

TRANSCRIPT OF REMARKS OF VICE-PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY TO  
IMPERIAL POTENTATE'S BANQUET

JULY 14, 1965  
WASHINGTON-HILTON HOTEL  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Imperial Potentate O. Carlyle Brock, Chairman Orville Rush, Imperial Officers, Ladies, Nobles, distinguished guests, my fellow Americans. I only hope that in this evening I might be able to convey to you the sense of pride and gratitude that I have in being able to join with you tonight in this wonderful occasion of your banquet -- the Shrine Imperial Potentate's Banquet here in Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Brock is a very gracious lady. When I arrived at a rather late hour, she was kind enough to say to me, "Mr. Vice-President, you know I am a bit late," and I said, "Oh my goodness, thank you, thank you, because if the lady, the wife of the Imperial Potentate, can come in a little late, I think then they will let the Vice-President get by too." You really made me feel at home and then as we were visiting here, of course, I recall that your Imperial Potentate was with us at the winter carnival in St. Paul, and I know that all of our friends from the Osman Temple, St. Paul, Minnesota, recall your visit.

And I also recall something else that brings us close together. Now I must confess to you before I go any further that we haven't always voted the same ticket, but one thing that Harry Truman told me, he said, "Whenever you are in Shrinedom don't you ever let politics stand in the way of fellowship," and I'm not going to let it.

The bonds that bind the Brocks and the Humphreys are very, very rich and sincere. I was speaking to Mrs. Brock a moment ago, and she, like a good mother starts bragging about her sons. Too bad Mrs. Humphrey isn't here tonight. You would be surprised how much she brags about her sons without hardly saying a word about her husband.

But if I recall correctly, there are not too many of us in the world that have the name Hubert, and surely there aren't many, as I found out in recent months, that have the name Horatio. But the Brocks have a son by the name of Hubert and so Hubert Brock and Hubert Humphrey stand shoulder to shoulder in this great order.

And the Brock's have a son by the name of Omar, too, who as I recall, on two occasions placed the fez on the brow of his distinguished father and also a son by the name of Stuart. I don't know if they have any more sons, Mrs. Brock, but the Humphrey's have three sons, too. We didn't get to an Omar or a Stuart but we got a Bob and a Douglas and a Hubert. We also have a Hubert.

I wish to pay my respects to Barney Collins who will of course as you know, succeed your Imperial Potentate and it is wonderful to have this good man that comes to us from Mexico City. Tonight you have been entertained and will be entertained by a wonderful group that are here to honor Barney Collins in his new role that will soon be his responsibility.

I wanted to come here tonight filled with the message of frivolity and joy because, as was said, I really sort of enjoy life. I resolved to do that a long time ago, because one doesn't know how long this life will be. And I believe that Shrinedom, the members of this great Order, have demonstrated to people of the world, that you can do great, great good. You can be a leader, you can take on the heavy burdens of business or the professions or of labor or of government or of the clergy and yet you can be a man of good cheer and of happiness. That there is no conflict of interest between being a responsible citizen and a happy person.

Tonight I want to thank you for bringing a ray of joy and happiness to our nation's capital. You have made our nation's capital the Mecca of Shrinedom this week. I'd hoped to be here on Monday and Tuesday just to participate in your opening ceremonies or to be in the reviewing stands for that great parade. But I had some official duties to attend to that took me away from the city. Going out to San Diego, California for our

National Association of County Officials to talk with them about local governments and going to Houston, Texas to pay a days visit to our new manned space craft center. To see these wonderful young Americans that are today bringing great honor to themselves and their country, through their adventures and their pioneering in outer space. Oh, I am sure you would have enjoyed that.

What a thrilling experience it is, to see these men, who through training and character, through physical fitness and mental alertness and spiritual strength, are doing such amazing things. I can think of no age that is more exciting than the one in which we now live. If I had but one wish I would say I would hope to live long enough to see some of the wonders of the Universe more fully understood, but if there is any experience that comes to a man that makes him realize the relationship between God and man and God and science, it is this pioneering into the Universe and the Cosmos. Because surely a person feels a great sense of insignificance.

I will never forget what Colonel James McDivitt and Colonel White said in Chicago when they were there to be received in the home city of Ed White. This young man that walked out into space, that viewed the shores of America from 125 miles in space, that saw this America as we sing of it, America the beautiful, this man said in the presence of his townsmen and the presence of distinguished leaders of our country, he said, "I then realized as I walked in space how insignificant a man is and yet how important. His relationship to Divine Providence and that how this great Universe of ours is so well ordered."

I can't imagine what that experience would be like because to understand it you would have to experience it. But we surely know now that we're learning many things we never knew before.

Tonight we surely have many thoughts in our minds. I have. I must say that in a very few moments that I will depart from here for a long journey and a sad one. But I know that this journey that I am going to take, is one that, were the person that we are

thinking of to be alive tonight, that he would want us to have a rich and a good and happy evening.

You know our national tradition is rich with humor, the humor of the Shriners, the Humor of the Shriners own beloved Harold Lloyd. How I have been looking forward to having lunch with Harold Lloyd and I have to miss that lunch. He is one of my heroes.

The humor and the jest of Will Rogers. I was in his home state this morning, in Oklahoma City. And there are so many great ambassadors of good will and merriment in our country.

Have you ever noticed that difference between a free community and one that lives under dictatorship and communist dictation. I have traveled behind the Iron Curtain and what little humor there is there seems almost subversive and, in America, if you don't have humor you ought to be somewhat doubted as to whether or not you are a subversive.

If there is one characteristic that separated the free man from those who would dominate and control and dictate to others, it is this sense of humor, this sense of merriment, the sense of joy, the sense of the timely and yet the appropriate joke, the good time without destroying or injuring others. And the members of the Shrine have brought to America a tonic that is needed as never before, in a time when this nation has unbelievable burdens, in a time when the mantle of leadership rests upon our shoulders, not as a cloak of comfort but as a robe of responsibility, at a time when we call upon our young men to fight once again and die once again, if need be, for freedom and to stop the aggressor.

I say in all reverence tonight -- Thank God we have people who can still think in terms of the good life and who can express that thought in good humor, in wholesome humor, in fellowship and in friendship, and to me Shrinedom means that and much more!

Now I shall take just another moment. I know so much of your good work, I was Mayor of Minneapolis one time. My friends in St. Paul have never quite forgiven me, but the boys in Zuhrah Temple always were very kind to me and I remember in the Twin City area our wonderful Shriners Hospital, that great hospital for children. Any organization that gives of its

talent and of its resources and of its concern for children, it can't help but be a good organization. And now you are proceeding with a whole new endeavor.

We were just visiting about it, the Imperial Potentate was telling me of the three new hospitals, the burns, the orthopedic work, the advance research, the good that you are doing, and not only for others but for yourselves. I've never really been of the belief that when we help others we really help the other fellow as much as we help ourselves in the doing of it. We are just a little bit better when we share and when we give and the members of the Shrine are known as givers, not as takers, but as givers, not as haifers, but as helpers, and I want to say that that is a mighty good character to have at a time when we have so much to do and so much that is needed.

I said to you that I have been looking forward to this evening of fun and fellowship and I really had a number of real good Shrine stories to tell you. You see I was brought to in a home where my father was very proud of his belonging to the Masonic Order. My father when he passed away had a Masonic funeral, as a matter of fact. He told me as a young man, he said, "Son, I don't know how much time you are going to have for Fraternal work but if you want to be in a Fraternal Organization I want you to join the Masonic Order." And that I did. Cataract Lodge No. 2. I won't say that it's the best but I have never met one any better.

As I came here to the platform Noble Thomas Melham came up to shake hands with me and he had on his card, he says "Born in Watertown, South Dakota and ran a lumber yard in Waula, South Dakota. Why we're kinfolk." I was born in Waula, South Dakota, the center of culture of course, and the great metropolitan community of a hundred people or more. But my father joined, and I recollect, the Masonic Order at Watertown, South Dakota. And here it is, what a small world it turns out to be. I walk into this great banquet hall tonight and one of the first men that I meet is a gentleman that brought back memories to me of a good father, of a great fraternity, and of a very happy childhood.

Tonight I go to London to bring back the body, the physical remains of a great American. I hope you will bear with me because this great American was a personal friend.

His untimely and sudden death only reminds us that, there but by the grace of God, go I. Which is another way of saying, "let's live our life the fullest, every day." But I know Adlai Stevenson would not have wanted me to come here in mourning. I think that he would have been the first to say, "Look, live it up. Don't stop to grieve, but pledge yourself to the good life of wit and of humor and of sharing and of giving and of understanding." Because, may I say, that whatever may have been our differences, whatever may be our political philosophy or our church or our background or our neighborhood environment or experience, I think Americans have learned how to respect greatness. And I submit to you that tonight, the world has lost a very good and great man. A man of good heart, of good mind, of good humor.

Thank God that this country rears up out of its midsts men such as these, Presidents, diplomats, businessmen, civic leaders, members of legislatures and Congress, people who are in every walk of life, the worker and the financier, the teacher and the spiritual leader, thank God we rear up this great talent. And let me tell you the reason we do. Because in this country we place a premium upon human individual initiative, and human dignity.

We believe in this America what we say in our Pledge of Allegiance. I am sure that you have repeated it many times since you have been here in the nation's capital. This morning I repeated it at a ceremony, last night I repeated it at a ceremony "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States and for the republic for which it stands. One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Not a nation north and south, not a nation east and west, not a nation rich or poor, but one nation, one people, one purpose, one goal.

Recognizing also that this nation has a mission and recognizing the sense of humility which great people ought to have, that it's a nation that received its great benefits and its rights not from a legislature, not from a President, not from a Governor, but from Divine Providence. Those natural, inalienable rights of man - life and liberty and the



pursuit of happiness and this nation is pledged, as a nation indivisible, to liberty, not only to ourselves but to others and it is for this reason that tonight we resist the aggressor in Viet Nam. It is for this reason, my good friends, that we acted to prevent what could well have been another disaster in the Caribbean in the Dominican Republic. We believe in liberty and we will continue to believe in it.

And we believe in justice, in brotherhood. You know we're learning a lot about living together. Old habits are being changed, and America is all the better and all the richer because America is learning that in this great nation of ours there is but one kind of people, the American citizen. A citizen entitled to every right and every privilege. A citizen entitled to every opportunity, so that he may be in the mainstream of American life, so that he may give of himself so that he may contribute to the wealth and to the power and to the resources of this, the last best hope on earth, our Blessed America. Thank you very much.....

TEXT OF IMPERIAL POTENTATE O. CARLYLE BROCK'S CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mr. Vice-President, the applause is indicative of the warmth and appreciation of these great leaders, not only of the Shrine of the Masonic Fraternity, but leaders of the free peoples of this continent. The Shrine of North America, 838,000 strong, is the top echelon of 4½ million Free Masons with a unity of purpose and a destiny. This is the fraternity that champions the rights, the worth, the dignity and the infinite value of the individual, knowing that his soul is immortal and that he is a child of destiny in the sight of Almighty God.

These are just, charitable, patriotic people, who regardless of how they may have voted in the last election will stand by your President and you in the defenses of these bastions. These are they who will express their appreciation and remain true to you when they believe you are right. They will tell you, but not condemn you, when they think you are wrong. These are the men who in unity will help to fashion the destiny of this great nation which as you say, is the nation of destiny. And within that nation of destiny, truly our's is the fraternity of destiny, not to demand things from government but to give of themselves to their country and to their future that the freedom and the heritages that we now enjoy, shall be the heritage of our children.



7-26

To: Ruth

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Re: SNINE-Sub IX-TRANSCRIPT



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