

MACALESTER COLLEGE
SAINT PAUL, MINN. 55101

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 1, 1965

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE UPON
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY AND
REMARKS BY MR. HUMPHREY TO THE GRADUATES
AND AUDIENCE.

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES, MAY 24, 1965

Dr. Rice: Mr. David J. Winton, for many years a Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Macalester and for many years a close friend of our distinguished visitor will present the citation for Vice President Humphrey. Mr. Winton.

Mr. Winton:

Hubert Humphrey, student, teacher, writer, public servant, and statesman. You've welded the keen mind, humor, vigor, and courage to a strong sense of social justice. These qualities have made you world wide a champion of individual dignity and human rights. Now as you face new somber responsibilities, Macalester College salutes you with affection and pride. Macalester College honors herself in honoring you by giving you the degree, Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

Dr. Rice: Hubert Horatio Humphrey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Trustees of the College and upon recommendation of the faculty I confer upon you the degree, Doctor of Laws. In token of this degree we have caused to have printed a diploma signed by the Chairman of the Board of the College and the President of the College and engrossed with your name. It is now our privilege to present this diploma to you and with it all of the honors, obligations, and responsibilities there unto pertaining.

Vice President Humphrey:

Dr. Rice, my good friend Mr. Winton, members of the Board of Trustees of Macalester College, members of this distinguished faculty, and those entrusted with the administration of this great institution of higher learning, the graduates of this Class of 1965 and particularly those who have obtained their higher degrees as Master's degree

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and those with honors, and my fellow students and ladies and gentlemen. It's a rare, rare privilege to be back on this campus of Macalester College and to be here in such warm and friendly circumstances in the day of honor for our state and our nation and for each and every one of you that have today received your diploma. I know that I speak for those that have received these Honorary Degrees when I say how grateful we are and how singularly honored we are. I know that I speak for this student body and this community when we express our thanks and indeed our high regard and admiration for Dr. Flemming and his address, Dr. Flemming being one of the outstanding educators and statesmen and administrators of this nation.

And I am particularly pleased to be here in the family of friends of the College that was kind to me and one that I had the privilege of working for and being a part of and where I could be a teacher for at least a short time. Those are very happy memories and they are memories that will live in my heart and my mind until death do us part.

Dr. Flemming, I have had the privilege on other occasions to be at ceremonies such as this but I know of no time that I felt more moved and more grateful and also let me say, more inspired. I noticed the large number of honor students and this means so much these days because if there ever was a time that America needed excellence, if there ever was a time that our country needed the highest of performance, that hour and that time is now.

I should say to you, my fellow students, and I say fellow students because I'm in the process of learning and I hope that I learn every day with new assignments and new work and new challenges. This is the most exciting period of human history and, therefore, the most challenging. I am not one of those that goes about the land moaning and groaning about the terrible, terrible

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days ahead. Those days ahead will be difficult, but difficulties we turn into challenges. Those days ahead may be troublesome, but troublesome days we can turn into opportunities. The fact of the matter is there is no generation that is so well equipped by resources, by individual knowledge, by the know-how as this particular generation of Americans. So I come to you to commend you and also in these brief moments to challenge you to do better.

Might I add that each and every one of us that have been privileged to have a college education are eternally indebted to civilization. None of us ever paid our own way. None of us ever earned our own way. There are benefactors, public and private, there are benefactors of history and of current days that make this educational experience possible. Your library carries the heritage of generations, yea centuries of civilization, and who could pay for that or who could even affix a price upon it. And how could one ever pay for or feel that he had adequately compensated a teacher that lifted your spirits and your hopes, that give you new vision and new inspiration.

So to the graduates of this great college I ask you to share of your knowledge. Give as you have received. Give even more. Give to your community, to your family. Give to your state and give to your nation. And in so doing, enrich your own lives.

I want to just add a final word in reference to the days that I think we face. We're living in a time of unprecedented prosperity in our country and for this we're humbly and reverently grateful. But yet in this period there are paradoxes, and contrasts. With this prosperity we have even in our own midst those that are without enough. Those that are the poor. Not only the poor of purse but the poor of spirit. Not only the poverty of economics but the poverty of frustration and of hopelessness. And, therefore, as we

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in a sense pay humble thanks for our wealth and our privilege and our prosperity, let us also remember that we do have the obligation of being our brothers keeper. We also have the privilege of helping people to help themselves. We are prosperous, but two-thirds of the world and some of it I saw today at least in the person of peoples from other lands, two-thirds of the world is poor. I ask the question will these by-passed people storm the walls of our rich city or will we join with them in the common cause to create a better life for all in the world. We are strong and as I saw the citation and the honor degree being presented to Dr. Wheeler I couldn't help but think once again of how strong we are through science and power.

But others too are strong. We possess for the first time the means to actually destroy ourselves and to destroy all of God's creation. Will we destroy ourselves or will we find the means to bring lasting peace and broaden the areas of freedom and to provide security to the world? This is the great challenge. We have harnessed technology and men on this platform today have been honored for that. But will technology be our master or our servant? Can we, surrounded by material goods, find in our lives the capacity for expression, human expression, for creative thought, for the arts, for music, just for love itself? Or will our monuments be a thousand lost golf balls? I call on you, this generation of today, the volunteer generation. Those that even in the midst of unbelievable luxury have found social challenge and answered it. I call upon you to believe in the perfectability of man. To make a better life for our people and for all people and to work with patience, persevering patience, for peace because peace like a mighty cathedral is the work of generations. It requires the master plan of an architect but it also requires the daily labors of the workman. We must pledge ourselves to build what can last for generations beyond us, and this generation above all must give meaning to the great society. And let it be known that the great society is not to be the

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society of the quantity of our goods, but rather the quality of our lives. That's the purpose of the education that you've received, and I am delighted to have had the privilege to share in these few moments with you, to commend you, to thank you, to challenge you, and to say above all - - now as never before a suffering humanity and a hopeful humanity needs you at home and abroad.

Dr Rice
Dr Fleming

NOTES

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

MACALESTER COLLEGE

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The American

Today your generation enters a world which on the surface is entirely different than the one my generation entered.

My generation came to a world where shelter ... life ... clothing ... a day's work were the preoccupations in life.

The American

is one of unequaled
Your generation comes to a world of unparalleled prosperity -- we are now in this country in our 51st

consecutive month of uninterrupted economic expansion.

yet in this period of prosperity and economic growth,
But I wonder if the uncertainties in life, the problems you face are not greater now than they were for us.
of wealth

We are prosperous. But two-thirds of the world is not prosperous. Will these by-passed people storm the walls of our rich city? Or will we join with them in common cause to create a better life for all in the world?

We are strong. But others, too, are strong. We possess for the first time the means to actually destroy ourselves. Will we destroy ourselves? Or will we find means to bring lasting peace and security to the world?

We have harnessed technology. But will technology be our master or our ~~slave~~ ^{servant?} Can we, surrounded by material goods, find in our lives the capacity for human expression, for creative thought, for the arts? Or will our monuments be a thousand lost golf balls?

I call on you, the generation of today:

Believe in the perfectability of man.

Make a better life for our people.

Work with patience for the peace.

Build what can last for generations

beyond us.

This generation above all others has
the means, the resources, the know-
how to build the Great Society -
if we have the will - the determination.

/ And that Great Society shall be
known by the quality of its
people, not the quantity of its
goods.



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