

Council makes a pitch for humorist Keillor

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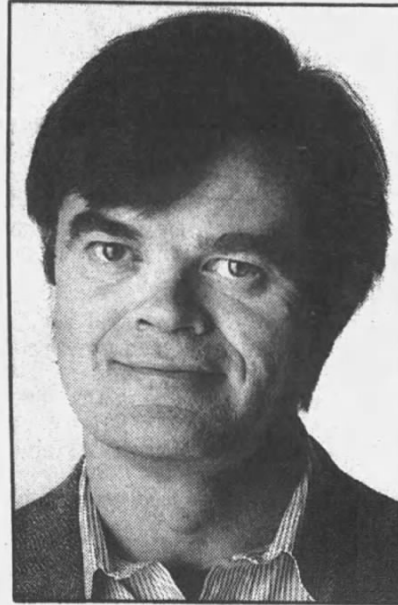
The campaign to attract Garrison Keillor and his American Radio Company to Hartford got a small boost Monday when the Hartford City Council asked the mayor to do "whatever is in her power" to bring the humorist here.

Keillor, famous for his radio variety programs featuring the fictional town of Lake Wobegon, is reportedly considering moving his show from New York City to a permanent New England location. Since Keillor said he was thinking of a new location, his offices have been flooded with dozens of offers from would-be Wobegons around the country.

Monday night, the council endorsed a resolution offering "our assistance to Mr. Keillor in hopes that he will adopt Hartford as his home." Aides to Mayor Carrie Saxon Perry said Tuesday they were uncertain exactly what would be done to try to woo Keillor.

"A decision hasn't been made on any kind of permanent location," said Ann Stonehill, an associate producer at the American Radio Company offices in New York. "Garrison is considering places other than New York. I don't know if Hartford is on the list."

Richard Suisman, a former city council member and part owner of the Colonial Theater on Farmington Avenue, would like to see Hartford on that list. Council member Henrietta Milward introduced the resolu-



■ Garrison Keillor
Radio show humorist

tion approved Monday night at Suisman's request.

"The commissioner of economic development and the governor have written to him," Suisman said, referring to the lobbying effort to bring Keillor here. He said a small ad hoc group has been meeting regularly to discuss the "bring-Keillor-to-Hartford campaign."

Keillor visited Hartford in December 1990 to broadcast his show from the Mark Twain House on Farmington Avenue.