

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY'S ADDRESS
to the
93rd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
October 18, 1965, 10:45 a.m.

(delivered by telephone from the
Office of the Vice President)

Thank you very, very much for your introduction, but may I thank you for your excellent message of welcome and indeed a message of commitment and understanding in the field of public health. I am confident that every person attending the 93rd Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association joins with me in saying that this is one of the best public health speeches ever heard at any place at any time. Mayor Daley, it is a joy to be on this program with you and Dr. Metzler and Dr. Andelman and Dr. Yoder and the many others that are participating in this 93rd Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association. I only wish that I could be there to greet every one of you in person. I am sure, as you know, that that would be the way I would prefer it. But circumstances here in Washington do not make that possible. So I want to use this means of electronics - our great telephone system - to convey my good wishes and my admiration for the valuable work the 13,000 members of the American Public Health Association are doing in the cities and in the rural areas not only in the United States but all around the world. You are showing tremendous accomplishments and achievements and every one of us that are in the field of government are deeply concerned about health... are ever grateful to you. Of course, I must mention that as a pharmacist I have a special interest in what you are doing. I always like to put in a plug for my profession.

Now I note that you will be marking the 10th anniversary of that bible of health that is used throughout the world - "Control of Communicable Diseases in Developed and Developing Countries." This is a mighty important book - just one of the accomplishments of the American Public Health Association that was founded 93 years ago. You have helped improve local health departments; you have set standards of accreditation for schools and other institutions; have explored possibilities of using new techniques and medicines; you have played a vital role in research; you have assembled the necessary statistics and enlightened our Federal, State and local legislation. You have hit the backbone of the health of the public....

Now, my reference to your book on communicable disease is particularly pertinent because it symbolizes your interest in the health of other people. It is gratifying that this convention is re-emphasizing the compelling need to improve the health and nutrition in the developing countries, and two-thirds of the world so desperately need better health, better nutrition, yes, just a better chance.

Health is one of the threads that weave the fabric of peace. There is no peace in a society wracked by disease. You have long known this and have helped make it clear to us in government and That is why we have made the campaign against pestilence, malnutrition, and ignorance one of the cornerstones of our foreign aid program. And we have seen some dramatic conquests. Yet we have had some great difficulties. Malaria control, for example, resulting from the combined efforts of our foreign aid, the World Health Organization, and dedicated people from your ranks, has changed the lives and brightened the prospects of millions of people in the underdeveloped world. We have altered the course of history. Look at the lives that have been saved and the pain that has been relieved.

Now we are engaged in an intensive effort to help the people of Vietnam. In that country a bitter and horrible war has uprooted farmers and villagers and brought refugees streaming to hospitals and health centers. All medical facilities of that country are unbelievably crowded. In some, I am told, 60 to 100 people are jammed into 20-bed wards. Nor are there nearly enough doctors or nurses or technicians for these civilian victims of war.

Our government is committed to helping the Vietnamese resist aggression. And we will keep that commitment because it is in the interest of peace. One of the most effective ways to help this resistance and to offer hope for the future is to provide the hospitals, the medicines, the treatment, the doctors, the nurses, and the public health specialists so urgently needed by these people who have suffered now for better than 10 years continuous struggle of war.

I think it is a tribute to the interest, the dedication, and the understanding of the American--I should say, --of the members of the APHA that in Chicago this week the Agency for International Development, our foreign aid arm of the government, is launching a drive for nurses and

technicians to join the American AID team now at work in Vietnam. By the way, just the other day I met with the representatives of all our voluntary agencies of the different religious groups--Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish, --of the non-sectarian groups that are going out to Vietnam. There is a survey group there right now. I believe it's in Vietnam today to examine this whole matter of the refugees and what can be done to help them to alleviate their suffering and ultimately to resettle them. And surely this team of voluntary agencies--specialists--working with our foreign aid group and our military will want to emphasize the health aspect--the care, the treatment of the victims of war.

Now, those who can and will answer AID's call--that is, the doctors and the nurses--will enlist for 18 months, recognizing that there may be months of hardship and sacrifice. But the reward--ah, the reward is great; and it can be the kind of reward that will live throughout your life. I am sure that the membership of the APHA doesn't need to be told of that.

Now, truly, nothing we Americans do can mean more to the freedom-loving people of Vietnam than to provide this humanitarian support that they so desperately seek and need.

So I join with our foreign aid personnel in urging the doctors and nurses, yes, the technicians, to volunteer, volunteer as an American in the cause of life, in the cause of hope, and in the cause of freedom, because that is exactly what you will be doing if you aid this great humanitarian effort in providing health services to the people of Vietnam. Mayor Daley, I understand that you will be visiting the AID recruiting efforts across the street. It is wonderful of you to do this. We are very proud of you, Mayor Daley. You will give all of us the extra inspiration and fulfillment. Please give everyone there in that recruiting center my very best wishes. You know and I know that this is an important campaign.

And now, to the members of the APHA, I thank you for all that you have done, for all that you have done to enlighten the American people about the great benefits that come from health and healthful living. We are ever grateful to you.

Draft

Rosenthal/Comee

10/14/65

Mayor Daley
Dr. Metzger
Dr.

Dr. Arkelman
Dr. Jodan

SUGGESTED REMARKS FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT
TO BE DELIVERED BY TELEPHONE HOOKUP
TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
Monday, October 18, 1965

93rd annual

I am sure that all of you attending this convention of the American Public Health Association understand why I use this means of communication. I would much prefer, of course, to greet you in person, to wish you a profitable meeting, and to convey my admiration for the valuable work the 13,000 members of APHA are doing in the cities and in rural areas, not only in the United States, but around the world.

I note that you will be marking the 10th anniversary of that bible of health that is used throughout the world -- "Control of Communicable Disease in Developed and Developing Countries." This is just one of the accomplishments of the APHA since it was founded 93 years ago. You have helped improve local health departments; set standards of accreditation for schools and other institutions; explored possibilities of using new techniques and medicines; played a vital role in research; assembled necessary statistics and enlightened our federal, state and local legislation.

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I think it is a tribute to the interest, dedication and understanding of the members of ~~APHA~~ that in Chicago this week the Agency for International Development is launching a drive for nurses and technicians to join the American aid team now at work in Vietnam.

Those who answer AID's call will enlist for 18 months, recognizing that ^{there}~~they~~ may be months of hardship and sacrifice. But the reward in helping fellow humans can be immense, as your membership does not need to be told.

Truly, nothing we Americans do can mean more to the freedom-loving people of Vietnam than to provide this humanitarian support they so desperately seek ~~and need~~.

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Mayor Daley, I understand you will be visiting the A.I.D. Recruiting Center across the street. Please give everyone my best wishes. This is an important campaign.



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