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Radio

ABC -

Bert Andrews

Good evening. This is Bert Andrews, reporting by transcription from Washington. But first--a message from your announcer.

With me tonight is Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, the first Democrat ever to be elected to the United States Senate by the people of Minnesota. He took office in 1949 at the beginning of the eighty-first Congress, and thus has four years to go on his present term. He is widely known for his advocacy of civil rights legislation--and for his support of the Truman Administration's foreign policy. I asked Senator Humphrey if he would sit down with me and give his estimate of what may be done in the way of legislation in the Eighty-second Congress. He warned me that he made no pretensions of being a prophet but that he would talk about some of the general situations that are about to arise. First, Senator Humphrey, do you think that President Truman's most recent defense of Secretary of State Dean Acheson will still the criticism of the Secretary that has been coming from some Democrats--and from many Republicans?

well Bert Andrews,
HUMPHREY.--As long as Senators and Congressmen have the right to criticize--and as long as some of them feel as strongly as they do on the subject of Mr. Acheson--I suppose there will be continued criticism, Mr. Andrews. But, I, for one, ^{do} hope that it will be kept within bounds. The President has the constitutional right to select the men he wants in his cabinet and he has made it clear--very clear, I'd say--that he wants Secretary Acheson. Therefore, I think some of the Republicans would do well if they'd silence their guns on the Acheson front and give us some demonstration of that unity on foreign policy for which they are always calling.

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ANDREWS.--What impressed you the most in President Truman's statement extolling Secretary Acheson, Senator Humphrey.

HUMPHREY.--I'd say it was a passage that was apart from his specific remarks about the Secretary. I'd say it was this passage--and I quote: "If those groups attacking our foreign policy and Mr. Acheson have any alternative policies to offer, they should disclose them. They owe it to their country. This is a time for hard facts and close thinking. It is not a time for vague charges and pious personalities."

ANDREWS.--Then you ~~xxx~~ agree with the President that some of the charges against Mr. Acheson have been vague?

HUMPHREY.--I most certainly do. There has been unhappiness and unrest over some of the unfortunate things that have happened in our international relations. That is particularly ^{true} ~~xxxxxx~~ as far as ~~our~~ troubles in Korea are concerned. It is only natural that some segments of America's population--and of the Congress--want to make somebody the goat. But, I think they are wrong in trying to single out Secretary Acheson. President Truman, as you know, said that "Communism--not our own country--would be served by losing him." Certainly I believe that if the President has complete faith in Mr. Acheson, then that faith should be respected, inasmuch as our system of government gives the President the right to choose his advisers.

ANDREWS.--Suppose we take a look at the general situation confronting the country, Senator Humphrey. What steps do you think the Congress will have to take to meet--and solve--our foreign and domestic problems. I know that that's an all-embracing question, but perhaps we can break it down into sections.

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HUMPHREY.--I'm sure that everyone in the United States--and in the free world--know that most of the fears and tribulations which beset us are caused by one thing, Mr. Andrews. That one thing is the ^{Political & military} aggression of Soviet Russia and of the Communist leaders it is using to forward its aims in other nations. Therefore it is up to us to look at the ~~xxxxxx~~ problem from the overall view of how we can convince Soviet Russia that such aggression just will not pay off for her in the long run?

ANDREWS.--And I take it you have some opinions on that point?

HUMPHREY.--I think we all have opinions, Mr. Andrews. I think we all know by now that Western Europe ~~and~~ will have a hard time withstanding ~~the~~ any Russian aggression unless there is a truly united effort by the ^{nations} ~~signatories~~ of the North Atlantic Pact to get ready to resist such aggression if it comes. I think we should be heartened by the decision of the twelve Atlantic Pact nations taken ~~xxxxxxxx~~ in Brussels. As you know, they ^{have} ~~xxx~~ ^{+intentionally} ~~xxx~~ agreed on creation of an unprecedented European peace-time defense army of more than 1,000,000 men--including a German tactical air force and heavily armored German ground troops.

ANDREWS.--That decision ~~x~~ certainly made it seem~~x~~ as if the Atlantic Pact countries know that they ~~xx~~ are up against something tough and ~~x~~ that it's time to get tough, too.

HUMPHREY.--Yes, I think the eyes of those nations have been opened. They know that they can be picked off one by one if they stay apart. They know that their chances for survival in a free world ~~x~~ will be much greater if they united. I ~~am~~ sure that the designation of General Eisenhower to be supreme commander of the new Army will be encouraging to all of the countries joined with us in the pact.

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ANDREWS.--Of course the one great puzzle is--will we have time to strengthen Western Europe--time to build forces that will serve as a deterrent to Russia?

HUMPHREY.--I wish I knew the answer, Mr. Andrews. I suppose that when you get right down to it only Russia knows the answer, for only the ^{evil} men in the Kremlin know how much "thought of war" is in their hearts when their lips talk about peace. But certainly if ~~x~~ we don't build our forces and build them now, the chances of the free world will be pretty dim. *We must do everything feasible, now, to Re-arm ourselves and our allies.*

But ANDREWS.--We'll talk some more in just a moment--but now a word from our announcer.

ANDREWS.--We were talking, Senator Humphrey, about the decision to build up the forces of the Atlantic Pact nations and the appointment of General Eisenhower to head them. Do you concur in President Truman's decision to send more American troops to Western Europe?

HUMPHREY.--What else can we do? We are confronted with a dangerous situation. We know that the other ^{*countries*} ~~signatories~~ of the North Atlantic Pact ^{*realize*} ~~know~~ that they can't fight something with nothing. We know that ~~x~~ the armed forces must ^{*sharply*} ~~be~~ increased, share and share alike. So we know that we must send our share of both men and materiel. I don't believe you'll find the American people objecting to that. *but we must act, and do it with firm determination.*

ANDREWS.--On that point, Senator Humphrey, I'd like to point out that President Truman, at his most recent press conference, disputed reports that a wave of isolationism is arising in the country. Your section of the country was once regarded as being pretty isolationist. Do you think there is such a wave?

HUMPHREY.—I do not, Mr. Andrews. There might have been some excuse for isolationism in the days when we could regard the ~~the~~ Atlantic and Pacific oceans as insurmountable barriers in the way of any nation that might want to ~~to~~ attack us. There might have been some excuse for it when many Americans believed honestly that, in ^a pinch, America could live within itself and let the rest of the world go by. But how can anyone raise those arguments now in these days when the United States--just as other nations--is vulnerable to attack by air and by weapons that grow *more powerful* ~~more~~ each year? I am convinced that the American people know that they can no longer live alone ~~and like it.~~ I am convinced that they are fully aware that President Truman is right when he says that the free nations must unite if Communistic aggressions are to be combatted successfully.

ANDREWS.—Let's turn to the domestic picture as such, Senator Humphrey. What do you think that our share in the common defense effort is going to cost us. I don't mean in dollars alone but in controls and such things.

HUMPHREY.—The developments this week have shown fairly well what we can expect in some lines, Mr. Andrews. Certainly we are going to have to have some controls--probably some very strong ones--if we are ~~we~~ going to prevent inflation. *I have advocated strong economic controls ever since last July.* ~~That~~ Inflation has already reached a serious point in some products, and the people with fixed earning power have got to receive some protection. It is too early to try to spell out in detail just what will happen, but you can be sure that the Congress is ~~is~~ aware of the seriousness of the problem and will get to work on it. There isn't any doubt that we are in for what might be called an austerity program. Just how severe it will be, remains to be seen. *But whatever the*

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program, whatever may be needed, we should get at the business of getting it done. The People want action.

ANDREWS.-And I suppose that with that program higher taxes will come.

HUMPHREY.-You suppose right. If there is to be anything approaching a pay-as-you-go plan, there will have to be ~~a~~ very substantial increases in taxes. That's a problem which has been worrying the Eighty-first Congress and will ~~g~~ continue to worry the Eighty-second Congress. Nobody likes to pay taxes, but I believe the American people have learned enough about the grim facts of life since this Korean war started to know that it will be better to pay taxes and stay free--than to endanger our freedom by making the tax burden too light, our production quotas too small, and the dangers of inflation too great.

ANDREWS.-Do you mind if I go back for a moment to the question of Secretary Acheson. As you know, Senator Wherry, ~~Nebraska~~ Nebraska Republican, said that President Truman was ignoring a mandate from the people when he refused to ask for Secretary Acheson's resignation. Senator Wherry's argument is that that mandate resulted from the election of last November 7, when the Republican Party made ~~gains~~ gains in House and Senate. Do you, as a Democrat, agree that any such mandate was accorded?

HUMPHREY.-You wouldn't expect a Democrat to agree with that, would you, Mr. Andrews? And I am being perfectly truthful ~~when~~ when I saw that it is absurd for the Republicans to try to translate the election results into a mandate. After all, they made the smallest gain made by any out-of-power party in any off-year election in a long time.

ANDREWS.-I explained at the outset that you did not ~~pretend~~ pretend to powers of prophecy, Senator Humphrey. But how about trying just one little bit of predicting as far as the 1952 elections are concerned.

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HUMPHREY.-Well, that's asking for information way ahead of time, Mr.

Andrews. You know as well as I do that the political prospects for 1952 ~~depend~~ will depend largely on what happens between now and the next election. I believe the Truman Administration will do a good enough job in handling all of the crises~~x~~ that confront us so that the American people will once again reject the Republicans ~~xxxx~~ ^{future} in the national election and will choose the Democrats. But if I were you I wouldn't waste any time trying to get Republicans to agree with

my point of view. *In the meantime, I suggest we all devote and dedicate our efforts to strengthening America & our allies. Our freedom is more important than who wins the next election.*
 ANDREWS.--Thank you very much, Senator Humphrey. This is Bert Andrews,
 reporting by transcription from Washington.

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