

LUNCHEON TO ANNOUNCE
FORMATION OF HUMPHREY
INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
HAY ADAMS HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D.C.
JULY 28, 1977

I want to express personally to you in this public manner, as I have privately, my everlasting thanks for your help in establishing the Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. It means a great deal to Muriel and me, and, of course, we are proud to have this Institute at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

It is difficult to express my gratitude to Curt Carlson. Curt has been the moving force and an inspiration to all of us.

I regret that I was unable to be here when my good friend, our Vice President, Walter Mondale had his press conference. I had intended to be present, and the only reason I wasn't, is because the Senate of the United States and the President of the United States are having a little trouble with the foreign aid bill.

I have been like a man on banana peels all morning, slipping and sliding here and there trying to get a sure footing. Even as I was leaving to come here, I had people from two staffs and committees following me with documents and memos. I stood on the curb and dictated a memorandum to the Majority Leader, which I hope he will present to the President. And I dictated one to myself. These things caused me to be late.

I am very proud of the fact that my colleague, a very close, personal friend, former Governor of Minnesota, Senator Wendell Anderson, is here. He adds a special dimension.

It also is a special delight to have the president of the University of Minnesota, Peter McGrath, and the chairman of the Board of Regents with us. It's wonderful to see you again.

Now let me just name some of the generous souls who have given to the Institute. Every time Pat O'Conner sees me, he thinks it's a cost item. He once told me that he thought he was going to retire, but then he said, "I couldn't afford you if I did." Once again he is proving himself to be generous, almost to a fault.

Pat, I know that part of the reason for your generosity is because you are my friend, but it also is because you and

I both know that the University of Minnesota represents a marvelous institution of higher learning, and that's what we're here to talk about.

Hal Greenwood, bless your heart, you and your associates are the best. We thank you very, very much. Again, another personal friend who has walked the extra mile. And I know how much the University of Minnesota means to you. I know how much you have meant to the students of that University. In seven years I don't suppose that any institution has provided more student loans.

Walter Shorenstein came all the way from San Francisco, California, and likewise he has been a long-time personal friend, and prominent business man. Walter, are you still president of the Chamber out there? Chairman of the Board. One of the real business leaders of the West Coast who is here to share with us his generous contribution. We deeply appreciate it.

And my old friend, John Amos. John has worked for me, prayed for me, fought for me. And it wasn't easy, the times that he had to do it. I am very grateful to you, dear friend, to your wife and your family and your associates for your generous contributions here today.

John Amos: We love you.

HHH: Well, you've proved that in more ways than one over the years.

Now let me just say this. When I was contacted about this idea of a public affairs institute, I found it an exciting proposal. I think this is one idea that I can honestly say that I didn't propose. Somebody came to me and asked if I would share in the development of the University of Minnesota Public Affairs Institute. I said I would be just delighted and pleased to do so.

Then I was informed that they would like to name it the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. Well, that's just about as big an honor as a person can possibly have. To say the least, I was moved and very, very touched by the suggestion.

Recently I told a friend there were two developments that changed my life, to the good. The first one was when I married Muriel. She started to shake me up and hopefully make something of me. The second was when we returned to the University of Minnesota.

The University of Minnesota has been something very special in my life. I came there in the fall of 1929. I spent one year as a freshman, only to be overwhelmed by the depression.

Then I returned home to Dakota to help my father. I spent one quarter at home in what seemed to be a hopeless effort during the depression years. At Christmas time, I received two fine Christmas presents. One was a fifty dollar check from my uncle, who lived in Washington, D. C., here in Cabin John, Maryland. He always talked to me about the importance of finishing my college education, and he wrote me beautiful letters about it. He was a highly educated man and chief plant pathologist here at the Department of Agriculture -- a remarkable man. The fifty dollars he sent me I was to use to go to school. Remember -- this was 1930 -- Christmas.

Then the next letter I got was from a lady by the name of Mrs. Zimmerman. She rented rooms near the University of Minnesota and had been my landlady when I was a freshman. She had acquired a larger home and was taking in a number of students for board and room. She told me that if I came back to school, helped serve the meals and made the beds, she would give me free board and room. She urged me to get out of South Dakota and come back to the University.

I returned in the winter of 1931, only to complete one quarter. Again it was necessary to go home and help Dad. We were in dire straights. Both my brother, Ralph, and I left the University to go back to South Dakota. That was in 1931. It wasn't until 1937 that I was able to return to the University.

In the meantime, I met this fine young lady that's with me here today -- Muriel. We used to romanticize in many ways. One of them was our discussion about what we wanted to do with our lives.

I remember after our marriage in 1936, we sat in our modest little home and talked about whether we should take a trip, save up our money and get on an ocean-going boat and see something of the world. We wanted to get away from the dust storms and the depression. We finally decided that we ought to go back to the University. We saved up what little money we could and, in the fall of 1937, we went back to college.

Now this was before there were any federal fellowships or scholarships. I've often said that I married my scholarship. Muriel got a job. She worked for the company that's now known as Investors Diversified in downtown Minneapolis and I worked at the drugstore because I was born above one and raised inside one.

And those years, '37, '38 and '39 at the University of Minnesota were some of the happiest years of our lives. I was in the political science department. I loved every moment of it.

Dr. Evron Kirkpatrick, who's not here with us today, but the head of the American Political Science Association, was one of my dear, beloved friends as were Dr. William Anderson and Harold Quigley. These are men that made my life come alive and I began to take a great interest in public affairs. Later on, I was given a fellowship to Louisiana State, but I was graduated from the University of Minnesota.

By the way, just to show you the difficulties at the time I graduated, Muriel couldn't be with me. She helped put me through the University and had been called home, because her father was ill. I'll never forget that graduation ceremony.

I wrote every kind of paper that could be written and I entered every kind of contest that could be entered in order to make some money. You know, you'd get \$25 for this or \$50 for that. Dean Nicholson, bless his memory, I used to go to see him to say that I wanted my money ahead of time. He said, "You're going to get it at graduation." I said, "I can't wait. I won't make it to graduation. I've got to get my money." Finally came graduation night, and I shall always remember it. It was June of 1939. Then I had the chance to go to Louisiana State.

I'm simply telling you this, because the University changed my life. I wanted to go on from there, to get an advanced degree, I wanted to be a teacher or to be in government. But I really wanted more than anything to be in government. I wanted to serve in Congress. I wanted to prepare myself for Congress. That's why I went back to the University. That's why I studied in the fields of political science, history and economics. Walter Heller, I know you don't feel I have studied economics -- because most of my economics I learned during the depression. That, of course, means a certain amount of prejudice.

Now, what about this Institute. This Institute will bear the name Hubert Humphrey. But it also will bear the name, more significantly, of the University of Minnesota which is truly one of the great universities of the world, not just of America. And we want to make this Institute of Public Affairs the finest institute of public affairs in America.

We think that our state has produced a quality of public official which indicates that public affairs is of great importance to us. For example, the Chief Justice of the

United States is a Minnesotan; the Vice President of the United States is a Minnesotan. There is my colleague in the Senate, the congressmen, the governors and local public officials. Yes, we have reason to be proud of the remarkable quality of people from Minnesota who are in public service.

Lyndon Johnson used to tell me that it must be the water that we drink. But I think it is the spirit of the people and the impact of that University on the lives of literally thousands and thousands of people in the state. That University has spread its personalities and its personnel all over this landscape.

The first heart transplants were done at the University of Minnesota as well as some of the first work in atomic energy and in the field of social legislation.

May I just say, too, that we are not going to develop the Institute for Hubert Humphrey. I'm just part of the picture. What we want, is for the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota to be the best in the world. The John F. Kennedy and the Lyndon Baines Johnson public affairs centers will run second and third to us when we are through.

I want you to know how much we are depending on your help. I'm asking you to do this for our country, because that Institute will prepare young men and women, not only for public life, but for community life. It will prepare them for business life, corporate life, for labor life to meet the problems that must be solved. It will train leaders to do what is needed in America today. More than anything else, we require leadership with a sense of moral purpose. You who are participating in this effort will be helping others to share in a great accomplishment -- because every person who contributes to education, contributes to his own immortality.

Thank you very much.



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