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HUMANITY IN A FREE WORLD

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Humanity in a
free world*

Address by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D.-Minn)

at Triennial Convention of B'nai B'rith

at the Statler Hotel, Washington, D. C.

Tuesday night, May 5, 1953

Thank you very much. I thank you not only for your generous hospitality to me personally, but also for your constant rekindling of faith in democracy and humanitarianism. The B'nai B'rith symbolizes for me the very essence of the spirit of freedom and compassion which lies at the root of democratic life. In the course of the last few years I have made a number of addresses before the B'nai B'rith groups and have met untold hundreds, perhaps thousands of your members. Wherever I go — whether it be in Minneapolis, New York, Montreal, Chicago or Louisville — it is the same, the same spirit of service, respect for fellow man, human dignity and compassion.

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The greatest attribute of democracy is "to serve". To

serve our fellow man, to serve the world, to serve our country.

Democracy is no stronger than that spirit of service and brotherhood which exists from within. You represent in my mind and in the mind of all who are acquainted with your activities the very essence of that democratic ingredient.

Your convention and the press reports that I have read of your deliberations (I know of the fine work that your Mr. Salveson has done on that score) has been heartwarming to me because it is time for us to get on the offensive and maintain the offensive. Those of us who believe in the principles of human brotherhood, human equality, human freedom should stop apologizing for our faith. We should instead proclaim that faith over and over.

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Preserving humanity, and the kind of an atmosphere in

which it can thrive, is everybody's job.

It's not just the job of our government; it's your job
and mine.

It's not just the sole aim of any group or any political
party; it's the basic purpose of democracy, and the basic purpose
of our entire political structure through which we give meaning
to democracy.

Concern for human justice and human respect must always
remain ~~an~~ an underlying purpose of both major political parties
in this country, for it is basic to democracy itself. We must
constantly seek to preserve and protect human justice and respect
for the dignity of the individual in our own country, and maintain
a wholesome atmosphere where such qualities of humanity can thrive.

But today it is no longer enough to be concerned about
human justice and human respect in our own country. If they are
to survive at all, they must survive everywhere. We must be

equally concerned with violations of human justice anywhere
in the world.

We must be alert to the dangers to democracy, of bigotry
and prejudice in any form.

We must recognize the threat inherent for all of us in
the oppression of any minority, or the violation of the rights
of the least of us.

Hatred breeds hatred, and blinds the world to the reality
of man's brotherhood under God.

Preserving freedom in the world today means more than
stamping out foes of freedom with military might.

If we have learned anything in our time, it is that
military might alone, without moral purpose and humane resolve
to build a better world for others as well as ourselves, can
solve none of our problems.

Might and power serves any master. It can serve the cause
of oppression and injustice, as well as the cause of justice and
humanity.

The strength of our ~~might today~~ **COPY** is the moral basis upon

which we are building material power.

The strength of our might is the humaneness behind it,
rather than hatred for any peoples.

Such humaneness in no way weakens our determination, nor
blinds us to the reality of the threats confronting us and the
world today.

Rather, it gives resolve to that determination, and it
provides constructive rather than destructive purpose to the
bastions of freedom we are building.

No one has made that any clearer than President Eisenhower,
in his recent momentous foreign policy address.

President Eisenhower left no doubt of our nation's grim
determination to protect freedom, at whatever price.

But at the same time, he left no doubt to the people
of Russia or any other land that our purpose is humane, not
conquest. He put forth for the world to see and understand,

if it will, the great desire of the American people to share their heritage of freedom and liberty with all. He voiced the underlying hope of the American people that the huge burden of building forces of destruction can eventually be turned into new channels of constructive progress for the entire world, progress that can offer promise of a better life for all people everywhere.

His views were not partisan views; they were American views. I am happy to share them, as I know all loyal Americans are.

Human well-being is a bipartisan job, whether it is the human well-being of our own people or of oppressed peoples in other lands. Perhaps it is the very nature of totalitarian rule by brute force, by oppression, and by fear that makes it difficult for the Soviet masters in the Kremlin to understand the basic unity of purpose of the American people, and that such unity of purpose is not changed by any changes at the political helm of our country.

I am glad tonight to be sharing the speaker's table with the distinguished Republican Speaker of the House, my friend Representative Joseph W. Martin, Jr. of Massachusetts, for it is an example of democracy and freedom of expression and tolerance of the rights and opinions of others that Russia needs to learn.

I am sure Speaker Martin will agree with me that there is no room for partisan differences on the basic foundations of human justice and human respect for the dignity of the individual upon which our great democracy has been erected.

I am sure he would agree, too, that human justice and human respect are good measuring rods to apply to our relations with others in our daily lives, to our responsibilities of good citizenship, and to the courses of action we follow as elected representatives of the American people.

It is the measuring rod by which critical decisions should be guided in our foreign affairs.

We must give meaning to our humane purpose, for it is

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by our acts and not our words that we will be judged by less fortunate peoples of the world.

Can we rightly proclaim our concern for all humanity, then shut our eyes to the plight of humanity in underprivileged areas of the world?

Can we convincingly proclaim our belief in human justice and the brotherhood of man, if we allow continued examples of prejudice and violation of civil rights to blot democracy's banner?

Can we convince despairing people of our humanitarian concern for others as well as ourselves, if we selfishly slam the doors of trade and immigration in their faces?

I have been greatly heartened, as I am sure all of you have, at President Eisenhower's recent letter to the Senate urging changes in the conspicuous defects of our present immigration laws, to wipe out discrimination and injustice.

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I have been less heartened and less encouraged, however, by the somewhat deaf ears upon which this message has apparently fallen in some quarters of the Congress. I am disturbed by the lack of realization of how vitally such a policy is interwoven in freedom's fight for survival, in humanity's continued existence.

I shall always be disturbed when materialistic concerns start crowding humaneness into the background.

For our material progress can only survive and continue with preservation of the best qualities of humanity -- the qualities of human justice, human respect, human sympathy, human kindness.

America's heart -- and its pocketbook -- cannot be bound in materialistic iron chains in the struggle for human liberty.

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America has shown the world again and again that it is willing to open both its heart and its pocketbook to wipe out human suffering, to relieve the distressed and downtrodden. That humaneness is our real secret weapon in democracy's battle for survival, a moral secret weapon that carries more weight in the world today than weapons of destruction.

As we strengthen the arsenals of the free world, as we gird ourselves to fight for liberty, let us make sure we don't overlook that weapon.

Let's make sure we keep humaneness uppermost in our minds, and uppermost in our actions, so humanity can meet any challenge at home or from abroad.

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ADDRESS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

before

B'NAI B'RITH

Tuesday Evening, May 5

America's strength in the worldwide struggle of ideologies is the "moral basis upon which we are building material power," Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D.-Minn.) told the triennial convention of the B'Nai B'Rith in a banquet address at the Statler Hotel last night.

"Preserving freedom in the world today means more than stamping out foes of freedom with military might," Senator Humphrey said.

"If we have learned anything in our time, it is that military might alone, without moral purpose and humane resolve to build a better world for others as well as for ourselves, can solve none of our problems ...

"The strength of our might is the humaneness behind it, rather than hatred for any peoples. Such humaneness in no way

weakens our determination, nor blinds us to the reality of the threats confronting us and the world today. Rather, it gives resolve to that determination, and constructive rather than destructive purpose to the bastions of freedom we are building."

Senator Humphrey lauded President Eisenhower for his recent foreign policy address making clear "our purpose is humane, not conquest" and the great desire of the American people to "share their heritage of freedom and liberty with all".

Senator Humphrey cautioned, however, that "we must give meaning to that purpose, for it is by our acts and not our words that we will be judged by less fortunate peoples of the world."

"Can we rightly proclaim our concern for all humanity, then shut our eyes to the plight of humanity in underprivileged areas of the world?" he asked. "Can we convincingly proclaim our belief in human justice and the brotherhood of man, if we allow continued examples of prejudice and violation of civil rights to

blot democracy's banner? **COPY** Can we convince despairing people of our humanitarian concern for others as well as ourselves, if we selfishly slam the doors of trade and immigration in their faces?"

Senator Humphrey said he was "heartened" and "encouraged" by recent messages from President Eisenhower calling for wiping out discrimination and injustices of present immigration laws, and expansion of foreign trade through extension of the reciprocal trade agreements.

"I have been less heartened and less encouraged, however", Senator Humphrey added, "by the somewhat deaf ears upon which both messages have apparently fallen in some quarters of the Congress. I am disturbed by the lack of realization of how vitally such policies are interwoven in freedom's fight for survival, in humanity's continued existence.

Senator Humphrey said he would "always be disturbed when materialistic concerns start crowding humaneness into the background."

"Material progress can only survive and continue with

preservation of the best qualities of humanity -- the qualities of human justice, human respect, human sympathy, human kindness," he said.

"America's heart -- and its pocketbook -- cannot be bound in materialistic iron chains in the struggle for human liberty".



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