

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey
Telephone Talk - 8 p.m. EST
Florida State Teachers Association
April 24, 1964

File

74th annual meeting

Ladies and gentlemen of the Florida State Teachers Association . . . this is Senator Hubert Humphrey speaking
from my office on Capitol Hill in Washington . . .

L I am sorry that the press of Senate business has made it impossible for me to be with you at your annual convention tonight. I deeply regret that I am unable to receive in person the citation you have awarded me. *But I am so*
deeply honored to have been ~~cited by~~ *honored cited by* your distinguished organization for work in the cause of ~~the elevation~~ *the elevation* of human dignity.

L ~~I believe~~ the preservation and elevation of human
dignity is the base for every other individual and social
value. Every human being deserves to be treated with
dignity . . . for every individual is a person of infinite worth.

Our Judeo-Christian heritage reminds us that all *of us are*
children of God. Our nation was founded in recognition
of the principle that all men are equal as children
of one Creator--in whose image they have been
made.

↳ Dignity simply means recognizing this quality in
every man, drawing upon its present values, and having
faith in its future development. It is doing unto others
as we would have them do unto us. To ~~not~~ ^{respect the} dignity *of* our
fellow man . . . to respect it, share it, be enriched
by it . . . is the highest law we can obey.

↳ Doing unto others as *you* would have them do unto *you*
is ~~an~~ ^{and} an ancient lesson and commandment. I do not
believe ~~at all~~ that we--as Americans--have forgotten it.

However I do believe we have failed to ~~learn~~ ^{practice} it fully.

This is why we have before us the
Civil Rts bill - its purpose; its
objective is to assure Dignity -
to make sure that we do unto others as we
would have them do unto us.

The times in which we are living ~~must be~~ ^{are} humbling to us all. Twice in this century the world has been torn ~~apart~~ by wars springing from the seeds of hatred, prejudice and bigotry. Even now we live in a situation called the Cold War . . . an uneasy stalemate of thermo-nuclear power.

The importance we place on this stalemate shows the distance we still must travel before we have mutual trust and respect in the world.

~~In our own country~~ Our conscience is torn by the discrepancy between our stated belief in the ^{spiritual} equality of all men and our practice of discrimination against some of our citizens.

I do not believe it is enough to admit these shortcomings--I feel we must constantly try to do better.

The least we can do is to guarantee by law the equality of rights and to insure a single citizenship for all Americans.

Close the citizenship gap!
~~Let us be.~~

But ~~I think~~ we are going to do better than that. 4

~~think~~ We are going to make a renewed commitment in America

to the deeper moral and spiritual tasks of achieving human

dignity beyond the law and ~~just~~ Securing Human Rights.

↳ Here is where education comes in . . . and where teachers

have a most important role. along with ~~the~~ parents and the home, and the church.

teachers are ~~the most~~ important custodians of the next

generation. It is you who ^{help} mold the ideas of those who will

be tomorrow's citizens. Their dignity--and its elevation--are

in your hands.

↳ Children come to us with qualities we dare not lose

during their years of development. They have a wonderful

capacity for trust; a desire to share their most cherished

possessions, and passionate absorption in the miracle of the moment.

✓ If we return trust for trust, if we encourage a child's
wonder and challenge it with our own, if we accept what is
offered in the spirit with which it is given . . . then we
shall develop in ~~them~~ ^{children} that knowledge which is wisdom and understanding
and which is a base for strong character.

✓ H. G. Wells once said that mankind was caught in a race
between " education and catastrophe. ^{Very} ~~But other~~ important
matters in America ~~also~~ hinge on education.

~~Education~~ ^{is} education has become the fundamental battleground
of the war on poverty. It is becoming more difficult every
year for those without ^{an} ~~a~~ adequate education to make a living
in our changing society with its demands for more and more
skill. Your help is needed--especially for ^{underprivileged} ~~poor~~ children,
culturally deprived children, and children who come from
homes that give them little hope for a bright future. The
misfortunes of the fathers must not be visited upon the
children.

Education is essential in the preservation and elevation
of human dignity--in waging this battle against prejudice,
bigotry, envy, hatred and greed. Its quality is so important
in determining the future strength of our democracy, the
understanding and appreciation of liberty, and the preservation
of justice under law.

You have a great challenge and a heavy responsibility,
~~in a country such as ours.~~ One reason I have so much faith
in the next generation is because I believe in your
dedication . . . and in the strength of our educational system.

But we must meet now — .

Sincerely, ~~hand~~

appreciation
In conclusion I want to express my deep gratification
to you for providing leadership and inspiration for others
with your decision to meet next year as an integrated teachers
association. This is as it should be
~~This makes it possible to project that dignity~~
you have been able to develop.

Again I thank you for honoring me . . . and I extend to
all of you my heartiest best wishes for a successful and
rewarding convention.

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