

Grandfather - my Army - son in law with Army

Address By

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey

National Conference on Day Care Services

May 14, 1965

Washington, D. C.

It is good to be with people who care so deeply
about children.

Your interest, your commitment could hardly find
better expression than in this national conference.

↳ You are coming to grips with one of the great,
emerging problems of today's and tomorrow's America.

The availability of modern day-care services is
no longer an individual convenience; it is a community

and national necessity, particularly for working mothers.

One out of every four mothers with children under 6 is working in today's labor force. The number of such mothers has doubled since 1950 and is now 3.6 million.

During the 1970's, the number of working mothers of pre-school children will increase another 43 per cent.

In your hands -- to a very considerable extent -- depends some of the future of those working mothers and much of the future of their children.

The needs of our children have for too long been greater than this nation's response.

Public day-care centers are too few in number.

Sometimes they are so jammed with applicants that they can accept only the children of one-parent families or of

the poverty-stricken.

↳ For families in the higher income brackets, who can pay fees, private centers still meet only a fraction of the need and often with less than satisfactory standards.

Fortunately, we have made progress. Thanks to the 1962 Child Welfare Amendments and to federal, state and local implementation and initiative, services have expanded and standards have risen. But we still have a long way to go.

↳ Consider the plight of many children in the 3 - 5 age span. They number 12.5 million.

↳ There is no group in our entire population -- except infants up to 3 -- who can benefit more from

enlightened, creative attention -- by parents and others --
than these 3 - 5 year olds.

Significant light on care of these children is
shed by a new survey, based on a sampling of the nation's
households. This survey shows that in families with
working mothers, almost half -- 48 per cent -- of 3 - 5
year olds are cared for in their own homes, by a father,
another relative or non-relative. Some 27 per cent are
cared for in someone else's home, by a relative or a non-
relative. Some 25 per cent ^{are} looked after by other
arrangements -- including only 7 per cent group care, such
as day-care centers.

These and other facts confirm that we are far
behind many other countries in the western world in the

provision of adequate day-care services.

↳ One of the results is that, ^{when} ~~as~~ American mothers work, their thoughts must anxiously turn to the well-being of their children. ^{and} Too often, there is ample reason for their concern.

↳ We are well aware of physical tragedy which can befall children without proper day care. But far more widespread is the intangible harm which is inflicted on so many youngsters -- the harm of arrested intellectual growth.

↳ The mind of a child must be encouraged to grow. Time must be used for this growth. In the vital pre-school years, the mind cannot grow in an atmosphere of monotony, boredom, "nothing-to-do".

L Experts in child development and in nursery school education can bring the child to the world and the world to the child. They can enrich the lives of children.

L They can identify each child as an unique personality, as an individual with particular abilities and interests,

L They can encourage each little boy or girl to develop at an appropriate pace and along his or her own lines.

But L It takes good people today to foster the good people of tomorrow. L We need more trained personnel -- larger numbers, better paid, more highly respected -- for this task of strengthening tomorrow's generation.

L Our children deserve the best. And today's parents are entitled to realize their aspirations, too -- for their children and for themselves.

and, The women of this nation are entitled to realize their fullest potentialities -- as students, as mothers, as citizens.

It is easy to say that, if a woman fears for her children, she shouldn't work. ^{But,} That is more easily said than done. ¹ Some 86 per cent of mothers who work do so because it's an economic necessity for their families.

I have concentrated on the problem of children of working mothers. But there are other children who may need day care. They include youngsters who are handicapped -- mentally, emotionally or physically -- or children in homes so poverty-stricken as to offer little but misery to a growing child.

Day Care is not a limited concept for a limited few -- it is not just for the children of working mothers, or of low-income mothers, it is for the child who needs it, when he needs it, where he needs it, for the length of time he needs it,

The organizations sponsoring this Conference --- the National Committee for the Day Care of Children, the Child Welfare League of America, the United States Children's Bureau -- are leading the way.

The time is right. 1965 can be made a Children's Year.

Opportunity

Already, we have taken what President Johnson rightly regards as the "most significant step of this century" for American education. The Elementary and Secondary

Education law will serve, among others, 5 million deprived youngsters. This law, specifically, will enable the U.S. Office of Education to make a tremendous contribution to school as well as pre-school objectives.

Similarly, the U.S. Children's Bureau will, I am confident, be strengthened in its capacity to expand day care -- under appropriations legislation to be enacted later this year.

L And the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity will fulfill its mandate to break the poverty cycle, at its most crucial point -- among the deprived young. It is my privilege to serve as co-ordinator, on behalf of our President, in the anti-poverty war. In this war, we well recognize that day-care services must be strengthened so

as to permit impoverished parents to receive job
training and become self-sufficient, as well as to serve
the children themselves.

↳ This Administration recognizes poverty in all
its dimensions. Poverty means more than lack of income.

Poverty is psychological; it is social and cultural.

↳ And so, this summer, an unprecedented assault
will be launched under "Operation Headstart" against all
those forms of deprivation, affecting a half-million
pre-school youngsters.

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↳ And so we support other new initiatives which
can break -- and break early -- the poverty cycle.

↳ The child who feels left out today may be a drop-
out tomorrow. The youngster who is alienated from his

family today is much less likely to find his place in
society in the years ahead.

↳ The weeds of adult trouble have their roots in
childhood.

↳ The community does have a responsibility to
help dig out these weeds + by the roots.

↳ A child needs strength to lean on, a shoulder to
cry on, an example to learn from.

↳ Let us give children their due. Let us build for
tomorrow by enriching their lives today.

INFORMATION

FROM THE
PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE
-ON-
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Washington 25, D. C.

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
AT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DAY CARE SERVICES,
WASHINGTON, D.C., MAY 14, 1965

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ADDRESS BY
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

1 We are going to present to you the Secretary of Health, Education,
2 and Welfare. I think that many of you may know that the last time that he
3 was elected Mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, after preceeding successful admini-
4 strations, he took all but two precincts, and the only time that his friends
5 tell me that he really showed any annoyance, was on that morning after
6 election, when he took his staff to task, when he asked them, "what about
7 those two precincts?"

8 It was my great pleasure to know Secretary Celebrezzi, in Cleve-
9 land, and as a member of the State Legislature of Ohio, as well as chief
10 administrator of that city, and now as Secretary of Health, Education, and
11 Welfare. He has shown a deep sensitivity, a great commitment to education,
12 to the health of our people and to raising the level of life for all people
13 in this country.

14 It is a great honor for me now to present Secretary Anthony
15 Celebrezzi.

16 SECRETARY CELEBREZZI:

17 Doctor Mayo, Mr. Vice President, our distinguished Congressman,
18 and ladies and gentlemen.

19 I am happy to announce that in the last election, the last Presi-
20 dential election, Dr. Mayo, President Johnson and Vice President Humphrey
21 carried those two precincts.

22 I am delighted to have this opportunity of talking to you for this
23 great cause that you are engaged in, the Day Care Program. I had the
24 occasion about a year ago in New York to address a group on the Day Care
25 and I tried to stress then the urgency of the situation. But the greatest
asset that we have in our great nation are our children, and that there is
a problem of taking care of these youngsters to see that they are properly
fitted out to face the tasks ahead of them, not only pre-school, but many

1 mothers are tied down because they have to work for a living. They have to
2 have someplace to put these children. We tried to impress this upon Congress
3 and in our budgets, we think that we are making some progress, but much more
4 needs to be done.

5 Now my primary purpose here this morning is to introduce to you
6 your principal speaker. I know that I am breaching protocol in introducing
7 your principal speaker, but I have such great admiration for him and through-
8 out the years that it has been my privilege to know him he has shown such
9 concern for the youth of this nation and for all of humanity, that I can
10 take the opportunity of presenting to you, not only the Vice President of
11 the United States, but a great humanitarian, and one that has fought through-

12 Ladies and Gentlemen, the Vice President of the United States.
13 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY:

14 Thank you very much. Thank you Secretary Celebrezzi.

15 Congressman Botnick, my good Congressman from Minnesota, I always
16 feel just a little stronger, just a little better when I see John on any
17 program. Dr. Mayo, Commissioner Winston and my friend Mary Keyserling,
18 Mrs. Gugenheimer, Mrs. Ettinger and Mr. Heinz and all of those of you who
19 are delegates to this Conference.

20 First I want to say that I've been doing a little community work
21 myself this morning. I was leaving my home rather early, I went over to
22 see my dentist. I thought that I ought to get all of the hostility out of
23 my system, early. I wanted to come here filled with love and understanding.
24 But that poor dentist and his patient really had a bout this morning. Then
25 I stopped off at Takoma Park where my dentist resides, has his office and
proceeded to do a little community work by shaking hands with everybody
on both sides of the street. We had a very good time, and John I am very

1 happy to tell you that I have a man that is coming over to look at our
2 television, to fix that up for me. He is going to check the air conditioning
3 and I was able to get all these things, and I have been telling Mrs.
4 Humphreys that these matters were simple, if you would just buckle down to
5 getting the job done. It was on that note that I left home this morning.

6 I suppose that I was selected for the privilege of addressing you
7 because of my prowess as a grandfather. I would like to get somebody to
8 nominate me as the Grandfather of the Year, because only last Sunday we
9 christened our little granddaughter Amey and I have been singing ever since,
10 I'm in Love With Amey, and so I am in the right mood and in the right spirit
11 to talk to people that are interested in children. I want you to know that
12 one of the joys I have in Public Life in politics, is meeting with young
13 people. All over the nation, these bright eyed, these handsome looking
14 healthy looking young people that I see in so many places. Their soul fil-
15 led with wonderment and joy that it lifts your spirit. I sometimes become
16 discouraged with adults but I have yet to be discouraged with the youth of
17 our country. Wherever I go, any year, any age where there, whether it is
18 from one month to twenty-one or twenty-two or a little older, I consider
19 them in the youth group and they are really remarkable, remarkable group of
20 people. There are times in my office that, as a matter of fact when I am
21 weary, and this has happened many times, I will leave some very prominent
22 visitor just sitting in there high and dry and I'll just walk out into the
23 lobby of the Senate and start seeing the students. Its about, its the best
24 therapy that I have. When I am just fed up to the gills, as we say out our
25 way with whats going on, I just go out and refresh the soul and the mind
and the spirit by seing young people. Now those are a little older than
what you are talking about here. In the Day Care ones, but I think we start
to develop the kind of young man and woman that we would like to have for

1 our country at an extremely early age. You are really in the process, or
2 should I say you are in the work, the commitment of the conservation and
3 development of human resources. I wish that somehow or other that we could
4 get the message throughout the world that this great nation of ours, this
5 great Republic with all of its massive power and wealth which we seem to
6 hear so much about is even more concerned about the real wealth of the
7 nation, the personality, the individual, the individual spirit, the mind
8 and body. Because that is the commitment of this country. That is the
9 purpose of democratic institutions, the enrichment of the life of an indi-
10 vidual. The release of the potentiality of intellect, of the individual.
11 And if we will just keep in mind what our true goal is, and what our real
12 objective is, then I think we will put the proper priorities upon our daily
work and upon our national programs and policies.

13 Make no mistake about it my friends, if this nation of ours is to
14 maintain its role of world leadership, which mantle of leadership has been
15 placed upon its shoulders even without its consent. If we are to fulfill
16 that role of world leadership we ^{must} have strength in depth. We cannot afford
17 either the luxury of the abuse of the body or of the mind or of the neglect
18 of the body of the mind. The greatest deficit in America is the human
19 deficit, not the fisical deficit. The problems, the problems of the balance
20 of payments, budget balancing are all significant and important to which we
21 give a good deal of attention of the best minds of this nation, but I want
22 to say once and again as I have said a thousand times, that the surest way
23 to keep our budgets in balance and to meet our international commitments is
24 to see that the minds and bodies and spirits and souls of individuals are
25 in balance. That there is mental health that there is physical health,
that there is a sense of well-being, that there is a sense of purpose and
personal fulfillment on the part of each and every citizen and when we have

1 that, and when we realize that this is a goal that is attainable, I think
2 that we will have met the other problems that we talk about so much. So you
3 are here for a noble work and a noble purpose, and thank goodness that you
4 have come to Washington now, because this is the right time. You are here
5 at exactly the right time. The Congress of the People of the United States,
6 the Representatives of the People are here in this nation's capital. They
7 are your friends, you helped elect them. They are here to listen to you
8 and mark my words, that in this day when everybody is clamoring for the
9 attention of a particular public official, that you just as well join in
10 the clamor and be heard.

11 But I have the feeling that if you will come to your Congressman
12 or Senator, come as a friend, not as a special pleader for a special in-
13 terest, but as a friend of the people and a friend of the little ones, a
14 friend of the child, that you will be not only heard but you will be gladly
15 received. I have been of the opinion that the only way that you can be
16 heard at times here in this hubub of noise and pressure and force and counter-
17 force is when you speak softly and you speak kindly and you speak up for
18 God's greatest creation, the human being, the children, the child.

19 Well, you are coming to grips with what I consider to be one of
20 the greater emerging problems today and tomorrow of America. I like to
21 think particularly of tomorrow's America. Because there isn't much that we
22 can do about yesterday. That's gone. I know that we have some very good ex-
23 perts of yesterdays, but I would like to ask you to be somewhat of a prophet
24 and also be a builder rather than a recorder. Many places I have said this,
25 that it is well and good for young and old to study history to learn of the
experiences that have preceded us, but it is really more important that you
help make history and you can help make history. We can do it right now, we
can make this a turning point in the relationship of society to the

1 individual and we can do that by thinking of our children and of the mothers
2 of those children, the parents and the communities which they live. Isn't
3 it wonderful to know that this American that is the richest of all nations
4 and a richness that is growing in its material wealth every day. That this
5 rich nation still has a conscience. You know that it could be that we could
6 have been without one. Because most people in America are getting along
7 pretty well, and a real test of a society is whether you have any concern
8 for the least of these, not for the greatest of these, but the least.
9 Whether you have concern over the few that may have been left behind or
10 whether you are just satisfied by the many that seem to be in stride. And
11 I do believe that in these recent years that we have come to recognize that
12 it is not good enough to judge our society in terms of the culumative or
13 aggregate statistical evidence that we must be thinking about what a demo-
14 cratic society is supposed to be thinking about, the well-being of the
15 individual. If there is any one word that bothers me in the lexicon of
16 modern language it is the word mass. I am an old pharmist and there is such
17 a thing as a pill mass, thats about where it ought to be stopped. Because
18 when you start averaging out people and when you start considering them
19 in a mass you have destroyed personality. We are not interested in the mass.
20 We are interested in each and everyone of the 193,000,000 or whatever the
21 figure is, citizens of this country, and I hope of every person everywhere
22 in the world. Because let this ray of modern understanding and considera-
23 tion of the American people be greater than for itself. Let it go from this
24 place and from this community, this capital and from our churches and from
25 our cathedrals and synagogs and from our fraternal groups and our many
groups. Let it go throughout the world, that we are interested in people.
That we are interested in their health, that we are interested in their
education. That we are interested in their physical well-being, that we are

1 interested in their mental well-being. That we are interested in their
2 cultural well-being. Let us be identified with people. Anything that dis-
3 turbes me is to see how those who really do not, do not have any regard for
4 human or individual personality. Have usurped the words of our faith, we
5 read about the Peoples Republic of this and that, or the Peoples Republic
6 of North Korea, or the Peoples Republic of East Germany, the people are
7 never considered and its not a republic and its not democratic. Somehow or
8 another we forget that we are the people. That our whole faith and philo-
9 sophy, our history is imbedded in the word people and that we are the
10 republic and that we are democratic. And of course Democratic imposes a
11 tremendous responsibility upon us. It dosen't mean that you have fulfilled
12 every goal. It means that you continue to try, that you are always begin-
ning, always starting, always pushing forward.

13 Now where does the program of the modern Day Care, and Day Care
14 services fit into this philosophy or into this concept of life? Well it has
15 a very direct relationship. Because the availability of modern day care
16 services is no longer an individual convenience. It is a community and a
17 national necessity. And its particularly true in light of the modern
18 economic structure of our nation. Where a large number of our people in
19 factory and shop are working mothers. Now I know some people say that that
20 shouldn't be, and so on. I have been brought up to understand that what is,
21 is. You know, many times when I speak to groups such as this, I remember
22 my father. He was the most practical country philosopher that I have ever
23 known. He seemed to have an awful lot of good sense, he didn't even get it
24 confused with a lot of facts.

25 Now many people go around scolding mothers because they have a
job and that they ought to be home and so forth, without ever knowing the
circumstances at all. My father was a positive man. In his relationship

1 to his rather complex son, or sons, daughters, he would try to be somewhat
2 understanding and he would use more of the carrot philosophy than the stick.
3 However, he had a way of reminding you of your responsibilities. My father
4 actually never, to my memory told me what time to go to bed. I would be
5 out, oh, I hate to think about it, because I'm afraid that if my own child-
6 ren hear about what their father did, but I would be out, let us say a rather
7 interesting hours, I'd come dragging on home at the time my mother thought
8 was far beyond what any reasonable decent wholesome young man ought to come
9 home and she would say something about it. But never Dad. The only thing
10 I ever heard Dad say, was Mother come back to bed. He just sort of quiten
11 her down, you know. And he never ever scolded me, but I want you to know
12 that he was the best getter-upper in town. It was unbelievable. The
13 later I'd get in the earlier I'd get up. So Dad just dealt with the facts
14 of life, you see.

15 Well, I want to talk a little bit about those facts too. Now one
16 of those facts is that, as I understand it, and Tony, Mr. Secretary and me,
17 we are all victims you know of the research of our very good staffs, if I
18 am wrong in any of these things its their fault. I understand that about
19 one out of every four mothers who have children under six, is working in
20 todays labor force. And I also understand that a number of those mothers
21 has doubled since 1950. And that it now approximates about 3,600,000. Then
22 we always have the forecasters. And I have been told that by 1970 the number
23 of working mothers of pre-school children will increase about another 43
24 percent. Now that is the projection and the wise person or the community
25 or nation is one that tries to plan ahead. To look ahead, on the basis of
what we think will happen. Now the needs of our children have for too long
been greater than the nations response. This isn't only pre-school children,
this is children period. When I stop and think as I have recited so often,

1 that the average expenditure throughout the United States for a child in
2 public school is \$450.00 per child. And then I find out that if you are a
3 delinquent, you can get \$1,800.00 expended upon you. If you are on relief
4 you get \$2,500.00 and if you can just go to jail, you can spend \$3,500.00.
5 There is something wrong. Cost of crime, the cost of delinquency, cost of
6 hopelessness, those are the costs that America ought to be concerned about.
7 Instead of being always worried about the fact that we may spend a little
8 extra to improve our education structure or to improve our recreational
9 system or our cultural activities. Those expenditures for education and
10 for cultural activities and for wholesome recreation, those are investments
11 and they yield dividends better than AT&T. And thats mighty good, if you
12 will just invest. Well the Public Day Care Centers are investments. There
13 are too few. Now we know they yield dividends, when you know what the end
14 product is going to be that a practical minded people such as the American
15 people, that they'd continue to make those investments. Let me tell you my
16 dear friends, if you find out that you can invest year after year in a
17 particular stock, and you take a look at a ten year average and you find
18 that over a ten year period, that your stock goes up every year, and that
19 your investment increases every year and your dividend increases every year
20 if you don't make the investment if you have the resources, you just have
21 to be tabbed as a fool. Or you can maybe be one that dosen't care about
22 making investments. Now we know we have positive, unquestioned evidence
23 that programs of investment in education, in child care centers, in nursery
24 schools, they yield a reward, a better student, a healthier student, a
25 healthier mind, a better citizen. The Public Day Care Centers, despite all
this evidence are far to few and sometimes they are so jammed with applicants
that they can accept only the children of one percent, on parent families
or of the poverty stricken. Now we ought not to have to live in a society

1 where the only time you can receive the kind of social services you need is
2 to become totally poverty stricken. We are actually now beginning to under-
3 stand that maybe that we can say in neighborhoods before they become slums,
4 up to now, we generally had as government type programs in the field of
5 housing, if you just get your neighborhood totally broken down, if you could
6 just work that out, if you will just make it a dump, why we will rebuild it
7 for you.

8 Now we are beginning to understand that maybe there are people
9 that love their neighborhoods and when, with a little bit of rehabilitation
10 with a little planning, with a little foresight, you can save that neighbor-
11 hood. And it will be there with all the love and memories and all the
12 heritage that a neighborhood means to so many of us. The same thing is true
13 may I say, that we can maybe help many people today before they hit derilick
14 road. For families in higher income who can pay fees, there are private
15 centers, and they still meet however, only a fraction of the need and often
16 with less than satisfactory standards. But, I'm the perenial optimist and
17 I hope you are too. Somebody accused me the other day of being happy, I
18 said, "Is there anything wrong about that?" Oh thats a fact, they said,
19 you shouldn't look so happy. You don't really have dignity when you look
20 that way. I got a letter here just the other day that told me that it was
21 very disgraceful for the Vice President that was accused of being a happy
22 person. I'm sorry, but I'm just stuck with it, I'm just sorry.

23 I figure that there are enough grouches, that there is no need
24 for me of crowding into their jurisdiction. Well, Mr. Secretary, Congress-
25 man Blotnick, thanks to the 1962 Child Welfare Amendments to the Federal,
State and Local Implementation and initiative, services have been expanded
and we are improving standards but we still have a long way to go. But
that ought not to discourage us. Its the startings the beginnings and I

1 like what President Johnson once said, "and we may start and we may fall
2 flat on our face, but we will get up again, and we will start again." That's
3 the difference between a people that have confidence that have drive and
4 determination and one that just doesn't really care. Surely you can oc-
5 casionally slip back, falter, but if you will just get up and move again,
6 move ahead, we have been moving ahead. I will consider the plight of many
7 of the children in that 3 to 5 age span and again I understand that there
8 are about 12 or 13 million in that group, about 12 and one-half million.
9 There is no group in our entire population except infants up to three who
10 can benefit more from enlightened, creative attention, by parents and others,
11 than these 3 to 5 year olds. It's right then and there that you start to
12 bring the beauty into the flower of the light of a child. At that time.
13 Now significant light on care of these children is shed by a new survey,
14 based on the sampling of nations households. Now I am always a little bit
15 suspicious of surveys, but they are guidelines, as in politics, we never
16 rest on surveys. I have to tell you I always figure that the opposition is
17 taking them and wants to deceive you. You know, you have to be a bit sus-
18 picious in politics, at least in the campaign period. But a survey at least
19 is, it gives us some markers so to speak, it gives us some indication as to
20 what is going on. Now this survey shows that families with working mothers
21 almost 48 percent of the 3 to 5 year olds are cared for in their own homes,
22 by a father or another relative or a non-relative. Now some 27 percent,
23 however, are cared for in some else's home, but by a relative, or a non-
24 relative. And some 25 percent are looked after by other arrangements, in-
25 cluding only 7 percent in the group, in what you might call Day Care
Centers. Just 7 percent. Now these and other facts, you know, confirmed
that we are far behind in this program, and we are behind many other
countries, in the Western world in the provision of adequate day care

1 services. I recognize that most of you are familiar with these facts, but
2 I am an old teacher and I learned long ago that education is primarily
3 saturation, and it is also repetition, and for some of us it is just plain
4 osmosis. You just have to put us in it you know, steeped in it.

5 Now, one of the results of these developments about the care of
6 our children is that when American mothers work, their thoughts, as you can
7 well imagine, must anxiously turn to the well-being of their children, and
8 too often there is ample reason for their concern. We are well aware of
9 the physical tragedies which can befall children without proper care. But
10 far more widespread is the intangible harm which is inflicted upon so many
11 youngsters by improper or inadequate day care, the harm of arrested intel-
12 lectual growth. The mind of a child must be encouraged to grow. It must
13 be challenged from the very beginning. Time must be used for this growth.
14 In the vital pre-school years the mind cannot grow in an atmosphere of
15 monotony, boredom and nothing to do. And this is exactly why we are now
16 starting this program of ours, for our youngsters of catching up, so to speak,
17 this program to give the denied child, a deprived child the opportunity for
18 a little better break. Experts in child development and in the nursery
19 school education can bring the child to the world and the world to the
20 child. This is one of the wonderful things, may I say about our library
21 programs that are under way now even in our elementary and secondary educa-
22 tional establishments. We bring the world to the child through books,
23 audiovisual aids and we bring the child to the world too. And how fortunate
24 at long last, people are beginning to place enough emphasis upon these gems
25 of our heritage and of our civilization. The book, the music, the art,
that we can bring through our libraries and through our many means of com-
munication. Now, as I said, experts of child development and nursery
school education can bring this child to the world. And they can enrich

1 the lives of children, they can identify each child as a unique personality,
2 as an individual with particular abilities that needs emphasis and these
3 same people can encourage each little boy and girl to develop at an appropriate
4 pace along his or her lines. We are not all alike. And we do not all
5 develop on the same rigid scale. We are individuals and we are beginning
6 to understand that there has to be far more attention to these individual
7 differences. This doesn't mean that one is less intelligent than another,
8 or less gifted, it merely means that the gifts are different in development,
9 and develop at a different time. All flowers do not bloom in spring. Thank
10 goodness we have some that come a little later and some for the fall. And
11 children do not all bloom at the same time under the same pace or under the
12 same circumstances. It takes good people to foster the good people of
13 tomorrow. This is just another way of saying that we need what you are
14 here to talk about, more trained personnel, and also people who are concerned
15 about children. People who really love them. We need larger numbers of
16 trained personnel, better paid and more highly respected for their professional
17 competence for this task of strengthening tomorrow's generation. I
18 have always believed that one of the reasons we ought to respect the teacher
19 is because the teacher works with our most precious possession. Just like
20 we respect mother. We have our mothers day, but our whole history is filled
21 with the love and respect of mother and it is a good, good morale emotional
22 standard, and if we can get people as such, the whole body politics, so to
23 speak, to have a great and profound respect for those that work for our
24 children and reward them accordingly, then I'll begin to believe that we
25 really are truly interested in this our most precious asset of the child.
I know, and you know that our children deserve the best. This doesn't mean
pampering, it means helping. It means educating, it means care, and today's
parents are entitled to realize their aspirations too. Their aspirations

1 for their children and for themselves. A mother, you know, is a person.
2 So is a father. They are not just parents. The women of this nation are
3 entitled to realize their fullest potentialities. In fact American needs
4 even more from its women, in the arts and the sciences, in medicine and
5 architecture. In a host of professions. There is so much that our women
6 can do to the common good and they need to realize those potentialities,
7 yes as mother, but as citizens also. Now it is easy to say that a woman
8 fears for her children she shouldn't work. But that is more easily said
9 than done. Some 86 percent of the mothers who work do so because it is an
10 economic necessity for their families. Frequently the complaint about a
11 mother that works comes from somebody that really just doesn't have to work.
12 They either married well, or they were able to do well, their husband was
13 able to do a better, I have to keep reminding my own children, that their
14 father's income bracket puts him in the top 10 percent of this nation. I
15 said I want you to remember the other 90 percent, don't you judge anybody
16 by what you have here at home, don't you judge anybody by what you receive,
17 because you are the lucky one, and you ought to constantly keep this in
18 mind and remember that 90 percent of the people have less than you have.
19 Some of them have so much less that its painful to think about it. And you
20 have to keep reminding one another of it. You have to remind yourself
21 occasionally. And then you begin to understand just a little bit of the
22 other persons problem. Now, I have concentrated on the problems of children
23 of working mothers. But there are other children who need day care. They
24 include youngsters who handicaped. Here is where we can really do a job.
25 The children that are handicaped, either mentally, emotionally or physically.
Or children in the homes so poverty stricken as to offer little but misery
to a growing child. Please go to the Smithsonian and see the exhibit that
we have there, this photographic exhibit of Poverty in America. See those

1 children, see those eyes. Oh what that camera reveals. Do you know that
2 there is a common denominator in the eye of a child of the poverty stricken
3 family. They almost look alike. Such sadness, and yet such basic beauty.
4 It is there. It is very difficult to find an ugly child. You really have
5 to look. Most of them are really so attractive. But I hope that while you
6 are here you will go see that exhibit. I wanted that exhibit. I asked for
7 it and suggested it, I wanted it here to remind all the well-fed, well-healed,
8 well-paid America what the rest of what some other part of America looks
9 like. I want them to see it every day. Have it seared into their souls.
10 I want you to remember that there are areas of unbelievable misery in our
11 own country. You don't have to go to the great cities of Caracas or Cal-
12 cuta, or other places and I have been there and I have seen the poverty and
13 the misery of Cairo, the children in the streets of Caracas, and I want to
14 say that I have seen some pretty sad looking children in Harlem and in the
15 Hills of Kentucky and West Virginia and a few other places. We can do some-
16 thing about this. They really can't do much about it in their countries.
17 The fact is that they just don't have the means to do much about it. But
18 we do. And I happen to be religious enough to believe that you will not
19 be forgiven for something about. You will not be forgiven for your failure
20 to do something about the things which you have some control. We have the
21 means. We know that we do. The question is, do we want to do it? Our
22 only, our only decision in America is the will to do it. We have the re-
23 sources. We have the people. We have the know how, you just have to make
24 up your mind what you want to do, and that goes for a lot of things, in-
25 cluding national security, including the kind of country that you want, in-
cluding our commitments over seas, we have such incredible unbelievable
power and as the President said yesterday, "we have unlimited resources".
If we have unlimited resources, my friends to defend freedom around this

1 world we also have unlimited resources to work for the people right here in
2 this part of the world in our beloved United States of America.

3 Now, Day Care as I see it is not a limited concept for a limited
4 few. It is not just for the children of the working mother, or of the low
5 income levels. Its for them to be sure, but not solely. It is for the
6 child who needs it, when he needs it, where he needs it, for the length of
7 time he needs it and that is what we had about the education program. We
8 didn't have aid to schools. We had aid to children. Books, pencils,
9 libraries for children. And when you start talking about children and about
10 people, you will be surprised how many inabilities and prejudices you can
11 rid yourself of. It kind of shakes you up for a while, it will give you a
12 cold chill, but you will come out of it all right, its cureable. Now the
13 organization sponsoring this conference, the National Committee for the
14 Day Care of Children, the Child Welfare League of America, the United States
15 Childrens Bureau, everyone of you ought to be thanked because you are lead-
16 ing the way. But there is a time for everything and now the time is right.
17 I think that 1965 can be made Childrens Year. Just as we had a Geophysical
18 Year, just as the United Nations had its International Cooperation Year,
19 wouldn't it be wonderful if America proclaimed to the world that this is
20 going to be Childrens Year?

21 Already we have taken what the President rightly regards as the
22 most significant step in this Century for American Education. The elemen-
23 tary and secondary education law which was passed recently, and soon a
24 higher education act. That law will serve among others five million de-
25 prived youngsters. I want to be honest with you. There is a billion,
three hundred million dollars in that law, and here is the man that did
more to get it passed than any other individual save the President of the
United States, the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

1 Now there is a billion, three-hundred million dollars in that program and
2 a billion, three-hundred million is for deprived children and most of those
3 deprived children, of course, come from very poor families and most of those
4 poor families are families of minority group, the colored. So we are going
5 to catch up just as we have got an opportunity, an Operation Head Start for
6 the little ones we are going to have Operation Catch Up for those that have
7 been denied a chance throughout their life. Let me be very frank with you
8 educational structures in America and in far too many places, both North and
9 South have been inadequate. I can take you to that photographic exhibit and
10 show you a school in a state nearby, where a little Puerto Rican boy sleeps
11 in the cloak closet, he does his sleeping in the daytime because there isn't
12 any quiet in the neighborhood at night and he sleeps in the school that you
13 wouldn't put your children into, you would have a protest and a demonstration
14 second to none. You would make some of these demonstrations look like they
15 was just love feasts.

16 So my dear friends, we are going to spend considerable sum of
17 money conscience money, in a very real sense, we are going to catch up.
18 A wonderful thing about children is that they can. For they heal quickly,
19 they learn quickly, they change quickly. What a wonderful opportunity, it
20 would be a little different if we had to work on some of us, we are a little
21 slower. Now similarly the U.S. Childrens Bureau will, I am confident be
22 quickened this year, be strengthened this year in its capacity to expand
23 Day Care. That is, if you really go to work. Now there is nothing wrong
24 with lobbying. Not a thing. I have been lobbed by the best of them. And
25 I advise you to be a lobbyist of one, for people, for people. You just get
right up there on Capitol Hill its enjoyable and you just go on up there
and lobby your heads off.

Now the U. S. Office of Economic Opportunity will fulfill its

1 mandate to break the poverty cycle and at its most crucial point, among the
2 deprived young. We are going to double the investment this year in that
3 anti-poverty program. Oh, I have heard the critics again, oh arn't they
4 haven't a field day with this one. The minute you start to do something
5 for people, you have about 45 analysts per square foot, looking at it and
6 saying uh-huh, look at who they have running that program. And there is
7 always somebody running it that you wished didn't run it. Don't you know
8 it never fails, and right away somebody says, somebody says, you are spend-
9 ing too much, and the fellow right next to him says you will never cure
10 poverty spending that little. My dear friends, we do not believe that you
11 can cure the abuses of hundreds of years in two years. We do not believe
12 that you can heal the wounds of poverty. Wounds that have been like ab-
13 scesses, almost to the point of malignancy by just superficial treatment in
14 a hurried moment. But as the poet said, "the longest journey is the first
15 step". And we made that step. And we don't intend to retreat and we are
16 going to make step number two this year. And we will make step number three
17 next year, and pretty soon we will be able to stand up head high and walk
18 because we are going to be able to this nation of one pocket of poverty
19 after another. We are determined to do it, if we can get everybody aroused
20 to do it. If every community will buckle down to the job and if we will
21 mobilize our resources, if we will consider this a war that we can win,
22 and you won't have a sign to withdraw, this is a war that you want to
23 escalate. And we ought to be dropping all kinds of bombs in this war, the
24 bombs of health care, of Day care, of education, the bombs of psychological
25 care and psychiatric therapy. We can do it. All I ask is for people to
get a little excited. I get so tired of people that are never emotional
or excited. Its good to get excited.

Now, I am privileged to serve as sort of a god father or as a

1 coordinator, I haven't been quite able to figure out my role in this, Mr.
2 Secretary, on behalf of the President in this anti-poverty war, but I am in
3 it. That I know, because every once in a while I get a good belt from some-
4 body saying its not going very well.

5 Well, I just want to say to the critic that its going a whole lot
6 better than you think, and if you'd enlist it might even go better than that.

7 Now, in this war we recognize that Day Care service must be
8 strengthened. So as to permit impoverished parents to receive job training
9 and become self sufficient. And these are the community action programs
10 that we speak of. Now you know that there are a lot of complaints about
11 community action programs. And isn't it interesting. We tried to work
12 community action programs and we try to rely on them because they are loc-
13 ally motivated, locally operated, locally initiated, and I have grown up
14 now in political life for the last 30 years being told that they want to
15 do everything from Washington, and low and behold just a short time ago I
16 read a column, which said, whats wrong with the poverty program is if you
17 want a program like this you got to run it from Washington.

18 Well, its just like Yorktown, when they played, The World Is Up-
19 side Down. We are going to conduct this program out where it, where the
20 people are. And we will make some mistakes. The New York Yankees are
21 making a lot of them now too, you know. And Notre Dame made a few of them
22 too. We always make some mistakes. The important thing is, do we learn
23 from them. And the other important thing is do you become so confused and
24 so discouraged the reporting of the mistakes that you begin to see only
25 the scratches on the mighty oak and never see the strength of the the tree.
There is a lot that is going on today. And a whole lot more that is going
to go on. This administration recognizes poverty as a fact in our glorious
rich society. And we think we recognize it in all of its deminsions,

1 because you have been talking to us and advising us. Poverty means more
2 than the lack of income. Poverty is psychological. Poverty is social and
3 poverty is cultural. Its the poverty of hopelessness that is the most
4 serious poverty. Its the poverty of being not wanted. The poverty of no
5 place for you. Its the poverty that has been engrained into people for
6 hundreds of years so to speak. Told to be in the back of the bus, told
7 that there was no job for them, told that even if they had an education
8 they couldn't get the same pay. This is the poverty that we are fighting.
9 And we are going to have to shake up a few I am afraid. Shake them up in
10 the sense that the realization that now we are going to talk about people
11 as people. And we are going to quit talking about this business that we
12 shall judge them without regard to race, color or creed. We ought to drop
13 that. We ought to just be talking about Americans. About people.

13 Well, one of the things that we are doing about people is these
14 little people, this unprecedented assault upon the deprivation of youth.
15 Which will be launched under the headline or the caption of Operation Head
16 Start. This is great and is it ever going. Its going so fast that the
17 critics can't even catch up with it. And you know what I'll bet, I'll bet
18 you there will be some mistakes. But there is beautiful music coming out
19 of Operation Head Start. There are people all over America that are vol-
20 unteering to work with little ones, not their little ones, just the little
21 ones. And I predict that there will be more dividends out of Operation
22 Head Start than any single project that we have known for many many years
23 and the dividends will not just be children. It will to the adults who
24 work with them. There will be a little softening of the heart and maybe
25 just a little widening, expanding of the spirit.

24 So we are going to support many new initiatives. We are going
25 to try a lot of new things. And that means a little risk here and there

1 and if you want to be safe and sure, just stand still. But of course you
2 will miss the whole world, but just stand still. But we are not going to
3 play it safe, and we are going to be willing to take some risks, and we are
4 going to work with you. We are going to stand alongside each other, people
5 and government, as a partnership. Your government can't do it for you. You
6 don't want it to do it for you. What you want from your government is en-
7 couragement. What you want from your government is some of the knowledge
8 the knowhow which the government can bring together. What you want from
9 your government is information, and coordination. You need some financial
10 resources, and let the whole world know that this government of ours doesn't
11 do everything for the people. The fact is that the government is just a
12 part of this society. It's the people doing something for themselves and
13 occasionally working through their government. That's the American experi-
14 ment.

15 So I leave you with these little axioms or I hope trueisms. The
16 child who feels left out today may very well be the drop-out tomorrow. I
17 think so. The youngster who is alienated from his family today, is much
18 less likely to find his place in society in the years ahead. The weeds of
19 adult trouble have their roots in childhood. The community does have a
20 responsibility. To help dig out these weeds, and to dig them out roots and
21 all. A child needs strength to lean on. A shoulder to cry on and an
22 example to learn from. So I suggest that let us give children their due.
23 Let us build for tomorrow by enriching their lives today.

24 Thank you.

25 Mr. Vice President, ladies and gentlemen. I don't know whether
you people realize it or not, but this is not Friday, this is Saturday
noon. Because what you have just heard is the Charge to the Conference.
Some chap is down for that, the Charge to the Conference, tomorrow afternoon,

1 but it has already been given.

2 The thing that has worried me throughout this address and I am
3 deeply serious now, is how in the world back in our local communities we
4 can pull ourselves up by the bootstraps and develop and nurture and furnish
5 the kind of people and leadership and understanding that will match in some
6 measure this quality we have seen demonstrated this morning. Of understanding
7 and warmth and humor and vision and capacity to hard work and deep belief
8 in people. Thats the challenge that the Vice President has given us and we
9 thank him for it.

10 The Vice President has asked me to explain that he must fly at
11 once to Georgia and Florida and I said to him, I hope he takes the gospel
12 there too, as he has given it to us this morning.

13 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I will do it.

14 Thank you.

15 It was our great pleasure to have with us this morning Congress-
16 man John Blatnick. I did not introduce the speakers table earlier, you
17 might just stand because we will be adjourning immediately. Because I
18 wanted to give the Vice President the full time that was available. We
19 were glad to have Congressman Blatnick from Minnessota and we are happy to
20 have the honored table again by the presence of Mr. Keyserling and Com-
21 missioner Winston and Mrs. Gugenheimer and Mr. Heintz and Kathryn Ettichnger
22 who represented us very ably this morning on the program Today. So thank
23 you all, I know you feel a lift at the inspiration that I do at this
24 tremendous experience that we have had together.
25



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