



HUGH DOWNS' INTERVIEW WITH VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. HUMPHREY ON THE 8:30 A.M. (CDT) SEGMENT OF "TODAY" ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 1968, LIVE AND IN COLOR ON THE NBC TELEVISION NETWORK.

MR. DOWNS: Shortly after he received the Democratic Presidential nomination last night, Vice President Humphrey agreed to tape an interview at his campaign headquarters here at Chicago.

With him was his wife, Muriel, now ready to endure the frantic and sometimes inhuman demands made upon a woman who might become a President's First Lady.

Here, now, is that taped interview.

MR. DOWNS: Mr. Vice President, I think America imagines some of your possibly mixed feelings of anguish on this night of your triumph at some of the things that we have watched on television, some of the things that have happened here in this convention city, the sight of policemen clubbing young idealists, many of whom are of the type who may have founded this country, one who

might have been at the beginnings of this country a young idealist named Hubert Humphrey.

What are your feelings on having seen it as I know you did from the hotel?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, I saw some of it from the hotel, but I saw most of it on the television.

I have been very concerned this week as to what would develop.

There were two kinds of young people here in all honesty. There were those that you speak of, the young idealists, and then there were those that were looking for a fight, and we might just as well speak frankly about it.

They came prepared with helmets, they came prepared to have a battle. They were a small number, but they were here, and we knew they were going to be here.

Then there were hundreds of others who were just fine, young people. And they get all mixed up. And then tensions rise. And there was a very sad situation that developed here in Chicago, and it could not help but make anyone feel sorrowful and very unhappy.

I believe that it is fair to say that this

is one of the most discouraging nights that one could have as well as one of the most happy that I could have.

But this pattern has been developing in our country, and it is something we have to take cognizance of.

And I really stretch my appeal out to adults and young people alike to reason with one another. I have seen so much of this as I have traveled around the country, Hugh, and it has bothered me a great deal.

Mrs. Humphrey and I, we try to be decent people, and yet we have suffered a tremendous number of insults from people who thought they were idealists.

Now, you don't have to be ill-mannered to be an idealist, you don't have to be a brute to be a policeman, you can express your ideals vividly, articulately and strongly and you can enforce the law without brutality.

I think there is a central balance that is needed, and we just have to face up to that.

MR. DOWNS: On that, the future holds a great deal of opportunity and challenge to you to move in certain directions.

Now I wonder if you would want to take this opportunity to repudiate any of the elements we couldn't help having seen.

I am speaking of Mayor Daley, some of the convention tactics which surely must have closed the convention, which I think you could have easily and graciously carried, had it remained open.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Oh, I disagree with you, sir.

I think the convention was open. The hearings were open, the platform committees were open, and the credentials committee, the hearings were open, the convention was open.

The people could speak. I don't think the convention was closed at all. I think merely to make the charge does not make it so.

There was no one denied their chance to speak. But the tactics of rowdism do not add to a convention. I don't care who is responsible for them, they just do not add to a convention.

Now, I am very happy to note that my state conducted itself pretty well. One person walked out, got on camera, and walked back in and got on camera.

But other than that, I think they were all

behaving very well.

There are some people who just plain don't want to practice the democratic procedure and whomever they are, they have to stand accused, or at least they stand exposed.

I have seen a lot of this, this year, and it has bothered me greatly. I have seen far too much of it from one end of our country to another, and I think it is about time we called a halt to it.

History is strewn with the wreckage of self-righteous militant minorities, who thought that they had sort of a monopoly on truth.

Now, I am not at all sure that I have the truth. I search for it. And I think we simply have to be tolerant of one another.

We do not need wild demonstrations in America to speak up. Shouting is not a substitute for reason, and brute strength is not a substitute for talking.

And the sooner we face up to that, the better we are going to be off.

MR. DOWNS: What will become of the body of dissent if they don't have access to some means of moving away from policies with which they may

have been dissatisfied for some time, now?

I am wondering what your real feelings are about the defeats of the minority report, which might have allowed you to move away. A thousand delegates voted against that part of the platform.

What will you do for them to bring them back into the party, to heal the rifts?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Hugh, I have served in the Senate 16 years, now, and I have seen every great issue settled by three or four votes.

You know, what do you do with much dissent? You know, majority rule is a part of the democratic process. There was no stifling of the right of dissent. There was a minority plank that was presented. There was equal time on both sides. There was a roll call. The people who supported my candidacy --some who voted for the minority plank.

Donald Frazier, one of our leading congressmen in Minnesota, spoke for the minority plank, and yet, he was my supporter.

There were others, that did this. Stanley Lowell, I know, up in New York, a strong supporter of mine, spoke in behalf of the minority plank.

There was no stifling of dissent.

People must understand that if they lose, it doesn't mean they didn't have the right of dissent. One of the things I think that has happened that is most regrettable is that when people lose out, they say it is foul play.

Well, I have lost out quite a few times in my life. I lost out to John Kennedy in 1960. And I went on --

MR. DOWNS: You stayed with the Party --

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Not only with the Party, I stayed with Mr. Kennedy. I worked for him.

I think we just have to understand, and young people -- I think you and I have a responsibility to get them to understand that when they lose, it doesn't mean they have been denied the chance to participate.

As a matter of fact, losing is part of participation. I lost the first time I ran for mayor of Minneapolis. I have lost many times in the Senate when I had a bill up. I used to get 10 or 15 votes. But I never said I didn't have a right to speak.

MR. DOWNS: How do you account now, Mr. Humphrey, for the enormous dissatisfaction and

threats of defection, which I have never seen before in a convention?

What is the reason for it?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, it has been building up for some time. I think part of it is the war.

But I have been very concerned about this because it is not just the war. There is dissatisfaction on the university campuses over the ways universities are operated.

I happen to be one that believes that part of the student unrest is partly well-founded in terms of the way the student has not been brought into a full participation of campus life.

But this disarray that you see here, you saw just as much of it in Paris. There has been plenty of it in the Scandinavian countries. There has been a good deal of it in Italy. They have had it in Switzerland.

All across the map of this world, there is this kind of unrest. Now, you cannot attribute that all to the war in Viet Nam.

I don't know how you can attribute the unrest that takes place in London or in Paris or in Oslo or in Copenhagen or in these different other

countries to our problems here. There is something going on in this world that I believe indicates that some of the old institutions or standards are breaking down, and it is questionable whether or not they can be properly defended and strengthened. I hope that they can.

I think part of the unrest in our own country, in many of its legitimate forms, is the desire of an individual for recognition, for his place.

This big society, big cities, big traffic, big labor, big government, big business, big politics, all these things seem to have a tendency to smother the individual, and he sometimes seeks to break out of this, and he does it on occasion in forms that some people don't like.

But I want to repeat again, because I have given so much real hard thought to this, because my wife is deeply involved in it, we must not let people feel that they are denied the right to dissent, because they lose.

Most of us who have been dissenters have lost on the individual battles, but we win the long-term struggle.

I have dissented on the issue of Civil

Rights in the Congress for 16 years, Hugh. I was defeated 30 times. I was humiliated, half of those times. But I kept at it. And I didn't get up and say Congress had denied me the chance to be heard, even though we had the filibuster which is the worst form of stifling of dissent, may I say.

We sought to change the rules under filibuster and we made some progress.

MR. DOWNS: This kind of disaffection possibly is an evidence of the malady besetting Western Civilization, not peculiar to America.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, it is even besetting Eastern Europe.

MR. DOWNS: Well, by Western, I meant Eastern, as well.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Yes.

MR. DOWNS: But since it is here and has to be dealt with, I would assume you have some plans specifically to correct or help to move toward remedy if you become the President of the United States.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, I will tell you what I have done. I have taken a good look at the young people of this country, and I love them very much and respect them greatly.

And there are thousands, millions of them that are not out here dissenting -- just millions of them.

I have hundreds of thousands of young people who were here in Chicago that were friends to me, and friends to Senator McCarthy and friends to Senator McGovern, that never got involved in any of this at all.

They were fine; they are wonderful young people.

The universities are filled with them. There are seven and a half million young men and women in universities. How many are really out here in these demonstrations?

Now, those are the people that I call the great silent, majority of Americans in the universities and elsewhere, that go right along and do their business, get their degrees, and prepare themselves for life.

They have political opinions.

We have young people in college and they are very vigorous in their attitudes. There hasn't been a time one of my sons hasn't come back from a trip and said, "I want to tell you something, Dad," and they argue with me.

But I do not believe we ought to confuse dissent with disarray, dissent with bad manners, dissent with violence, dissent with just being angry. It just isn't right to do that. That is all.

MR. DOWNS: Mrs. Humphrey, your husband and I have had a chance to chat, and you haven't had a chance to get a word in. I know you are not a newcomer to this. The campaign trail will be a familiar one to you. Do you anticipate any differences in the days between now and November?

MRS. HUMPHREY: Well, I think they will probably be stepped up a great deal. We have a lot of work ahead, we have a lot of things to do, a long way to go yet.

MR. DOWNS: Is it something you tolerate, and you do it well, but do you tolerate it, or do you enjoy it?

MRS. HUMPHREY: I do enjoy it.

MR. DOWNS: You enjoy every ounce of it?

MRS. HUMPHREY: Yes, I do. It was thrilling tonight, and I do feel very deeply about the disturbance and the contrast.

When you see the contrasts in the working of the convention -- I was there. I was there night before last, and I stayed almost all evening,

saw it at work and saw actually people who have come from the grass roots, from their state and local areas as delegates, and accepted in the convention and seated and working, and to be able to see this, and be able to see it take place properly as it has, it is very disheartening to see that a mob on the outside should feel that they should control that convention.

That is not only disheartening, it is frightening.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Mrs. Humphrey and I have been threatened with assassination half a dozen times.

What is the mayor of this city supposed to do about that? Every one of us were threatened and had to be under heavy guard. Now that doesn't make you feel very happy.

MR. DOWNS: I think you deserve the guards.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, I don't like it. I frankly would prefer to walk through an audience without them. But you have to live in the times, apparently, when there are people who feel that they can take the law in their own hands.

And I want to make it quite clear I don't

think people can choose the laws they want to abide by.

They can pick and choose the laws they want to change. But they have a way to change them in this country, and you don't change them out in front by stormtrooper tactics, either on the part of the dissenter or the police. You just don't do it.

Now, there is a way to do it, and we might just as well draw the line right here and now, if I am President, I intend to help draw that line.

Because you cannot have anarchy and have democracy. You cannot have nihilism in this country which is a repudiation of all governments.

You simply have to come to some reasonable understanding of what the rules of the game are, and then if you want to change those rules, we do it with the rules.

MR. DOWNS: Thank you, Mr. Vice President, and thank you, Mrs. Humphrey.

STATE

WOOD

Arthur Miller
Primo Salinger

300 N. STATE

and you know what happened
my name is Arthur Miller
I wish the law
and then if you want to change those laws, we do
understanding of what the laws of the same are
don't usually have to come to some reasonable
matters to a resolution of all governments
democracy. You cannot have anything in this country
because you cannot have anything and have
time.
now if I am president I intend to pass laws that
will give us what we need and will give us what
now there is a way to do it and we
don't do it.
the kind of the character of the justice. You just
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