

Radio Tape for Week of June 10, 1964

Broadcast Week of June 14, 1964

Ladies and gentlemen . . . this is Senator Hubert Humphrey speaking to you from my office on Capitol Hill in Washington . . .

I want to report to you today on a most important development in the economy of northeastern Minnesota. It is a huge dam on the St. Louis River that has been developed with the cooperation of private investors and local, state and federal officials. This project lays the groundwork for a new taconite plant that will provide permanent jobs by next summer for up to 400 persons.

Ground was broken for the dam June 3rd near Eveleth. The reservoir it will form is a major link in development of the taconite process . . . the principal method whereby much of the remaining iron ore in the Minnesota range can be used.

Construction of the dam and reservoir will provide up to 500 jobs during the next few months.

Decline of the Mesabi Iron Range has caused considerable unemployment in northeastern Minnesota. Growing production of taconite--a hard rock available in huge quantities in the area--is giving a major boost to the region's sagging economy. It is estimated there is a reserve of more than 200 billion tons of this low grade ore in the Mesabi Range.

Taconite is a hard grey rock containing 20 to 30 per cent iron in fine particles. It is crushed and broken down in a special process into pellets with an iron content of about 63 per cent. There is a good market for these pellets which are easy to ship and work well in blast furnaces.

The new dam and reservoir is so important because the pellet-making process requires huge quantities of water.

The new plant at Eveleth--in handling about
ONE million 600-hundred thousand
~~1,600,000~~ tons of taconite a year--will require 79,000 gallons
of water per minute. The water will be recirculated with
special facilities designed to prevent pollution in the
river.

No federal money is involved in this new taconite
plant. The Ford Motor Company and the Oglebay Norton Company
are financing it. Their investment of 45 million dollars will
cover costs of both the dam and the taconite plant. The
facilities will be operated by the Eveleth Taconite Company.

It has taken a lot of cooperation between various levels
of government and private industry to set in motion this new
economic development. The state of Minnesota granted water
rights and handled problems of land acquisition. . . the Army
Engineers approved the plans to build a dam on the St. Louis
River . . . and now the Congress is prepared to give its consent.

Congressional authority--necessary because the dam is being built on a navigable river--is not yet final. But there will be no problem here. The leadership of Congressman John Blatnik has been most important in getting this authorizing legislation through the House of Representatives. The Committee on Public Works has reported the bill out for Senate action and I can assure you it will be on the Senate calendar shortly. The groundbreaking has gone ahead in anticipation of the Senate's final approval.

Both the House and the Senate recognize the importance of revitalizing the iron ore industry in our state. Both also recognize the importance to the nation of establishing added production in the nation's heartland of a resource vital to national defense.

I am proud to say that this will be Minnesota's third taconite plant. We already have installations at Silver Bay and Babbitt that employ 6,000 persons.

The potential of the taconite industry is tremendous. This huge reserve of low grade ore, if we can continue to expand its production, can restore the Mesabi Range to its former position as one of the chief iron ore suppliers of the world. I want to commend the local interests, the private investors, and the state and federal officials who are working so well together to revitalize this region. Thank you.

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From the Office of:
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
1313 New Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.
CApitol 4-3121, Ext. 2424

For Release: Week of June 14

By HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

The start on a huge dam on the St. Louis River near Eveleth June 3 lays the groundwork for a new taconite plant that will give a major boost to northeastern Minnesota's economy.

The reservoir it will form is a major link in development of the taconite process, the principal method for utilizing much of the remaining iron ore in the Mesabi Range.

The new plant, financed by private investors, will provide permanent jobs by next summer for up to 400 persons. In the meantime as many as 500 men will be at work on the project.

Depletion of high grade ore from the Mesabi Range has caused considerable unemployment. But growing production of taconite--a hard rock available in huge quantities in the area--is giving a major boost to the sagging economy.

It is estimated there is a reserve of more than 200 billion tons of this low grade ore in the Mesabi Range. The potential of the taconite industry is tremendous.

Taconite is a hard rock containing ~~20-25 per cent~~ 20 to 30 per cent iron in fine particles. It is crushed and broken down in a special process into pellets with an iron content of about 63 per cent. There is a good market for these pellets which are easy to ship and work well in blast furnaces.

The new dam and reservoir is so important because the pellet-making process requires huge quantities of water.

The new plant at Eveleth, in handling about 1.6 million

tons of taconite a year, will require 79,000 gallons of water per minute. The water will be recirculated with special facilities designed to prevent pollution in the river.

No federal money is involved in this new taconite plant. The Ford Motor Company and the Oglebay Norton Company are financing it. Their investment of \$45 million will cover costs of both the dam and the taconite plant. The facilities will be operated by the Eveleth Taconite Co.

It has taken a lot of ~~compensation~~ cooperation between various levels of government and private industry to set in motion this new economic development.

The state of Minnesota granted water rights and handled problems of land acquisition. The Army Engineers approved the plans to build a dam on the St. Louis River. And now the Congress is prepared to give its consent.

Congressional authority--necessary because the dam is

being built on a navigable river--is not yet final. But there will be no problem here.

Rep. John Blatnik (D-Minn.) provided key leadership in getting authorizing legislation through the House. The Committee ~~from Public Works~~ on Public Works has reported the bill out for Senate action and it will be on the Senate calendar shortly.

Construction of the dam has begun in anticipation of the Senate's final approval.

Both the House and the Senate recognize the importance of revitalizing the iron ore industry in our state. Both also recognize the importance ~~of establishing~~ of establishing added production in the nation's heartland of a resource vital to national defense.

Minnesota should be proud that it will soon have its third taconite plant. We already have installations at Silver

~~My~~ Bay and Babbitt that employ 6,000 persons.

This huge reserve of low grade ore, if we can continue to expand its production, can restore ~~the~~ the Mesabi Range to its former position as one of the chief iron ore suppliers of the world.

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