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SPEECH BEFORE THE KANSAS DELEGATES TO
THE NATIONAL CONVENTION
STATLER-HILTON, SALINA, KANSAS

July 26, 1967

1 GOVERNOR DOCKING: Delegates, Alternates, Members
2 of the President's Club, members of the press, I appreci-
3 ate your coming to this reception and I know that you
4 will join me in heartily welcoming not only the Vice-
5 President of the United States at this moment but the
6 next President of the United States. (Applause.)

7 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you very much,
8 Governor, Mrs. Docking, and our friend, Nell Blangers,
9 and all the officers of the Kansas Party, Democratic
10 delegates and alternates, friends and neighbors. Governor,
11 when you make an announcement like that, I am still not
12 quite used to it, but I hope I do get used to it. It
13 makes me feel kind of good. (Applause.) You have heard
14 me speak so much today, both at the outdoor gathering
15 that we had and earlier this afternoon and some of you in
16 the group just next door where we had a brief visit, and
17 some of you I've been visiting with privately, and I
18 think I have already taxed your patience and you are sort
19 of wondering when is it all going to get over with and
20 when can you get back home and maybe enjoy an evening to
21 see the friends of the family or turn on the television.
22 Now if you do happen to see anything about Dodge City--
23 I have been so impressed with becoming a Marshal of
24 Dodge City-- oh, where is my badge? That is just about
25 the best thing that has happened to me for a long time,

1 except, may I say, to know that we have this wonderful
2 support amongst this delegation of good Democrats that are
3 going to Chicago. Governor, I am indebted to you for your
4 kindness and your friendship; I'm indebted to many here
5 that I have known throughout the years for your fidelity,
6 for your loyalty and for your support. I would hesitate
7 to pick out a name because I would offend someone else
8 by my failure to remember them. Kansas is an area, a
9 State that I've been in many times and as we visit it
10 tonight and during the day, I have met people from so many
11 parts of the State who have told me, "Oh, I remember when
12 we were together such and such a place" and "I can remem-
13 ber when we had the meeting at Hutchinson or at Topeka"
14 and "at Topeka when I kept scolding, when are you coming
15 to Wichita" and so on down the line. Well, I just want
16 you to know, if you really want me to come back, there is
17 one way that I can give you a positive assurance. Just
18 see that I get a few over 1,312 delegates at the Democratic
19 National Convention (applause). Quite frankly, the pros-
20 pects look rather reassuring, but I grew up in the plains
21 of South Dakota and how well I remember year after year
22 that we used to think that we were going to get a good
23 crop and then something went wrong, so if I act just a
24 little bit uneasy until that great moment comes, you will
25 understand why. But I do have a feeling of greater

1 confidence knowing that I have this kind of loyal support.
2 I want to share a very sincere and intimate thought with
3 you. When I said I thought I felt more assured or re-
4 assured with your support, I did not mean it in jest or
5 lightly. I do know that the leader of this Party and the
6 Chief Executive of this State, if he will just permit
7 me once more to say a few words about him, is one of the
8 great governors of the fifty states of this land.
9 (Applause.) It is no secret, he knows it and you know
10 it. Right? Isn't that right? It's no secret at all,
11 and if it is, we are going to tell everybody about it
12 because we ought not to keep that a secret. But to me
13 it is no secret and I think it is no secret to you that
14 I have always wanted to work with him and to have the
15 opportunity to have the open, wholehearted support of
16 Governor Docking, and I have been honored by that support,
17 for which I want to thank him publicly as I have private-
18 ly. I want to thank the Chairman, Norbert; I want him
19 to know how much I appreciate his friendship, his helpful-
20 ness. Now, when you come to Chicago, I want you not only
21 to be voting delegates, those of you who are in support
22 of me, voting delegates for my candidacy, I want you to
23 be working delegates. I want you to go to work for me.
24 (Applause.) I want you to feel that you can be the
25 people that make this nomination a sure thing. You are

1 going to know many people there amongst other delegations.
2 If you find some dear soul that has wandered off in the
3 paths of playful temptation, bring them back into the
4 promised land, bring them back, don't let them get lost
5 out there playing around on the fringes, bring them
6 back.

7 May I say one other thing. Anybody that is a
8 Humphrey delegate, I want them to conduct themselves at
9 that convention in the spirit of tolerance for the other
10 fellow's point of view, in a spirit of fair play as we do
11 and as we shall, and also in a spirit of persuasiveness
12 upon those who need a little persuasion. Go to work on
13 them, in other words. (Applause.) We have got to come
14 out of this convention not with just a nomination but we
15 have to come out of this convention with a determination
16 and with enthusiasm. We are going to know who that
17 Republican nominee is before we go to Chicago and on that
18 day that that nomination of the Republican Party is made,
19 I want you to take a few moments out and just think
20 through what we need to do and how we need to conduct
21 ourselves in order to win. I have worked a long time in
22 the Democratic Party as a loyal party worker and supporter,
23 for which I am both proud and grateful. It has given me
24 the chance to earn the friendship of some of you and it
25 has given me the chance to have the friendship of many of

1 you. It is a wonderful experience. I have had my terms
2 in the Senate, three of them, I have been Vice-President,
3 I have tried to do what I thought you wanted me to do as
4 Vice-President. I have had many people say to me, "Well,
5 Mr. Vice-President, seems like during your term as Vice-
6 President, you have been mighty, mighty loyal to the
7 President." Well, I gathered that is what you expected
8 when you nominated me and elected me. (Applause.) I
9 spoke to a group at the National Press Club recently in
10 Washington and one of the questions I answered-- we had a
11 question and answer period-- and one of the gentlemen of
12 the press asked a question something like this: "Mr.
13 Vice-President, when are you going to be your own man?"
14 Well, there are cliches in every avocation and vocation.
15 I can tell you from the depths of my heart and the fullest
16 of sincerity, I have been my own man in politics as much
17 as a man can be his own man all of my life.

18 A VOICE FROM THE AUDIENCE: That is right.

19 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you very much.
20 (Applause.) And I want you to know that we didn't plan
21 this. But let me also talk to you as people who have
22 worked in the vineyards of our democracy. A man that has
23 been given the privilege of serving in government is not
24 only his own man, he is also the people's man. He works
25 with those who helped him, and he hopefully works with the

1 total community. I tried to do that when I was mayor.
2 Yes, I was my own man but I also had to be the man of the
3 whole community. I sometimes had to do things for that
4 community that I did not always find the best that I
5 would like to do for myself. You have to put community
6 above self. And when you are in the Senate of the United
7 States, you're not only just your own man, you're the
8 nation's man. You try to do to the best of your knowledge
9 and your insight what is right. You sometimes have to
10 vote-- as I did in the Senate-- sometimes I had to vote
11 for a bill that didn't always help me or my state, but I
12 was a Senator of the United States of America. And as
13 Vice-President of the United States, I have had to make
14 some decisions and follow some decisions that were not
15 always what I might personally have wanted, but I was
16 one of the advisers and I came from a particular part of
17 America. I can remember decisions that were made that
18 were not always as favorable to Minnesota as I would have
19 liked, or maybe even to Humphrey's Drug Store. Oh, yes,
20 I remember we even had a Commissioner of the Food and Drug
21 Administration that once said that the corner drug store
22 was obsolete. I suppose you thought that I liked that
23 since we had a corner drug store. Well, thank goodness,
24 he is no longer there. What I'm trying to say to you in
25 this rather jocular manner is to tell you that people in

1 public life have to consider something besides their own
2 personal pleasures and their own personal designs or
3 desires. I have been a member of a great team in this
4 government, a team of fine cabinet officers, a team of a
5 majority of Democrats in the 89th and 90th Congress, and
6 I have been proud to be a member of that team. I have
7 been a member of President Johnson's team and I have been
8 proud to be a member of that team. (Applause.) I have
9 occasionally had to do some of the downfield blocking
10 while somebody else was making a touchdown or hopefully
11 trying to make one as a part of being on the team but,
12 ladies and gentlemen, now I am asking you for the privi-
13 lege of being the captain of the team. (Applause.) And
14 if I am, it will be our team, we will call our plays, we
15 will do what we believe is necessary for the future of
16 this country. I was talking to Bob Docking's mother just
17 a moment ago and we were visiting very privately about
18 this country of ours and the future of this country.
19 That is what I am interested in, the future of this
20 country, your future, and I am interested in the kind of
21 world in which we live that has hanging over it this
22 constant shadow of total nuclear destruction unless men
23 and women who are in positions of responsibility can
24 somehow forestall those tragic developments. This is a
25 changed world, this is a changed America, and we simply

1 have to understand it. There is one thing we must know
2 above all else. There is no place to hide. You can't
3 stop the world and get off. There is only one thing we
4 can do now. We have to live in this world and make it a
5 better place in which to live. You can't isolate your-
6 self. You can't run away. You can't even run away to the
7 suburbs any more because everybody else beat you to it.
8 You simply have to make America work and I happen to
9 believe that a good idea is not enough - a good idea is
10 only a good idea when you make it work - and I want to
11 help make good ideas for this country work, and I want
12 you to help me. (Applause.) Thank you very much.

13 GOVERNOR DOCKING: Thank you very much, Mr. Vice-
14 President.

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