

HHH AND CARTER IN MINNESOTA
10/23/77

President Carter: I'm glad to come back to Minnesota to join with the greatest American I know, the number one Democrat in our country and a man who's been admired, and is admired throughout the world.

I was in Los Angeles last night, Senator Humphrey, and hundreds of Democrats who came to help finance our Party all send you their personal love. But I came to express my personal thanks to Senator Humphrey -- I've missed him in Washington and I'm looking forward to getting him back in the U.S. Senate where he's been needed so badly. He's got renewed strength. He's feeling very well and he's eager to get back to Washington and to join his fellow Senators in bringing this Congressional session to a successful close

On the plane, after we take off, I'm going to sign a bill that will name the newest building of the Health, Education and Welfare Department after Senator Humphrey. As a Mayor of Minneapolis, as a Senator from Minnesota, as a Vice President, as a Presidential nominee and a great candidate, and now as a U.S. Senator, I know no one who exemplifies what our nation stands for better than he. If there's a retarded child in our country who hasn't been helped by Senator Humphrey, I don't know about it.

Every elderly person in our nation, every poor person in our nation, every black person in our nation, everyone who's come here from overseas who doesn't speak English well, everyone who lives in something of despair, knows that they have one staunch and undying friend in Senator Hubert Humphrey. And this naming of the building for him would be just a small gesture on the part of the House and the Senate to make sure that everyone in our country for this year and for many years to come will connect this building and the great work that he's done with the humanitarian efforts that's been typical of him.

He's a friend of mine. He's been down to Georgia to help me, he's given me advice when I was Governor. I met him when I was a Georgia Senator. He's been a man who's been an idol of farmers throughout the country, and I'm really looking forward to having him back in his work clothes, back in Washington, as a staunch ally for me as President and as a leader of our Congress. It's going to mean a great deal to our country to have him back where he belongs again serving the American people.

Senator Humphrey, I'm glad you're going back to work, and I'm glad you let me provide the taxi service to get you back where you belong. Congratulations to you . . . and congratulations to the Minnesota football team yesterday, that was great.

Senator Humphrey: Well, Mr. President, I know I speak on behalf of the almost 4 million people in this state when I say thank you for stopping by on this Sunday to pay us a visit and share with us your optimism, your confidence, your friendly smile, and, above all, your love of people and country.

It's these things that I find of so much meaning to me, and it's in these ideals and these attitudes that I share so much with the President -- a great faith in the nation, in our people, faith in our institutions of government and knowing that we've got to work at it and never give in and never give up.

I'm happy to report to you that I do feel so much better. Everything of course is relative. I'm not quite as good as I was when I was 50, but I'm doing mighty good considering what we've gone through. And getting back to Washington is going to be good therapy. That's what my doctors told me, they've done about as much for me here as they think they can, and it's been remarkable.

With a strong faith in the Lord, with the best doctors, with the loving care of a family, with the friendship, indeed the devoted friendship of people all over this country, I really have felt the healing strength that comes from all of this.

I want to thank you for coming out. Mrs. Humphrey is here with me. My grandchildren are here, my three sons and daughter, my sister, my nephew, all the family are here. I'm sure my doctor is over there, Dr. _____ and Dr. Levitt, possibly Dr. Kennedy, I hope they are. They've been helping me so much.

Yesterday I was a little tired because I gave a good deal of my strength to the Gophers.

And I'm going to let you in now on a high, state secret. On Friday night, the former President of the United States, Mr. Ford, called me and said, Hubert, I understand that the University of Michigan is coming to Minnesota. I said, yes, please just don't mention it, because Michigan up until that time was unbeaten, and he said well, now Hubert, don't you think we ought to have a little wager? I said I think that's proper. He said I'll give you 14 points. I said that's Republican conservatism. I said I demand 3 touchdowns, 21, and he said well how about 20. I said that's a deal. He said what's the amount? I said five dollars.

Now I hope that's legal, I'm not sure. If it's not, I ask for forgiveness.

President Carter: I'll pardon you.

Senator Humphrey: You'll pardon me on that, Mr. President?

I thank you.

So yesterday, after the game, as soon as I could get the White House switchboard to help me, which they did readily, I got a hold of my old friend, Mr. Ford. I said, Mr. President, send the check. And I gave him two or three addresses so he couldn't possibly miss. ^{If the IRS is here, we'll include it.} I just wanted you to know that great developments have taken place within the last 24 hours.

Thank you, and God bless you today. Thank you very much.

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