

HARRY FITERMAN AND ASSOCIATES  
TAX CONSULTANTS  
RAND TOWER  
MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINNESOTA

June 4, 1948

*Sp 7 file*  
*June 10*  
*12:15 pm*

Hon. Hubert H. Humphrey  
City Hall  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

My dear Mayor Humphrey:

This will confirm the invitation which was extended to you to be the guest and speaker at the Commonwealth Club meeting to be held Thursday June 10th at 12:15 P.M. at Hotel Dyckman.

Mayor Edward K. Delaney of St. Paul has been invited to participate in the program at this meeting and has accepted the invitation.

May I suggest the program for discussion be a business and tax program for the Twin Cities and the metropolitan area. I know you are competent to discuss this subject thoroughly and I am sure the people of the Twin Cities will welcome the development of that type of program.

My kindest personal regards and every good wish and looking forward to seeing you next Thursday, I am

Sincerely

*Harry Fiterman*  
Harry Fiterman

President, Commonwealth Club  
of Minneapolis

HF:B

Leonard C. Seemer

File / Speech

REMARKS BY MAYOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY BEFORE COMMONWEALTH CLUB

HOTEL DYCKMAN, 12:15 P.M., JUNE 10, 1948

A MUNICIPAL AND TAX PROGRAM FOR MINNEAPOLIS

I. The basic governmental need for the City of Minneapolis is charter reform or a revision of our basic governmental structure. This should include:

- (a) Broadening of the tax base. 90% of current city revenue is derived from tax upon personal and real property. If a growing city is to meet the demands for municipal service, it must find sources of revenue other than from real estate. The comprehensive tax enabling authority as was proposed to the state legislature in 1947 is the answer to municipal financing. There is no other. Piecemeal taxing authority will result in prolonged community controversy, while at the same time, the city lives under the threat of the curtailment of vital municipal services.
- (b) A sound and stable source of revenue for public education. No single problem is in need of more immediate solution than the matter of obtaining adequate revenue for public education. The most substantial source of revenue for public education is the property tax. Minneapolis must ~~have~~ increase its school revenue by at least \$6,000,000 per year. This is a basic minimum. School population is on the increase. Maintenance of school buildings can no longer be delayed. Increased revenue for public education is the first claim upon the City of Minneapolis.
- (c) There should be a revision of the city charter so as to afford the executive department of government clear responsibilities and more direct

Industry — Will come —  
Factors — Population — Market  
with capital income  
Top structure  
Top Rates  
Financing  
Factor supply

Evaluations  
Construction  
Will bring  
about \$300,000

Top level  
stated - yes!

Metropolitan Planning  
Trinity - Finance  
comm

authority for municipal administration. The legislative department, or the City Council, as was outlined in the proposed new city charter, should be given all responsibilities for the passage of ordinances, the establishment of budgets, and the over-all appropriation of funds for all municipal services.

II. Minneapolis like other cities is in need of a well-planned, long-range housing program. This program should include the following developments:

- (a) The encouragement, by the modernization of building codes, of the construction by private industry of rental housing.
- (b) Adequate protection by zoning for greatly expanded construction of housing for individual ownership.
- (c) Public housing wherein the municipality, state, and federal government cooperate so as to afford low rent housing for low income groups.
- (d) In Minneapolis, as in other cities, blighted areas are sapping the financial stability of our city. Blighted areas and slums are not only social and health problems, but even more they represent economic disease which consumes our tax base and absorbs a disproportionate share of our municipal revenues because of the need of extensive municipal services. The Municipal Housing and Redevelopment Authority is empowered by state law to literally revitalize the economic and social structure of our city. No single piece of legislation has a more direct bearing upon the future of our community than the Housing and Redevelopment Law.

III. There must be a full scale attack upon the traffic and parking problem. The inadequacies of parking facilities will in the long run depress and destroy loop business properties. Every businessman should make it his first order of

business to demand from the city government a comprehensive program to alleviate the traffic jam and the lack of parking facilities. We need the construction of several municipal parking garages. This can no longer be delayed. We need further designation of one-way streets and "no parking" areas, but only when additional off-street parking facilities have been provided. Such bridges as the Washington Avenue Bridge and the Lake Street Bridge must be modernized and improved and, if need be, reconstructed.

IV. There are several other projects in the City of Minneapolis which are on the immediate agenda.

- (a) The Municipal Auditorium needs to be expanded. If Minneapolis is to become a greater convention city, we must provide adequate facilities.
- (b) Plans are under way for the construction of a new public library, a new General Hospital, and a Public Safety Building. These three municipal structures are vitally needed.
- (c) There is likewise a need for general repair and renovation of our public school buildings, along with the construction of new school facilities in certain areas of our city.

(d) Central Heat - Smoke Control - Rubbish Removal.

The items which I have mentioned are minimum essentials for the City of Minneapolis in the next five to ten years. Not a single item can be considered an extravagance. Many of them are long overdue, and others are needed if we are to continue to grow and develop as a community.

Geo Williams

- 3 -

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