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TITLE: CONSTRUCTIVE PUBLIC WORKS URGED TO EASE UNEMPLOYMENT HARDSHIP

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Sent by Larry Anderson & JoAnn Alberg, October 27, 1954

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CONSTRUCTIVE PUBLIC WORKS URGED TO EASE UNEMPLOYMENT HARDSHIP

Both federal and state governments must "move ahead on constructive public works projects to ease the hardship of unemployment", Senator Hubert H. Humphrey declared last night in talks to campaign rallies in North St. Paul and at White Bear Lake.

"America's economic slump can be turned into economic expansion without any bonndoggling, if we just get busy on sound public works already urgently needed -- projects like better roads and highways, more adequate schools, stepped-up hospital construction, improved water systems, dams and resource development", Senator Humphrey said.

Senator Humphrey added that the President's "own Council of Economic Advisors recognizes the need for such an expanded public works program, but are afraid to bring their findings out into the open for fear they might be accused of being 'spendthrifts'".

"If the President really intends relying upon the economic advice of his economic board created for that purpose, they should be called upon to make their recommendations public rather than keep them hidden", Senator Humphrey declared.

In support of his claim, he called attention to an article written last July by the syndicated financial columnist, Miss Sylvia Porter, saying, in part:

"The President's economic high command has a report locked in its files that is so astounding it hasn't dared publish it. For months, the staff of the President's Council of Economic Advisors studied the public projects needed right now to pull the nation back into minimum physical shape, keep the country from coming apart at the seams . . .

"The White House economists developed conservative figures on each of the public projects; they added up the figures; they came to:

"Over 100 billion dollars worth of public projects needed by this country right now, to get us into halfway acceptable shape."

Calling for making the report public so that it can be studied by the Congress, Senator Humphrey said:

"An expanded public works program would be a wise move now if it concentrates on the kind of facilities that are both essential to a high standard of living, and to economic expansion. Educational and health measures are vital to our standard of living. Highway construction, water systems and navigation projects are essential to our economic expansion."



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