



NEWS RELEASE

from the Desk of SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

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U.S. NAVY OILER TO CARRY NAME OF NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA RIVER

Minnesota's Kawishiwi River flowing through Superior National Forest has been "recruited" by the U.S. Navy -- and its name will henceforth be part of the Pacific fleet.

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) will speak at the Naval Shipyard at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 6 for commissioning of the U.S.S. Kawishiwi, a fleet oiler.

The "Kawishiwi" is one of the six ships of a new class, all exactly alike, to serve as fleet auxiliary vessels to provide the combatant fleet with fuel oil, diesel oil, and aviation gasoline.

According to the Navy, the new-type oiler is fast, in comparison with previous ships of this type, and well armed. The vessel has a much larger liquid cargo capacity than previous oilers.

In inviting Senator Humphrey to participate in the ceremonies commissioning the new naval vessel, Captain J.B. Swain, who will be her commanding officer, said:

"Without the services of such auxiliary ships, the range, power, and international prestige of the U.S. Navy would be greatly reduced."

All oilers of the U.S. Navy are named after rivers. The Kawishiwi is named after the river rising in a cluster of lakes in Lake County and flowing west through several small lakes, and then forms two branches which join near White Iron Lake and flows north through Fall Lake to a chain of lakes on the Ontario Line. The name Kawishiwi was given the river by the Ojibway Indians, and means "River Full of Beavers' Houses". The territory the river traverses is part of the Superior National Forest and mostly roadless.

After commissioning the vessel will proceed to the Pacific and join the fleet in the Far East.

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COMMISSIONING SPEECH FOR U.S.S. KAWISHIWI
JULY 6, 1955
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

BY: SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Admiral Woolridge, Captain Swain, Officers and
men of the KAWISHIWI, distinguished guests and friends:

It is a great honor to be able to participate in the
commissioning of the USS KAWISHIWI, named after one of
Minnesota's scenic rivers. This is an experience which
I shall long cherish as a particular privilege and pleasure.
I know that the people of Minnesota will take great pride
in having such a fine ship named after one of their rivers.

I am happy to extend my sincere compliments to
the New York Shipbuilders Corporation for asplendid job.
My congratulations and warm wishes also to Captain Swain,
upon being in command of such a fine new ship. I am sure
the USS KAWISHIWI will provide its men with the best

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facilities possible with which to accomplish a mission vital to our national defense.

You know, that name "Kawishiwi" is derived from the Ojibway language and means "River Full of Beaver Houses". Well, beavers are busy and energetic animals with quite a devotion to the tasks they set out to accomplish -- so that may well be a good heritage for this vessel to follow in its future service to our combatant ships of the Navy.

Perhaps the men who will serve aboard the "Kawishiwi" now and in the years to come will be interested in knowing that the Ojibways who named the Kawishiwi, belonged to the Algonquin group of Indians whose legends formed the basis for Longfellow's famous poem, "Hiawatha". Years ago the river was one of the principle canoe routes

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used by the Indians for traveling into the interior of what is now northeastern Minnesota in search of beaver pelts. Today, the stream, which rises in a cluster of lakes in Lake County, flows through the Superior National Forest "wilderness area" into a chain of lakes on the Ontario line.

It is part of an area set aside to preserve for generations to come the natural scenic beauty of the America our forefathers found. It is perhaps significant that a vessel bearing its name should serve a Navy dedicated to preserving the American ideals our forefathers fought to establish.

Never under estimate the importance of the "floating service stations" such as this oiler will become. Until the potentialities of nuclear propulsion are more fully developed, our warships must of necessity be

almost totally dependent on such auxiliary vessels.

Without them, the range, striking power, and international prestige of the United States Navy would be greatly reduced.

It is something like a football game. The full-back cannot make his brilliant showing without a good supporting line. You officers and men of the KAWISHIWI have every right to feel that your ship is a vital part of the supporting line for the "backfield stars" of our combat fleet.

In approximately a month and a half from today, this ship is scheduled to join the Pacific Fleet. The story of this ship's experiences in the years to come will be the story of our nation's destiny in the years to come. Our hopes and prayers are that this ship's experiences will help forge the lasting peace for us and for the world.

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The Pacific Fleet, of which this ship will be an integral part, is a representative of our nation in many far-flung corners of the globe. In that sense the KAWISHIWI and its men are American ambassadors. The strength of the Pacific Fleet is obvious for all to see. The American people look upon their Navy as a shield of strength and as the protector of the people. More than the strength of arms is needed, however, to express America's destiny. The shield of strength must be accompanied by the doing of deeds, by constructive works for peace and for law in the world.

We unfortunately live in a world where it is impossible for us to share the strength of our spiritual and material sources with the rest of the world as freely and as wholeheartedly as we would like. We cannot do this because the dark, stormy clouds of totalitarianism and human slavery threaten our security as a people and as a nation.

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Our prayers and hopes are that the ships that comprise

the Seventh Fleet can be known as peace ships and not as war ships; because our objective is peace and not war. And, indeed, your function and the function of the Pacific Fleet is to preserve the peace. There can be no peace without a shield. The shield is that essential ingredient which will then allow us to go out and constructively do the deeds upon which a lasting peace must depend.

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These comments are particularly appropriate to the

problems that our nation faces in Asia. The threat of Communist aggression in Asia and the growth of Communist China are the symptoms of a great upheaval taking place in that part of the world. Peoples of Asia and Africa are tasting freedom -- freedom from colonialism, freedom from feudalism. They seek dignity and a place among the nations of the world. They have great problems as they work to attain their aspirations. They have problems of inadequate food supply, overpopulation, ignorance and illiteracy, lack of technological and scientific training, and lack of machinery. Until these problems are resolved their aspirations cannot be achieved. Until these problems are solved, their dissatisfaction with the status quo, their envy of the more fortunate West, their sense of mistrust toward the white man as they remember their exploited history -- all of these things are barriers toward establishing world peace. Furthermore, all of these things are weapons for the Communist world to use against us as a nation.

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Our history and our code of ethics as well as our religious training should lead us to harmonize with the real revolution taking place in Asia today. The striving for dignity which characterizes Asia is completely inconsistent with the slave aims of international communism. The striving for independence meets its greatest enemy in the satellite-seeking, power-hungry intent of the Soviet Union.

On the other hand, we in this country have no goals of imperialism toward Asia. We seek no new territory and no power for the sake of power. We seek only peace and freedom for us and for all nations. Here is our strength.

It is not our aim to interfere with the self-government of any other nation in the world. Our only aim is to see that there is self-government. The principles upon which our nation was founded are principles of self-determination and self-government. We have just this week celebrated the Fourth of July which commemorates

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our conviction that ~~all~~ men are created equal and have the right to self-government. The revolution in Asia, therefore, is a revolution in harmony with our American traditions.

Furthermore, we as a people have a basic sense of sympathy, friendship and understanding for the peoples of Asia and Africa. Very few of our school children have not had the experience of contributing to Sunday School collections for the underprivileged and underdeveloped nations of the world. Our country was very much responsible for helping India to achieve its freedom and for helping Indonesia to achieve its freedom; and we can be proud of our role in bringing about Philippine independence.

To help other nations and to help underprivileged people is easy for us not only because of our riches in resources, but because of the richness of our religious traditions and our national heritage -- a richness which makes it easy for us to help our

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brothers and to be generous and to share with those who are less fortunate.

This, then, is the ultimate answer to peace in the Pacific . The ultimate answer is for us to transport the earnestness and sincerity of our desire to help Asia and Africa to achieve independence and dignity. We want our ships in the Pacific Fleet to be peace ships. We want those ships -- yes, the USS KAWISHIWI -- to transport our diplomats, our technicians, our scientists, our machinery to the Pacific to build friendships and thus build peace. In fact, I predict to the officers and men of this ship that you will be called upon not just to supply the fleet with fuel oil, diesel oil and aviation gasoline. You will also be called upon to carry our diplomats, our scientists and technicians and our students as well in the course of your duties to this nation. You will thus be transporting oil to strengthen the defenses of our nation as well as the richness and generosity of our nation's material and spiritual resources which will help

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bring peace. These will be your functions as you travel to Pacific ports.

The USS KAWISHIWI to me, therefore, represents the essential ingredients of peace and the essential ingredients of our hopes for the world. It represents the shield of our armed strength without which no nation of the world would be secure. It also represents the vehicle through which the positive, constructive deeds of good will can be transported.

Now let me say a word about the strength of our Navy which I feel deeply about the subject. We cannot afford the luxury of keeping our ships in moth balls. We use moth balls to signify the end of a season. I see no evidence to support the conclusion that the need for preparedness is at an end. To economize by cutting the size of our fleet is to practice a false economy. Our need is to build a larger fleet than we now have if we are to be true to our responsibilities to the American people. Our defense must ever be strong.

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It is a privilege and a real honor to have participated

in the commissioning of this ship. I shall follow your travels

with deep interest. With your travels go my thoughts and my

fervent hopes as well as my best wishes.

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