

TV TRANSCRIPT

APRIL 30, 1964

BOB COAR: In today's report from the Nation's capitol, the Assistant Majority Leader has a distinguished guest, Senator Thomas H. Kuchel of California. To introduce him to you and to tell you something about his activities, here is Senator Humphrey.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: Welcome, to this Minnesota telecast, Senator Kuchel. I shall first of all say that with a name like yours, you will be exceedingly popular in the state of Minnesota where a substantial share of the population is of German extraction. Of course a little Scandinavian wouldn't hurt you either. But you are a popular man and rightly so because of your outstanding record in public service and here in the United States Senate. My guest is a long-time friend of mine - at least ever since he came to the United States Senate. He's the Republican Assistant leader, the Minority Whip, and he is the strong right arm and I might say the Republican arm in this Civil Rights struggle that is on in the Senate today. He has been introduced to you - it's Senator Thomas Kuchel of California, of course a friend of the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. In fact, Senator Kuchel, I believe I am correct - was it not Chief Justice Warren when he was the Governor of the state of California that appointed you to fill an unexpired term and then you were elected of course two or three times in your own right.

SENATOR KUCHEL: This is true, and I am most proud of it, I must say.

SENATOR KUCHEL: I want to say that as the Democratic Floor Leader for the Bill, I couldn't ask for a better partner than Senator Kuchel who is the co-partner in this effort of civil rights - an effort which we consider to be non-partisan or bi-partisan. Incidentally, Senator Kuchel and I are doing what other public officials seem to be doing these days. We are co-authors so-to-speak of a book that is coming out next week. This book is entitled THE MORAL CRISIS: THE CASE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS. And just to give you a little preview of the cover of this book or the jacket - you can see it says, MORAL CRISIS: THE CASE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS. And in this particular book, we have the speech of President Kennedy, the late beloved President when he presented the civil rights bill message to the Congress. We have the address of President Lyndon Johnson, delivered on Memorial Day, 1963, at Gettysburg battlefield, a remarkable address. There is the opening address on the Civil Rights bill by my colleague, Senator Kuchel, delivered just a few weeks ago in the Senate. And then there is my own speech in reference to the Civil Rights Bill and some remarks of Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, who gave a very moving address in the Senate relating to this bill. By the way this bill, or this book - I should say (maybe I ought to give a commercial in here, Senator) sells for a dollar. But there is no profit in it. Whatever income may come from this book will go to the civil rights organization. Senator Kuchel and myself feel honored to be included within the coverage of the book and the collection of speeches and articles and I hope that Minnesotans will find it in their hearts and means to get a copy of this book which

will be available at your favorite book store, your department store and read it because you will know a great deal about this bill. Now, let's see if I can't probe the intellectual depth of my friend, the Senator from California. Senator Kuchel, the bill before us has come to us from the House of Representatives. I believe that the people of Minnesota will be interested in your general observations on this proposed legislation. What do you think of it? What do you think it will do for our country? How does it fit in to the needs of our nation?

SENATOR KUCHEL: Well, let me say that I am honored to be on this program with my friend and colleague, Senator Humphrey. He didn't say but I would like to have the people of Minnesota know that Mrs. Kuchel is a native-born Minnesotan and I am always happy to spend a little time in the state which you represent, Hubert.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: Sleepy Eye, Minnesota.

SENATOR KUCHEL: Well, that's right. Her people all come from Sleepy Eye.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: Southern Minnesota - beautiful country.

SENATOR KUCHEL: Senator, this is a very modest and moderate piece of legislation. It is long overdue. It seeks to establish that it is the law of this land that all American citizens, native-born and naturalized of whatever blood or religion will be treated equally before the law. That is what we attempt to accomplish. There are a number of examples of how we attempt it. I think one of the most important sections of it, if I may spend just a moment, is the first section which deals with voting.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: Yes, you have spent considerable effort on discussing that section in your introductory speech.

SENATOR KUCHEL: Yes, I did. And this should be crystal clear to all the American people because this bill has been subjected cruelly to misrepresentation and to falsification. What this bill does is simply say that in every state of the union, the state laws which apply to registering to vote and to voting shall be applied equally on all the citizens in that state. In other words, this bill does not purport to set down any Federal standards to be applied to the states. This bill provides that all standards in each state shall be made to apply equally. For example, in the Civil Rights Commission hearings of several years ago, a Commission composed of excellent and outstanding people from all sections of the country, North and South, found that in one area of this nation, a person with a Ph D. degree was denied the right to register in his state on the grounds that he was illiterate. The fact is that he happened to be a black man. There can be no question that the standards in many sections of our country are double standards. They apply one way to one class of people and another way to the black people. This eliminates that. I regret to say that it applies to only so-called federal elections. That is to say it applies when on the ballot, there is a choice for President and Vice-President or a member of Congress. My own judgment and I know you concur with me that the bill ought to apply to all elections, local and state and federal.



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