

MINNESOTA RADIO TAPE FOR WEEK OF JULY 15, 1964

FOR BROADCAST WEEK OF JULY 19, 1964

Ladeis and gentlemen. . .

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

Today I want to summarize a recent article in the Wall Street Journal
which is very complimentary to the State of Minnesota. The compliment was on
the quality of politics in Minnesota and the capacity in both political parties
to produce an abundance of good, able people. "Minnesota"--the Wall Street Journal
stated" is far from the most populous, richest, or best educated state, yet it² S
practically always produced top political talent in abundance. How come?"

In answer to that question "How come?" a number of perceptive answers
are given:

Properly, I believe, much of the credit is given to the early settlers.

The dominant Minnesota strains are German and Scandinavian. The economic

liberalism of these people was combined with a respect for private property.

An intelligent and politically sophisticated people, they viewed public affairs as a part of private life.

Politics, the Wall-Street Journal went on to say, has always been taken seriously in Minnesota, and has always been issue-oriented. There are countless seminars, workshops,^{and} debates held. The people demand content as well as form; they want substance as well as oratory. Minnesota has been a center of political ferment with the Populists, the Greenbackers, the Non-Partisan League and other movements. The politics of Minnesota has generally been citizen-controlled and has been clean and open. Therefore, as the newspaper reported, politics has been respectable in Minnesota and has encouraged good men in various parties, to enter public life.

Another factor cited in accounting for the healthy political climate in Minnesota, was the early settler's premium on education. Very early there was established an elaborate system of private schools and colleges. The result is that Minnesota ranks at or near the bottom of the list in the number of draftees rejected on educational grounds.

The colleges and universities have not only played a role in providing an educated electorate. They have been centers of political ferment and recruiting

farms for the political parties. The faculties have been willing to give many hours to seminars and consultations with political leaders. They have sent students out to work at precinct levels as part of their academic training.

The strong Minnesota tradition of open, citizen-controlled, non-machine dominated politics has invited new and young faces into the political parties. These people get real jobs to do right away, as delegates to conventions, to give help in making platforms, and other work more than addressing envelopes.

Part of the credit for the good political atmosphere in Minnesota is justly given to the fact that women have an equal opportunity role in our politics. They are not just relegated to fund-raising or party-giving jobs. Women share vital policy-making roles.

Two other major factors are cited to account for the excellence of both parties in Minnesota. One is the absence of any one overwhelmingly powerful private pressure bloc. In Minnesota the pluralism of many different interests is reasonably well balanced. A single industry like the automobile industry does not dominate ^{as} in Michigan, or as steel does in Ohio, or as oil does in Oklahoma.

Finally, the newspapers in the state are cited for ^{doing} a much better than average job of political education. The Cowles papers in Minneapolis are part

of a large national publishing enterprise with far-flung news-gathering sources.

Like Brutus with Caesar, the press seems inclined often to ~~come to~~
bury politics instead of to praise it. Therefore I was gratified to read this
article of commendation and doubly so, to find Minnesota the center of interest
and praise. We have a responsibility to keep ^{our politics} ~~it~~ that way. I am sure we will.
We must do this not only for our own sakes in Minnesota, but to keep up an
example a lot of other places would do well to follow.

Thank you.



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