

MINNESOTA RADIO TAPE OF AUGUST 20, 1963

FOR BROADCAST WEEK BEGINNING AUGUST 25

Ladies and gentlemen---

This is Senator Hubert Humphrey, reporting to you
from my office on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.....

Today I speak to you about three vital issues which must receive
action by Congress this year.

They are the nuclear test ban treaty, the civil rights program,
and the Administration's tax cut proposals.

I have been concerned recently by the tendency of some reporters
and officials in Washington to place these three issues in different
categories of "priority." It has been suggested that Congress does
not have the time to study, debate and act on all three issues in the
current session.

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I become impatient with such talk. To say that the civil rights program is more important than the tax cut, or that the nuclear test ban is more important than the civil rights program, or that any one of these three issues should be relegated to a third "priority" for action is to say that the United States is incapable of doing more than one thing at a time.

The people of America expect a more positive attitude. And I am determined that Congress should stay in session all year, if necessary, to act on the test ban treaty, the civil rights program and the tax cut proposals.

None of these issues or programs is expendable. None should be delayed until next year, or some indefinite point in the future. All are imperative steps toward our Nation's security and progress.

The nuclear test ban treaty, the result of long, ~~patient~~ patient and careful negotiations by the United States, represents the first major agreement in the field of arms control since World War II. It

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is, as the President has said, a "first step" in checking the terrifying and dangerous pace of the nuclear arms race. It is an essential step in reducing radioactive fallout and contamination of our atmosphere. The treaty is not based on trust of the Soviets, but on our own efficient detection system. It is an important part of our national security policy, and I will expend every effort to win Senate ratification.

The President's civil rights program is designed to close America's citizenship gap, the gap between the promise of the Emancipation Proclamation and the practice of discrimination. The civil rights program of 1963 is controversial and will involve a long debate in the Senate, but its basic purpose is simple and obvious: to assure every citizen of America his full Constitutional rights. I will ~~xxxx~~ act as floor leader for the civil rights legislation in the Senate, and am dedicating myself to work for approval this year.

The Administration's program to reduce taxes is imperative if this Nation expects to build an economy healthy enough and dynamic enough

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to reduce unemployment and to assure every American an opportunity for economic progress. This Nation can not achieve real and enduring strength as long as five million citizens are jobless and more than 16 per cent of our plant capacity is idle. And we can not reduce joblessness and increase business activity without the stimulus to purchasing power which would come from a tax cut.

Are any of these three issues or programs expendable? I say no, and repeat that each must be acted on in this session of Congress.

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