

NOTES

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

WASHINGTON, D.C.

JANUARY 15, 1966

It's a real pleasure for me to be here tonight.
As most of you know, I'm one of the foremost sports
fans in the country. This occasion is something I've
been looking forward to for a long time. But I must
admit my feelings were hurt somewhat a few days ago
when the NCAA honored some former athletes in
Washington.

* * * * *

I don't know if it was an omen for the future
-- as you know, I'm the man who is supposed to
bring the NCAA and AAU into loving embrace --

but the NCAA didn't invite me ~~to be honored~~ ^{to receive} ~~for one~~
of its athletic Honors.

I saw on the list my old Minnesota friend
Orv Freeman. ~~I saw~~ Justice Byron White. ~~I saw~~
Secretary Rusk and Secretary Udall. But ~~not~~ ^{Hubert}
~~invited~~ Humphrey.

~~And I want you to know that, in that oversight,~~
~~the NCAA did a deep injustice to a man who richly~~
~~deserves any athletic honor which might come his way.~~

It is true that, during my time at the
University of Minnesota, I did not participate in
varsity athletics. But I want you to know the story
behind that. - ~~that you~~ - ^{I wasn't needed}

^{Big game team, Nagasaki}
~~Then~~ I had to drop out of Minnesota ~~soon after~~
~~coming there~~ and it wasn't until several years later
that I returned to school.

I remember well how it was when Humphrey
returned to the campus. Bernie Bierman came to
see me. He said: "Humphrey, the Golden Gophers

~~can be a great team with that one great back -- that~~
~~one great leader."~~ I said: "Sorry, coach, but
you'll have to get along with Nagurski."

So when I returned,
~~The fact was that I recognized what the coach~~
~~did not~~ I was several years older than most of the
~~other boys in the Big Ten. I had filled out and~~
~~matured.~~ It wouldn't have been fair to put me into
competition with boys half my strength. I made the
sacrifice and by-passed varsity athletics in that
knowledge. ~~But and I must admit to feeling~~
~~some disappointment about it -- I have never gained~~
~~recognition for what I did.~~

* * * * *

But,
Star
The fact is that Hubert Humphrey was one of the
finest athletes in the history of Doland High School in
South Dakota. That's Doland -- D O L A N D. ~~I~~
~~played all the sports at Doland. I remember best of~~

I recall

all my senior year. That was one of the best football

teams ^{1 1/2 School} the Doland ~~Wheeler~~ ever had . . .

staying that every position and in depth, too.

--- we had 17 out for the squad that year. Believe me, for Doland that was depth.

* * * * *

But I won't go any further in telling you about my athletic exploits.

1965
L I think we should look back at 1965 a bit more, although so much has already been said about it.

L 1965 was one of those years: It was the year the Brooklyn Dodgers won a world's championship for Los Angeles. It was the year the Washington Senators won an American League title for Minnesota *Twins*.

L What a year, Brooklyn in California . . .
Washington in Minnesota . . . the Pope in Yankee Stadium.

* * * * *

and L 1965 was also the year when Humphrey took over the Game of the Day broadcast from Leo Durocher one Saturday afternoon at D.C. Stadium.

L I'll tell you how that happened. Leo saw me in the stands and sent word down that he'd like me to say hello to the fans for a minute.

well, That was where he made his first mistake.

Leo may have some reputation for being talkative, but he was getting into top-flight competition. *when he turned that mike over to me.* Give Humphrey a captive audience of several million, and he's not about to give up that microphone.

Some of you may have been watching that day. You probably saw how Leo and I were laughing and smiling on camera. The truth is that we were kicking each other under the table.

~~Then,~~ When the breaks came for commercials, Leo would try to pull the mike away from me. Really, it was about five innings before he realized I really meant business.

* * * * *

1965 was also the year that the bonus madness came to a halt in pro football.

~~I see Tommy Nobis here tonight. What was that small bonus you received, Tommy? Was it 2 or 3 million? It just goes to show the benefit of a college education.~~

I tell you, if we could just apply some of that bonus money to the national debt, we'd have something going for us.

* * * * *

1965 was also the year that my good friend Dutch Van Brocklin left the Vikings, got coaxed back, and ended up with a long-term contract and a raise.

They said it couldn't be done.

Actually, ~~Muriel has been trying to get me to~~ *I have been thinking of*
Trying the same thing with President Johnson. But I
still haven't found exactly the right time to do it - *and*
besides its risky!

Well, I don't want to talk too long this evening.
You've heard a lot of speeches. Anyway, most of us
want to get our sets warmed up for the NFL All-Star
game tomorrow.

~~You know,~~ *when* it used to be that ^{when} one sport ended
~~and~~ there was a little time before another began. But
it doesn't work that way anymore.

I was out at the All-Star football game in
Chicago last August ~~with my blankets and thermos.~~

It used to be ~~that~~ that was the first game of the season
-- bar none. *now* But there are a couple games before
that ~~one~~. *And* the pros go to training camp some-
time in June.

Then, when I was at the World's Series opener in Minnesota, I was reading a newspaper and saw the first NBA scores of the season.

But, actually, I have an idea I've been trying to sell to the networks.

Why not a triple header the first week in February from Miami?: First, the AFL All-Stars and the NFL All-Stars; then the NBA East-West game; then, the first exhibition game of the Grapefruit League. What a package: Eye-strain for an audience of millions! *- which reminds me*

* * * * *

~~You know,~~ there are those who say that television has been bad for sports. ~~You know the line: That the minor leagues have been hurt, that the networks have too much power over sport, and so on.~~

But I don't agree. I think television has been wonderful for sports.

For one thing, there's the factor of price. I'll tell you what I mean.

I remember my old high school coach. He used to say: "Victory belongs to those who will pay the price." And then we'd race out and knock heads with the opposition.

The same is true now. The only thing is: The "price" is now 5 or 600 thousand for a good halfback.

I like the television sports credo: "When the great scorer comes to write upon the wall your name . . . It matters not who won or lost, but how many sat to watch the game."

* * * * *

~~Finally tonight, I have an announcement to make.~~

It may seem a bit early, but it seems to me the most appropriate place to do it.

Tonight I wish to announce my candidacy -- my candidacy for the position of head coach and general manager of the Redskins.

Is Ed Williams here?

Really, Ed, it could even be head coach or general manager. I'm willing to work my way up.

I've even got an idea for a slogan for the Redskins: The New Deal. How about that, Ed?

Look, don't get sore, Ed. If you don't want to hire me, it's all right. I'll understand. But I hope you realize that if you don't, it means a call from the Internal Revenue boys.

* * * * *

It's been a great evening for me.

~~The British ^{mean} that much~~
~~of their greatness is due to the~~
~~You know, things have been said about the~~

playing fields of Eton.

More should be said about the playing fields
of America.

There's no doubt in my mind that ^{much} of our
country's success lies in the competitive spirit . . .

~~in the tradition of~~ ^{the} hard and fair contest, ~~that is~~ ^{this is a}
part of our heritage.

~~How~~ many great Americans -- and just
ordinary citizens -- have found within them the
strength to meet tomorrow's challenge . . . to get
through difficult times . . . to sacrifice for the
sake of others, because of their experience in
competitive sport.

^{yes,} I can think of dozens in my own
personal experience. I know there are thousands
today in Vietnam.

Yes, We have a lot to be thankful for in this country. *and* We can be especially thankful for some of the freedoms we enjoy -- the freedom to throw a ball against a garage wall, or to cheer our lungs out for the home team, or to play the game hard until the last second and then shake hands, win or lose.

These are things we wouldn't give up in our lives. May we never have to.

#

L.S.U. + Arkansas
Last year - Justice Tom Clark
(P... FOR ADVE)
HON. OREN HARRIS, US REPRESENTATIVE
WINNER OF MR. SAM AWARD

TONIGHT, ANOTHER DISTINGUISHED MAN JOINS THE SELECT
COMPANY OF THOSE CHOSEN FOR THE MR. SAM AWARD, GIVEN BY THE
TOUCHDOWN CLUB EACH YEAR TO A FIGURE IN GOVERNMENT WHO HAS
DONE THE MOST TO FOSTER SPORTS AND HAS CONTRIBUTED TO SPORTS.

✓ THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT OF THE CREDENTIALS OF OREN HARRIS
FOR THIS AWARD, NAMED FOR THE LATE AND BELOVED SPEAKER OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SAM RAYBURN.

*Sam Rayburn
24 out of 25 years*
✓ SAM RAYBURN GRACED THIS BANQUET FOR 24 OF HIS LAST 25 YEARS.
HE LIKED BEING AROUND YOUNG PEOPLE AND PRESENTED MANY AN AWARD
FROM THE SCHOOLBOY TO THE TOP PRO.

✓ MR. SAM LIKED THE IDEA OF A STADIUM FOR WASHINGTON AND
THE MAN WHO MADE IT COME TRUE WAS OREN HARRIS. THERE WERE MANY
BILLS INTRODUCED INTO THE CONGRESS THROUGH THE YEARS TO GET A
SPORTS STADIUM FOR WASHINGTON. BUT IT TOOK A MAN LIKE OREN
HARRIS TO MAKE IT A REALITY.

✓ D. C. STADIUM WAS DEDICATED ON OCTOBER 8, 1961. IT
MARKED THE SUCCESSFUL CULMINATION OF A FIGHT WHICH TOOK
ALMOST 50 YEARS.

33 yrs
✓ OREN HARRIS IS LEAVING CONGRESS AFTER A BRILLIANT QUARTER-
CENTURY IN THE HOUSE. PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS APPOINTED HIM A
FEDERAL DISTRICT JUDGE FOR EASTERN AND WESTERN ARKANSAS. NEEDLESS
TO SAY, HIS CONFIRMATION WAS SWIFT.

Last year Justice Tom Clark
✓ JOE MARTIN, WHO SHARED THIS DAVIS WITH MR. SAM FOR SO MANY
YEARS, WAS THE FIRST WINNER OF THE AWARD HONORING HIS OLD FRIEND.
THE TOUCHDOWN CLUB CROSSED PARTY LINES THAT NIGHT AND HAD A well known
DEMOCRAT, LYNDON JOHNSON, PRESENT THE AWARD TO REPUBLICAN MARTIN.
BUT SUCH IS THE SPIRIT OF THIS AWARD THAT IT KNOWS NO PARTY LINES.

all-
LORD, WHAT A SUCH UNANIMITY!

the award goes to a great American - Oren Harris



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