

STATEMENT BY SENATOR HUMPHREY
WASHINGTON, D. C.
APRIL 29, 1976

PUBLIC LIFE IS NEVER EASY. IT IS AN EXPERIENCE
FILLED WITH CRITICAL DECISIONS. AND DURING THESE
PAST THIRTY-SIX HOURS I HAVE BEEN CALLED UPON TO
MAKE A BASIC DECISION REGARDING THE PRESIDENTIAL
PRIMARIES.

IN THE PAST I HAVE SAID THAT I WOULD NOT ENTER
THE PRIMARIES. I HAVE ALSO SAID THAT, IF AT THE TIME
OF THE CONVENTION, MY PARTY NEEDS ME AND WANTS ME,
I WOULD BE PREPARED AND HONORED TO BE THE DEMOCRATIC
PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE. DURING THESE PAST MONTHS I HAVE
MAINTAINED A STRONG POSITION IN THE PUBLIC OPINION POLLS
BOTH AMONGST DEMOCRATS AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE.

RECENT SURVEYS FOLLOWING PRIMARY ELECTIONS HAVE
DEMONSTRATED THAT I HAVE CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT.

ALL OF THESE FACTORS HAVE BEEN WEIGHED IN THE
DECISION THAT I AM MAKING.

I HAVE HAD CALLS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM A HOST
OF PEOPLE GIVING ME THE BENEFIT OF THEIR ADVICE.

MANY OF THEM HAVE URGED ME TO ENTER THE NEW JERSEY
PRIMARY. OTHERS HAVE URGED THAT I MAINTAIN MY
ORIGINAL POSITION.

I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH MY FAMILY AND,
IN PARTICULAR, WITH MRS. HUMPHREY. SHE AND OUR
CHILDREN, AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT, ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT
WHATEVER DECISION I MAKE. THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A SOURCE
OF STRENGTH AND COMFORT TO ME.

TO BECOME AN ACTIVE CANDIDATE AT THIS LATE HOUR IS AN ENORMOUS RESPONSIBILITY. I HAVE NO ORGANIZATION, NO COMMITTEE, AND, FRANKLY, NO CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR THE PRESIDENCY. HAVING GONE THROUGH NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS I KNOW THE PROBLEMS OF ORGANIZATION AND CAMPAIGN FINANCING. ANY CAMPAIGN EFFORT IS EXTREMELY COSTLY, TOTALLY DEMANDING, AND REQUIRES WELL DISCIPLINED ORGANIZATION AND DIRECTION. TIME UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES AS IT RELATES TO THE NEW JERSEY PRIMARY AND OTHER PRIMARIES IN WHICH I FIND MY NAME ENTERED -- NEBRASKA, IDAHO, AND OREGON -- JUST DOESN'T PERMIT EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION IN THOSE STATES AND ACTIVE CAMPAIGNING.

IN LIGHT OF ALL OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND OTHERS, I HAVE ARRIVED AT A DECISION. I SHALL NOT ENTER THE NEW JERSEY PRIMARY NOR SHALL I AUTHORIZE ANY COMMITTEE OR COMMITTEES TO SOLICIT FUNDS OR WORK IN MY BEHALF. I INTEND TO RUN FOR RE-ELECTION TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA. I SHALL CONTINUE TO SPEAK OUT ON THE ISSUES AS I SEE THEM. I SHALL SERVE MY PARTY TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY IN THE STATUS OF A NON-CANDIDATE. I LOOK FORWARD TO ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AT THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION IN NEW YORK IN JULY. AS I HAVE SAID, IF MY PARTY SHOULD NEED ME OR NOMINATE ME, I AM PREPARED TO SERVE.

I FULLY REALIZE THAT THIS DECISION WILL BE DISAPPOINTING TO A HOST OF MY FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS. IT HAS BEEN A MOST DIFFICULT ONE FOR ME.

I URGE THOSE WHO ARE IN THE CONTEST TO CONTINUE
THEIR CAMPAIGNS AND ADDRESS THEMSELVES TO THE
IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT FACE THIS NATION AND OUR WORLD.

THANK YOU.

#

May 17, 1976

To Vi

From Marsha

This is the note which Ursula carried in to the Senator during his meeting on the evening of April 28. He wants to keep it in a file.

Mrs. Humphrey called:

Whatever you decide in this meeting
is fine with her.

Whatever you want to do tonight
is alright with her.



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