

Miss Oaklee

✓ Mary Hacking

✓ Molly McHurre

Miss Susan Brown

Mrs. Lloyd Marti  
Pres. YWCA

NOTES

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

YWCA TEEN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1965

Your theme  
"Adventures  
in Service"

{ World Fellowship  
Dinner last night  
St. Paul Y-teens  
Program

You have had a busy week in Washington.

You have been concerned with the great issues which  
face our nation in these exciting times.

Exciting times

You have dealt with problems of civil rights,  
poverty, of strengthening morality, of fostering international  
understanding, of applying Christianity in the world of  
today.

While you have been meeting, important events  
have taken place.

Just one week ago, President Johnson signed into law the historic Voting Rights Bill -- a bill to assure full franchise for all Americans.

Voting  
Rights

The next step is partly yours and your parents. You can help achieve what the ballot box alone cannot do. In each of your communities, you can do more to bring all your neighbors into full participation in your communities.

And in the Congress, these past few days, action has been taken to improve housing . . . and to create a new federal department responsible for making urban America a better place in which to live and work.

Housing

Priority

A new Federal Crime Commission has begun operation dealing -- among other problems -- with juvenile delinquency.

Econ  
Development

Educ

- 3 -

In the United Nations these past days, and in  
disarmament and other discussions, our government  
has re-doubled its efforts toward peace in Viet Nam and  
in all the world.

U.N.

Peace . . . opportunity . . . compassion . . .  
justice . . . these are the things we Americans seek  
today, at home and in the world.

Food  
Econ  
Health

The essence of America is that today, as before,  
we are youthfully trying, daring, experimenting,  
innovating.

We seek constructive new ideas, to improve  
every part of American life.

We recognize change and progress as our allies.

We have, really, a young country. —

average age  
27-30  
25

And we ask the young to give the most they  
can to their country and to mankind.

It is no accident that many of our most dynamic industries -- like space and computer science and technology -- are being revolutionized by young men and women who in another generation, in another place would only be starting a modest and tedious apprenticeship.

Our young people are our most valuable resource.

And so, we invest in that resource -- through education.

The new Elementary and Secondary Education Act is already beginning to have a constructive impact on your high schools. And if you have younger brothers and sisters -- on their grade schools. Before long, the Higher Education Act will help assure you the best possible college instruction, including aid in financing those important years.

Your country gladly does this for you, because you are our future.

I have confidence in you and in your generation.

And I have faith in the YWCA. Thanks in good measure to the YWCA, you are not a "silent generation," you are articulate -- for human good.

You are ~~not a conformist~~ <sup>*The Volunteer*</sup> generation -- you are the sisters of young ladies who have superbly <sup>*served*</sup> ~~innovated~~ in the Peace Corps in dozens of foreign lands.

*Volunteers*

And you are not a generation of girls, content to let the boys win the honors. You are striving to achieve your own fullest potential -- not just as young ladies, but in planning for rewarding lifetimes ahead.

- 6 -

You are doing good work. You have a full and exciting future ahead. I ask you: Make that future one which will make life better, freer, more peaceful for all men and women everywhere.

#####

# **TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY,  
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
BEFORE THE Y-TEEN CONFERENCE

- - - -

Date: August 13, 1965  
Place: Shoreham Hotel,  
Washington, D. C.

Alderson Reporting Company, Inc.  
300 Seventh St., S. W. Washington, D. C.  
NA 8-2345

Cornwall

reba

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY,  
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
BEFORE THE Y-TEEN CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1965

Regency Ballroom,  
Shoreham Hotel,  
Washington, D.C.



VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you so much for that quiet and lovely introduction.

Well, I must say that this surely beats cabinet meetings.

... Laughter ...

I want to first express my thanks to Mrs. Marti for extending me the invitation to come to the Y-Teen Leadership Conference and to Miss Vivian Groves, who is your conference executive. I know she had her hands full and she has done well with it.

Then I want to express a special note of thanks to Mary Hackey and Molly McGuire, both of whom have made me feel about twenty-five years younger this morning and have given me the high honor of being an honorary member of the Y-Teens.

... Laughter ...

... Applause ...

I understand that St. Paul Y-Teens sort of put on the program last night, is that right?

... Applause ...

Well, I, of course, having lived for many years in Minneapolis have to be very careful what I say about St. Paul, but I am confident you had a wonderful, wonderful evening at your World Fellowship Dinner and how I wish it might have been possible for the Vice President or other

members of the government to have been with you.

Last evening I was entertaining aboard the Honey Fitz, one of the fine little cruisers down here in the Potomac, the Members of the House of Representatives Space and Astronautics Committee.

Now that I look over the delightful group of young ladies I am not sure I made the right choice, but don't tell the House Members I have said that.

I have been seeing you up on Capitol Hill and I could hardly wait until this morning arrived, to be frank with you, to have a chance to come over here and talk with you.

I have been reading the things written about this conference, about many of you individually, about your work and your program, and I can honestly say that in the seventeen years that I have lived in Washington, D. C., as a Member of the Congress or as the Vice President, these past seven months, I recall no time that there has been more favorable, more exciting, more inspiring publicity about a fine group of young people than in the instance of your conference, this conference of the Y-Teens; you rang the bell.

In other words, you're hip, there isn't any doubt about it.

... Laughter ...

... Applause ...

I know that you have taken your work very seriously,

and I am going to talk to you this morning seriously, because you are the young people that are going to have to take care of some of the serious business of our country.

But let me just say that your visiting the most important city in the world -- the city of Washington, D. C.

Now, it is not important because the Potomac River happens to run through it, nor is it important because of its Washington Monument or of the Capitol grounds, or even the White House. All of those are matters of our history and these are edifices or a part of the environment that make Washington known throughout the world, but Washington, D. C. is important because it is the center of a government of the people and by the people and for the people.

It is important because the United States is important. It is important because Abraham Lincoln put it about in our country once, this is the last best hope on earth. If there is going to be a better world we are going to help make it.

And quite frankly, if it is going to be worse it is because we don't do our job.

Now, I know some people are going to say, well, why blame the thing on to us? That is the way I feel every so often. Yesterday afternoon something happened in my office. I said, why do they have to blame me for it?

Well, the fact of the matter is whether it was my

fault or not, I was in a position that could at least attract some of the blame and we in the United States are in a position where we are not permitted to sort of ignore what goes on, to pretend it did not happen, or to live in some sort of a fool's dream world.

We are at a very center of what is going on in this world. And we are looked upon and looked to as the constructive force to make this world just a little bit better place for my sons and my daughter, and by the way, I have three grand daughters and I am going out to see them tonight, too.

And I am very interested in their future, very, very interested. Now, you know many times you have people of parental age or grandfather age come to you and tell you about those good old days, but I want to let you in on a secret, there never were any days quite so good as the ones you are living now.

These are the best. I have lived 54 years of those good old days and I will tell you I would not trade a single one of them for today. This is the best time I have had, I don't know since when. Good old days seem a little better the further you get away from them.

... Laughter ...

These are the most exciting days that man has ever known and you are helping to add to that excitement

by your very vitality, by your interest in what is going on.

Can you imagine fifty years ago a conference like this taking place anywhere? I can assure you that it would ~~not~~ have happened. I read many times about how the Communist areas of the world, the youth movements get together. Well, I have been in some of those meetings, I have been in the Communist parts of the world and they get together because they are told to get together.

You joined the Y-Teens because you wanted to. It is a voluntary organization. You are here because you wanted to come, or your associates in your group wanted you to come to represent them. You represent thousands of people who have joined together for the purpose of service and adventure in service, because you wanted to. You have freedom of choice, and that is the very heart of democracy, the right to choose, to do or not to do.

The right to have alternatives, and I must say that when I read about the youth movements in other countries I can say quite candidly that I know of no country on the face of the earth where the youth movements do more and have more purpose, more vitality, more sense of concern, more conscience, than the youth movements right here in this great free country of ours -- the United States of America.

And you are a part of that great free youth movement. And that is the way we want it. We don't want

somebody organizing everybody and saying, now, on Tuesday morning you are there, or else.

And having a government agent or a member of the police telling us what to do and what not to do.

What an exciting period of time to live when people understand that they have so much to contribute. I happen to be chairman of the Space Council and you know, really, we are going to land on the moon.

Oh, I want to talk to you just a little bit about that excitement. I know the men that are going up in these capsules that you see and read about -- Gemini-3, Gemini-4, Gemini-5 coming up, and we are going to have two of our astronauts in orbit for eight days in just a few days.

I have been at Cape Kennedy, I have been at the Space Center in Houston, I have gone to the industries that make these rockets and make these space ships and space capsules and all the intricate mechanisms that make it possible for man to live in space and in the not too distant future, my dear young friends, we are going to put in space a room just like a room that you live in at home, in which people live, in which they will walk around and they will take scientific measurements, they will be able to look at the stars and get a better view once they get out of the atmosphere and get into space.

They will be able to explore the universe and they

will walk out the door and go out into space and come back. Who they are going to meet out there I have not found out yet, but they are going to do it.

... Laughter ...

Just imagine that. And they are going to be able to go up there in space and they will be orbiting the earth and somebody will call up and say, you know that Earlybird satellite, the telephone lines are jammed, would you mind going out and check it out and see what is going on?

It is a fact. It will only be a few years, in fact we could do it now if we would put the resources to it. The Earlybird Satellite is in orbit and we can call countries all over the world. I have been on the television on the EARlybird satellite. I have had interviews with students from London and from Paris -- I was sitting here in Washington.

We were going at it and having a time -- an argument 3,000 miles away. It pays to train up at home, you know.

... Laughter ...

Let's assume that Earlybird satellite finds itself with some mechanical difficulty, which it very well may. How will we fix it? You don't want to bring it down. So you send a man up with the repairs and he goes out and fixes it in space, traveling at 17 or 18 thousand miles an hour, that body in space.

But then everything is relative and he will do it just exactly like Colonel Edward White walked out of Gemini 4, and I have talked to Colonel White, I traveled with Colonel McDivitt and Colonel White and their marvelous ladies all over the United States, we went to Paris to the air show, and I want to tell you those men were great.

They were young Americans. And Colonel White said that he never realized the beauty of the earth until he could see it from afar, until he saw it as a star, until he could see the curvature of the earth, until he could see the miraculous unbelievable beauty of the light rays around the earth.

Imagine, going up there and opening up the door, just kind of turning the handle, walking on out into space and having the space gun like those old Buck Rogers shows and cartoons, and he had that space gun and he maneuvered himself around and he could go behind the Gemini capsule and in front of the capsule, along side of the capsule and taking pictures like you were.

I don't know, we are really the shutterbugs of this country. Even when we put a man in space he wants to take a picture. And there he was taking movies. We have the moving pictures. He was taking snapshots, and then reentered, closed the hatch, came back to earth, told us



all about it. We have the motion pictures of it. It is incredible.

But I tell you this only because this is just about like what Christopher Columbus was doing compared with the Queen Mary or to the S. S. United States. This is primitive, this is just the beginning, we havenot done anything yet.

We are just now beginning to explore. Remember the scriptures say, "Greater things than I have done ye shall do also."

Those are the words in one of the gospels, I think the Gospel of St. John reports that to us. And greater things we are doing every day.

We read of the miracles. We read that in the Biblical days men were brought back to life. They are today -- literally. Not long ago there was a young person that was dead for all physiological purposes over five minutes. And that person was brought back to life and lives today and is active.

Heart massage, modern surgery, modern medicine. We heal the sick, we raise the dead. We have people that have been blind for years that have their sight restored. We have transplants of organs of the body.

What I am trying to tell this young audience this morning is we are just at the pioneering, primitive stages -- man is just making breakthroughs now. It will not be long until it will be so much better. I have only one regret

in my life -- I really enjoy living almost every moment of my life. I feel it is just as well, we are not here very long, you might as well make the most of it. I have only one regret. I wish these doctors or scientists could hurry up and find out how a fellow could back up for ten years and revitalize you, and keep you that way for another fifty years.

I would like to see what is going to happen.

I can predict, and I want some of you to remember, we will land on the moon, man will walk on the moon, man will return from the moon, we will have interplanetary travel. And frankly, I think we ought to do a good deal of this internationally, through international cooperation.

I am one of those that believes if we are going to explore Mars, and we have already taken more pictures of Mars than Mars ever thought it would have pictures taken of it. Mars did not even get a chance to get its hair out of curlers before we started taking pictures of it.

... Laughter ...

The fact is we can explore that whole area of the universe internationally in cooperation with the other great nations of the world -- yes, the Soviet Union, France, England, Japan, just to mention a few, because science ought not to have any labels on it.

Science is the search for truth. It is the exploration of the unknown, the discovery of truth.

So, you are going to have quite a time ahead of you, and just imagine, it is going to happen in your lifetime. Remember this, that 95 percent of all the scientists that ever lived since the beginning of time are alive today. The other five percent have had the rest of the time.

95 percent out of every scientific mind, every trained scientist and engineer that ever lived is alive this very hour. So, we are making phenomenal breakthroughs, living in the most unbelievable exciting age and the changes are not merely scientific.

What is one of the other changes? You have been talking about it. People are no longer content just to be looked down upon. This whole great movements of Civil Rights is nothing more or less than the movement of the recognition of the dignity of man. And we have been taught that we were to believe in the dignity of man. We are taught that man was created in the image of his maker, which gave him that divine spark, which separated man and his chemistry from that of the animal.

Which told us that man had a soul and had a spirit and because of that we believe in human dignity and because of that we believe that no man should be governed without his consent. That is the whole foundation of democracy --

democracy is not a written Constitution, it is not even votes. Democracy is an attitude of an understanding of man and his relationship to divine Providence.

Once you understand that man is important, once you understand that people are in a sense reflections or a spark of the divine, then we begin to understand why people ought to live better, we understand why we believe in civil rights, why we believe in equal rights, why we believe in equal opportunity.

There is not only an economic justification for it, there is a moral justification, and when you can put morality and economics together, my Dear Friends, you get quite a package.

The difference between the totalitarian, the difference between the communist, and the free man is the difference of attitude about man's relationship to himself and to his state.

The totalitarian believes that the individual is to serve the state. The free man believes the institutions of society, political, economic and social are designed to serve man. Why? Because man is important. Created in the image of his maker. That is why we are here, that is why we have a free country -- that is what it is all about. This is what Abraham Lincoln talked about, Thomas Jefferson talked about. This is what your President talks about.

This is what every President has talked about, whatever is his political party. A fundamental basic belief in the importance of the individual that we try to develop that important and to sort of should I say release it by creating a better society in which people can live.

Now, what are we engaged in these days?

Well, I know one thing that we are engaged in. We are trying to open up the gates of opportunity. Some of these gates have been sort of jammed. Some of them were locked and the locks became corroded and rusted and they had to be broken loose. And they are being opened even as you are here in Washington.

Just one week ago President Johnson signed into law the historic Voting Rights Bill. That Voting Rights Bill was like throwing open the gates of political participation, of opportunity for millions of Americans.

Those gates have been locked, closed. There have been people standing there, and when people came to open the gates, they were beaten down, and the Congress of the United States at long last took the Constitution seriously. We made Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation which was a hope and promise, we made it a reality and fact.

And America is going to be all the better, all the richer, all the stronger, all the more decent because at long last people, because they are people, because they

are citizens, not because they are short or fat or tall, or thin, not because they are white or black or yellow or red, or whatever color they may be, but because they are citizens, of the United States, they are going to have a chance to participate in the responsibilities and the duties and the privileges of democratic government.

You have come to Washington at one of its most historic moments. Moments in the history of this nation. You are part of the history of this country, and you will remember it as long as you live.

Just recently we signed into law a massive program of development of our cities. Most of you young people here come from cities. How many of you here come from cities?

... Show of hands ...

There you are. Eighty percent of the people of the United States by the year 1980 will live in cities of 50,000 or more. Only eight percent of our people live on farms. And in the year 1910, fifty percent of the people lived on farms. We are changed. A whole new America. The question is, is it a better one.

Well, that is up to us. Now, we are going to have to make these cities, young ladies, we are going to have to make these cities a place where you want to live and your families want to live. And man was not intended to be imprisoned in concrete and brick and asphalt and mortar.

He was intended to have open spaces and to have clean air, and to have fresh water, and to have green grass, and shrubs and trees as well as housing and we are going to have to go in and literally bulldoze out some of these cities.

I hope we don't have to wait for a war to destroy these old slums before we grow up and realize that they ought never to have been there in the first place. There is no such thing as equal opportunity for a young man or a young woman for a family if they are imprisoned in the ghettos and the slums of urban America.

We have to do something about it, and we are going to, and I ask you to help, I ask you to take an interest in them just like you are, and don't tell me we cannot afford it because any nation that can afford to spend \$30 billion to put a man on the moon -- and we can afford to invest some money to help put a man on his feet right here on earth.

... Applause ...

We are going to do something now about making our cities the city beautiful. I heard you singing when I came in here -- America The Beautiful. Isn't it a beautiful country? May country tis of thee. We sing about the land of the home of the brave and the home of the free. We have all these great patriotic songs, but this sone

"America the Beautiful", I think is the most beautiful and that beauty can be ours but it cannot be if we permit ugliness to dominate tomorrow's areas.

The physical ugliness of our landscape and times, of our city life and sometimes the ugliness of our own attitudes, and we are going to try to do something about these things.

That is what we are working on. By the way, I want to just say this requires your participation in the city life, and don't you let anybody ever tell you that politics is too dirty for you to touch. I have been a teacher in political science as well as a man in public life. All of us make a lot of mistakes. And I suppose people in public life make a few more than other people, and one of the reasons that you know that we make a few more is everybody is sort of watching us and telling on us.

It is pretty hard to cover up. And that is the way it ought to be, because public life belongs to the public and as that old English philosopher once said, "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

So you cannot afford to let people in public life have power without constant surveillance, constant review. But I want to encourage young ladies above all, the young women of America, to take an active interest in the civic



civic life of their community. Sometimes it may be in a political party.

Now I again happen to belong to one particular party, but I am going to let you in on a secret. I have yet to find either political party with a monopoly on virtue and wisdom. I have occasionally tried to distort that somewhat out of the campaign stuff, but I think that most people understand that when we go through a campaign we are sort of doing it up a little extra.

... Laughter ...

But we need you, and in our political structure you cannot run a government without political parties, it is impossible. You are needed in either party, you are needed at your home locality, you are needed to keep that city council more responsive to the needs of your people, to keep the mayor responsible and responsive, to get the kind of government at home that you need, and remember most of the government is at home. Very little of the government is here to be found in Washington. This is the big picture, but the things that affect your life are the zoning laws, what the cities are like and the sidewalks and the playgrounds and the schools and the health ordinances and those things are at home, so you take an interest in your local government.

I asked a group of students one time over at McAllister College in St. Paul, and I remember talking to

these students and one of them said, "My mother said politics was too dirty and I don't want to get in it" and so on and so on. And I said to this group of students, "Look, if you think politics are dirty, you get yourself elected and go clean it up, get in there and move."

... Applause ...

"Don't stand there on the sidelines telling the team how to win. Join the team. When you come out with a few bruises, and you have been in the battle, then you will understand a little bit more the importance of self-government, and of civic responsibility."

eh

eh 1  
fls rlt

Now, We are engaged today in the mighty effort to save human resources.-- the most valuable resource of this country is the human resources in America -- that is as they are developed, as this human resource is permitted to grow and its potential is released, we not only help ourselves but we set an example for other people.

Do you know what one of the greatest foreign policy acts of this Government has been? Not just the Marshall Plan or the Foreign Aid Program or the treaties, I would say the most significant foreign policy development of the Government of the U. S. in the last 50 years was the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It was designed primarily for our needs at home, but I want to remind you that two-thirds of the world in which we live is not Caucasian or white.

I would remind you that two-thirds of the world in which we live is illiterate, hungry and sick and poverty stricken, And I would remind you that the fact that this America, Rich and powerful and essentially a Caucasian America, that this big and rich America, the fact that we saw the need of seeing that there was equal protection of the laws first class citizenship for everybody, the removal of discrimination the striking down of the barriers of segregation and prejudice, the fact that this country saw that need and did something about it gave us a good name and stood us well in thousands and thousands of areas of the world with hundreds of millions of people.

2

It was possibly the most significant policy development of this country in our lifetime. So, what we do at home tells pretty much what will happen to us abroad.

Now, when we emphasize at home better cities, better homes, when we emphasize at home better education, this reflects the true image of America and it has a way of projecting a message -- Ye shall know them by their deeds. And we are beginning to be known by our good deeds and our bad ones.

And let me just say this to you. don't be afraid to talk up with the weaknesses of our country. Now, I know that many people make this their whole life, and that is not necessary either, but the only man or woman in your community that dares to expose the weaknesses of his or her life or his or her business, or his or her work is the man or woman that is strong and secure.

It is only the strong that dare to admit their limitations. It's the weak that constantly pretend that they have everything -- big shot.

You know, nothing wrong, braggadocio. Well, fortunately for America we are strong, and therefore we can afford to admit and we do admit, at times, our limitations. I have had people say to me, "I wonder if America with its Gross National Product of almost \$650 billion, with its millionaires, with its high income, with its incredible productivity -- I wonder if America still has a conscience?"

3

At the time when we are richer than any people have ever been in the history of the world, we know there is poverty in our midst, and even though the Communist picks it up and says, "Look, we have been telling you all the time, all those Americans are poverty stricken," that their system is a failure."

Even though we know they are going to distort what we say, even though we know that their grist mills of propaganda will feed this out to the world, we are willing to stand up and admit that in America -- there are over 30 million people in this great America of ours that have somehow or another been shunted aside in the forward thrust of this economy, they are in the backwaters, in the swamps rather than in the main street.

Only a strong country, only a country of concern and compassion and conscience would dare say anything like this. And we get busy and we say, all right, we are going to have a war on poverty, and we are starting to have a war on poverty. It is going to be a long fight. You were brought up in a come where you were probably told, "Well, the poor will always be with us." That may be true, but you don't need so many. Cut down the numbers.

I want you to know that in our effort to try to do something about poverty, without trying to make it more tolerable, less painful, we are no. trying to feed the country economic aspirin and social aspirin as to deaden the pain.

If the War on Poverty is nothing less than to try to make

4 4

poverty more tolerable so you can accept it and you can make it more respectable, then it is a failure. We are out to find the causes of poverty and we are out to eliminate it.

Under conditional surrender, and this is a war, by the way, in which there is no room for any conscientious objectors -- we need everybody -- the rich, the poor, the middle income, we need everybody in this struggle and every time that somebody is, so to speak, rehabilitated, that's a victory.

I heard somebody say the other day about the job corps camps. There was a big article in one of these papers, and that article said, job corps camps has 15 percent dropout. And right away I could just hear the voices saying, oh, I knew it would be a failure.

These young folks are not going to do what you expect them to do. The Government has loused it all up. It is a boondoggle. In fact I heard somebody just say that very thing, and I walked up to that individual and I said, "I want to give you some good news, old chap" -- and he was an old chap, I might add.

(Laughter)

-- I said, "I do not deny that 15 percent in this particular camp have dropped out, but I also assert that 85 percent are there that wouldn't have been there if you had had your way. And it's the 85 percent that's there that we are going to do something about and they are going to come out of there better people.

5

They are going to come out there trained for a job, they are going to have constancy, they are going to have their teeth fixed, they are going to have health care, they are going to have decent food, good nutrition.

Somebody is going to care about them and they are going to be better people. Some of the 15 percent that dropped out we'll get back, we'll try them again on the second round. We will get some of them back.

This is what we are talking about and American needs everybody today. We are going to be involved, my dear friends, for the next 50 years in a powerful and terrible struggle -- the enemies of freedom are tenacious, they are not going to give up easily, and we have to be ready for the long pull. You know what I think the opposition, the enemy wants us to do -- to become impetuous, impatient, tired, to say what the heck are we doing, why are we there, we ought to get out of here. I

I hear people every day say we ought to get out of Africa, they are never going to do any good. I hear people say we ought to get out of Asia, Latin America, they waste money, it is not going to do any good.

And that's exactly what the Communists want us to say. You cannot overcome three centuries, five centuries of injustice, abuse, poverty, illiteracy, hunger, in five years. It cannot be done. We have to stick with it, And we have the means to do it. And by the way we can stick with this job and still

6 live a better life than anybody else in the world. We can have everything that we need for ourselves and still share more with others. And the fact of the matter is the only time this country ever got into serious trouble is when it tried to keep everything for itself and share with no one. That was when I was about your age -- during the '20's.

We just decided, well, look here, here's the pot 'o gold, we will keep it for ourselves and we wallowed in it like pigs and we ended up with Hitler, Tojo and Mussolini and World War II, and a worldwide depression. We wouldn't share with anybody we closed our immigration, we said, "We just don't want anymore of those foreigners."

We closed our trade, we said, "We don't want to do business with people abroad." We were isolationists, we didn't help anybody, we ignored Hitler, he only killed six million Jews, they weren't ours, so we just ignored him.

We saw Tojo start to chew up half of Asia, we ignored that, after all, it wasn't yours or mine, or California, why be excited.

And then it was Pearl Harbor -- and then there was disaster. We learned our lesson, I hope. I hope we have learned you cannot appease an aggressor. Therefore, we are trying to build the great resources of this country for the long pull, not as a warrier but as a peacemaker -- trying to get enlightenment and better health, better communities, opening up



7 opportunity, training people with skills and every day we are doing it. Let me give you one example and I am going to conclude here.

The governor of South Carolina not long ago told me of a very very, what I thought was significant development in his state. This is in the Deep South.

There were 5,000 hard core unemployed, they had been unemployed, they had been unemployed for over three years. That is what we mean by hard core, no work. They had run out of their unemployment compensation, they were on relief, they had not contributed a thing to the country, they were miserable, they were economic liabilities, they were tax eaters and not taxpayers.

Then the Manpower Training and Development Act came in. This is a program of your Government working with the states and the schools. The schools and the state and Federal Governments took 5,000 of these hard core unemployed. They put them through training. They went to industry and said, "What kind of workers do you need? We will train them for you."

Industry says, "Well, you don't have those workers, you don't have those skills, all the people of those skills have been hired." The State of South Carolina said, "Look, we will train people in those skills." Now these were men, potential breadwinners, unemployed for over three years. they had been literally just sopping up the resources of that state, giving

8 nothing, taking what they needed, in a sense to live.

They were trained and in 90 days after they had finished their training 75 percent of them were on good paying jobs -- self-sustaining citizens -- earning an income, providing for their family, working in factories, being taxpayers and good citizens.

Now, that's mighty good news. And we can do this and we have done it.

Let me show you what we were able to do this summer. We knew there would be over two million young people between the ages of 16 and 20 unemployed in America. And by the way the rate of Negro unemployment was twice that of white. And we said, "We have to do something about this, these young people ought to be having a chance, an opportunity for work," and so the President, President Lyndon Johnson said to the Vice President, "I want you to head up a cabinet task force, go out and see what you can do with industry, with Governors, mayors, churches and labor, with anybody, see what you can do to find employment for these young people."

And we started out on that program on the 15th day of May and I am happy to tell you that by the 15th day of July we had 784,000 young people employed that would have had no job had there not have been a program to ask America to do something to provide opportunity for young Americans.

And we know now that as this first of August arrived, over

9      800,000 young men and women between the ages of 16 and 20 were gainfully employed, that the employment offices and industry said they would not have hired had it not have been for the fact that their President and their Government asked them to do something.

Industry was patriotic. For every 100 employees they took on a new one. The Federal Government took on 25,000, state governments took on one for every 100, cities one for every 100, at a minimum.

And we were able to put to work constructively, gainfully, so that young people could have a little money to go to college, could have a little money for something this summer, and more importantly could learn something, could use their energies.

This is what we mean by the development of human resources. What's it all for? It is essentially for one purpose: It is for the purpose of peace.

Now, you read much of war, and mankind regrettably has been at war most of his life, there has been more peace in the last 100 years than in the preceding 5,000. That's a historical fact.

Mankind has been at war a long, long, long time, and there have been some great voices of peace throught the ages and there have been some in our time, too. The late President John Kennedy, speaking at American University on June 10, 1963, talked to us about peace, as his predecessor President Eisenhower

10      talked to us about peace, as every President has. As President Lyndon Johnson only yesterday, not only talked to us about peace, but planned the steps of peace.

Now, what did President Kennedy say in that memorable address, by the way I would like to make sure that every young lady remembers that address, I would like for you to get when you go back to school this year, because you will learn more in those few paragraphs about the purpose of our country and what we are trying to do and what our trials and tribulations are, and what the difficulties are, as well as the opportunities, than in any words I have read in recent years.

President Kennedy said in that speech that "Peace is a process, peace is not static, it is dynamic." And then I can only paraphrase for the rest of it. He went on to point out that you have to work for peace, there have to be soldiers of peace, he went on to point out that you occasionally have to use strength for peace, even as you resist aggression you work for peace -- just as we think we are working for peace when we resist aggression in Viet Nam.

It sounds paradoxical, irrelevant, that you can say you are working for peace even as you use force and power, but we use it with limitations. We have some people that say that we ought to use none at all, get out. Well, that's what they said in the 1930's, and Mr. Hitler wasn't satisfied, your daddy can tell you about that. Most of your fathers served in the

11      Armed Services. Hitler was not satisfied because the French gave him the Rhineland or because he received the Sudatanland or because he took over Austria.

The aggressor was never satisfied. He has an insatiable appetite. So to get out of his way doesn't bring you peace, it brings you catastrophy. Historians tell us that the french resisted Mr. Hitler when he tried to re-arm the Rhineland there may not have been World War II. We are attempting to resist hat aggressor and it is not easy -- it is heart-breaking.

No one likes it. Your President worries about it every hour and every moment of the day, as do the rest of us, but as we resist we seek at the same time to build peace because peace is like a mighty cathedral.

Some of you have traveled a good deal, I know, and in most of our great cities, I might say to my friends from St. Paul who are here, we have a beautiful facility in St. Paul, a beautiful cathedral, there is a lovely and magnificent cathedral here in Washington, D. C., the National Cathedral, it has taken generations to build that, and it is still not complete, we are still working on it. Peace is like a cathedral, each generation adds something to it, it requires the plan of a National architect, but it also requires labors of many for generations.

We are not going to get peace in a hurry anymore than the promise of the Prince of Peace was realized.

I happen to be of Christian Faith, I am not abandoning my

12

faith because we have not realized the promises of Christianity. We build each day, each day we are builders, and we are building peace.

We are building peace with foreign aid, we are building peace with Food for Peace to feed the hungry, we are building peace with the Peace Corps all over the world, we are building peace with technical assistance, we are building peace with the Alliance for Progress in Latin America.

We are building peace whenever we help anybody with our voluntary religious, non-sectarian groups that are working around the world. We build peace with an exchange of teenagers, We build peace with the 4-H Club exchange, we build peace in the United Nations.

Now, the United Nations is a man-made instrument and because it is man-made it is imperfect, but we are building peace at the United Nations slowly, painfully, sometimes discouragingly, but we are building it, and what I want you to do this morning is thoughtfully and prayerfully make a commitment.

You don't have to stand up out loud and say it out loud, just say that you are not going to tire, just say you are not going to give up, say you not going to get discouraged, try to look to the bright side.

Say to yourself, "I am going to try to do something in my community, I am going to try to do something, if I am permitted to, internationally, to build for peace." And we are going to win that peace.

Not only are we going to win it because it's the right thing to do, but because we have to. Man cannot afford or tolerate or live through a nuclear holocaust. The same man that has developed instruments of total destruction -- and we now have them, I can assure you -- is the same man that can develop the instruments of a better world -- the tools to build that better world.

And young ladies, every time you read of a decision in Washington, D. C., by your President, whoever that President may be, on the issues of peace and war, remember that that President is thinking of every single person in this country. Remember, he also knows that standing over this world like a black cloud filled with destruction is the nuclear power that mankind has created.

It is a funny thing that we learned how to split the atom, but we haven't really learned how to live together. We have released this tremendous force of destruction, and yet scientists

tell us that that same force can do more good for mankind than any force that man has ever released before.

I warn you, we have the means to destroy every bit of human life and I am of the opinion that if mankind becomes engaged in a nuclear holocaust, that's what will happen, because there is a madness that sets in. Therefore, when you hear people say, "Let's reason together," when you hear people say, "Let's sit at a conference table," that is not a sign of weakness, that is a sign of strength.

Anybody can kill, anybody can destroy, but to save life and to build is the mark of greatness, and we are trying desperately, but sometimes it is almost agonizingly painful and frustrating. We are trying desperately at least to build the pathway to peace.

We have instructed our ambassador to the United Nations to search every avenue. We have asked every nation on the face of the earth to use its good offices. We have extended the hand of fellowship and friendship to friend and foe alike in Southeast Asia, saying to the North Vietnamese as well as the South Vietnamese, we are ready to help you build a better society if you will but leave your neighbors alone.

We have pledged a billion dollars not just for South Vietnam, but even for the help of the enemy -- if you will but give people a chance to live in peace.

So, on the one hand there is the American eagle, and the



Presidential Seal shows you -- the claws hold the arrows, the shield of strength and protection which we must have, I regret to tell you, in a world where there are bandits and thugs and brutes who would exercise their will and their way.

But that same eagle has in its other claws the olive branch, and as you remember, the head of the eagle is turned to the olive branch and not to the arrows. What that eagle symbolizes for us is the dignity and majesty and strength of this country, and that dignity and majesty is to be found in the statement that you have made a thousand times as you stood and recited your Pledge of Allegiance to the flag: "One nation," as you have said -- not North, not South, not rich, not poor -- "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Now, my fellow Americans, my friends, young Americans, either you believe it or you don't, and I think the most terrifying words of scripture are the words "Woe unto ye hypocrites." And I think the time is at hand when young Americans, concerned, alive, active, socially conscious, volunteers -- you are a volunteer generation -- but young Americans must let every American know that this is one nation, with one set of patriotic and citizenship standards, and that this nation recognizes its place, it has a sense of humility, that it recognizes that it has a part of the great scheme of a Divine Providence -- one nation under God, and it is indivisible.

And when you see people that set people against people, regions against regions, group against group, race against race, creed against creed, those are the destroyers, those are even more vicious enemies than the enemies on the outside.

Those are the enemies of the inside. They prey on everything that this country stands for, so we are a nation, one under God, with liberty and justice and indivisibility for all -- for you, and you, and you and me. Because if there isn't liberty for you, it wouldn't be long before it is no longer for you.

If there is no justice for you today, there will be no justice for you tomorrow, because liberty and justice are indivisible, inseparable, universal, and so, young ladies, as they say in some of this teenager parlance, "Go-go." We need you, we need you and we need your enthusiasm, your liveliness, your loveliness. We need your get up and go, and you just love this country with a passion, and you love not only its flag, but what its flag stands for. You love not only its geography, but the people within its jurisdiction.

Love one another, be a people of compassion, of concern and of peace, and above all, enjoy life. It's the only one you are going to have on this earth, so make the best of it.

Thank you very much.

... standing ovation ...





# 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.



[www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org)