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MINNESOTA RADIO TAPE OF OCTOBER 1, 1963

FOR BROADCAST WEEK BEGINNING OCTOBER 6

Ladies and gentlemen---

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

For several weeks, you heard me report on the prospects and
then the progress of the nuclear test ban treaty. Today---thanks
to overwhelming Senate ratification---the treaty is a reality.
It is an achievement of the United States.

I now turn to another major challenge which I hope will become
a second major achievement of this Nation this year. I speak of
the strong civil rights program facing Congress.

This is an issue on which my convictions are deep and my beliefs
are precise.

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They can be summed up simply and expressed bluntly: Discrimination and segregation are evil. They are morally, socially, politically and economically wrong. They must be destroyed.

We have spoken often about the dangers of "fallout" from the testing of nuclear weapons.

The fallout from bigotry and discrimination are just as dangerous to our Nation and our people.

The fallout from discrimination can be seen even more clearly than the fallout from nuclear testing.

It is seen in the expressions of millions of our citizens who are frustrated in their quest for a decent, dignified life.

It is seen in squalid slums, dilapidated schools and open street-corners where idle youth and unemployed men ponder their lack of skills and education.

It is seen in the harsh headlines of our newspapers which report tensions, conflict, violence and human tragedy.

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These are the elements of the fallout from discrimination and bigotry in America. And this contamination of our social atmosphere is not limited to one region of the country. Every citizen, in every part of the country, is involved in the challenge to eliminate discrimination from the land.

The immediate goal is Congressional approval of the Administration's civil rights program of 1963. All that we seek to do in that program is that which the Constitution of the United States provides that we should do. All that this program asks the States to do is that which the Constitution requires the respective states to do.

We can no longer ask the American Negro to pay taxes, to defend our Nation on the field of battle, to win our medals in the Olympics, to entertain us on the stage, to work in our mines and factories— and then deny him the right to vote or the right to eat at lunch counters with his fellow citizens.

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This Nation will never be destroyed by a foreign power or ideology. But it can be weakened and crippled through the bitterness and hatred which come from racial descrimination.

As one of the leaders of Congress, I am determined that 1963 will be the year in which the boldest civil rights program in our history was approved. And as an American, I am determined that 1963 will be marked as the year in which the Nation moved to close the citizenship gap which for so long separated our people.



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