

MINNESOTA RADIO TAPE OF NOVEMBER 13, 1963

FOR BROADCAST WEEK BEGINNING NOVEMBER 17

*use for week
of Nov. 17.*

Ladies and gentlemen---

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

Today, the harsh spotlight of the American press is being turned
on the United States Congress. There is an incessant chatter by our
news columnists about the performance, the character and the merits
of Congress. Those whose jobs are to report the work of Congress
are doing more; they are passing judgments on the worthiness of Con-
gress as a legislative body. *an exhibition*

Every citizen has an obligation to develop his evaluation of
Congress as a whole and its work in any particular year. Before he
can do that, he must see through the myths and recognize the basic truths
about the character of *the* Congress.

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What is Congress?

It is the embodiment of our system of representative democracy and representative government. Congress represents the people. Its final decisions reflect the opinions, the yearnings and the demands of the people.

But this phrase---"the People"---^{can}misleads us. The citizens of this nation are not just appendages on some single-minded, single-voiced political creature. This is a nation of individuals, of diverse ^{many regions & cultures} opinions, of varied viewpoints.

Congress reflects that diversity and variety. And Congress itself is, in the final analysis, a group of 535 individuals---each of them freely elected by the citizens of a particular state or district of the country. ^{The Congress is like a mirror}

The members of the Senate and the House of Representatives work within the Congressional framework of laws and traditions, and each ^{as by} strives for what he considers is best for the national interest. But

(more)

they are not cast in any common political mold and they are not subservient to any common, special interest.

That is why the national legislative process in the United States is not quick and easy. For those Congressional critics who wish to

see perfect "efficiency" in the legislative process, I suggest that

they look to the so-called legislative body of the Soviet Union, where

the members meet briefly, applaud all of Khrushchev's decisions, and

approve all of ~~their~~ his recommendations with the efficiency of a rubber stamp.

No, Congress is not perfect---and I have been among the leaders who have urged reform of many Congressional procedures and rules to improve the efficiency of our legislative branch of government. And I have also expressed my own impatience with the lack of Congressional action on the major programs which I believe are vital to the strength and progress of the United States.

But I emphasize that Congress should not be judged only for what it does not do, but also for what it does do. And this year, during

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during 1st session
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the first session of the 88th Congress, we have ratified the historic
a very important decision
nuclear test ban treaty, legislated a settlement to the potentially

crippling rail dispute, approved an effective new feed grains program,

established bold new programs of aid to medical schools and for mental
the members

health programs, and moved most of the way toward final action on many

other major programs.
*he - ed - sure landmark
college act
the Senate
not*

The 88th Congress lasts two years. We are less than half way

through the time of the 88th Congress, but more than half way through

the work of the 88th Congress. When the 88th Congress adjourns next

year, its record---I am confident---will be one of the best ever written.

That record---and the work of the 535 members of Congress---should be
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last out of its*

judged then---when it is complete.



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