Bill before the legislature, an article~~ *provisions in the General Housing Bill*

veterans housing program--an article which would have relaxed building codes so

that emergency veterans housing could be more readily provided, an article which

would have asked the State of Minnesota to share with the municipalities the

responsibility for emergency veterans housing. ~~Yes, I flatly state without any~~

~~fear of contradiction, that my opposition, during the period of the legislature~~

~~when there was an opportunity to strengthen our veterans emergency housing program,~~

~~fought against it, destroyed it, and deliberately sabotaged it. This was done~~

despite the fact that when I appeared before the Senate Committee asking for this

additional assistance, I was supported in my request by representatives of every

veterans organization in the state, along with many civic and fraternal groups.

My opposition knows this to be true, and the shameful spectacle of deliberate

falsehood is not becoming to men who are in public office, or who aspire to it.

Then what is the true record in veterans housing? My first act as Mayor was to call a conference of architects, engineers, contractors, labor representatives, and others to design a program to meet the housing emergency. This group formed itself into a committee. It met regularly. It examined and surveyed every possibility to utilize existing housing to full capacity, and to obtain temporary housing wherever it could be found. At one time, the Mayor's office had over 8,000 applications for housing.

With a sense of humility I point to our accomplishments. A trailer camp of over one hundred units was established, and has been fully occupied, giving shelter to over 600 persons. Every trailer is occupied by a veteran, his wife, and one or more children. Every precaution was taken in terms of health and sanitation. Playground space is provided. Recreational rooms for adults were established.

In addition to the program of obtaining temporary units, an all-out "Shelter-A-Vet" campaign was conducted with the cooperation of business, press and radio to obtain spare rooms and any other available living space. This resulted in the opening of approximately 1,500 housing units to veterans and their families. Churches were called upon to make house-to-house solicitations for unused space. Women's clubs were organized into an over-all city committee and staged a "House A Hero" campaign. This endeavor yielded living quarters for over 800 veterans and their families.

Every week through the radio and the press I have appealed for housing space. The Minneapolis Housing Bureau has handled thousands of requests and found living quarters for 6,217 veterans and their families.

As a part of our emergency housing program, I appealed to the City Council to declare a housing emergency and to empower the Board of Welfare to act. \$150,000 of funds were provided. The Motley School was converted into apartments. The

Stowe School was likewise remodeled. Application was made for temporary housing units from the federal government. Today approximately 500 families are being housed in quonset huts under this program. An average of 35 new homes per week are being completed. To date we have provided housing for over 8,000 veterans and their families.

Always confronted with shortage of critical materials, direct appeals were made to Washington and other cities. Every available means at our disposal has been, and is being, used to speed up the housing program. It was because of my direct request to the President of the United States and to the War Department that we were able to speed up the demolition of the Gopher Ordnance Works. This was vital to our housing program. Critical materials were made available, and we were able to get them because we went directly to responsible authority.

~~Repeatedly~~ During my two years as Mayor I requested ~~of our legislature~~ special sessions of the legislature to deal specifically with the emergency veterans housing problem. Repeatedly I outlined programs which were working in other areas of the nation and urged that these be adopted in our state. ^{Again & Again} ~~Repeatedly~~ I requested general housing legislation, and I say quite candidly that it has been because of these requests, because of the effort we have put forth, along with hundreds of others, that today we have a general housing law--a law which came to us 10 years late--a law which was passed after all federal funds for assistance had been expended in other states--but at least we have a law, and it will be helpful. ~~REDACTED~~

~~Now my opposition knows just as well as I do that the City of Minneapolis has only such powers and authority as ~~now~~ are granted in the Charter or by the state legislature. We were one of the few cities in the nation without specific authority in the field of housing. We were one of 5 states in the union without a housing law. Despite these limitations, we moved ahead, and it is a matter of record that Minneapolis has done a creditable job in the field of emergency housing, and that we have been recognized by the National Association of Housing Officials for our accomplishments in this field.~~

Veterans Support

I submit to you that our record has been one of action--not one of reaction. We have been on the job in the field of housing, and the ~~hundreds of thousands~~ of veterans in this community ^{who} have been housed because of these programs are today adequate witness to our achievement. ^(X)~~The record I have cited, which is the official record of this City, is an irrefutable answer to the malicious charge of the opposition. Now that takes care of Issue No. 2--Veterans' Housing. The boogieman and the scare crow just do not impress intelligent people.~~

But my opposition and their ghost writers have moved to what they consider more fertile fields of criticism. What is the topic? You guessed it--City finances! ~~My, oh my,~~ Now they cry crocodile tears over the financial situation. But, ~~my, oh my,~~ what did they do when the Legislature was in session?--a Legislature which has supreme power over this City and which tells us what we can do and what we can't do in terms of taxation and finance? I wonder, is my opposition so grossly unaware and ^{ill-informed} ~~ignorant~~ of our Charter that they do not know that the City of Minneapolis is rigidly limited in its tax powers. Are they so uninformed that they do not know that every single activity of our government--even to the point of snow removal and the trimming of the trees on our boulevards--is financed under ~~a definite Charter tax, a~~ ^{millage} ~~tax which is not flexible,~~ ^{in the charter} a tax which is definitely set, and not within the discretion of our public officials? It would seem to me that when one aspires to be Mayor of the City of Minneapolis, a knowledge of the Charter ~~of our City constitution~~ would be a basic essential.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the opposition camp just hasn't read the Charter or attempted to understand it. Nor have they studied honestly and intelligently the finance situation and the tax situation in this City. Listen to this ridiculous charge. My

opposition, as of Wednesday night, openly stated we were engaging in a "spend and spend and tax and tax policy", and even recommending such fantastic expenditures as a twenty million dollar bond issue for municipal improvements. What sort of a ~~delusionation~~ ^{wild dream} is this! What madness grips men's minds to make such ridiculous statements. Let's just take a look at the record and see what has been done. I became Mayor of this City July 2, 1945. I found our net municipal debt to be approximately \$63,000,000. I found every reserve gone. I found that our mechanical equipment in every department had been expbited during the war years, with no replacement. I found our Pension Funds in the red. I found not a single cent of reserve capital other than that earmarked for the upper harbor. I ~~also~~ found that during the war years, when we had big payrolls and huge war profits, instead of paying off our City debt, instead of accumulating reserves to take care of needed replacements when materials and equipment were available after the war, I found that we had coasted--gone along borrowing money to pay bonds, we had used whatever resources we had, we had failed to repair our buildings and replenish our equipment--all in the name of what some people would call "economy", but what I call being penny-wise and dollar foolish. Well, here's the record, my friends. Despite all the shouting and protesting of the opposition, our municipal dēbt has been reduced approximately ten million dollars in less than two years. Interest payments are down. Our bonds are all within a ten year limit. We have reversed the dangerous policy of defiait financing, and have been moving along the lines of pay-as-you-go. We presented to the Legislature for the first time in many a year, a well organized and comprehensive municipal finance program. We have eliminated deficits from our budgets. We have done all of this despite the tremendous

rise in costs in services, materials and labor, ~~and~~ There isn't a man in the City or a housewife but who will agree that living costs have gone up and labor costs and material costs have rapidly increased. These costs, my friends, are likewise reflected in your City government. The City must buy materials. The City hires labor. The City requires professional services. The City in its care for dependent people purchases food, clothing and rent. Despite all of this post-war inflation, ~~which surely affects a City~~, the municipal taxes ^{including schools} have increased only 14%, and out of that 14% increase we have paid ~~our~~ ^{\$10,000,000} ~~for reducing debt~~ ~~debt more than ever before~~; we have paid the costs of our hospital which in prior years was financed by borrowing; we have expanded our park, library and educational programs; we have accumulated reserves for our pension funds; we have replaced our equipment in the City Engineering Department; we have bought new squad cars which were needed for our Police Department; we have repaired our public buildings; and we have been able to pay our City workers a living wage.

I submit to you that this is a good record in municipal financing, but to it I add that for the first time we have had a complete study of our City finances by a Tax and Finance Commission under the chairmanship of one of the nation's foremost tax experts--Dr. Roy Blakey of the University of Minnesota. We have analyzed every Department of our City Government through the expert services and facilities of the Public Administration Service of Chicago; we have proposed drastic Charter reform to give us a centralized Department of Budgeting and Finance. Now, compare this with what has been going on in other places. ~~Is there a business man in the City who can say that his cost of operation since 1940 has gone up only 14% and that at the same time he has retired a good share of his debt?~~ Can the State of Minnesota say that it has reduced its taxes and curtailed its expenditures when you

and I know that State expenditures have increased since 1937 by almost 300%? Is my opposition unaware of the fact that in the tax statement you receive, the Hennepin County government increase has been 62%, and the State government property tax increase has been 86%? Compare that to the City increase of 14%. Where is all of this extravagance? Where is this "spend and spend" program? If there is any of it, apparently the opposition is in the wrong City with its speeches. ~~Possibly that program should have been given some study when we were increasing the taxes and appropriations these past years in our State Legislature, and when we were denying the City of Minneapolis its fair share of state revenues. You know--and I know--that out of the tremendous sums of money this City pays into the State, we receive back less than 11%.~~ Where was my opposition when we needed help in our struggle to receive a fair and equitable share of State collected revenues? This would have relieved the tax problem in Minneapolis. Could it be that their time was consumed in ^{an attempt to obtain} ~~obtaining~~ 15 extra liquor licenses, and in fighting the, slot machine bill? ^{Governors} If I can read the newspaper reports correctly, during the Legislative session that is exactly what ^{they were doing} ~~was being done~~. Now, the "holier than thou" attitude comes out, but when the Legislature was in session, those who now oppose me were opposing Minneapolis.

Well, friends, it has been my hope that all during this campaign I could go on pointing out to you what we need to do in Minneapolis to make our beautiful City an even finer place to live. Yes, I want to "accentuate the positive" as they say. I have ~~had~~ a great respect for an old Chinese proverb which goes "It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness." As your Mayor I have tried to light that candle of intelligent understanding of our City government. I have received wonderful cooperation from the majority of our

people. The many citizens committees at work upon our municipal problems clearly demonstrate the willingness of our people to do their part in building a better Minneapolis. We are on the way in this program and I repeat to you that we are not going to be stopped. We will let no selfish interest or special privilege group hold us back! The people of Minneapolis see a bright future. The dawn of a new day has come to us, and we are hard at work in the sunlight of our new strength!

* * * * *

for use in radio speech of Mayor Humphrey
radio station WDCG, Friday, June 8, 9:30 p.m.

SAT

File

"Better Government" is a phrase that has often been loosely used. When I speak of better government in Minneapolis during the past two years, however, I can do so with a definite feeling of accomplishment. Because - as I will point out in a moment - we have made important strides toward a better Minneapolis in such ~~important~~ fields as law enforcement....child welfare....education.....recreation....and leisure-time activities.

One of our greatest problems has been the effort to solve juvenile delinquency. You may have heard mention, in previous months, of a survey of living conditions in the city jail. ^{survey} That/was to determine available facilities ~~for~~ for housing youths who had become delinquent....and to attempt to segregate them from more hardened, older criminals.

But that survey of detention quarters was...actually...only a minor part of our program..We're not going to be satisfied merely to treat youths after they have gone astray. We want to find and eradicate the causes and temptations before they can lead young people into trouble.. That certainly is as vital to the future well-being of Minneapolis as our community survey of human relations - which gave us an insight into the causes and effects of prejudice and intolerance --and it certainly is as important as plans for the future physical development and growth of Minneapolis.. All of these

studies are important for a better Minneapolis....but none of them can be termed successful if the people who are to live in Minneapolis in future years - and that means our young people of today - are not helped down the road to good citizenship. That is why we are now making studies.... under supervision of the Mayor's Youth Welfare Commission....to establish measures for the correction and improvement of conditions as they apply to youth.

This Youth Welfare Commission was set up to supervise and coordinate activities of other related groups....to find out what is being done....and what needs to be done. One important step has been closer cooperation ~~affiliated~~ between the juvenile bureau of the police department and our several community social agencies. This cooperation has been instrumental in eliminating many of the temptations which lead young people into crime. Our records show - I am proud to say - that this has been done with greater success during the present administration than at any time in the past! These records show that Minneapolis isx the only major city in the country where juvenile offenses are actually decreasing!

The Youth Welfare Commission....has done more than supervise juvenile activities, however. It has also helped strengthen the growth of community councils in various parts of Minneapolis. These local councils are an attempt to spread an interest in city government among the people

....and I would say they have been very successful....because we now have, in Minneapolis, groups of citizens who are working to solve the problems of their own communities.. One of their important forward steps has been establishment of a training course for parents of delinquent and pre-delinquent children.

There is a strong connection between our efforts to combat juvenile delinquency and our program to strengthen the school safety patrol system. One of the first steps I took after becoming mayor was to increase the police department school patrol staff from one to five trained officers. These men reorganized the safety patrols at 99 public and parochial schools in the city.....and they began an intensive training program in which more than 27,000 youngsters have already taken part.. This training, includes lectures by experts.....and the showing of educational safety films. The Minneapolis city police department itself ~~xxx~~ is now following a special training program that was laid down with the help of the Federal Bureau of Investigation....As you have undoubtedly heard many times, our police force has cleaned up the city - to use a phrase - more thoroughly than at any time in the past. I told Ed Ryan....who was ^{my first} chief of policethat his men could make every arrest they saw....without worrying about a "fix" or "special favors."....When Ed Ryan became sheriff of Hennepin county....Glenn MacLean followed the same rule as the next chief of police.

As a result....Minneapolis today is free of all organized crime and vice...

There is no organized racketeering.....And although some of my opponents have been giving the impression that Minneapolis' reputation is suffering because we have forced the racketeers out of business....I challenge any honest citizen to admit that such could be the case. I think our finest compliment came from the FBI in Washington a few months ago. As you know, ~~xxx~~ FBI agents in major cities around the country make regular monthly reports to Washington on conditions of crime and vice in their locality. Minneapolis....at one time....had the reputation of being one of the worst cities in the entire

It was nation, ~~xx~~the headquarters of white slavery operations in the northwest, and of other similar conditions of vice. To show you how much we have improved conditions since our police force found they could make an arrest and know that a conviction would follow....the FBI....about seven months ago... discontinued sending reports from Minneapolis to Washington. They said, in effect...."There is no more vice in Minneapolis." I think that's a pretty fine record for our police department to have hung up in the last two years. One of the most important phases of training our police officers now receive is in the field of race relationships. It involves the frank discussion of race problems and their solution....the men have round-table discussions with representatives of all religions and all races. This gives the men an insight into the factors which produce race troubles,...and makes it

easier for officers who are on duty in areas of the city where there is frequent race tension..

To show you how ~~xxx~~ well other cities regard the Minneapolis police department....we have had officers from Winnipeg, Canada, and from Anoka....Edina....Cokato....Columbia Heights....Robbinsdale....Richfield... Bemidji....and Wells....who have attended our police school..

That's all added proof of the honest, effective police administration we have had.

Do you know what I think is a very important part of our community life today? Our public schools.. I think that every school building in Minneapolis should be considered as a family institution....as the center of family life beyond the home...The housing shortage is preventing many families today from having normal facilities for recreation and hobbies.... and I think the schools can serve as a substitute.. They can open their facilities to the neighborhood in the evening through classes....through art and craft shops....and through hobby rooms. The field of broad~~xx~~ adult education....of planned vocational centers and recreational facilities.....is, I think.....one of the essential needs of every metropolitan community.

CAMPAIGN SPEECH OVER K.S.T.P. SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 1947

File
SP Camp 147

Good evening, friends. Tomorrow, Monday, June 9, is an important day in the life of every Minneapolis citizen. We are privileged to exercise the right of the ballot on General Election Day. Every two years, under the terms of our state law and City Charter, the people are afforded an accounting of the stewardship of public office holders. This we refer to as our municipal election. This is important business, and particularly is this true when we realize that in so many areas of the world free elections are no longer known. It is in the voting booth that we participate in the formulation of public policy. Our vote is symbolic of our interest in free institutions. Our vote demonstrates our respect for the principle of government by the consent of the governed. Our vote indicates our concern over the people's business, because in America, politics is the business of the people, and it must ever be so.

Whenever the majority of our people cease to take an interest in the affairs of government, we have lost our right to freedom. We have taken much of this for granted. Some people have come to believe that the basic right which we so proudly possess can never be lost or taken away from us. The history of the modern world should be ample proof of the fallacy of such an assumption. It is only when a people is eternally vigilant, and when they are ever alert to the issues of the day, that democracy is preserved. Our vote is our secret weapon. It is the life blood and the strength of our way of life.

All too often our municipal elections have resulted in a minority of our people selecting those who are to be our public servants. This is not majority rule. This does not give us an expression of the public will. A militant and an informed electorate is a basic essential to our civic life and the preservation of our governmental institutions.

I make this plea to you tonight. Take an active interest in your local government. Your municipal government is your partner. It is a part of your family and a part of your business. If your local government is honestly administered, and if its policies are constructive and progressive, the welfare of your family, the safety of your investments, the security of your job is that much more protected. This is our city. Its destiny rests in our hands. The partnership between the people and their government in a municipality is inseparable. It would be a singular tragedy if by our indifference we failed to have an overwhelming demonstration of civic participation by a big vote on election day.

In America today, as in no other country, the success of government must rest upon the capacity of the individual citizen to participate in, to understand, and to manage his own political affairs. We cannot afford the waste and extravagance of being unconcerned as to the social, political and economic problems which face us. Government is not a foreign agent, a disinterested third party. Government in America, and particularly local government, is a part of the people. Its power and its resourcefulness is measured by the judgment of our people in the selection of those men who are to represent the people. I recognize, as you do, that local government in comparison to our federal and state governments, is a small business. Nevertheless, we must prove our capacity for self-government in our own community before we can expect honest and efficient administration at higher levels. If we are incapable of solving some of the minor social and economic difficulties at home where we are close to them, and where we can see the effect of our efforts, how do we expect that these same difficulties can be mastered by our legislators and Congressmen at higher levels. If we are unable to keep American politics clean and respectable in municipal elections, how do we expect to prevent more vicious and ruthless tactics to be employed in the greater areas of political life. I, for one, believe that politics can be what the people want it to be. The people

can and must demand of those who hold public office and aspire to it that a code of ethics, a set of standards, be adhered to in the campaign for election process. We can have municipal elections and national politics without injecting idle rumor or animosity. Men in public life can and should argue and debate the issues without a sense of bitterness. This world of ours is already too full of fear and hate. It is sick at heart and weak in spirit because of the selfishness and the power-madness of men. Every election should be conducted in the spirit of peace on earth and good will towards men. This philosophy is based upon a concept of men of good will speaking and acting responsibly, always viewing the public interest and recognizing the danger of false leadership.

Minneapolis is a city that has a great future. It has become known all over America as a community of fine homes, beautiful parks, and picturesque churches. We have every reason to be proud of our city. As a business and a commercial center, we are second to none in this Upper Midwest. As a center of the arts, literature and science, we have gained an enviable reputation. Minneapolis has become one of the great medical centers of our nation. We have gained international fame because of our care of polio patients and the accomplishments of our research laboratories. All of these things add up to a dramatic story of a great city.

Our community, however, like others, is facing an entire new set of circumstances. Sometimes we almost forget that World War II changed this world and it has changed and affected Minneapolis just as it has every other city. The effects of this change are noticeable in every home and every block and every Ward of our city. All we need to see is the appalling situation which faces us in the housing of our returned veterans. This indicates clearly enough what I mean when I say that we are confronted by almost overwhelming problems. Our city has grown from a large retail and wholesale center to an industrial area. Literally hundreds of new industries have sprung up during and since the war. A metropolitan area with great industries has within itself problems of social relationships, public health, education, recreation and leisure time activities that go far beyond

that which we have ever known before. This is why we must take renewed interest in municipal affairs. This is why citizen participation in government is of such fundamental importance. There must be a partnership between government, business and labor. There must be a close understanding between all groups in our community. We must do everything within our power to learn the art of living together. Men and women of all races, creeds and nationalities must grown to respect one another. We must come to understand that our nation and our city are strong and prosperous primarily because we had practiced the principle of equal opportunity for all people. We threaten that prosperity, we destroy that unity only when, because of bigotry or intolerance, we set one group against another or fail to appreciate the contribution that every group and individual can make and has made to the general welfare.

①
Here
Our Minneapolis is like a little United Nations. People of all nationalities, of all faiths, of different political parties, of diverse occupations have blended themselves together into one great family. We have demonstrated our ability to work together in such fine civic enterprises as civilian defense, the Red Cross, the Community Chest Drive, the Victory Clothing collections, the Emergency Food Collections, and a host of other activities. What a thrill it is to be a part of this great community! What an experience in democratic living we enjoy when we join forces for that which is good and constructive. A hundred times over we have proven that if we want to do something, if we have made up our mind to put across a program, there is no power that can stop us. It seems to me that somewhere I read where a great American said (quote) "We have it within ourselves to make this world over again." (end of quote). You and I know that is a great challenge. I for one know, however, that before we can make the world all over again, before we can assure ourselves of international peace and good will, we must begin at home, because it is here in our own city, on our own main street--on Hennepin and Nicollet Avenues--that we lay the groundwork and build the foundations of a strong America.

There are those today who are talking about a depression or a recession. There are those who view the future with fear and apprehension. People are constantly

looking to Washington for help and guidance. We say it this way--pass a law for this or that, and we look to Congress or to the assembly of the United Nations for our security. I wonder how many of us have thought about the operation of our own municipal government. Isn't it quite obvious that if we here in Minneapolis cannot so govern ourselves as to produce the type of a program that will make a better city, that this within itself will have some effect upon the national pattern? It has always been my philosophy that we make our contribution to a better world and a better society by beginning at home. Such matters as juvenile delinquency cannot be solved in Washington. This is a problem which rests in each and every home in the city and in each and every agency and institution of our civic life. We will make better citizens by strengthening our own community, and by searching out the points of infection and corruption in our own city. It is up to us here in Minneapolis to so strengthen our educational, recreational and social services that we provide a wholesome environment for every citizen. In this manner we directly participate in building a better America. Problems of unemployment and labor management relationships are, of course, national in scope and importance, but if we here in Minneapolis can provide new jobs for willing workers, if we can work out a pattern of cooperation between labor and management, we will have made a direct contribution to the national welfare. I think it is only fair to say that already we have gained recognition all over the nation for the splendid record that we have been able to maintain in this post-war period of production and of peaceful relationships between our management and labor. There isn't a city in the nation which has had a better record. We cannot be content, however--we must move along to even greater accomplishments.

It has been a great honor and privilege to be Mayor of this city. Mrs. Humphrey and I shall be ever grateful to the people of Minneapolis for the trust you have placed in us and the honor which you have bestowed upon us. I have but one wish, and one desire--to serve all the people of this fine city to the best of my ability, to dedicate my time and my efforts to the enrichment of the lives of all of our citizens.

The government of the city of Minneapolis should serve all the people, and that means that it should serve labor as well as it serves business--it should serve the poor man just as well as the rich man. It has been with your help and your understanding that Minneapolis has faced its daily problems and has planned for tomorrow. Minneapolis can and will move on to a greater future. We will continue with our program of industrial expansion and community redevelopment. Together we will meet our problems of housing and of public health. We will improve our parks, our libraries and educational facilities. Together we can and we will revitalize our municipal government. We must have faith in each other and trust ^{under God} and confidence in our ability to be masters of our own destiny.

Thank you - & Good Evening



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org