MAY 10, 1968



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

REMARKS
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
WYOMING STATE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION
RAWLINS, WYOMING
MAY 10, 1968

When the English biologist and writer, Thomas Huxley, visited America in the last century, he wrote:

"I cannot say that I am in the slightest degree impressed by your bigness, or your material resources, as such. Size is not grandeur, and territory does not make a nation. The great issue...is what are you going to do with all these things?"

That great issue is still unresolved in 1968.

Are we going finally to build a society of full and equal opportunity for every citizen?

Or will the American dream be lost as our 200th anniversary of nationhood approaches?

Is America prepared to use its imagination and the enormous product of its farms and factories in the pursuit of peace?

Or are we going to turn inward and let the fate of mankind be decided in this nuclear age without American participation?

Are we going to be the architects of our future or the captives of our past?

The $\underline{\text{right}}$ answers are clear enough -- but they are not the easy ones.

John F. Kennedy said it:

"Peace and freedom do not come cheap, and we are destined -- all of us here today -- to live out most if not all of our lives in uncertainty and challenge and peril."

The most important business you and I have, between now and November 5, is to see that our fellow Americans are ready to take on the task of building the kind of future we all want. For if we don't, nobody else will.

The Democratic Party has been, and is, the champion of progress and the voice of the future in America.

Social Security...the minimum wage...civil rights...federal aid to education...the Job Corps...Medicare...Model Cities...

Head Start...the Peace Corps...a nuclear non-proliferation treaty... a consular treaty with the Soviet Union -- we were out in front with all of those ideas.

Democratic Presidents and Democratic Congresses were out in front when they were passed.

And that is why America is out in front today.

That is why our federal investment in education in the last four years has been twice what it was in the previous century. That is why we are investing three times as much in health today as we were in 1964.

But what of America's future as we look ahead in 1968?

The headlines tell us daily of communities in turmoil
because of injustice and inequity...children hungry when
granaries are full...a welfare system that represses rather
than liberating...empty farm houses and idle acres...smog,
congestion, pollution...blighted opportunity.

Yes, there is plenty of unfinished business before our American democracy.

America needs now a full commitment to the American Dream... to the idea that we can take the future in our hands and make it what we want it to be.

* * *

The story can be told right here.

Rawlins was a frontier town when it was founded in 1868.

From everything Gale McGee tells me, there is an enormous frontier of opportunity here in 1968.

There are industrial sites and home sites in a nation seeking an alternative to big cities...crowding...pressure...the loss of personal identity.

There are recreational opportunities here for a people with increasing leisure.

In a time when our vision is too constricted by city walls, Wyoming offers horizons which are, as Thoreau once put it, "beyond our elbows."

But unless we are conscious enough of our national future to protect and develop those resources, we are going to lose them.

Unless we plan today, the 100 million new Americans who will be with us by the end of this century -- scarcely 30 years from now -- will be confined to giant, sprawling, depersonalized places where real horizons are unknown.

Unless Rawlins and towns like it across America grow, and unless we have the courage to build new towns as your founders did a century ago, I see no solution to what we have come to call the "urban crisis."

* * *

We can do the job. We have the wealth, the skills and the resources.

We simply have to make the decision to do it.

The war in Vietnam will end one day.

We will have resources available for better schools, more job training, a heavier investment in our cities -- national development of every kind...including the development of our people.

What will happen after Vietnam?

Recession and retreat, as after Korea -- 3 recessions in 8 years?

Will rising unemployment rob the hard-core unemployed of their new hope?

Will economic stagnation cost us the savings of peace?

Will we have to settle for second-class goals in a firstclass country -- just because we weren't ready?

No, we can't afford a failure of foresight at this point in our fast-moving history.

We can't afford to be a nation that missed its chance. And we needn't.

It will take unity.

It will take faith in our Democratic principles.

It will mean overruling those who would build themselves up by running America down.

But I think we can do it.

You've all heard about the New Economics. Well let me tell you that we can have a New Democracy in our country -- if we plan for it now and work for it now.

If we do, we can have an America

free of slums...

free of dissension...

free of bigotry ...

free of illiteracy...

free of fear and hate ...

filled with opportunity - opportunity for work...for self-expression...for first class citizenship for <u>all</u> our people.

An America where individual people can make real choices about their lives.

That's the America I see.

Together we're going to make that America come true.

We have started.

We know the ways and means -- and we will find new ones.

The only question now is: Do we have the will to do the full job?

I know I have.

I know you have.

- I believe the American people have the will.
- I intend to call it forth.
- I intend to win the nomination of our party.
- I intend to lead our party to victory in November.
- I ask your help.

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The <u>right</u> answers are clear enough - - but they are not the easy ones.

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And we needn't.

It will take unity.

It will take faith in our Democratic principles.

It will mean overruling those who would build themselves up by running America down.

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We have started.

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The only question now is: Do we have the will to do the full job?

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I intend to win the nomination of our party.

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REMARKS

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STATE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

RAWLINS, WWYOMING

MAY 10, 1968

(Note: McGee means to announce his support for HHH as he introduces him. McGee says the theme of the speech should be party and national unity -- a straight-out Democratic speech. He was not very enthused about the recreation-horizons idea).

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Yes, plenty of blighted opportunity. There is unfinished business before our American democracy.

Our opponent -- at least it looks as he will once again be our opponent -- has already advanced the notion that we might as well admit that we are already doing everything we can in terms of resources and public effort to meet those problems.

It is more of the old, familiar refrain, "Time for a Pause."

It's more of that same old Republican formula which measures the problem but not the potential.

It is just not good enough for America in 1968.

What will happen to Rawlins, Wyoming, if we decide to let ourselves be dragged into the future looking backwards?

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Unless the Rawlinses of America grow, and unless we have the courage to build new towns as your founders did a century ago, I see no solution to what we have come to call the

"urban crisis."

If anything demands our attention to the future today, it is the prospect of an end to the war in Vietnam.

The war in Vietnam will end -- hopefully soon. We will have resources available for new schools, more job training, a heavier investment in our cities -- national development of every kind.

What will happen after Vietnam?

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