. Whi lona REMARKS BY OF HUBERT H. HUMPHREY WASHINGTON D.C. JUNE 18, 1963 ORD FOURDATION GRANT - EUL The issue of freedom has come home. and it always Painfult Almost two hundred years ago, our Nation was born with a cry for freedom which still echoes across every Return uncut to continent of the world / Our American Revolution set a new and attainable goal for all men without freedom. It was a warning to the tyrants who sponsored oppression, and to the indifferent who tolerated injustice. The idea of our revolution took root in other lands, and spread. Over the years, we have watched the results as the people of other the stood up and demanded freedom for themselves.

Our American idea of freedom for all men has circled the earth, moulded new nations and shaped history. ownasmow returned to this land with vitality again and force --- to challenge us or to haunt us. The Negro---The American Negro---want freedom. And he is standing up to demand it and Fighting fruit ! Move should be surprised by his demand or by the steps he is taking to win his rights. The surprise is that he had enough patience to wait so long for other give him those mights. and The Negro's demand for full freedom for every man and women is not new; it does it represent some alien to 100% american philosophy. -Our four littles ion. We promised him realization of ago, with the Cons

-2-

But, We have neglected the most tragic failure of America

There is a gap between what we should be and what we are. All of our people are proud to be Americans. **Bro** many of our people and the second Americans by their second Americans by the words of the Con-

stitution, <u>citizens</u>. But many of our people---isclusing

-3-

02--lenow the gap exists --- and it is wide. -America is behind in guaranteeing first-class citizenship to every American. America is behind in guaranteeing, toting rights to Negro citizens. America is behind in opening the test educational opportunities to Negro citizens. America lags in assuring equal job opportunities to - fagin training Negro citizens. America, in short, is short on the freedom about which it boasts. / Our Nation suffers from a lingering disease --- a corroding and crippling disease of prejudice, bigotry Fir toll in poverty, iland discrimination which take the literacy and social injustice. ders the is in the

We must dedicate ourselves, our energies and our knowledge to the imperative task of closing America's citizen-

We must remove the disease of discrimination through new laws, new practices, through our communities and states --and with Federal standards. Descrimination State or area of the country. This is a <u>national</u> problem---and in some ways, <u>international</u>. It weakens us at home and in basic issue today is not whether the wrongs of discrimination will be righted --- they will be. The issue is not even when equality and fill freedom will be realized for every American --- that time is now, this year.

The basic issue is <u>how</u> first-class citizenship will be won for all Americans.

This is the question: Will full citizenship rights Winn and be assured for every American by the same and the states of and the states of the

Tomorrow, President Kennedy will offer part of the answer to this question. He will give to the Congress and the country a courageous, comprehensive and strong message on the steps needed to bring first-class citizenship to every a massive American. His proposals will represent a effort to resolve the major issue of our time by orderly, legislative steps. There will be a long and difficult debate in the Congress on the Administration's civil rights program. Τ Whatever legislature ability I may have pledge my energies and my life this year, to securing Congressional approval for that program. It must be approved will be approved.

A Gallup Poll of this week reports that 36 per cent of the people believe that the Administration is moving "too

fast," on civil rights.

But, I believe that this Nation has in peent years moved

too slowly, and in other years moved not at all in the cause

of human rights. Fifteen years ago, in the summer of 1948, I spoke these words at the Democratic National Convention in "There are those who say to you --- we are rushing this issue of civil rights. I say we are 172 years too late.

"There are those who say---this issue of civil rights is an infringement of states'rights. The time has arrived... to get out of the shadow of states' rights and walk forthrightly into the bright sunshine of human rights.

"People---human beings---this is the issue of the 20th century. People---all kinds and sorts of people---look to America for leadership, for help, for guidance. "...I ask you for a calm consideration of our historic opportunity. Let us forget the evil passions, the blindness of the past. In these times of world economic, political and spiritual *Habbed MI Mikituk* crisis, we cannot---we must not, turn from the path so plainly before us.

has already led us through many vallets the shadow of death, Now is the time to regall those who vere left on that /path of American/freedom.

"For all of us here, for the millions who have sent us, for the whole two billion members of the human family---our land is now, more than ever, the last best hope on earth. I know that we can---I know that we shall---begin here the fuller and richer realization of that hope---that promise of a land where all men are free and equal, and each man uses his freedom and equality wisely and well."

-9-We did make a new beginning in that summer 15 years ago. Much has been done in those 15 years to advance the cause of civil rights and human rights in the United States. But I am confident now that more will be done in the next 15 months than in the past 15 years. I am confident that the promise of the Emancipation Proclamation will be match by performance in the next 15 months. My confidence is based on trust in the people of the United States---in their basic , their intrinsic decency, their enduring respect for the principles which shaped this Nation's philosophy of freedom. And my confidence is based on the sense of a new climate in America --- an awareness of the moral crisis we and a determination to resolve it. In this new climate, "indifference has changed to concern, and personal involvement.

All of us, every citizen of this Nation, <u>are</u> concerned today about the moral crisis of civil rights and human rights. All of us must recognize that we are personally involved in this crisis---no matter what part of the country is **p**our home.

Edmund Burke said it best to the House of Commons: "All that is necessary for the forces of evil to win in the world," he said, "is for enough good men to do nothing."

We have the good men. And today, they are doing

(END)

something.

-10-

Excerpts of Remarks by SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Brandeis University Dinner Washington, D.C.

June 18, 1963

The issue of freedom has come home.

Almost two hundred years ago, our Nation was born with a cry for freedom which still echoes across every continent of the world.

Our American R<sub>e</sub>volution set a new and attainable goal for all men without freedom. It was a warning to the tyrants who sponsored oppression, and to the indifferent who tolerated injustice.

The idea of our revolution took root in other lands, and spread. Over the years, we have watched the results cometimes proudly, sometimes fearfully the people of other lands stood up and demanded freedom for themselves.

Our American idea of freedom for all men has circled the earth, moulded new nations and shaped history.

And now it has returned to this land with vitality and force--to challenge us or to haunt us.

The Negro---The American Negro---wants freedom. And he is standing up to demand it.

We should not be surprised by his **provide** demand or by the steps he is taking to win his rights. The surprise is that he had enough **patience** to wait so long for others to give him those rights.

(more)

The Negro's demand for full freedom for every man and woman is not new; it does not represent some alien force.

--- 2 ---

We---our Nation---gave him the idea almost 200 years ago, with the Constitution. We promised him realization of the idea 100 years ago, with the Emancipation Proclamation.

But today, there is a tragic gap between the promise and the fulfillment of the Emancipation Proclamation.

As a Nation, we have in recent years been preoccupied with the contest with Communism. We have given only a fraction of our attention to the contest between ourselves.

As a Nation, we have poured our resources and energies into a massive effort to close what we called the missile gap, or the space gap.

We have neglected the most tragic failure of America as a Nation and as a people----the citizenship gap.

There is a gap between what we should be and what we are. All of our people are proud to be Americans. But many of our people are not considered Americans by their fellows. All of our people are, by the words of the Constitution, <u>citizens</u>. But many of our people---including the Negro---know that they are considered second-class citizens.

Yes, the gap exists --- and it is wide.

America is <u>behind</u> in guaranteeing first-class citizenship to <u>every</u> American.

America is behind in guaranteeing voting rights to Negro citizens. America is behind in opening the best educational opportunities to

(more)

Negro citizens.

America lags in assuring equal job opportunities to Negro citizens. America, in short, is short on the freedom about which it boasts. Our Nation suffers from a lingering disease---a corroding and crippling disease of prejudice, bigotry and discrimination which take their toll in poverty, illiteracy and social injustice.

--- 3 ---

We must dedicate ourselves, our energies and our knowledge to the imperative task of closing America's citizenship gap.

We must remove the disease of discrimination through new laws, new practices, through our communities and states --- and with <u>Federal</u> standards.

This is not a local problem, or the problem of one State or area of the country. This is a national problem --- and in some ways, international.

The basic issue today is not whether the wrongs of discrimination will be righted ---- they will be.

The basic issue is how first-class citizenship will be won for all Americans.

This is the question: Will full citizenship rights be assured for every American by statesmen and legislators, or by violence, disorder and demogogery?

(more)

Tomorrow, President Kennedy will offer part of the answer to this question. He will give to the Congress and the country a courageous, comprehensive and strong message on the steps needed to bring firstclass citizenship to every American. His proposals will represent an effort to resolve the major issue of our time by orderly, legislative steps.

There will be a long and difficult debate in the Congress on the Administration's civil rights program. I pledge my energies and my life this year to securing Congressional approval for that program. It must be approved. It will be approved.

There are those in the country who say that the President is moving "to contract on this wave. A Gallup Poll of this week reports that 36 per cent of the people believe that the Administration is moving too fast," ON CIVIL RIGHTS, I RELIEVE I Nation has in recent years moved too slowly and in

I that this Nation has in recent years moved too slowly and in other years moved not at all in the cause of human rights.

Fifteen years ago, in the summer of 1948, I spoke these words at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago:

"There are those who say to you---we are rushing this issue of civil rights. I say we are 172 yeats too late.

"There are those who say --- this issue of civil rights is an infringement of states rights. The time has arrived **for...** to get out of the shadow of state's rights and walk forthrightly into the bright sunshine of human rights.

- 4 ---

"People---human beings----this is the issue of the 20th century. People---all kinds and sorts of people---look to America for leadership, for help, for guidance.

"...I ask you for a calm consideration of our historic opportunity. Let us forget the evil passions, the blindness of the past. In these times of world economic, political and spiritual---above all, spiritual crisis, we cannot---we must not, turn from the path so plainly before us.

"That path has already led us through many valleys of the shadow of death. Now is the time to recall those who were left on that path of American freedom.

"For all of us here, for the millions who have sent us, for the whole two billion members of the human family---our land is now, more than ever, # the last best hope on earth. I know that we can---I know that we shall--begin here the fuller and richer realization of that hope---that promise of a land where all men are free and equal, and each man uses his freedom and equality wisely and well."

We did make a new beginning in that summer 15 years ago. Much has been done in those 15 years to advance the cause of civil rights and human rights in the United States.

I am confident and she now that more will be done in the next 15 months than in the past 15 years.

--- 5 ----

I am confident that the promise of the Eamancipation Proclamation will be matched by performance in the next 15 months.

--- 6 ---

My confidence is based on trust in the people of the United States---in their basic goodness, their intrinsic decency, their enduring respect for the principles which shaped this Nation's philosophy of freedom.

And my confidence is based on the sense of a new climate in America---an awareness of the moral crisis we face, and a determination to resolve it.

In this new climate, indifference has changed to concern, and personal involvement.

P&#h#ps/our/greatest/profilem/kn/kn/kn/kn/kn/ka/kea/fa/k/kea/fa/fa/fa/fa/kea/fa/kea/fa/kea/fa/kea/fa/fa/fa/fa/kea/fa/fa/kea

All of us, every citizen of this Nation, are concerned today about the moral crisis of civil rights and human rights. All of us must recognize that we are personally involved in this crisis---no matter what part of the country is your home.

Edmund Burke said it best to the House of Commons:

"All that is necessary for the forces of evil to win in the world," he said, "is for enough good men to do nothing."

We have the good men. And today, they are doing something.

(END)

## Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.

