

Bernard Baruch Award
Daniel Lawrence
Gov. Hearnes
of Missouri
Cong League
Cong Richard Roubalush of Ind
Past Nat. Commander
 REMARKS BY

~~Don Kerner~~
Mayor Daley
 VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Master Sgt. Bowling
Armed Forces Award
 AUGUST 16, 1965

66th annual convention

Gus Grisson
V.F.W
Space Award

I am honored to deliver the keynote address
 to this 66th National Convention of the Veterans of
 Foreign Wars of the United States.

met by
Andy Borg
Cooper Holt

I am grateful to your Commander in Chief,
Buck Jenkins, for his kind words of introduction.

V.A.
Admin
Driver

Lt Helen Glavinovnik
"Living Heroine Award"

President Johnson, before I left Washington,
 asked me to convey to you his appreciation for the
 good work you have done throughout the years --
 and today as well -- to make this a safer and freer
world.

Dr Elson
Memorial Service

I join the President in that message of
 appreciation.

Gen'l Tyler - Marine Corps
 Gen'l Dodge - 5th Army

Ron Kenitz
Dist Commander VFW
Minn

✓ You cannot realize how much it means to your government to know that there are strong and brave Americans standing in support when that support is most needed.

✓ When necessity dictated action in the Gulf of Tonkin and in the Caribbean your Commander-in-Chief telegraphed the President your firm pledge of support.

✓ A few months ago, during a time of uncertainty in the Atlantic Alliance, you demonstrated this nation's commitment to that Alliance and to NATO when you conferred your Bernard Baruch Gold Medal on General Lyman Lemnitzer before representatives of all NATO nations.

✓ And then you sent your Commander-in-Chief to Southeast Asia to tell the leaders and the people of that part of the world that the VFW stood with President Johnson and the pledges this country had made there.

Buck Jenkins visited, too, our men in uniform in Southeast Asia. He went to the Cambodian frontier . . . to the surrounded base of Da Nang . . . to the Marine beachhead at Chu Lai to tell our men that you were with them.

Today -- facing great challenges in the world and at home -- we Americans must work together in unity.



(X) We cannot afford in this country to give way to animosities and prejudice and division.


Your leadership in helping to create that national strength and unity ~~has never been felt or~~ ^{is} needed more ~~than~~ ^{over} today.


But let me get to what is on our minds.


Today in Vietnam we are being tested by strong and tenacious adversaries. We face an assault by an enemy organized in detail . . . trained in depth . . .

Law
order -
Justice

skilled in a strange kind of warfare we Americans have only begun to understand.  We face an assault by adversaries able to infiltrate thousands of men across boundaries . . . to regroup those men into disciplined units . . . to attack weak points and then to fade away in face of equal or superior strength.  We face an assault by men who use terror and assassination against civilians as normal weapons.

and We face something else as well: The fact that the totalitarians feel that time is on their side -- and their belief that we will inevitably tire and withdraw. 

 Today there are voices raised in this land which say: "Why are we there? Why do we fight? Let us pull back to a safer, easier place."

 To these voices I answer with the words of Winston Churchill.

↳ In 1940, Churchill was asked "Why does Britain fight?"

And Churchill said: "If we left off fighting, you would soon find out."

In Vietnam, if we left off fighting we would soon find out.

For Vietnam is the testing ground of that misnamed "war of national liberation." (And what a cruel joke this "liberation" really is: Liberation from life, from property, from justice, from human dignity.)

↳ By this new form of totalitarian aggression -- and that is what it is -- our adversaries seek to demonstrate once and for all that "peaceful coexistence" does not work. They seek to demonstrate that aggression and reckless militancy brings victory. They seek to demonstrate -- as Hitler and Stalin tried to do -- that democracies are weak and flabby. They seek to

demonstrate that, when faced with a choice, democracies will sacrifice small nations to save, even temporarily, their own hides.

Once again we must prove them wrong.

Three Presidents of the United States have pledged this nation to the defense of South Vietnam.

Three Presidents of the United States have given notice to the Communist aggressors: ^{namely} The cost of aggression comes too high, You must leave your neighbors alone.

But Make no mistake about it. If aggression succeeds in one part of this world, it will quickly follow elsewhere.

If we fail to stand today, we shall have to stand tomorrow even closer to home.

Not long ago a distinguished American ^{newspaper} columnist asked how many Vietnams we were willing to become involved in around the world.

To those who ask if we are to be
the guardians of free nations —

President Johnson gave the answer.

↳ "We did not choose to be the guardians at
the gate. But there is no one else."

Let it be known, then, that we will honor
our commitment in Vietnam, just as we honor our
commitments in other parts of the world,

more
of our
troops
to
Cambodia

↳ Now, just what are our objectives in Vietnam?

↳ Our first objective is to prove to the Communist
aggressors that free men will not yield to force of arms.

↳ That is why we have strengthened our forces in
Vietnam. That is why we have increased our assistance
to a brave South Vietnamese army and a brave South
Vietnamese people.

↳ That South Vietnamese army since 1961 has
suffered 25 thousand dead and 51 thousand wounded --

greater losses, in proportion to population, than we suffered in all of World War II; ten times our losses in the Korean War.

That South Vietnamese people, last year alone, lost 436 local officials ^{by} assassination . . . lost another 1,100 officials to kidnaping and an unknown fate . . . lost 11,000 civilians to murder, kidnaping and forced labor -- but, in face of intimidation, turned out to vote in recent elections in far higher percentages than we usually reach in our own American elections. A full 67 per cent of ~~the~~ South Vietnamese adults -- under threat of death -- registered to vote. And some 73 per cent of those registered did vote.

Our second objective -- once we prove to the aggressors that aggression will not work -- is to bring a just peace to a land that has gone too long without peace.

↳ We have made it clear, again and again, that we are ready to negotiate toward that just peace.

↳ For, as our President has said, we fear the meeting room no more than we fear the battlefield.

No less than fifteen times we have offered to begin discussions. ^{and} Many nations have sought to bring the aggressors to the conference table.

But the reply has been no. — a defiant, arrogant no
so, What must we do?

↳ We must continue to resist aggression. And we must continue to pursue peace.

↳ We must make the aggressors realize that democracies have learned their lessons well. We must make them realize that our patience is greater than theirs and that time is on our side.

This struggle is Political as well as military

- 10 -

And at the same time we must continue to recognize that the people of Vietnam -- as people everywhere -- must have hope of a better day. We must continue to do all we can to help create, in South Vietnam -- in Southeast Asia, in all places where man desperately hopes for a new tomorrow -- we must help create societies which offer man something to live and work for.

Let us not forget: The real revolution in the world today is the revolution which took flame from our own in America -- the revolution toward opportunity, human dignity, self-determination and self-respect.

We are the authors of this world revolution. It is our obligation, in our strength and wealth, to give it continued life. And it is -- in Vietnam, in Europe,

in Latin America, in great nations and small -- our obligation to defend it when it is threatened by ruthless force. And this we shall do.

∠ We are meeting the responsibilities of leadership and we are meeting them with strength and courage.

∠ Strength and courage ^{faith} are what we will need.

For there is no end in sight to the burdens we must carry . . . to the challenges we face.

∠ The American people are a great people. And greatness is what the times demand.

Leadership
no cloak
of comfort -
But a robe
of responsibility

The American for today and tomorrow must be -- will be -- the same restless, adventurous, citizen as his forebears.

I see him as the son of a rich nation, yet a person of conscience with a deep concern for his fellow man.

I see him as one who has defeated the enemies
of freedom, yet extends the hand of friendship and
cooperation to build a new and better world community.

∠ I see him surrounded by materialism, yet
questioning its value . . . impatient with things as
they are, but not impetuous in remedy or judgment.

∠ Strong, but not belligerent.

∠ Willing to debate, but able to decide.

Yes, the road ahead demands an American
nation fully able to wear the mantle of leadership.

∠ And so today we are building here at home an
America both free and secure -- a nation, under God,
truly indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

∠ And in this task we ask your continued help:
The task of extending opportunity and justice to all

our citizens . . . the task of building a vigorous and expanding economy . . . the task of forging a nation of free people able to stand a contest of will with any totalitarian.

∠ We Americans, too, are devoting ourselves today to the belief that what we do is not for our benefit alone, but for the benefit of all mankind.

And again in this task, too, we ask your continued help: The task of helping struggling nations into citizenship in the world. ∠ And make no mistake about it, these nations -- a full two-thirds of the world -- are targets for those who promise quick and easy solutions to old and complex problems.

∠ And, finally, in America today we are putting ourselves to the greatest test which free men face --

the willingness to risk our lives, fortune and sacred
honor on alien soil to keep a commitment; to resist
the aggressor; to restore the peace.

Each man here today has, at one time, put
himself to that same test.

And each man here stood his ground for his
country and for freedom.

The Family of Man has much to lose to the
takers . . . the destroyers . . . the aggressors. The
Family of Man has much to gain in a world of peace
and opportunity.

There is a time when men must stand in face
of force and those who break the peace.

In the words of our President: "We will stand
in Vietnam."

#####

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO

Ruth Felt
The Vice President's Office

FROM

Cooper T. Holt, Exec. Director
V.F.W. Washington Office

DATE

1/25/66



Transcript of Vice President Humphrey's address before
the 66th Annual Convention of the Veterans of Foreign
Wars of the United States, August 16, 1965. (pages 39
through 78)

CTH:nlp
Enclosures

SIXTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
of the
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

Conrad Hilton Hotel
International Ballroom
Chicago, Illinois

Monday, August 16, 1965
9:00 o'clock a.m.

Shirley B. Miller • Notary • Court Reporters

Suite 1000 • 100 No. LaSalle St. • Chicago 60602

State 2-6305

we disagree completely. But since it is important that the rights of a minority be protected, we might well adopt the attitude of Voltaire when he said --

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF JENKINS: If you will, let me apologize. We have made certain arrangements and they wish the Vice President to be brought in right now.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SODEN: Sergeant-at-Arms, you will escort to this rostrum the Honorable Hubert Humphrey, Vice President of the United States and Mrs. Humphrey. All please remain standing.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SODEN: Also accompanying the Vice President is the Honorable Richard J. Daley, the Mayor of the City of Chicago. Let's hear a hand.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SODEN: Also being escorted to the rostrum is the Governor of the State of Missouri, the Honorable Warren E. Hearnes. Let's give him a hand.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SODEN: Now, to bring the greetings of the Governor of Illinois, the Honorable Otto

Kerner, I'd like to present to you former State Senator, now the Administrative Agent of the Governor, Robert Maher, Administrative Assistant.

(Applause.)

MR. MAHER: Thank you, Chairman Soden. Ladies and comrades and our distinguished guests, and Mr. Vice President and Mrs. Humphrey, it is my honor to appear here this morning to extend the greetings of Governor Kerner to all of you fine people in the State of Illinois.

We are most happy and proud that you are with us at this time. I am sorry, and the Governor is sorry, he could not attend this morning, but he asked me to extend to you, to each of you, his best wishes and his heartiest congratulations on choosing the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois for your convention at this time.

We hope you all have a very fine time.
Thank you very kindly.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SODEN: Bob, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to present you with this guest's badge to wear at the convention and you will be entitled

to all the privileges and hospitality of a distinguished guest.

MR. MAHER: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SODEN: And now it is an honor and a privilege for me to present to you a man, an outstanding American, a man who heads up what I consider the finest city in the nation, and during his term of office has been somewhat of a construction man, because of the outstanding job that he has done in rebuilding our great city, the Queen of the Midwest, and I am sure that you will agree that there is no other lake front comparable to the City of Chicago.

So, it is indeed an honor and a privilege to present to you the Honorable Richard J. Daley, Mayor of the City of Chicago.

(Applause.)

MAYOR DALEY: Thank you very much, Commander Soden. Great Americans, Outstanding Vice President, Hubert Humphrey, Mrs. Humphrey, members of the military, governors, distinguished officials and delegates to the convention of the V.F.W., we in Chicago are happy you are holding your convention here,

because we know what you represent throughout America, because we are familiar with your actions in our cities.

In these troublesome times, we need the help and assistance and the guidance and the suggestions of organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars because you and your organization have been and are interested in the problems confronting us in the fields of better opportunities for education, better opportunities for employment, in the task of trying to translate the great national programs into the rank-and-file of our citizens which the Vice President and the President have done so ably and so courageously and so constructively.

Your organization, in its effort to provide leadership and at a time when leadership is so necessary in civil, as well as in the military community, and the military life. Your stand on the various problems of today is ample evidence of what the men and women of this great organization are doing throughout our country. So, we in Chicago are happy you've come to see us. We are a great metropolitan city. We are not perfect, we have a

beautiful lake front, but we also have the carry-over of slum and blight, which we are dedicated to remove.

We have wonderful schools of higher education, but we also have pockets of poverty which we are trying to eliminate under the great national programs of the President and the Vice President. But we need the help of thousands and thousands of people and are receiving it from the membership of this fine organization.

We hope you see a little of our city because, like any other city, we are proud of many of our achievements, as the Commander so well said. We are proud of the fact that in all the neighborhoods and communities of Chicago and Chicagoland, there is great leadership in the V.F.W.

So, again, to all of you, may your stay be a pleasant one, may you come back and see us again and again, and I am sorry I can't invite you to the Worlds Series at the White Sox Ball Park.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SODEN: It is with a great deal of pleasure I present you with this guest's badge. I

hope you will wear it at the convention and I know you'll be entitled to all the privileges of a distinguished guest.

MAYOR DALEY: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SODEN: There is going to be a little controversy on the stage about the Worlds Series.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN SODEN: At this time, for the purpose of presentations, I would like to present to you a lady who I hold in very high esteem, who has led the Ladies Auxiliary to new heights. So, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to present to you Mrs. Arthur Klugow, National President of the Ladies Auxiliary.

(Applause.)

MRS. KLUGOW: Chairman Soden, Commander-in-Chief Jenkins, our National Vice President Humphrey and his lovely wife, distinguished guests, my comrade sisters and friends, may I tell you how much the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars are enjoying the great City of Chicago, and the comparable great State of Illinois.

Every thought has been given to our comfort and I am sure that the Ladies Auxiliary Convention

will be one of the greatest because of the hospitality that has been extended to us. May I thank those assembled for all of their concern, their devotion to the work of our organization and to tell you that we are on the road up, hoping that we will next year reach greater heights.

It is now my pleasure to present to you our National Patriotic Instructor, Sister Florence Travis, of Wyoming, for the purpose of making presentations to the Mayor of the City of Chicago and the representative of the Governor of the State of Illinois.

(Applause.)

MRS. TRAVIS: Thank you. Commander-in-Chief, distinguished guests, Veterans of the Foreign Wars, and ladies of the Auxiliary, the American flag is the most important emblem of the United States of America and the men who helped to govern this great land of ours are very important to us also.

Today we are proud to honor Mr. Maher, representing the Honorable Governor Kerner of the State of Illinois, and the Honorable Mayor Daley of the City of Chicago, and to express our thanks by

presenting to you the most treasured gift our organization recognizes. Our fifty-star flag is a glorious symbol of the greatest nation on earth. It represents our highest ideals and it inspires us to plan principles of human program and freedom.

This is the flag of every loyal American citizen, whether he is white or black, rich or poor, and regardless of religious or political beliefs.

The brave men who served in our forces represent all races and all creeds; yet they fought and died together. What was important to them, they were all Americans.

Many of these American flags recall to you our historic past and may they be a promise of liberty and justice for our future.

(Applause.)

MRS. KLUGOW: Thank you. We present to you now these American flags.

(Applause.)

MRS. KLUGOW: During the beginning of this 1964-65 term, it was my good fortune to visit with many devoted ladies in the Armed Forces. I was

especially impressed with the zeal and dedication of the women who are serving in the interests of our United States of America. To make a long story short, the unsung heroine award was established by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. This award is given to a woman in the Armed Forces of the United States overseas, or a woman working with the Armed Forces overseas who has performed an act far beyond the call of duty. All the commanders and all our services overseas received the announcement of the Unsung Heroine Award, and in being a nomination panel of distinguished and impartial judges, they selected the first winner, Lieutenant Helen M. Glavinovich.

Lieutenant Glavinovich, will you please step forward?

Here is our winner who has been flown to us by the Air Force from Spain.

I'd like to tell you a little bit about this winner. Lieutenant Glavinovich performed her act of heroism following the accidental activation on April 20th, 1965, of a Navy 67 parachute signal flare which struck Perry W. Parson of the United

States Navy, penetrating his pelvis. Although the flare was still armed and subject to detonation, it was successfully removed and disposed of. However, the patient developed a gas gangrene peritonitis which would ultimately prove fatal unless checked. When the staff physician decided to transfer the patient to the U.S.S. Holland, a submarine tender at Rota Naval Station, Spain, a distance of 350 miles, where he could be subjected to decompression in a decompression chamber, thus forcing oxygen into his blood stream, Lieutenant Glavinovich volunteered to be the nurse on the team that would accompany the patient and also stay with him during the sessions in the decompression chamber.

Following the flight, the patient was in the decompression chamber four times, and when out of the chamber, required around-the-clock care from Lieutenant Glavinovich and the other medical personnel because of his critical injuries. Twice in the decompression chamber a major artery ruptured, necessitating decompressing the patient and his attendants rapidly without the usual recommended procedures, thus subjecting them to possible

decompression sickness.

"The rapid and highly competent actions of the attending personnel during both decompression incidents were deciding factors in saving the patient's life,"

reads the entry filed for the Award on behalf of Lieutenant Glavinovich.

Colonel I. Louis Hoffman, of the United States Air Force, who signed her entry, called Lieutenant Glavinovich's act, "dedicated performance of duty under the most unusual and hazardous conditions." He said further, "With thought only for the benefit of a critically injured patient, she volunteered for an assignment involving long hours of vigilant care, as well as possible hazards to her own health and well being."

Lieutenant Helen Glavinovich, on behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, it is my privilege to present this citation, and with it our check for five hundred dollars. May I read the citation?

"The Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States awards this citation to First Lieutenant Helen M. Glavinovich, the Unsung Heroine of 1965, for carrying out her assignment overseas in a manner reflecting unusual credit on our country and on the American women, given under our hand and the official seal of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on this 17th day of August, 1965, in Chicago, Illinois, Marie Klugow, National President; attesting, Hazel Miller, National Secretary."

(Applause.)

MRS. KLUGOW: We know her affectionately as "Helen" now. It is a great honor for me to be the first to award to a deserving young lady who has served in the interests of our Armed Forces beyond and above her ordinary duty. May I present Lieutenant Glavinovich.

(Applause.)

LIEUTENANT GLAVINOVICH: Thank you so very much,
and thank you for this most important day in my life.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SODEN: And I'm sure the men of the
organization join with me in honoring this outstanding
young lady.

And now, I shall turn over to the Commander-
in-Chief, this convention.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SODEN: I want to present to you this
solid gold convention badge as a commemoration of
our convention part, and I'd like to present to you
this gavel and I wish for you a successful, fruitful
and outstanding convention. It's been my pleasure
to serve as Convention Corporation President and
I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity.
Thank you.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF JENKINS: Let's give Ray
Soden a wonderful hand.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF JENKINS: He was a great
Department Commander. He deserves the thanks and
appreciation of this organization and every member

of it, and I know he has it.

At this time, I wish to make an award, the Armed Service Gold Medal Award, which will be awarded to Sergeant Calvin J. Bowlin of the United States Army.

Some years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt, while addressing an audience in West Point, spoke of the aloneness often experienced by soldiers in the course of battle. He remarked that, "In a battle hereafter, each man is going to be to a considerable extent alone. If he does not know how to shoot, how to shift for himself, how to obey orders and accept responsibility when the emergency comes, when he will not have any orders to obey, if he is not able to do all this, you had better have him out of the Army."

The former Rough Rider concluded: "The man will have to act largely alone. He must draw on his own courage and resourcefulness to meet the emergencies as they come up."

If still with us, I am confident that Theodore Roosevelt, veteran soldier, would have been extremely proud of Calvin J. Bowlin, veteran soldier

who, after the death of Captain Dale Thomas, in the initial attack by the Viet Cong near Ban Cat, and after the casualty of the Viet Nam Commander, assumed responsibility for the detachment, organized a defense perimeter, rallied the routed Vietnamese overhauled a field radio found in the mud of a rice paddy, and then radioed for air support and fought it out successfully against about four hundred Viet Cong for eight hours.

During this period the Sergeant's detachment was under fire of three machine guns and five mortars. Colonel McKnight arrived in a helicopter and remained continuously over the area. When the Colonel got there, the Sergeant said, "He radioed to me that he was up there and if I needed anything to let him know. And then he got off the air and stayed off because he didn't want to clutter the air with messages. He knew how busy I was and let me fight it in my own way. I really appreciated that."

For his fearlessness and superb performance of duty, Sergeant Bowlin was the first enlisted man to receive a D.S.C. in Viet Nam -- in fact, the first ever presented to anyone. Last year, two

officers were awarded posthumous ones. The intrepid Texan received the Cross of Gallantry with Palm from the Vietnamese Government. This is the highest award Viet Nam gives to foreign military.

Master Sergeant Calvin J. Bowlin, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States commend you for your extraordinary heroism in action. Your professional skill, superlative leadership and personal example inspired the Vietnamese to make a stand, thereby saving the lives of most of the detachment and the annihilation of a large number of enemy troops. For this daring and successful exploit that will forever live in the annals of the conflict of Viet Nam, it is my honor as the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to present to you the 1965 V.F.W. Armed Forces Gold Medal Award and suitable citation.

We are proud of you, good soldier, and fine American who lived up to the highest traditions of your Service and your Country. You truly represent those gallant men in defending the freedom in Viet Nam today.

Sergeant Bowlin, if you will come around

to me, please, I will ask the Vice President of the United States to assist in this presentation.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF JENKINS: I will read the citation.

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, National Armed Forces Award, the Gold Medal Citation presented to Master Sergeant Calvin J. Bowlin, United States Army.

"During more than twenty years in the United States Army he has seen action in the Orient and Canal Zone. He was wounded in the Korean action. He has received numerous medals and decorations including the first Distinguished Service Cross awarded an enlisted man for outstanding combat leadership and bravery in Viet Nam.

"Signed by myself as Commander-in-Chief, and the Adjutant General."

(Applause.)

SERGEANT BOWLIN: I'm very honored to accept this Award. I consider it a tribute to all servicemen, soldiers, sailors and Marines, airmen in Viet Nam who have served and who now serve, for them and myself, thank you.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF JENKINS: Astronaut Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, whom we honor today, enjoys a dual distinction. He is the first human being to enter space on two separate, distinct occasions. And perhaps more important is command pilot of Gemini III, which the whole world knows familiarly as "Molly Brown," Grissom was the first person to maneuver in orbiting spacecraft, changing the flight path and speed and altitude. These pioneer accomplishments will even live in the annals of man's conquest of space.

These history-making exploits far away from the seventeen-year-old boy nicknamed, "Gus," who tried to enlist in the Army Air Forces for World War II and was told to, "Go home and grow up." Or as the young student who had married in 1945 and took up various part-time jobs while his

wife, a great lady, worked nights as a telephone operator in order that he could obtain his B.S. Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue. This led on to his entrance in the Air Force, his selection as a test pilot, a major in the Air Force, Korean War hero, and one of the original seven astronaut trainees who joined the United States Space Program in April 1959, that led to his piloting of Gemini III.

This great feat of maneuvering in space is considered by the experts to be an important prelude to all succeeding missions.

Because of this unique accomplishment, a break-through in man's struggle to conquer space and your unsurpassed personal courage and skill in all operations, the V.F.W. selected you as the 1965 recipient of the V.F.W. Space Award. This was by unanimous vote of the National Council of Administration of the V.F.W. and the first time ever awarded a person. The first award, last year, 1964, was presented to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Please remember that the award carries the

best wishes of the one million three hundred thousand overseas veterans.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF JENKINS: I will read the citation.

"Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, National Space Award, Gold Medal Citation presented to Astronaut Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Lieutenant Colonel, United States Air Force, in recognition of his outstanding contributions of the United States Scientific Space Achievements as the first man to make two space craft flights sub-orbital in 1961 and the two-man Gemini flight in March 1965, signed by myself as Commander-in-Chief and attested by the Adjutant General."

Congratulations, Colonel Grissom.

COLONEL GRISSOM: Thank you.

(Applause.)

COLONEL GRISSOM: Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President and National Commander.

Over the past I guess six years since

1959, since I have been in this program, I've received a good number of awards. But this one means a great deal to me because the V.F.W. was one of the first organizations to support our program. You supported us back in the early days when we really weren't a legitimate outfit, I guess, back before we had the flights of Al Sheppard and John Glenn, and so on, back before it became popular to give us support.

So, I appreciate what you have done for us, and I especially appreciate this award today. Thank you.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF JENKINS: We are highly honored that the Vice President of the United States should favor us with his presence and counsel at the opening session of the Sixty-Sixth Annual Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is, perhaps, an indication of his appreciation of the vitality and worth of our organization. We thank him sincerely for honoring us.

Our speaker has left for the record one of the most colorful and interesting careers to be

found today in American political life. The fact that he is the first Democrat Minnesota sent to the Senate will live long in political annals. And, there on a subcommittee of his important Foreign Relations Committee, he led the effort that resulted in the Senate passing a resolution in favor of "An International Agreement for the Suspension of Nuclear Weapons Test."

However, it is believed the high point of his legislative career came when given the pen used by President Johnson to sign the historical Civil Rights Act. The President then gave Senator Humphrey the speech made to the nation after his signing, and wrote thereon:

"To Hubert Humphrey, without whom it couldn't have happened."

This seems an appropriate time to invite attention to the unceasing effort of our speaker to help the veteran and his dependents. In alerting the Senate to the growing number of aging veterans, he said:

"No single agency of the U.S. government will be or is meeting the medical

needs of the larger group than the Veterans Administration. It is not simply the responsibility to meet the problems of diseases of the aged but, rather more positively, to help our veterans enjoy the fullest of health."

And again, in summation of his views on our national obligation to veterans and their dependents, Senator Humphrey said:

"The veterans of our nation have made tremendous contributions to the welfare of our people, in time of peace as well as in time of war. Their patriotic devotion and loyal service merit the attention and gratitude of all Americans."

He assured his fellow countrymen that he would continue "efforts for adequate recognition by Congress of the needs and welfare of our veterans and their families."

In comment on Senator Humphrey's views regarding veterans, Mr. Driver, Administrator of Veteran Affairs, said at the dedication of the Washington Veterans Administration Hospital in April, 1965:

"He has more than kept faith with America's veterans, for he has been their advocate, their spokesman, and their champion against the forces of indifference."

It is my high honor to present an eminent legislator, astute statesman, member of the "Inner Club" of the Senate and a true friend of ours, the Vice President of the United States, Hubert Humphrey.

This is a badge and an honorary membership.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Commander Buck Jenkins, Mrs. Klugow, the officers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the many distinguished guests that have been here, the Mayor of the City of Chicago, my good friend, Mayor Daley, the Governor of the State of Missouri, Governor, and these that you have honored today, these many fine and distinguished Americans that you have bestowed honor upon, permit me to join in just a word of commendation to them, to Lieutenant Helen Glavinovich who has distinguished herself and has been honored by you today, to the hero of Viet Nam, Master Sergeant Bowlin, and to

that hero of space whom I've had the privilege of knowing for some time, Gus Grissom, we salute each and every one of you for your many fine achievements.

Now, it isn't often the privilege of the Vice President of the United States to introduce someone, but I was in the back of this hall when I was hearing some very important words, and I intended to hear them, and I don't intend to be in the back of the hall.

(Long ovation.)

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Ladies and gentlemen, whenever there is a voice that speaks for democracy, we need to hear it and I want to take this moment -- and I will come back just a little later -- to present to you Mr. Goodrich, speaking as the Voice of Democracy.

(Applause.)

MR. GOODRICH: Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President. Commander-in-Chief Jenkins, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary. The Challenge of Citizenship. Citizenship, unfortunately, does not mean the same thing the world over. When I say "citizenship", we in this country are

naturally reminded of freedom, for the brand of citizenship which each of us should live is founded on, and cannot exist, without freedom.

In other parts of the world where freedom is restricted or even withheld, citizenship loses its meaning, and we might as well give it the name of "existenceship" or "ownership".

The benefits of our type of citizenship are well known. Among the many blessings our country offers are freedom to order our lives, freedom to form and hold our own opinions, freedom to worship as we please and many, many more. We are constantly reminded that along with the pleasure of these gifts goes a responsibility and a duty to preserve them. But how can these responsibilities be carried out? How can we safeguard our freedom? This is the challenge of citizenship.

People who have accepted this challenge in the past are familiar to all of us. Among them are the free-thinking nobles who dared defy tradition and force King John to sign the Magna Carta. There was also a small group of plain, proud farmers who stood in the way of the British regulars on

Concord Bridge, and a devoted group of fifty-five men who risked their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor by signing the Declaration of Independence.

Today it is easy to forget what an advantage free-thinking and free enterprise gives us over nations where freedom is compromised.

It is likewise easy to recount the men of the past who have met freedom's challenges. Many citizens, however, wish to know what we can do for our country now, what the challenge of citizenship is today.

To gain appreciation of our freedoms, the formula is simply to enjoy it and to use them. We should take every opportunity to use our freedom not as a license, but as a liberty to be enjoyed. The danger in keeping our freedoms in reserve, something to fall back on, is that one day when we need freedom most, we may find nothing there.

For instance, we should constantly and conscientiously form opinions and express them at every opportunity. The only time many Americans bother to form opinions on public issues is a few weeks before election day in November. Even then

they merely vote and never bother to discuss the issues.

I am not condemning this citizen. However, if the only way people express their opinions was by pulling a voting lever, this is keeping up on freedom of speech about as well as we would keep up on world events by reading a newspaper every four years.

At the same time we make and express our conscientious opinions, we should listen to what other people have to say. By listening to others, our opinions become tempered with a sense of tolerance and understanding that comes from looking at all sides of the problem.

Of course, along with those people who may temper our opinions, there are always those with whom we disagree completely. But since it is important that the rights of a minority be protected, we might as well adopt the attitude of Voltaire when he said:

"I disapprove of what you say,
but I will defend to the death your right
to say it."

This type of chivalrous feeling, championing the rights of others, is the principle on which our country was founded.

In closing, I would like to say that freedom today depends on our willingness to keep using our freedoms, not to hold them in reserve. It depends on our ability to look at all sides of a problem and let our opinions be tempered by those of others.

Finally, it rests with our concern, not merely for our own rights, but for the rights of people who disagree with us. This is the challenge of citizenship. Keep our freedom from rusting with neglect. It is one of the few things that will never wear out if used.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Ladies and gentlemen, aren't you proud of that young man?

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Whenever you become a little discouraged reading the headlines, listening to the radio and television, just remember that

Charles Goodrich represents millions of young men and women in this country that feel as he feels. They may not be able to speak as eloquently, but their heart and their spirit is every bit as true.

(Applause.)

Permit me first of all, to express my thanks once again to Buck Jenkins, the Commander-in-Chief for this warm and generous and friendly introduction. There is only one Buck Jenkins.

(Applause.)

When he gave that rebel yell up here, I wasn't quite sure what was going to happen.

(Laughter.)

Now, you have a man who succeeds him to speak with a Norwegian accent, Andy Borg. My good friend, Andy, from Superior, Wisconsin, met Mrs. Humphrey and myself at the airport, and we are so grateful to him and to Cooper Holt, who represents the V.F.W. so ably and effectively in Washington, D.C., and I want to thank these gentlemen for their courtesies and permit me once again to express, on behalf of our government, and I know on your behalf, the congratulations and the good wishes of all of

us to this very charming, lovely and also very able -- professionally able and courageous nurse that you've honored today as the Unsung Heroine, Helen Glavinovich, who has distinguished herself and her country.

Now, Gus Grissom, he is sort of the senior of the space crews, the astronauts. I had the privilege of being with Gus Grissom and Commander Young right after their free orbital flight and as I told these two men, they were great in outer space, but they had a lot to learn about parades. I taught them about parades, and I suggested we all stay within our respective jurisdictions.

(Laughter.)

We are mighty proud of our astronauts, our space men. It's my privilege to serve as the Chairman of the Space Council and I visit with our astronauts, I visit with their associates and one of the most inspiring developments in our country, one of the most encouraging, is this pattern of partnership, of teamwork that we have between the National Aeronautics and Space Agencies, the Department of Defense, the government and the private contractors, private business, labor and management, universities

and scientists, all working together. It is such a story of cooperation as we need these days, and a word that characterizes all of this effort is one word, excellence.

These men that soar into outer space are men that are excellent in every measurement, and the machines they use and the direction there is, the management and the control of the mission, it is just excellent.

My fellow Americans, in the day and age in which we live, it would be well for every active American to want to measure up to the standards of excellence.

Now, let me pay my respects today to Ron Kenitz, the Commander of the Minnesota Department that is here. I'm sorry that the Mayor of Chicago was unwilling to pass out tickets to the Worlds Series, since Ron is here and I'm Vice President, I mustn't usurp the right of any of my fellow compatriots out in Minnesota. I think that you'd like to know that immediately after this session, Ron Kenitz will be handing out tickets to the Worlds Series.

(Laughter and applause.)

He told me on the way coming in, he said:
"Are you going to announce that the Twins are the winners, or am I?" I said, "It just depends on who gets to the microphone first."

(Laughter.)

But we still have to contend with Cleveland, plus Detroit, with Baltimore, and with Chicago.

(Applause.)

But I must say, my friends from New York, I doubt that you are going to make it this year.

(Laughter.)

General Tylor, of the Marine Corps, and General Dodge, of Fifth Army, my very best wishes, and the same for Mr. Driver who is here with you from the Veterans Administration. These men served you and served you well.

I understand you had a beautiful memorial service last evening, and I know it must have been a very moving and very inspiring occasion for you, and if you had Dr. Elson, as I believe you did, with you, you couldn't have had a finer man or a more inspiring and moving speaker than this distinguished churchman.

Well, I come here today to your convention to speak to you candidly, frankly, and seriously, about a number of matters that are facing us as a people, and as a nation.

I am very honored to say the least to have been presented to this convention, to have been invited here, and highly honored, to follow in the footsteps of this young man who spoke to us of citizenship and its responsibilities, and to deliver the keynote address of this Sixty-Sixth National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

I am extremely grateful, speaking for our government, to your Commander-in-Chief Buck Jenkins for all of his service, in peace and in war.

President Johnson, before I left Washington, asked me personally to convey to you, Buck, and to this convention his appreciation for the good work that you have done throughout the years, and today as well, to make this a safer and freer world, and to make this a better world and a stronger America. I am privileged to join the President in this message of sincere appreciation.

Public life is not an easy life. We all have our points of view, and in these trying days when it is very difficult to know what is right, and even difficult to carry out the decisions, you cannot realize how much it means to our President, to your government, to know that there are strong and brave Americans standing in support when that support is needed the most.

When necessity dictated action in the Gulf of Tonkin about a year ago and in the Caribbean, your Commander-in-Chief telegraphed the President your firm pledge of support. He was there early giving that message of support from this great organization.

A few months ago, during a time of uncertainty in the Atlantic Alliance, you demonstrated this nation's commitment to that Alliance and to NATO when you conferred your Bernard Baruch Gold Medal on General Lyman Lemnitzer before representatives of all NATO nations, and I understand that you will confer that same medal upon a very distinguished American at this convention, Mr. David Lawrence, the editor of the United States News and World Report.

(Applause.)

And then you sent your Commander-in-Chief to Southeast Asia to tell the leaders there and the people of that part of the world that this great American organization, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, stood with President Johnson and the pledge that this country had made to that country of South Viet Nam and to the people of that beleaguered little country.

Buck Jenkins visited, too, our men in uniform in Southeast Asia. He went to the Cambodian frontier; he went to that surrounded base of Da Nang and to the Marine beachhead at Chu Lai to tell our men that you were with them.

I would hope that more Americans would do exactly the same.

(Applause.)

Let me assure this audience, having visited with many of the men and the officers that have returned to South Viet Nam, only recently having visited Fort Bragg, being there with and interrogating for several hours officers and men of the Special Forces, let me assure you that after having talked with them that the morale and the spirit of our fighting men in Viet Nam is strong and good, and the least that

this nation can do is to match it at home among the civilian population.

(Applause.)

I know that you will help get that job done.

Today, facing great challenges in the world and at home, we Americans must learn to work together in unity. My fellow Americans, we must have respect for law and order. We have ways of settling our differences in the law courts, in the assemblies, in the legislative bodies, in the public forum and the public meeting, this nation is not unmindful of the needs of its people and this nation and this government is determined to rectify any injustice, determined to make a place in the this America for everyone that wants a place and determined to open up the gates of opportunity for everyone in this nation who wants to pass through those gates, regardless of race, his color, his creed. There is room enough for everybody.

(Applause.)

Thus, as we must deplore violence and insist upon order, so we must deplore injustice and seek to remedy that injustice. We cannot afford in this country to give to animosities and prejudice and

division. To do this is to serve the enemy, to weaken our cause, to deny us the strength that we will need for decades and generations yet to come. I thank you for your leadership in helping create that spirit of national strength and unity which is needed more than ever today.

But let me get to what is on our minds, in other areas.

Today in Viet Nam, we are being tested by strong and tenacious adversaries. Do not underestimate them. We face an assault by an enemy organized in detail, trained indepth, skilled in a strange kind of warfare we Americans have only begun to understand, not the warfare where massive divisions are moved across frontiers, but the warfare of penetration, subversion, propaganda, terrorism, infiltration. We face an assault by adversaries able to infiltrate thousands of men across boundaries, to regroup those men into disciplined units and then to attack weak points and then to fade away in face of equal of superior strength.

We face an assault by men who use terror and assassination against civilians as normal weapons.

My fellow Americans, as your Vice President I am privileged to see the most secret, confidential documents of this government. Let me say that this program of terrorism, of assassination has been going on for months and years, a new and horrible kind of warfare all too little understood here at home and all too little understood even in the battlefield.

We face something else as well; the fact that the totalitarians, the Communist, they feel that time is on their side and their belief that we will inevitably tire and withdraw, and every time someone says that we should withdraw, it feeds their flame of confidence.

Now, today there are voices raised in this land which say, "Why are we there? Why do we fight? Let us pull back to a safer and easier place. It's such a strange and distant land, isn't it? And we know so little of it; why are we there?"

To these voices I answer with the words of Winston Churchill, simple but pointed words. In 1940 Churchill was asked, "Why does Britain fight?" And there were voices of appeasement then and Churchill said, "If we left off fighting, you would soon find out."

In Viet Nam, if we left fighting, we would soon find out.

(Applause.)

For Viet Nam is the testing ground of that misnamed "War of National Liberation." What a cruel joke this "Liberation" really is: Liberation from life, from property, from justice, from human dignity. That is their liberation.

By this new form of totalitarian aggression, and that is what it is, and an aggression, our adversaries seek to demonstrate once and for all that "Peaceful Co-existence," does not work. They seek to demonstrate that aggression in its new and ugly form, and reckless militancy, bring victory. They seek to demonstrate, just as Hitler and Stalin tried to do, that democracies are weak and flabby and indecisive, and they seek to demonstrate that when faced with a choice, democracies will sacrifice small nations to save, even temporarily, their own hides.

Therefore, citizens of this Republic, once again we must prove that they are wrong.

(Applause.)

Three Presidents of the United States have

pledged this nation to the defense of South Viet Nam. This is no partisan matter. This is a national matter, and international matter. Three Presidents of the United States, Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson have given notice to the Communist aggressors, namely: The cost of aggression comes too high. You must leave your neighbors alone.

But make no mistake about it. If this aggression succeeds in one part of this world, it will quickly follow elsewhere. If we fail to stand today, we shall have to stand tomorrow even closer to home.

(Applause.)

It has been asked how many Viet Nams we are willing to become involved in and to those who ask if we are to be the guardians of free nations, there is an answer. The President gave that answer. We did not choose, said the President, to be the guardians at the gate, but there is no one else. You see, leadership, which is our privilege -- or let us say our role today, leadership gives you really no special privilege. It gives you no luxury. Leadership is a heavy responsibility. It is not the

cloak of comfort; it calls upon us for many new duties and heavy sacrifices, but as President Johnson said, while we do not choose to be the guardians at the gate, there is no one else.

Now, let it be known then from this platform and elsewhere that we will honor our commitment in Viet Nam, just as we honor and will honor our commitments in other parts of the world.

(Applause.)

Once that lesson is clearly understood, there will be the real hope of peace. The adversary probes us, tests us year in and year out in the hopes that we will tire, that we will feel that this time we don't need to resist.

I remind this audience that since World War II, this nation has suffered over one hundred and sixty thousand casualties in the protection of freedom, and I will remind you what kind of a world would it have been were it not for the willingness of this nation to help resist Communist aggression in Greece, were it not for the willingness of this nation to resist Communist aggression in Korea, what kind of a world do you think you would live in today had we done

less? I think you know. It would have been ruined, a world where the Communist force was on the ascendancy. Today it is a world in which the Communist, with all of his diabolical trickery, finds himself not gaining, hardly holding his own and, thank God, in many areas, losing, and that is the kind of a world we need.

(Applause.)

Now, just what are our objectives in Viet Nam?

Well, our first objective, and I want you to remember this when you talk to your neighbors, our first objective is to prove to the Communist aggressors that free men will not yield to the force of arms. Our objective is to demonstrate once again that brute force is not the rule of law and we will not bend or yield to it.

Now, that is why we have strengthened our forces in Viet Nam as we did over this decade; that is why we have increased our assistance to a brave South Viet Nam Army and a brave South Vietnamese people with all of their troubles with all of the instability that is so evident.

A word about that Army of South Viet Nam.

That South Vietnamese people Army, since 1961, has suffered 25,000 dead and 51,000 wounded, greater losses in proportion to population that we have suffered in all of World War II; ten times our losses in the Korean War.

And yet, I hear people say they have doubt as to whether or not these people want their freedom. My fellow Americans, a people that are willing to sacrifice that much life and treasure, I think, have demonstrated that they love freedom, they are willing to die for it and now they want a change to live for it.

(Applause.)

And to those who feel that somehow or another the regime to the north, the Communist regime in North Viet Nam represents the will of the people, let me remind them that not a single prominent South Vietnamese person has defected to the enemy, not one; despite the tragedy, the sorrow and the pain and the suffering of a cruel guerilla war.

I believe that the credentials of the people of South Viet Nam for freedom have been written in blood. The South Vietnamese people last year alone

lost four hundred thirty-six local officials by assassination; they lost another one thousand one hundred local officials by kidnapping or an unknown fate. This would be equivalent in our country of having well over thirty-five thousand of our mayors and our councilmen, Mr. Mayor, assassinated and kidnapped.

The task of providing local government and local administration even in a country as developed as this one would be indeed difficult if not impossible. Last year, eleven thousand civilians were lost to murder, kidnapping and forced labor. But in face of this unbelievable intimidation, these same Vietnamese people turned out to vote -- yes, they have had elections recently. You didn't read much about that, but they did have elections, free elections, and they turned out to vote in recent elections in far higher percentages than we usually reach in our own American elections.

A full sixty-seven percent of South Vietnamese adults, under threat of death to themselves and their families, registered to vote in those elections and seventy-three percent of those registered

did vote in those elections. I submit that that is a pretty good test of their loyalty to freedom.

(Applause.)

Now, what is our second objective? Well, once we prove to the aggressors that aggression will not work, and we shall prove it, our second objective is to bring a just peace to a land which has gone too long without any peace. Time doesn't permit me to tell you of the great programs of economic and social development that we presently are engaged in with our neighbors and friends in South Viet Nam.

13 Let me only say this, that we have been building thousands of schools in cooperation with the South Vietnamese. They have done most of it; we have done others. We helped establish a great university; we have established hundreds of hospitals and clinics under the threat of fire and bomb; we want the story of the bravery and the dedication of these little people in South Viet Nam to be known. All too often all we hear is of a guerilla attack, of the bomb that was placed in the police chief's home or of the mortars that are lobbed in

on an air base. But, ladies and gentlemen, while all of this is going on, hundreds of thousands, millions of people in that beleaguered little land are attempting to build a society, and I am proud as an American to be of some help to them as they seek to build a better society for themselves.

(Applause.)

Now, we have made it clear, through our President and the officers of this government, again and again that we are ready to negotiate towards that just peace for, as our President has said, we fear the meeting room no more than we fear the battlefield.

One of the signs of a weakness of a people or a nation is arrogance, braggadocio. Only the strong can work for peace; only the strong can extend a hand in cooperation even during times of difficulty.

No less than fifteen times we have offered to begin discussions, unconditional discussions to bring this murder and this carnage to a halt, and many nations, including the Secretary General of the United Nations have sought to bring the aggressors to the conference table.

But, the reply to date has been, "No," a defiant, rude and arrogant "No."

So, what must we do? I am sure you don't think we should withdraw, and I am confident that you don't think that we should have a major World War III. So, what must we do? All that an honorable people can do. We must continue to resist aggression and punish the enemy, and we must continue to relentlessly pursue every avenue to a just and honorable peace.

We must make the aggressors realize that democracies have learned their lessons well.

I hope that we have learned those lessons well. I hope that we have learned that it did not satisfy Hitler's appetite to give him what he wanted, piece by piece, only to have him want the world.

There is no way to satisfy the appetite of an aggressor. We must make the aggressors realize that our patience, our perseverance, our strength is greater than theirs, and that time is on our side and, whenever you think of our troubles, fellow Americans, just imagine if you would, the leaders in Hanoi and they need these men and women and Hanoi

making the decisions of the Viet Cong, they have to face up to the facts that this country has committed vast amounts of its resources of material and men to the defense of South Viet Nam. That is something that haunts them because no matter how you may think of your country, and I know how you think of it, you love it, let me tell you the enemy understands our strength. They are no fools even in their arrogance. What they are hoping is that we will fail to understand our strength; what they are hoping is that we will lose faith in ourselves. What they are hoping is that we will turn tail and run.

I have a feeling that they are hoping for the wrong things.

(Applause.)

But we are not unmindful that just as strength and force is needed to resist the aggressor, that force alone is no solution to the problem. This struggle is political, social as well as military. In fact, it is overwhelmingly political.

So, we must continue to recognize that the people of Viet Nam as people everywhere must have hope of a better day, and the Communist has a way of

propagandizing people into believing that they offer the hope. We must make it clear, with our allies in our role of assistance. We must help the South Vietnamese people make it clear to themselves that there is hope for a better day. We must continue to do all we can to help create in South Viet Nam, and Southeast Asia and all places where man desperately hopes for a new tomorrow, we must help create societies which offer man something to live for and to work for.

This is why your President spoke as he did at Johns Hopkins University of massive economic and social developments. You know, the American eagle is the symbol in this country and that eagle and claws of one foot has the arrows, part of the strength of this nation, and in the other claw is the olive branch, and the eyes of the eagle are cast to the symbol of peace.

A balance of purpose, strength not for the purposes of strength, strength not for the purposes of conquest, strength not for the purposes of domination, because we seek no conquest, we seek no domination, we seek no new power. Our strength now, as

throughout our history, is for but one purpose, the purpose of a just society, the purpose of an honorable peace, the purpose of life and life meaningful. Not death, but life; not destruction, but building. This is our pledge. Let us not forget this.

The real revolution in this world, and there is a revolution, is the revolution which took flame from our own America, a revolution towards opportunity, human dignity, self-determination, self-respect. This is what people want. We were the ones that carry that torch and that flame. We are the authors of this authentic world revolution and it is our obligation in our strength and our wealth to give it continued life and it is in Viet Nam, in Europe, in Latin America, in great nations and small, our obligation to defend it when it is threatened by ruthless and brutal force, and this, as in the past, we shall now do today and tomorrow.

(Applause.)

So, let me reflect and meditate with you in these final words. We are meeting the responsibilities of leadership, and we are meeting them with a strength and faith and courage. Strength

and faith and courage are exactly what we will need, for there is no end in sight to the burdens we must carry, to the challenges that we must face. I believe that an honorable man must speak honorably and frankly to people. We must not delude ourselves. This world in which we live is in turmoil, and in rapid and almost unbelievable change. There are no easy days ahead and we must be prepared for the long night. But I ask you, what country and what people has so much to do with as we? How fortunate and how blessed we are that as we assume, through no desire of our own, this role of leadership that we have been given the know-how, the brain power, the knowledge, the spiritual power, the resources to be worthy of that leadership.

The American people are a great people, and greatness is exactly what the times demand. The American for today and tomorrow must be, and he will be, the same relentless, adventurous citizen as his forebearers.

Let me tell you of that America as I see him.

I see him as the son of a very rich nation,

yet a person of conscience with a deep concern for his fellow man.

I see him as one who has defeated the enemies of freedom, and yet extends the hand of friendship and cooperation to build a new and a better world community.

Hate is not in him; understanding is what he wants and seeks.

I see him surrounded by materialism, yet questioning its real value, impatient -- oh, yes, impatient with things as they are, but yet not impatient in remedy or judgment.

I see this American of our community, our sons and daughters strong, but not belligerent, willing to debate as this young man spoke to you today of the willingness to listen to another's point of view, willing to debate, but also able to decide.

Yes, the road ahead demands an American nation with all of these qualities, fully able to wear the mantle of leadership.

And so today, we are building here at home an America both free and secure -- and the building process is not magic, it takes time. We are trying

to build here at home a nation, one nation, not North or South, East or West, but one nation under God, truly indivisible, recognizing the value and the importance -- yes, the all importance of spiritual truth, a nation truly indivisible and with liberty and justice for all.

In this task we ask your continued help: The task of **extending** opportunity and justice to not just a few, but all of our citizens, the task of building a vigorous and expanding economy, to give us the enduring strength for years to come, the task of forging a nation of free people able to stand any contest of will with any totalitarian. That is what we are seeking to do, my fellow Americans.

As we seek to bring their education to our young men and young women, as we **seek** to root out these pockets of poverty that have left us with a sense of weakness and limitation, as we seek to train the untrained, upgrade the skills, and as we seek to heal the sick and banish bigotry and intolerance and discrimination, the purpose is to enrich life, to make human dignity more than a phrase, make it a reality. But the purpose is also to give

this nation that we talk of so much, this one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all, to give it real meaning, and as we need your patriotism and support of policies in Viet Nam, we need your help and your patriotism in support of programs and efforts, to broaden the base of understanding and opportunity in this America, and to upgrade the quality of our lives.

We Americans are devoting ourselves today to the belief that what we do is not for just our benefit alone, but for the benefit of all mankind.

And again in this task, we ask your continued help; the task of helping struggling nations into full citizenship in the world and make no mistake about it, these nations -- a full two-thirds of the world -- two-thirds ignorant or illiterate, I should say, two-thirds ill-housed, ill-clad, hungry, impoverished, two-thirds colored, are targets.

Yes, they are the selected targets for those who promise quick and easy solutions to the old and the complex problems. They are the targets and breeding grounds of Communism. So, as we resist the aggressor on the battlefield, let us also march

into those swamps of intolerance and injustice and poverty and cleanse them.

Finally, in America today, we are putting ourselves to the greatest test which free men ever faced, the willingness to risk our lives, fortune and sacred honor on alien soil, thousands of miles away, to keep a commitment to resist the aggressor, to restore the peace. Each man here today has at one time put himself to that same test. Each man here stood his ground for his country and for freedom.

The Family of Man of which we are a part has much to lose to the takers, the grabbers, the destroyers, the aggressors and that Family of Man has much to gain in a world of peace and opportunity.

This is our goal, and peace, like a mighty cathedral, takes time to build. But its majesty is worthy of the effort.

Each of us can contribute something to it. Each of us can be a builder in our time, in our way. There is a time when men must stand in the face of force and those who break the peace. Yes, there is such a time.

In the words of President Lyndon Johnson,

we will stand in Viet Nam.

We made our choice, and we will win the peace.

Thank you.

(Standing ovation.)

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF JENKINS: I would like to present to this convention a very lovely lady, the wife of the Vice President, Mrs. Humphrey.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF JENKINS: The Commander of Minnesota, I ask the Commander of Minnesota, Commander Kenitz, to come to the rostrum for presentation.

COMMANDER KENITZ: Commander-in-Chief, our National President of our Ladies Auxiliary, the Vice President of the United States, our Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey, Mrs. Humphrey, to the Honorable Mayor of the City of Chicago, to the representative of the Governor of the State of Illinois, to our many distinguished guests up here this morning, and to my distinguished comrades and sisters and friends, you have heard from the Honorable Mayor of the City of Chicago, stating that he was very, very sorry that he was unable to invite you back into his fair

city to attend the World Series. You also heard the Vice President of the United States state that I would have tickets for the World Series.

(Laughter.)

Well, my fellow comrades and sisters assembled here this morning, I want to extend to each of you a warm welcome to our great State of Minnesota and to my home city, the all-American city of Minneapolis, to attend the World Series which will be played this year at our baseball stadium in Bloomington, Minnesota.

(Applause.)

To show you the confidence that I have in our Minnesota Twins and the confidence that other citizens of our great state have in them, they are not only going to win the first pennant for this year, they are also going to win the World Series.

(Applause.)

Comrades and sisters, it is indeed a great honor and privilege for me to appear before you at this joint session to present an award to a fellow Minnesotan, a fellow Minnesota who we from Minnesota are all proud of, a person who has devoted a large

portion of his life to serving as a public servant, and I might add, who has done a marvelous job, a person who is indeed a true friend of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and also a true friend of all veterans of our great nation.

In making this presentation this morning, I would like to call on a couple of my assistants from my great state, Past Commander-in-Chief Robert Hansen, and also Mr. Council Member ^{Al Loebe} Allerd. Would you step forward, please?

At this time I would like to ask the Vice President of our United States, the Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey, to step forward, please.

Vice President Humphrey, on behalf of the fifty-eight thousand plus members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the State of Minnesota, I proudly present to you this morning this golden colored reproduction of the flag raising at Iwo Jima and grateful appreciation for all that you have done for the Department of Minnesota Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and to the veterans of this great nation of ours.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF JENKINS: I would like to present to the convention, for the purposes only of recognition the recipient of our Bernard Baruch Award, which will be awarded tonight at our dinner, Mr. David Lawrence. Mr. Lawrence, will you step up here, please.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF JENKINS: We are also honored to have with us on this platform Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Congressman Teague.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF JENKINS: We are also honored to have with us on the platform the Administrator of the Veterans Administration, the Honorable Bill Driver.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF JENKINS: Sergeant-at-Arms, you will see that the Vice President and his lady are escorted from the hall. Will everyone remain standing, please?

(Vice President and Mrs. Humphrey were escorted by the Sergeant-at-Arms out of the convention hall.)



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