

NOTES

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

HOLTON-ARMS SCHOOL

BETHESDA, MARYLAND

MAY 11, 1966

There may be some who will accuse me of nepotism for being here today. However, I have always thought that nepotism referred to nephews and/ to nieces; besides, as I see it, all I am doing here on this lovely spring day is visiting a while with Anne and her friends.

Being with young people invariably turns my mind to the future. People have always been intensely curious about it -- the Greeks consulted oracles and some people still rely upon a crystal ball, the fall of cards, or the lines in the palm of their hands.

No one, of course, can predict with any certainty the future of any given individual -- and perhaps for our own comfort, that is just as well.

However, we are moving to the point where we can sketch in the major, overall outlines of the future -- and quite serious attempts are being made to do so.

The American Academy of Sciences is creating a "Commission on the Year 2000." At least half a dozen non-governmental organizations are seeking to forecast some aspects of the future. Something like two dozen books have been published on this theme.

I thought you might be interested in a recent effort by the Rand Corporation, one of our leading research agencies. They used what they called the "Delphi" technique. But, instead of the oracle at Delphi that the ancient Greeks consulted, they sought the collective view of 82 present-day oracles -- engineers, physicists, social scientists, and the like.

Here's what these experts generally predicted for
1984 -- 18 years from now:

- In agriculture, the large-scale use of desalinated sea water.
- In medicine, the transplantation of natural organs and the use of artificial ones.
- In psychiatry, the widespread application of drugs that control or modify the personality.
- In education, the use of sophisticated teaching machines.
- In worldwide communication, the everyday employment of translating machines.
- In industry, extensive use of automation, up to and including some kinds of decision-making at the management level.
- In space, the establishment of a permanent base upon the moon.

Some of you may say that there is nothing very surprising here. And you would be right.

Experience shows that it takes 10 to 30 years for a new idea to make its way from its inception in a scientist's mind to its widespread practical application. Therefore, the world of 1984 already exists, in embryo, in today's research establishments.

For the year 2000, however, these experts foresee some really far-out developments.

- The augmentation of our food supply by large-scale ocean farming and the fabrication of synthetic protein.
- Control of the weather, at least on a regional scale.
- The use of controlled thermonuclear energy as a major source of power.
- The correction of hereditary defects through the modification of genetic chemistry.

- In space, the mining and manufacture of propellant materials on the moon and the landing of men on Mars.

- The creation, in the laboratory, of primitive forms of artificial life.

These, then are the educated guesses of 82 modern oracles about the broad lines of the future. But I suspect that you are also interested in knowing: "What's in it for me?"

A good part of your future we already know from the past.

Miss Brown and Miss Lurton tell me that 95 to 100 per cent of the graduates of Holton-Arms go on to college, and I am sure this will continue to be so. Most of you will graduate from college; many will do post-graduate work.

Judging from past experience, the experts have a pretty good idea of what you as women -- and as women college graduates -- will be doing.

One-half of all American women are married at the age of 20 or before.

One-half of all American women have their last child by their thirtieth year.

Women are living longer -- longer than men, in fact. A girl baby born in 1900 had an average life expectancy of 48 years. Now it is 73.

In other words, there's a lot of life to be lived after the children have arrived -- or, more pertinently, after they have started school. And women are putting these vintage years to good use.

I suppose many people still think of the working woman as "Rosie the Riveter." But exactly the reverse is true.

The more education a woman has, the more likely she is to go back to work in later life.

This shows up in the figures for women in the 45 to 54 age group.

In this bracket, only 41 per cent of the women with less than eight years education are in our labor force -- that is, working or looking for work.

For college graduates, the figure is 59 per cent. And for women with one or more years of graduate work, it is 84 per cent.

Why is this?

One reason is that educated women are more likely to get restless sitting about their homes all day alone.

Another is that they expect more out of life for themselves and their children. They go to work to help put their children through college -- to help buy a boat or a vacation cottage -- or for other ways of stepping up the family's standard of living and hence its enjoyment of life.

But the best reason of all is that educated women are sorely wanted and needed in this complex economy of ours. We simply can't afford nowadays to do without the good half of our precious stock of brains and ability which is possessed by women.

Despite the fact that we are doing better in this respect than most other countries, it still remains true that the richest under-utilized resource in America is the talent of its women.

We're beginning to recognize this in practice as well as in theory. Salaries in the fields which have traditionally been open to women are going up. More and more fields formerly reserved to men are being opened up to all comers. And there's much more readiness to employ older women and to schedule jobs on a parttime basis -- particularly where they have education and ability to offer.

Take for example one field traditionally open to women -- that of teaching. Thanks to the new importance being given to education in our national life -- exemplified by the landmark legislation enacted by Congress last year -- a veritable renaissance is going on in this field. The way it is opening up, there will be ample scope for every ounce of zest and creative imagination you can bring to it.

But there are great opportunities in the so-called men's fields as well. There are growing numbers of women in business, women lawyers, women mathematicians, women scientists, even women engineers. The pioneer, of course, will always have problems that those who follow her will be spared. But, like the pioneer in any field, she will also have great opportunities.

It seems still to be more difficult for a woman to get into medical school than for a man of equal ability.

But the rewards are great. She will be entering a field with the highest average income of any profession. And she can carry on a parttime practice at home even while her children are still babies.

The point of these remarks about the future of women is this: The thoroughly modern young woman plans not only for marriage and children, but for a working life outside the home.

Some of you may not think that you will ever need to work, or even want to work. But bear two things in mind.

First, 15 or 20 or 25 years from now, you may want to work. If so, there is very great advantage in being prepared -- it can mean the difference between a routine job and a challenging, reasonably well-paid one.

Second, many of you who never have occasion to look for a paid job will be moving into one or more of the many fields for voluntary activity which our pluralistic society offers.

And the more you can bring to them in the way of training, the more interesting and responsible roles you can aspire to.

Whatever the uncertainties of the future, the educated man or woman is best able to cope with them.

And I honestly believe that you are fortunate in the age in which you are growing up. For you are moving into a society in which, at a rapidly increasing pace, women will come into their ~~own~~ -- not only as wives and mothers, but as citizens and as meaningful participants in our economic and professional life -- in other words, as whole and entire human beings.

#

TRANSCRIPT - REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY
HOLTON-ARMS SCHOOL May 11, 1966

Thank you, thank you very much.

Thank you, Miss Brennan,. I have never had so many beautiful girls on their knees before me in my life. First ~~of~~ I want to express my greetings to Miss Brown and Miss Lurton, Mrs. Moore and the members of the faculty, and those parents, if any, that are here this morning - and above all to the students. And then I want to thank my niece, Ann, for letting me come out here. I kept asking her, "When can I come and visit your school?" And she has put me off now for months and months and months, and finally she waited until I had a bad cold and she said, "If you are not feeling well some day - if you have a bad cold, you can come," and this is the best day, as I have the worst cold I have had in years.

I am going to take a little time this morning to discuss a few things with you and then, as I said to Miss Brennan, if it is agreeable with you, I thought you might ~~like~~ want to ask me questions. In that way you can get into the act and you can even ask a question like senators do. When senators ask questions, they make a short speech and then end up by saying "Isn't that so?" Or, "do you agree with me?" This is what we call the senatorial rhetorical question, and you are invited to do that provided your speeches are no longer than mine. ~~and~~ According to what I have heard from Miss Brown, we have to be out of here by 10:50, so we will try to keep the questions and answers to a reasonable size and length.

Well, I am going to talk to you about a subject that is very close to your heart -- about today and tomorrow. No need of talking about yesterday - it is gone. We will learn only from the experiences of yesterday - that is the importance of that day. I have said to many audiences of young people that while I know it is very important that we study history ~~in your own time and your own way~~, and I believe that the study of history is one of the essentials of a good education, it is ~~more~~ much more important that you make history in your own time and your own way, - that you make your own contribution.

Now you have heard many people tell you that these are very difficult days. I am sure your parents have said that. I am sure that you have heard either your father, your mother, or both, complain on occasion that these days are not like the good old days, and I want to tell you that is true. They are a good deal better than the good old days. The good old days were never very good in the first place, and most people look back with a degree of ~~of~~ nostalgic happiness because they have forgotten some of the things that happened to them that were not too pleasant. But what difference does it make what the good old days were like? We are stuck with the days that we have, and we have to face up to what we have now both in challenges and opportunities, and problems and difficulties. I happen to think that these were the most exciting days of all civilization, and I want to talk with you about them and ~~ex~~ why I believe what I just said.

Now mankind has always been interested in the future. This is why people, when you ~~can~~ go uptown in Washington or New York, you will see signs that will say ~~like this~~ -- "Palmist - Read Your Palms and Tell Your Future." The Greeks used to go into the Delphic Oracle. They wanted to find out about the future. A modern man goes to the computer and the great transistor, that is, the great transistor computer is supposed to tell him something about the future. ~~I~~

[Handwritten signature]

One of the greatest oil basins has been discovered off the coast of Holland and gas wells in the ocean. There is no reason at all why the ocean bed should not be used to bring forth the materials and minerals and gas and oils that ~~is~~ are there. And we are learning now a great deal about that. This government is putting forth substantial investments in oceanography and much more in what we call the geological survey to find out what is in the ground, what resources are available here. But we will also be farming the ocean. We will literally be using the ocean weed as well as, of course, the fish in the sea much more than ever to feed people. The protein in fish has saved humanity for centuries. It has been the major source of food for most of the children of this earth for centuries. We will also be making synthetic proteins. People can not live without proteins. We will make it in laboratories. We will no longer grow it. It will be manufactured just out of chemistry. In fact we are even ~~at~~ the stage now where we can look forward to the artificial creation of life itself, and this is in the embryonic stage, but this will be possible.

Now let me tell you a little bit about space. You have read about the communications satellite. You have seen Early Bird and many of you have seen the television that comes in from England or Paris or Rome. Now that is all done by what we call the communications satellite under the CONSAT, which is our Communications Satellite Corporation. I was one of the senators, when I was a senator, that strongly supported that proposal. This is a public and private cooperative endeavor managed by private individuals and not government. We think it is better that way. ~~We have put this satellite, it~~ was launched by your government by a huge launch rocket and put into proper orbit in space and it is a communications satellite for the purposes of tele-communications, telephone, radio, television and all of the communications that we need. But one of the problems with all of these communication satellites is that they occasionally, like your TV, they have troubles - they go out, they just don't work. Well, when they cease to operate, then what do you have to do? You have to put up a new one under present standards that costs millions of dollars! So what are we going to do? Why do you think that Col. White under the Gemini I think it was 5 or 4 - I have forgotten the series now, under the Gemini flight, when McDevitt and Col. White were in the Gemini capsule, and Col. White, you may recall, walked out, ~~xxx~~ on that flight and was out on a tether, walking around in space. Remember that picture that some of you have seen? Now why do you think we tried that? Just to see if it was fun? Not at all. We are now doing that for the purpose of seeing whether or not he can operate in space and whether or not he can use tools in space and whether or not, if we could cut the rope from him, he could walk out in space and he could go along the side of the communications satellite and he could walk out and repair it. Just exactly as a telephone man repairs your telephone, or a radio man repairs your radio, or a TV man repairs your television, only I hope better than that because ^{most} of them don't repair the televisions too good. But this is what we are working on and within 5 years, get this, within 5 years, your brothers will be going up in satellites, in a space capsule. They will open the door of the space capsule, they will walk out of the space capsule, they will take with them their tools, they will repair the communications satellite, the weather satellite, they will repair any satellite that is up there in orbit, just exactly as a repair man does it here on earth. ~~Now, we~~ are even now contemplating a laboratory in orbit. This is what we call the man-orbiting laboratory. Now what will that be? That will be a room about the size of a living room in your home - maybe smaller - let's say the size of the dinette. I don't know how ~~big~~ big a dinette you have, but it will be something in which four or five men can walk around and work in. It will be an orbiting laboratory. It will be up there orbiting the earth at 18,000 miles an hour. Men will be inside with all kinds of equipment. They will be living normal lives inside of that orbiting laboratory, and when they get the signal they will

go out and repair or they will go out and walk around in space. They will make all kinds of observations of the stars. This is scheduled for the early 1970's so it is not far away. This is 1966. ~~By~~ By the time these young ladies have graduated from high school we will already have had a man stationed on the moon and he will be communicating with the moon just like you go from here to Baltimore. And it won't take much longer. Well, it will take a little longer, but not much. The truth is that we plan on landing on the moon so that we can go to Mars. And ~~the~~ all of this, which was once talked about like it was a Buck Rogers fiction story, is now a matter of science and technology. Now you say, "What does this mean"? "What does this mean to you". Well, of course it means a whole new dimension of understanding and learning. It definitely means we have upgraded our education. That is why there ~~are~~ higher standards of education today. But it means that we learn much for our civilian life. For example, we have learned how to miniaturize everything. ~~We used to have to have large boxes for our~~ like our present televisions of today are about half the size that they were five years ago. The television of the future ~~that~~ will primarily be just a screen. Most of the mechanism will be so miniaturized that ~~you talk about the thin television~~ it will just fade-just down like that. We have, for example, presently on our big bombers what we call our computers, and we have our different transistors for electronic devices. At one time the boxes on those transistors were as big as this podium. Today they are about two inches by two. We have learned how to miniaturize. Let me give you one example. ~~Maxwell's house~~ And we are preparing batteries. We will have an atomic battery that can be used as a mechanical heart, a heart that can be put inside a person who has a ~~bad~~ heart, a mechanical heart and a battery that will keep that heart beating at normal pulse rate for twenty years. And that battery will not be any bigger than the tip of your finger. An isotope. An isotope battery. Now these are not fairy tales. These are things ~~are~~ that are already in existence, ~~but~~ the reliability yet has to be perfected but we know that they will work. We are developing nuclear engines that will be used for the probing of Jupiter and Mars - that will have sustained life, a power that runs not for seconds or not for minutes like the present solid fuel or liquid fuel missile, but ~~will run~~ for weeks. Unbelievable things ~~that~~ are in the offing. Well, this is the realm of science. Now where does the lady or the woman fit into this? Well, in most countries ~~women~~ are the great resource of intellect, in talent, and creativity. The American scene is just now beginning to understand that the greatest untapped creative resource is the American woman. In the fields of medicine, science, engineering, architecture, Of course we have always had the ladies for purposes of design, interior decoration, and so on, but this is only the beginning. Take example the Scandinavian countries. 50% of all the doctors are women. And some of the best medicine in the world is practised in the Scandinavian countries. And in the Soviet Union - I don't say that we should emulate them, but they have learned to use their resources. Most of the doctors are woman. And scientists! Space ~~scientists, or not~~ science is not a prerogative of men. I predict that in 15 years a large number of the space scientists will be women. And women will just as surely be in space capsules and doing space work as men. No doubt about it! This is what we mean by a fully developed society. Well, these are just a few of the matters I wanted to touch on. By the way, weather - I am sure that our friends in Ohio and Michigan and other states where they have had the killing frosts, would have liked to be able to control weather. We will be able to control weather. We'll determine when it is going to rain and when we need rain. We will be able to do this scientifically. Already we are able to make weather predictions that are very accurate. In fact your newspaper in Washington today can get a continual weather map. Off a satellite that takes a continuous picture of weather all over the world, going all the time, and it sweeps an area of about 5000 miles in one picture and it show all the clouds, it ~~show~~ the tornadoes, it ~~shows~~ the rain. It ~~shows~~ the cyclones. If there is a typhoon, it is all there - a continuous

weather picture. We have made fantastic developments in that already. And we're learning about the sun - something we never knew before. You know the primitive people worshipped the sun, and you know in many ways they may have been worshipping what they thought was life because the sun is life - we can't live without it. It is in a very real sense the source of life. And so there were the sun gods and the primitive people had an intuition about life, ^{which is} scientifically quite accurate, and we are learning a great deal now about the sun. ¶ Well, now let me move you quickly then to where we are on earth. Much of what I have said will apply industrially and commercially, and it will apply to ~~the life of~~ your life and your boyfriend's life and your husband's-to-be life and your father's life. I expect to be around long enough to see most of this myself. In fact, if they just keep doing as good in the medical profession as they are, why we will all be around here a lot longer. By the way, in the year 1900 the life expectancy of a woman was 48. Today it is 73. By 1980 it will be over 80. So we are going to have more old people and more young people. 50% of the population is under 25. Under age 25. ~~Total percent~~ 50% of the total population of this country. So we have a group of ~~people that~~ the older people - more of them - and larger number of real young people. This in turn changes the politics of a country, changes the economy because much of the economy has to be geared now for the needs of the young people, young families, and surely our whole educational ~~system~~ structure is changed, ^{that is} tremendous demand for education - never anything like it before. And the influence of government upon education - the tremendous need of aid to education, ¶ and then the whole matter of our elderly people. Their medical care, and not only their medical care. They don't want to just sit around. They want to be useful citizens. And how do we gear them into the useful life, into ~~the~~ creative, productive life? Up till now we have had compassion recently. We used to stash them away in the poor house. Now we have taken down the old County Poorhouse and we have given them Medicare. Well, that's an improvement. But most people don't want to just have pills and hospital beds. They want to be busy. And in fact if you are not doing something, there is not much use living anyhow. And so we are going to work out in our social, economic structure ways and means for people 70 years of age, 75 years of age, 80 years of age, to do creative, productive, satisfying work. That is your job. You are going to have to figure that one out because just as students today can ~~booh~~ governments down, and they do in countries - I predict that unless there is activity - creative, productive activity - for our elderly citizens in the years to come, they will bring governments down, because youth has no monopoly on revolution. You'd be surprised - even people in middle age and late middle age get a little revolutionary once in a while. And when you don't have anything else to do after age 65 or such an age, why you can be just about as rambunctious as a teen ager. And you know more tricks because you have been around more. ~~No what about~~ ¶ Now what can you do to be helpful? - not to yourself - remember your job is not to serve yourself. The purpose of an education is to enrich your life so that you can enrich the lives of others. And I know that it costs a great deal to go to a fine school, but you remember this, no matter how much your parents pay to send you to this school, it is only a small down payment on what you receive. Who can pay for a library? How can you put a value upon the works of Shakespeare? How can you put a value upon the Bible itself. One of the truly great literary documents as well as a spiritual document. How can you put value upon the inheritance of science? The library is the accumulated inventory of civilization. And when I hear people say "Well, I sent my daughter or my son to a good school, and I paid their way," that is a fellow - well he has confused his own mind and he is living ~~in~~ under an illusion. And I have heard many students say "I earned my way through the university." There again he just proves that he didn't learn anything. Because how can a person pay for a University education? How do you pay for a Pericles, and an Aristotle and a Plato? How do you pay for the writings of Thomas Aquinas or John Locke or Thomas Jefferson? (cont'd)

of America
This year

of course

You can't pay for that. These are jewels, priceless gems of wisdom. What you're doing is to pay for the upkeep of the school, - that's all. You really don't pay for the education. ~~So~~ you owe - you're going to owe society for the rest of your life. And you're the ones that owe it. Remember you have had the break, the advantage. Just like I have. I have had the privilege of many years of a university education given to me. Oh, I worked every day, I know, and I would go around telling my children "If you worked as hard as Dad did, you would understand things". You've heard that before. And I shouldn't tell you this 'cause you'll tell them. I don't want you to let a word of this out of this room, but really I didn't work as hard as I say I do. But I never really did pay for that education. Oh, I paid the tuition. I earned the money to buy my clothes and books. But if I live to be 100 and if I worked 24 hours a day in service to the community, I would only make a down payment on the interest that was due on what was given me. Now the person who really owes society nothing is the person who really gets nothing from society. That is why ^{we} need people like you in the Peace Corps today. Because you have ability and you are going to be needed. ~~in a world that~~ If there is going to be peace in this world, it is because people are going to have enlightenment, not because we build bigger weapons. American isn't as strong as its military. American is as strong as its social structure, as its ideals, as its ideas, as its people. The military is but a reflection of the real substance of the society. General Eisenhower once said that the military is but the cutting edge of the strong blade of the American society. Just the cutting edge, that is just what you see, but behind it there has ~~has~~ to be church, and school, and family, and industry, and jobs, and education, and health, and good human relations. We are going to need you in the Peace Corps. It's going to be a thrilling experience for you, not easy. There are not going to be any easy experiences for you in the days ahead. You are going to live in a world that is almost on the brink of disaster every day. H.G. Wells said "Civilization is a race between education and catastrophe. And your question is who wins the race? Education or catastrophe? You are living in a nuclear age. You ^{are} living in any time there is a war, it could become a nuclear war and if it becomes a nuclear war, you've had it! Don't worry - I know a little bit about this. I just visited our nuclear arsenal. I want to let you in on a fact. We have enough weapons to destroy this world three times over. And the Russians have enough for two times over. Then add the French and the British and you can get everything. In case we miss it the first time, we can do it over again. That is the kind of world we created. But the same mind that created that atomic weapon and ~~split~~ split the atom ~~force~~ for weapon purposes is the very same mind and person that can use that atomic power for good, - Tremendous good! Everything has its evil ~~good~~ as well as its good purpose. The surgeon's knife that can save your life, if in the hands of a surgeon brings you life. In the hands of a culprit of a murderer takes your life. It's the same instrument. It just depends upon how it is put to use. The same medication that eases your pain and heals you if given in too large doses can destroy you. So it's all a matter of ethics and morals. We are going to need you in the Peace Corps to take the message of peaceful living - of understanding and learning to people throughout the world. And remember that what happens in the Middle East may be more important to you than anything that happens in the Middle West. What happens in Southeast Asia may do more to determine your life than what happens in all of America. So we're tied in this world. We are going to need you in the Foreign Service, in the State Department. We are going to need better diplomats and we do need them. America has world-wide responsibilities. And again it's a challenge - it's exciting - it's demanding as well. And finally I want to say that we are going to need you as doctors and engineers and scientists and teachers - teachers by the thousands at home and abroad - we're going to need

you in the struggle to upgrade our fellow Americans. And there are millions of our fellow Americans that need a better life. Now I know that you have been told, as I have been, that it is all their fault. Some of you. And many time, I want to be frank with you, when you see the way people act, and you see what they do, you don't have much sympathy for them, and I have heard people say that the reason these people are ne'r-do-wells is because of this and because of that - and someone else will say that the trouble with the poor people is they just don't have any ambition. I have heard all of that and so of you. Well now some of that may be true, but so what! There happens to be about one-fifth of your fellow Americans - and they are not all negroes by a long shot - 70% of them are white - and 30% are negroes that are in what we call the catagory of the poor. They are people ~~mf~~ with a family income of under \$3,000. a year. You go home and ask your family how you would get along on a family income of \$3,000. a year. Most of them are under \$1,000 a year in America. Your daddy can't park his car for that! Now these are the people that are today a part of our community and are living in our big cities and they are living out in rural America. There are 15,000,000. Americans that can neither read nor write that are adults. They can't work in a restaurant because they can't fill out the ticket. They can't work in a filling station because they can't even read the figures on the gas pump. They are unemployables until they are retrained, but they can learn, and we found that out. We put some of these young men today by their choice in the JOB CHORE. You have heard of JOB CHORE. And what you generally hear is that when one of them gets in a car and gets drunk and has an accident - or you hear that there were 100 JOB CHORE boys in a camp and 25 of them went A.W.O.L. The just left - didn't turn up or they got in town and got into a fight. Well I want to tell you that is most likely true, but the point is those 25 were fighting someplace else before they got into the JOB CHORE AND THEY WERE GETTING DRUNK SOMEPLACE ELSE BEFORE THEY GOT INTO THE JOB CHORE and they were dropouts before they ever dropped out. In fact, in the JOB CHORE out of every 100 in the JOB CHORE, 100 are dropouts. They're all droppouts! And what you ought to be concentrating your attention upon and if you're going to be a journalist-this would be a refreshing experience- you ought to concentrate your attention upon the 75 that make it. The 75 that learn something. That learn how to read and write for the first time in their lives. That for the first time in their lives have a book that is their own. For the first time in their lives, they have had a physical examination. They have had their teeth taken care of. For the first time in their lives they have learned a trade and they get a job. So the 25 that don't make it - that's just the 25 that weren't making it anyhow but there were 75 more that did make it - and then we come back and try the next 25 once more and maybe get 10 out of that 25 that make it. We're rehabilitating human kind. We're upgrading the life of America and when everyone, when these people are upgraded, it helps you. Now you come from reasonably well-to-do families, many of you, middle-income families at least. Now your mothers and fathers pay hea vy taxes. For ~~whm~~for you, for the defense of our country and to keep the poor. The only nation that can afford poor people is a rich nation. Now isn't it better to have tax payers rather than tax eaters? And we're seeking to make out of our poor people today participating citizens, through training and education, and through being needed and wanted. And when you take a look at the pictures of Vietnam today, and you see them on your television and your newspaper, you just take a look at whose there. You will see that at least one out of three or one out of four is a negroe and an Indian. And many times the negro is in that armed force because that is where he got his chance. And you have no right to ask a man to die for this country in Southeast Asia and not let him live a full life in this country when he comes home. You have no right to ask somebody to defend you and your family and this nation at home and abroad, and take on all the burdens and all of the dangers that is in that, and then when he comes back to treat him like he wasn't wanted, or to treat his family like he wasn't wanted. You cannot be a hero in war and treated like one, and then treated like a bum when you come back, - without trouble. So we are going to open up

up opportunities. That is what your government is planning to do. That is what the voluntary agencies are trying to do and that's where you are going to be needed. You are going to be needed to help make these programs move along. VISTA - Volunteers In Service To Americans, - Young men and women and older men and women who are going out working in the ghettos of our cities, in the ~~low~~ slums - Peace Corps at home, Job Chore, Illiteracy Program, Progress-Headstart. Little ones between the ages of three and five that have never had a pair of shoes, that are victims of all sorts of child diseases, - In America, not India - not Africa - but in America. And do you know what we found out from those little children this year? We have one program formed already - a half million- we found out that they learn more rapidly than any of the better educated., and from the better families. We found out that with the good nutrition they become bright-eyed, attractive. We found out that they get medical care and dental attention they become healthy all at once and we found out a good deal about teaching through these young people. We I have spoken to you now longer than I had intended, but I think that the life that we live now - the times in which we live, are the most wonderful times- the chance to do something, not just to take something, but to give something. The chance to be a part of a great experience that is going on in America, and in the world. And remember this, that the world looks to you. Abraham Lincoln was dead right when he said "America, the last best hope on earth". Oh, you'll read the signs "Yankee, Go Home" and you'll read all the things that people say about us, and there are always some that will be critical, but I can tell you, and those that are much more informed than I am can tell you, that literally hundreds and millions of people in the world look to you - look to America for their hope, for their chance. Thank you very much.

Thank you very much. Now we have a few minutes. Does anyone have a question? Miss Brennan, have you someone trained up here to ask that first question? Don't you hesitate now. Yes Mam.

The question is - Do I think the United States and the U.S.S.R. - the Soviet Union - will ever be able to work together for scientific advancement and the answer is Yes, we are right now. As a matter of fact we are working together very closely at this moment toward the peaceful development of atomic energy. This is going on without anybody paying any attention to it. Only within the last few months, there have been a number of Soviet scientists here in the United States, working with our Atomic Energy Commission, visiting our laboratories, and we have had large number of ours in the Soviet Union. We are also working in the field of medical exchange. In 1958 I went to the Soviet Union to help set up the Medical Exchanges between ourselves and the Soviet Union. We are working together in some areas of ^{will} minor areas of space technology. We ~~are working~~ haven't made as much progress there as we should. We have done a great deal of work in the matter of the collating of information and information retrieval. And by the way, this is something you will be interested in. In a few years we are going to be able to have instant translation of foreign language documents. It will be done by machines. Oh, Hurray for machines! You just feed the book - the pages - right into a machine. It will be in Russian and it will come out in English. You feed the Chinese documents into a machine and it will come out in English. If you want it to come out in French, it will come out in French. This is something that is definitely within the offing within this century.

Alright next.

Yes Mam

The question was Do I think that projects like the Peace Corps will bring the countries of the world closer together?

Absolutely! The good will that comes from these projects is not always ascertainable immediately, but it definitely lives on. The individual friendships that you make and knowledge of the two countries. You see one of our real problems is that we don't know anything about the other fellow and they don't know about us. I could take the best students here at Holton-Arms and ask you to give me the names of the key political leaders or the key scientists or engineers or religious leaders - let's say in Pakistan or Afghanistan or in Niger. You will say WHOOP You mean it is difficult to remember who they are in Maryland. And we know little about religions of other people and that's what conditions their life. We know very little about their social values. We know very little, if anything, about their history. We know know very little about their climate, their products, their food, their habits. You really can't have much understanding of them unless you know these things. One of the reasons we get along so well in America, and we have our troubles, is that we do travel a great deal. We're a mobile population and we know a lot about people in Kansas. But I might tell you that people in Kansas sometimes don't know a lot about people in New York and they don't understand them too well, and New Yorkers have a little problem getting beyond Buffalo, and the other side of the Alleghenies. There is a tendency to be what we call parochial, so Peace Corps not only does good in terms of service to the person you seek to serve but it opens up your mind and you become a better leader. You become an understanding citizen. And when you go back to your own country - I think the best thing about the Peace Corps is not what we do for others but what it does for us, because when our Peace Corps returnees come back, they are like scholars from the nation in which they served. They're experts. They're walking encyclopedias. And they go home and talk to the Kiwanis Club and the University Women and the P.T.A. and they really give them a really good understanding speech.

All right - next

The question is- Stated first, the lady says she knows that we help other countries their poor and their needy and their economic development, but we have enough problems here. Why don't we start here.

Well, it is a fact that the only way that we can help others is to be strong enough here so that we have the extra resources to help others. Well let me give you a figure that is not necessarily conclusive, but remember this. Your country this year this last year, 1965, produced almost 50% of every everything produced in the world. Less than 200,000,000 Americans produced 47% of the world's gross national products. For all practical purposes - half. The other 3 billion 200 million produced the other 50%. ~~Much~~ ^{people} ~~has~~ We have so much! compared to others. It is my view, as I said in the conclusion of my remarks that we must upgrade our own selves because the drag of one-fifth of our population that is poor, uneducated, not only economically, but they are not adjusted to society - they are filled with bitterness many of them, frustration - this is why you get race riots, and they lived in poor circumstances, they are deprived, mentally and physically ~~and~~ ^{poor} unhealthy. That's like having a low grade fever. Some of you have gone along not feeling good for a long time and you say "I just can't seem to shake it off but you keep going, but you don't feel as peppy as you should. You get a little tired a little sooner. Well, that's what happens in a society that has one-fifth of its people not doing well. Sort of like an anchor on the back of a boat. You've got a big engine on the boat so it drags the anchor, but if you ever lift that anchor up - zoom. You really take off. So we have to do both. One the one hand we must remember that there won't be any time for us to take care of ourselves unless we help take care of others. But basically they must help themselves. What we do is to seek to help them help themselves. For example, we cannot feed the world, but we can teach the world through our teachers how they can feed themselves. And we are doing that. We can help feed part of the people and we are doing that, - Like in India, for example, if we didn't give India food this year, more people would die in India of starvation this year than the total population of north and south Vietnam. The total population. Unless we help them with the wheat that we are sending them, the famine would be so bad, so terrible that more people in India would die of starvation this year, unless we help them than all the people of North and South Vietnam put together. So what we're doing is - we are facing aggression in Vietnam by fighting that war and feeding the people in India, helping them and also helping our own selves. And you're not exactly starving to death. There's a lot left over.

Yes, Mam.

The Question is That is seems like a few years ago when Mr. Khrushchev was in charge of Russia, we had better foreign relations with them then than now. Is that correct?

I wouldn't think so. Mr. Khrushchev was a very dynamic man. He was unpredictable. He was a necessary man for the Soviet Union. Frankly he broke the pattern of dogma in the Soviet Union. He was a pragmatist. He was a very practical man. But he was unpredictable and for their kind of a society, it was just too exciting. They had to cool it off so to speak. So the group that they have now is much more of the managerial, engineering type of people. Actually our relationship with the Soviet Union today - since Mr. Khrushchev, - have steadily improved. They are not as good as we would like but they are reasonably good for one reason above all. We understand their power and they understand ours. There is a mutually healthy respect for what the other fellow could do to the other fellow.

Yes?

Well, if World War III comes, my dear, I don't think it will make much difference who we're allied with, but, and I don't mean to be a pessimist, but it would change the face of this earth so much, and the death and destruction would be so appalling that I couldn't even make a sensible prediction, but I do think it is fair to say that in the foreseeable future, the relationships between the European-American nations particularly as it relates vis-a-vis to China, Red China, that it would be better. I think that our relationship with the Soviet Union will continue to improve, but don't forget it, the Soviet Union is a Communist nation and even though they have a respect for us and we have reasonably good relations, they want the world to be communist, just like I want the world to be free. And I don't believe in letting them have their way, you see? I mean I think we've got a pretty good case too, and I think we ought to talk about it and do something about it.

All Right.

Well, the first thing a student should do is to be informed and it is not easy to be informed. Needless to say the easiest thing to do is to protest. I wouldn't want to deny anyone that right because I have exercised it all of my life, and I may want to again. I think that you must be very understanding and tolerant about the right of dissent. Let me just make it crystal clear, no one in public life likes to have anyone against him. I have been in public life 20 years and I have never enjoyed having anyone say things about me that I didn't like, or didn't like to hear or read. I don't like the opposition particularly, but you need it and you must remember that sometime you are a member of the majority and sometimes you are a member of the minority. And the right of dissent is an important part of the democratic process. Now for a student, I think, to be basically grounded in history and economics and ~~sks~~ social studies and humanities, gives you some appreciation of the depth and the scope of the problems that a government faces. I must say that you work here in your World Affairs Club is good background. Student government is good background. Join a political party. I will let you in on a secret. Both parties can stand a little improvement. They both need it. I know many young people, particularly younger folks from well-to-do families say "Well, politics is dirty". You know why? Because you didn't get in to clean it up. Get yourself a War

of clinical ivory soap and get in there and go to work. Either that or shut up. If you're not willing to do something about it, you ought not to complain. Now you can get a speaker out here from the Republican party and the Democratic Party and when you listen to both of them, you will think that both of them offer you political heaven. Then you invite me out and I'll tell you the real truth because neither party has the monopoly on virtue or wisdom even when they tell you that they have.

Well I think I've kept the students - What's the ground rules. Allright. One more and we'll quit. All right young lady.

QUESTIONS

The lady says "Do I think World War III is inevitable?"

The answer is absolutely not! Nothing is inevitable, and the danger of it makes it absolutely imperative that it is not inevitable, and you and I are going to see that it isn't. That is the whole purpose of government. The highest act of statesmanship is the achievement of peace. Everybody can get a country into a war. The question is if you do get involved in military conflict, as sometimes appears to be necessary, how do you restrict it. This is what our problem is today in Vietnam. Remember this, my fellow Americans, we have enough power, if we unleashed it, to literally obliterate Southeast Asia, but this we don't want to do. We have no desire for mass murder. The task of your President is how to limit the use of power when you have unlimited power available. And how do you limit the use of power for limited objectives? And in Vietnam is very simple. We are not seeking to conquer North Vietnam. We are not asking that they change their government. We're not seeking war with Red China. We are not even asking that they change their regime even though we don't like it. What we're simply there for is to tell North Vietnam to stop attacking South Vietnam. We're there for one purpose - to prevent the success of aggression and to permit the people of South Vietnam to make their own lives. Now, I know the next thing you are going to say "Boy, do they mess it up!" Well, I want you to know this is not unusual and you ought to take this in proper perspective. Remember your own country. In the days of our own revolution, and following the success of our own revolution - in the 1770's and 80's the states right here fought amongst themselves. They put up tariff walls; they talked of themselves as Virginians or New Yorkers or Georgians; our first constitution was a failure; there was rebellion - have you forgot the whiskey rebellion? You study your history. There was a cessationist movement in the United States in the 1800's; there was a Civil War in the 1860's. We didn't make it so nice either. We've had some real rascals. The Chief of Staff of the United States Army under John Adams was in the pay of the King of Spain. He was a traitor in our own country. We had some Benedict Arnolds and a few others. We had riots by the dozens. Hundreds of Riots. Demonstrations that make the one in Saigon look like they are pink tea parties. Now I am not saying that what happens in Southeast Asia I like, but the birth of a nation is a painful process, and what is going on in South Vietnam is a struggle for power, amongst the people in South Vietnam. I have said this and I have been scolded for it in the press but I'll repeat it again because I believe it. Two years ago, a year ago, there was no struggle for power among the people in South Vietnam because they were quite convinced they didn't have a chance. It looked as if they had lost the war. Now they know there is going to be a South Vietnam and there is going to be a constitution. There is going to be a government. And why do they know it? Because we're there, and they are not so foolish to underestimate the power of America even if some Americans are. They know that there is going to be a South Vietnam and they are arguing amongst themselves - What kind of a government will it be? Who will be in charge. And the Budhists are worried that they may be outmaneuvered as they were before. And they said "you can fool us once. You can fool us twice. But now three times. We are going to be sure this time that we have something to say about this government." So don't - while it's distressing and it's angonizing - I remind you that other nations have gone through the same experience.

I wish we could have much more time here. Sometime I will come back to visit with you. And I want to tell you that I think you are a wonderful audience and it has been a joy to me to be able to be here with you. I can't think of more fun than

this, but I have to go back now and do some of the less interesting ^{work} things of the government.

Thank you very much.



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