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STATEMENT OF THE  
HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

OPENING OF HEADQUARTERS  
CITIZENS FOR HUMPHREY

Minneapolis, Minnesota  
September 30, 1970

The people of Minnesota have come to expect - and reasonably so - a high standard of performance from their political leaders.

That standard applies both to the sense of respect and regard with which candidates regard their opposition, as well as the willingness of political candidates to respectfully and vigorously discuss the issues affecting the lives of the people of Minnesota.

Personal vituperative attacks on opposition candidates and a distortion of their position on the issues has no place in Minnesota politics. It never has and it never will.

Minnesotans take their politics seriously. The percentage of Minnesotans participating in the political process is well above the national average. For me, it is and it always has been a serious business. It is at the core of the business of government. The business of government - central to our democratic traditions - is molded by the men who come to represent the people through the electoral process. The people have a right before making their selection among a field of candidates, to know what each of these men represent. It is the obligation of each candidate to let the people know where they stand on the vital issues of our time.

Character assassination is not a substitute for substance. Our voters recognize such attacks for what they are --- a determined scheme to avoid discussing the issues.

My own record is on the table for all to see --- 25 years of service.

The National Archives Building in Washington, D.C., keeps safe our Declaration of Independence. Carved on the stone face of this great building are the words "what's past is prologue." So it is for all men.

Just as the Declaration foretold nearly two centuries of progress, I think you can look at a man's record of public service and get a good idea where he is headed.

I am proud of my own record.

I am proud of the opportunity to serve that the people of Minnesota have given me. I have respected their trust and look forward to continued service.

Out of their trust --- out of their faith --- many opportunities and honors have come.

Some of the honors and mementos of the past have been collected here. Muriel and I are happy to have this chance to share them with the people of Minnesota. While they have been given to us, they are in a larger measure yours.



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