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Shirley

9/19/53

From the Office of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey 429 Nicollet Hotel Minneapolis, Minnesota FOR RELEASE

Wednesday A.M. September 25, 1953

America's heart "cannot be bound in materialistic iron chains in the struggle for human liberty", Senator Hubert H. Humphrey declared last night (Tuesday, September 22) in an address before Covanent Lodge, B'nai B'rith, in Duluth, Minnesota.

"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," Senator Humphrey said. "That humanitarianism 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 a spirit of compassion and understanding uppermost in our minds, and uppermost in our actions, so humanity can meet any challenge at home or from abroad," Senator Humphrey declared.

America's strength in the worldwide struggle of ideologies, Senator Humphrey added, is the "moral basis upon which we are building material power.

"Preserving freedom in the world today means more than stamping out foes of freedom with military might," he 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 ourselves, can solve none of our problems."

Senator Humphrey said he would "always be disturbed when materialistic concerns start crowding humanitarianism 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 kindness," he said.

## HUMANITY IN A FREE WORLD

Address by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D.-Minn.)
at Covanent Lodge, B'Nai B'Rith

Duluth, Minnesota

September 22, 1953

Humanity is on trial in the free world today.

Humanity's survival is at stake, in the ideological struggle of the free world against totalitarian forces of oppression and hate.

If humanity in its best sense -- the quality of being humane -- is going to survive, it must have an atmosphere of human justice, human respect, and human kindness.

Wherever human justice is blindly ignored, wherever respect for the dignity of the individual is ruthlessly cast aside, wherever human kindness is ridiculed as being "soft", humanity will eventually wither away and die, choked out by the tentacles of hatred and fear, prejudice and bigotry.

Preserving humanity, and the kind of an atmosphere in which it can thrive, is everybody's job.

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

It is not just the sole aim of any group or any political party; it is 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 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 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 is 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 basions 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.

America 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 you 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 you 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 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 letter to the Senate urging changes in the conspicuous defects of our present immigration laws, to wipe out discrimination and injustice.

I have been encouraged by President Eisenhower speaking out for expansion of foreign trade, and its vital importance to strengthening the free world.

I have been less heartened and less encouraged, however, 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.

I shall always be distrubed 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.

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 us 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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