

GOVERNOR HAROLD E. STASSEN'S FAREWELL ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATURE OF MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1943.

*Mr. Speaker, Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives:*

This is farewell. That is—it is farewell in our official capacities as legislators and governor.

But we trust that on another day, after victory in this war, as fellow-citizens and as friends, we may meet again. Thus, this is *Au Revoir*.

May I express to you briefly as you close this 53rd session of the Legislature of Minnesota, a deep and sincere word of appreciation for the outstanding, constructive record that you have made in this session, and, many of you, in the two preceding sessions in which we have served together. You have made that record upon many of the most difficult problems that can confront a legislature.

We have not always agreed. The two houses have not always agreed. But we have found a way, usually, to respect each other's prerogatives, to adjust our views, to reach solutions, so that a remarkable body of constructive legislation has been placed upon the statute books. You have taken up difficult and complicated problems, the metropolitan airways, the labor questions, taxation and finance, occupational disease, war powers and many others. I think it is important that we recognize that it has been at those times that the common stake of all groups has been emphasized that the best results have been secured.

Democracy gives the right to every citizen and every group to freely express their views and programs and problems. That is the great strength of democracy, but this strength becomes a weakness if the right is used in the pressure group method, where a particular interest is stressed and advanced without regard to its effect upon other groups or upon the community as a whole. Out of this attitude tends to develop the division of our people into classes, or groups or sections.

You have, to a truly great degree, found the way to adjust differences of views, to emphasize the necessity of joint action, and to stress the mutual advantages, in the welfare of the state as a whole.

While I commend you as a body in this parting message, I should also like to speak a special word of commendation to your leadership during these three sessions. The House has been under the same able leadership in the persons of Lawrence Hall as Speaker and Roy Dunn as Chairman of the Rules. Your able speaker has already made a distinguished record in public service. I expect to hear in years to come that he has gone farther and added to that record an additional record of remarkable service to the people of the State of Minnesota.

Roy Dunn has carried on in an outstanding manner in working out the problems and cooperating to carry out the legislative program in the House. Of course, as you recognize, many have been the relationships with the chairmen of the various committees. Faithful, conscientious Claude Allen, John Hartle, Fred Memmer, Mrs. Paige, Joseph Daun, Al Burnap, John Kinzer, Vern Welch. In the work that each of you have done, I express to you personally, appreciation for the part that you have played in various conferences and in the

various things we have done together, in bringing about a record of service to the people.

It is difficult to know how to close a message such as this, but I would like to add this word. As we think back on the way in which these difficult problems, between the Twin Cities and rural sections have been worked out, I believe you have been taking part in the processes by which the peace should be won after we win this war. By that I mean, that the great conflict of interests that exist between the nations of the world in the years ahead, ought to be resolved, compromised, adjusted, and worked out through the legislative processes, through the processes of democracy, to prevent recurring wars and increasing tragedies and horror.

No one can underestimate the difficulty of developing legislative or parliamentary houses by the nations of the world. But no one can look at the advances in air, radio and mass production without realizing that the people in the world are living close together. There is need of developing a new and higher level of government. A legislative body should be the key to that United Nations government. The legislative processes prevent the arbitrariness of the executive. It maintains the rights of the people. It is not perfect, just as man is not perfect. But where there is a legislative method of resolving differences of viewpoint, of adjusting them into a program of action, then anarchy on the one hand, and arbitrary ruthlessness on the other, are both prevented.

To those who say that such a thing cannot be done, let us say, America is great today because some men did what other men said could not be done. Almost every great advance in civilization has been made because some men did what other men said could not be done.

Members of the House of Representatives I say to you in parting, with deep affection, I salute the House of Representatives of Minnesota, and I wish you Godspeed—everyone.