

REMARKS VIA TELEPHONE
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
DEDICATION CEREMONIES
JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
NOVEMBER 16, 1965

Few tributes would have pleased President Kennedy more than today's dedication of the John F. Kennedy High School.

President Kennedy was dedicated to the proposition that our American youth are the most precious natural resource we possess. And he linked education to our military, scientific and economic strength.

"Our progress as a nation," he said, "can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is our fundamental resource."

Yes, President Kennedy would be pleased to know that generations of American youth will walk through the doors of a school that bears his name. For these doors literally open on a new world of opportunity for all our citizens. They open on new discoveries that can cure disease, find new sources of food and energy, or, perhaps, find new paths to peace among nations.

President Kennedy has been taken from us. But the causes to which he dedicated his Presidency -- knowledge, human and social progress, and peaceful solutions to mankind's problems -- these remain vital goals for succeeding generations of Americans.

President Kennedy understood that our greatest challenge is not our problems but the real opportunity we possess for solving them.

We now have the means -- for the first time in our history -- to extend mankind's benefits to all men. We possess the genius to soar free of this planet to reach the stars beyond. And we are also discovering new ways to reach out to our fellow men, to bring new hope and new progress for a better life. We live in a world where human sorrows far outweigh human joys...where nearly two-thirds of mankind live in hunger, poverty and disease.

There can be no peace or stability in such a world. On every continent millions yearn for a place in the sun, for a chance to do better. The rich nations must help the poor nation get that chance. Presidents Kennedy and Johnson have created programs to bring such progress -- Food for Peace... the Alliance for Progress...the Peace Corps...the Agency for International Development -- these and other overseas programs reveal the depth of America's commitment to peace and progress.

Humanity pleads for peace. And every responsible government must heed that plea. Peace is the bedrock of our hopes for the future. We must pursue peace to the end of the earth or face the end of the earth.

America has not sought its burdens as leader of the free world; the burdens sought us. We have learned that the quest for peace requires a precious combination of courage and common sense. And the lessons of history have taught us that we cannot retreat from our commitments to other nations when the going gets rough. We must insure that freedom's holy light shall never be the light that failed.

John F. Kennedy will be remembered as a man of peace and courage who led the way to a Nuclear Test Ban Treaty among most of the major powers. But he will be no less remembered as the leader of the American people who bravely led us through the perils of mankind's first nuclear confrontation. All of the burdens and the glories of the American Presidency are revealed in these two moments of history.

I know that the students of the John F. Kennedy High School will take special pride in the name of their school. And I know you will assume that responsibilities to be worthy of that name. For the man you honor today believed that the individual could make a difference, and that every citizen should fully participate in the struggles of our time.

This is a very special heritage. President Kennedy was a very special person -- the best product of our society. Through you -- the faculty and students of John F. Kennedy High School -- this heritage can become a beacon to help meet the problems and the opportunities in the years ahead.

My very best wishes to you all.

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