

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

DEDICATION OF SALINE WATER CONVERSION PLANT

ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS

NOVEMBER 28, 1965

*misleading
this plant have
careful
maintenance*

It is always a pleasure for us to come back to these lovely islands.

A tourist, they say, visits here once. A true believer comes back a second time, and more, *many and I am are* a true believer in your islands and in your future.

For today a new era begins on St. Thomas...an era of abundant fresh water and increased generating power... an era of new hope and progress for the people who live here.

Partnership - Govt - Industry

This new plant will bring you one million gallons a day of fresh water. This plant will increase the

island's generating capacity by 60 per cent.

More water and more power are two means to a better life for all of you. ~~and all the more~~ You now possess--for the first time in your history--the real chance to expand business and industry and enjoy greater economic opportunity. More power can open the way to more hotels and tourist centers, more small industries to make better use of your island's potentials.

~~and~~ No longer will fresh, clean water be a luxury.

Now every family can share in an abundant supply.

The cost of water produced by this new plant will range from 90 cents to one dollar per thousand gallons.

Throughout the Caribbean--and throughout the world--water costs far more than that.

I'm sure you remember when it was necessary to barge fresh water here from Puerto Rico at a cost of four dollars for every one thousand gallons. } ^{60¢} up to

Cost
going
down
millions

President Johnson has said: "If science can
unlock the door to an unlimited supply of pure,
drinkable water, it will be an event in human history
as significant as the harnessing of the atom."

Science has unlocked the door here in St. Thomas.
And men like ^{my friend} Governor Paiewonsky and my good friend,
Cyril King, have made the most of this opportunity.

The meaning of this day will not be lost on
countless other communities throughout the Caribbean
that desperately need more fresh water.

In fact, my friends, all the world needs water.

Our supply of fresh water has remained constant for
the past 3,000 years. What has changed--and dramatically--
is the world's growing needs for more water, to meet
both human and industrial needs.

↳ In the next twenty years, the world's demand for water will double. Americans, who consume 355 billion gallons a day, will raise their needs to 600 billion gallons. And, by the end of this century, they will need a trillion gallons.

↳ Did you know that to make a ton of steel takes 65,000 gallons of water? It takes 770 gallons to refine a barrel of petroleum, and 600,000 gallons to make a ton of synthetic rubber.

↳ Add to these needs, the waste of our precious water resources through pollution and mismanagement, and it becomes apparent that our water supply will be an increasing problem in the years ahead.

↳ The answer to this problem is what you are doing here in St. Thomas. You are making an important investment in your future growth and development. You

are proving that the desalting technique is no longer in an experimental or demonstration phase. You are proving that desalinization is a practical and efficient approach to solve one of mankind's oldest problems: the need for adequate water.

We are entering a new age when the seas around us will become limitless reservoirs of useable water.

And you, my friends, are in the forefront of this new age. Today, you take your place alongside 200 similar facilities now operating around the world. These new plants are in the vanguard of what is surely to become a revolutionary advance in human progress.

Desalinization holds the best promise for our future. The fact of life on our planet is that 97 per cent of the earth's water is sea water, and only three per cent is fresh.

With adequate power and water, you have good reason to hope that life will be better for you and your families. Without these essentials, there can be no progress.

I have confidence in you and your future. This plant realizes an ancient dream of man. You are harnessing the sea for human betterment. And by so doing, you are providing for yourselves and for future generations new hope to achieve another of man's oldest dreams for a full and satisfying life.

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[Transcript]

IN CHARLOTTE AMALIE, ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS

November 25, 1965

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY'S SPEECH

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you, very much, Governor Paiewonsky and Mrs. Paiewonsky, and Government Secretary Cyril King and Mrs. King, and the Reverend Clergy that graced this wonderful gathering, Mr. Wilcox and my associates in the Federal Government, from the Department of Interior, representatives here of the many agencies, the Government of the Virgin Islands and the Legislature. I am sure each and everyone of you know that this visit to the Virgin Islands by Muriel and Hubert Humphrey is no task; it's a pleasure and it's a privilege. I want to volunteer right now, as a sort of a do it yourself mechanic, to be on tap at any time to repair these facilities. I am not hoping that there be any trouble; I hope that everything works well, except not too well. I would like to come back as often as possible and Mr. Wilcox can stop by on the way from Pittsburgh and pick me up, because I am a good man with advice if not with the tools and I am sure between Mr. Wilcox and myself that this fine desalting plant will work

well, at least we will work at it and have a good time doing it.

Today is one of happiness for the people of these islands. We have had a very pleasant week here. It's always trite to say it, but it's so true, that it's a pleasure just to come back, and Mrs. Humphrey, Muriel, has been officially designated as a member of the St. Thomas Chamber of Commerce. And now I find out from the Governor that it's entirely all right if I, too, act at least as an associate member. I want the Governor to know that I had been acting as a full fledged member ever since my first visit to these waters and these beautiful islands, and wherever we go we carry the message of this part of America. We tell people, I am sure almost to the point of boredom, on occasion they should come to the Virgin Islands. And as the President's representative in what we call "Discover America", I want to designate each and everyone of you to be sort of Christopher Columbuses in your own right, or if you have Scandanavian de-

cent, Lief Erickson, take your choice, I don't want to get into that argument, and go out and ask the people of America to discover this great part of our wonderful country. Not only to discover it, but to enjoy it. And if your travel abroad and, of course, that is your right, may I suggest that while you are there you become agents of tourism for the United States. We have such wonderful areas to enjoy, from the Virgin Islands to Alaska, from Maine to Hawaii, and if you feel that the journey is a little too long, on any occasion, you can stop off in Minnesota. I am not so sure that this is exactly the right day to stop. Mr. Wilcox, they told me they had twenty-five inches of snow in Northeastern Minnesota, but winter sports are marvelous, too, and I am going to insist that Governor Paiewonsky and his official family, Mrs. Paiewonsky come and pay us a visit up there some time. We provide good heavy clothing and lots of pleasures of life.

Well, they say that tourist that visits here once, and a true believer comes back a second time and more. May I

add, and Muriel and I are true believers, because we have been here more than once and like it or not we are coming back as often as we possibly can.

[Applause]

I have just said to Mrs. Paiewonsky that the next time we come back, Muriel, I haven't told you about this, but I mentioned it to Bert here, that we are going to visit St. Croix and we are going to visit St. Thomas and, of course, we will visit St. John and all of the neighboring vicinity, and we want to go to your schools and we want to visit your industries and your farms, we want to visit your fine university, Mrs. Humphrey being a member of that board. She gets on everything. I'm going to plead for the Vice President today, I think he ought to get appointed for something pleasurable like this. But I will come along with her, I'm not going to let her come down here alone, I want you to know that, I'm tagging along. But we do intend to spend some time, whenever time permits, and that will be possibly with

the people here, because I have never met people that radiated more genuine happiness, greater love of their fellow man than we have met here in the Virgin Islands. And what could be a greater compliment to any people than to know that when you meet them their happiness is contagious, their good fellowship is evident, and we have sensed that in our visits here. I didn't come here today just to talk to you of tourism and of the pleasures of these wonderful, beautiful, magnificent islands, and they are just that. Unless I forget it, I have travelled a good deal about this world and I have been to all of the places that they say are so magnificent and there are many magnificent places on God's good earth. But I venture to say that if I could for a moment be given the privilege of acting as the Solomon of our times, that the judgment that I would render is that the Virgin Islands are as beautiful or more beautiful than anyplace on God's beautiful earth.

[Applause]

I never knew that cufflinks (undiscernible) were so important. I want you to know, Governor, I brought along another pair in case you have any options. You know, I hadn't intended to say any of this particularly, I just sort to have divided (undiscernible) I always make a couple of speeches, one that I have and one that I decide to make at the last moment. But I recall a few years back when we were at St. Croix and there was an airline strike and the visitors, the tourists couldn't leave, that they had, I believe they had a donkey day. Anyway, there were donkey races. It was--no, I think it was on Lincoln's or Washington's Birthday, and it was an opportunity for the local citizenry to raise a little money for their hospitals and their charities, and I didn't have anything to do that day so I became the head man for raising the money. And did we ever have a good time; it was just delightful. So even out of what some people thought was a bit of discomfort came an extra joy, because everybody was able to stay an extra day. The hotels liked that, the Governor liked it

and I loved it. It gave me an official excuse to be away.

Well, we are today marking a new--the beginning of a new era for these islands and particularly for St. Thomas, an era of abundance of fresh water. And I must repeat what has been said here today, that while fresh water seems to be in abundance it is today in short supply. And here in St. Thomas this era of the abundance of fresh water is upon us and the increase of generating power, which your Governor has mentioned is soon to be in short supply without these new turbines. This means an era of hope and of progress for the people who live here. And I am so pleased as is Mr. Wilcox has noted, that this creative partnership between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Virgin Islands and private industry, in this instance Westinghouse, has been so fruitful and productive. I want this message of the partnership theme to sink in, as we say, because all too often we think of these programs as either a program by private industry alone or

some are prone to think of these developments as public works in the name of the Government. Now, the United States of America cannot long last with that kind of separatism. We cannot maintain the strength that we need by making it Government alone or private industry alone, we need to work together. And I think the greatest achievement of the President of the United States, Lyndon Johnson, is the fact that he sensed this partnership, he sensed the need of it and the reality of it, and he has concentrated his attention of bringing it about. And all throughout our great land today there's a new spirit of cooperation, of understanding, of partnership on the part of all segments of our economy. Our President is a healer, he's a unifier, he seeks to bring about what he calls the concensus, which is but another phrase for a general agreement upon objectives and purposes and goals, and then pragmatically, practically, by just plain common sense, finding the ways and the means to achieve those goals. Well, the goal of the abundance of fresh water

and increased power is being achieved here today. You know, and I don't want to have too much repetition here, but it's quite anote to be sounded when you can say that there will be more than 1,000,000 gallons a day of fresh water from this plant, that's a singular achievement. If someone were to have said that five years ago it would have been an international headline. It shows what happened in just five years, not in a generation, but just in a short time. Of equal significance, this plant not only will give that abundance of water but it will increase this island's electrical power by sixty percent. And just add up what that means, more water and more power are two means to a better life for everyone on this island and in these islands. In fact, it's an example of what can happen in the world. You now possess, Governor and your fellow citizens and our fellow citizens, for the first time in your history, the real chance to expand business and industry and to enjoy greater economic

opportunity, because very few industries will move unless they are assured of two things, one, water and power, the third that they want is a community and environment of peace and of understanding, and that you have here. More power can open the way to more hotels, tourist centers, more small industries to make better use of your island's potentials.

Again as we sat here today visiting, I couldn't help but note that those of us who come here, maybe only once a year or twice a year, see these islands in a little different prospective than those of you who live here everyday. Yesterday, Mrs. Humphrey and I travelled over these islands by helicopter and I looked down on these hills, in these waters, into this bay and harbor and I saw tremendous progress, growth and change, and yet it hadn't lost its character, the island hadn't. It seemed to be blended in beautifully with the natural loveliness and charm and beauty of the islands. I think this is so important, because it would be so easy to over-commercialize in a rather cheap way.

You can have commercialization and still preserve beauty. Mrs. Lyndon Johnson, our First Lady, has visited these islands, she is the champion of beautification in America. And I know how she feels, because just before we left to visit here we were talking with her. She feels as I expressed to you these thoughts today, that it is possible to have economic development, industrial development and cultural development and at the same time to preserve the almost crystalline beauty of what you have here. Isn't it a happy day when you know that no longer will fresh and clean water be classified as a luxury. That every family, every family can share in this abundant supply. When I travelled in some parts of Latin America, I have come home to report in sadness, just the fact of the lack of water. I remember, without mentioning the country or the city, of one water tap for 20,000 people. And I would see people lined up for hours, with their little pails and buckets, trying to get some water. When I came to my Government I said, what is wrong with us, instead of

trying to build towering factories, why don't we at least dig a well. Water was intended for man and there isn't any hope of building a decent society, a peaceful society, a prosperous society, an abundant society without water. It's just impossible, just as it would be without air. The cost of water has been commented upon. I shall not detain you with further elucidation on that subject, except that this is a fact. That in less than a generation we have been able to reduce the cost of water, the desalinization process, bringing fresh water from high peaks of four dollars and five dollars a thousand gallons down here to ninety cents to a dollar a thousand gallons. And as Mr. Wilcox has said, and he speaks with authority, that it will not be long before we will be able to sharply reduce those costs. You know what this will mean to the world? Let's just move from the Virgin Islands for a moment. One of the great dangers in this world today--area of danger is the Middle East, the cradle of civilization that could be its burial ground, and

the Middle East today is starved for water. The day that we can take from the sea the water and convert it into portable water--into fresh water will be the day that peace will not be just a hope but a reality. The abundance of food that is needed for a rising world population is impossible without water. And my fellow Americans let this thought be seared into your memory today, population is outrunning food supply and yet there is the possibility of food supply through technology, modern agriculture and water, and the day that we can make this breakthrough, Mr. Wilcox, that you spoke about, will be the most blessed day in mankind's memory, because then man can be assured that he will have the food and the fibre by which to sustain himself. President Johnson put it concisely and I think in words that we all understand. He said if science can unlock the door to an unlimited supply of pure drinkable water it will be an event in human history as significant as the harnessing of the atom. I would add,

that the harnessing of the atom makes it possible for us to have this abundance of water. And today your Government, working with the Atomic Energy Commission, the Department of Interior, the great industries, such as Westinghouse and others, are trying to bring about both the generation of power and the release of fresh water from the seas through atomic energy as well as through other sources of energy. Well, now, science has unlocked the door here, at least momentarily in St. Thomas, and I don't think the meaning of this day will be lost on countless other communities throughout the Caribbean that desperately needs fresh water. Isn't it ironical that islands that are surrounded by water thirst. But I am convinced that mankind was placed on this earth to be able to unlock these mysteries. All the world need is water. Our supply of fresh water has remained constant for over 3,000 years. What has changed is the world's need for more water to meet human and industrial needs. Here are just a few figures that I think are quite revealing. In

the next twenty years the world demand for water will double. Americans who now consume 355,000,000,000 gallons of water a day, that's a lot of water, will raise their needs to 600,000,000,000 gallons by the year 1980. By the end of this century we Americans will need an estimated trillion gallons of water everyday, three times what we presently consume. Did you know to make a ton of steel takes 65,000 gallons of water? One of the reasons that the great taconite plants are to be found in northeastern Minnesota, because of the abundance of our lake water, our rivers and streams, and the great lakes. It takes 770 gallons to refine a barrel of petroleum and 600,000 gallons of water to make a ton of synthetic rubber. When that automobile that you ride in goes down these highways remember it's only possible because a ton of rubber took 600,000 gallons of fresh water, not salt water. Add to these needs the waste of our precious water resources through pollution and mismanagement and it becomes apparent that our water supply will be an increasing problem in the

years ahead. And wouldn't it be almost ridiculously pathetic if mankind, with his brilliance and his insight and his knowledge, should suffocate in polluted air and kill himself with polluted water, it could happen, it is happening.

Fortunately, it hasn't been a combination, some places people die of water pollution, other places of polluted air, wait until it works together unless we do something about it. Now, the answer to the problem is right here, St. Thomas, that's why I wanted to be here for this occasion as your Vice President, because I believe that this plant is symbolic of what is needed and what can be done. You are making an investment in your future and in your growth and development and you are proving that the desalting technique is no longer in an experimental or demonstration phase. You are proving that desalinization is a practical and efficient approach to solve one of mankind's oldest problem, the need for water. Civilizations have died because of that need unfilled. We are entering a new age when the seas around us will become

limitless reservoirs of usable water supply, and you are in the forefront of that age. Today you take your place alongside 200 similar facilities now operating around the world, and these new plants are the vanguard of what is surely to become a revolutionary advance in human progress. Desalinization holds the best promise for our future. The fact of life on our planet is that ninety-seven percents of the earth's water is sea water and three percent is so called fresh water, a large proportion of which is presently polluted by man's mismanagement of resources. Three percent fresh water, ninety-seven percent sea water, it doesn't take much insight into the need of the future to know that you have to tap the ninety-seven percent, recognizing that the three percent is inadequate. Therefore, with adequate power and water I think all of us have good reason to believe that life can and will be better for you and your families and for millions of families elsewhere. I am a person of unbounded confidence, some people say overly optimistic. Well, you need to be optimistic and we have a right to be, because this same mankind that we talk about these days, that have created the

most horrible instruments of destruction that civilization has ever known, that same man and same mankind can use the same technology, the same brain, the same no how to create the wonders that can make this a better world. The man that can destroy it can save it, the man that can burn it can irrigate it, and the science that we pride ourselves in so much can either be our master or our servant. And I'm sure Mr. Wilcox would agree with me and Governor Paiewonsky, that we want science to be the servant of man and not his master.

I thank you, very much, and I want to congratulate you, Governor, and your administration, congratulate the people of St. Thomas and the Westinghouse Corporation on this plant, and to thank you for permitting Muriel and Hubert Humphrey to share in this what I think is a very historic and significant moment in the life of the American Republic and of these beautiful islands.

[Applause]



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