

St. Elizabeth's School
MAY 23, 1966

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Vice President, on behalf of the children of St. Elizabeth School, I extend to you a hearty welcome. We realize what a privilege is ours in having the honor of your presence here today. We appreciate the educational opportunities now being provided through Federal Government Funds and we hope to take advantage of such opportunities so that we may one day become representative leaders in this great country of ours.

SPEECH

Thank you, young man, what is this young man's name? Come here. Rodney Baker. Isn't he a fine young man? Rodney, I want to express my thanks to you for your wonderful welcome and your very fine speech, to Archbishop Kroll and Monsignor Hughes, Sister Mildred Francis and Father McHale and all the faculty of St. Elizabeth's School and the aides that are here helping. Let me tell you that this is one of the really thrilling moments of my life, really and truly it is, to see these fine young people and to see what is being done here in this splendid school. I know that Congressman Nicks and Congressman Byrne are as fascinated with this experience as I am and that you now realize, gentlemen, more than we ever realized before what it means when together the Federal Government, the local government, private groups, the church and good people all work together. It just means so much. I was speaking to your librarian just a while ago and to Sister Mildred Francis about the library, and I am hopeful that you get a lot of new books and I think you will. You know, we've learned a great deal, I can say now to the adults that are here, for years

and years we argued in Congress about Federal Aid to Education. We argued about it, but we never got any. Now, finally, we decided we'd have Federal aid to children and that overcame all of the obstacles because the purpose of education is to help children, and in helping children to make a better country. So today, we work with public and private, and parochial schools in order to help children, and right here at St. Elizabeth's, there are young boys and girls here, there are little ones that are of different faiths, catholic and protestant, and I wouldn't be a bit surprised if there weren't some of the Jewish faith, all different faiths getting a good education and getting an educational experience. To you, Archbishop Kroll, I want to express a very special "thank you" because I know that it was only, what is it, two years or so ago, three years ago this original school burned down and through the sacrifices of many and the generosity of the Archbishop and the people here in the diocese and this parish, this school has been, well it has literally been rebuilt, of course, and it is serving a tremendously important community function. I just want to take a few more minutes because this is such a happy moment for me. I want to say to every person here that is 18 yrs. of age and over, when you look at these youngsters, you can really see why we need to have programs such as Project Headstart, Project Outreach, Project Discovery where we train leadership, why we need aid to education, why we need the closed circuit television which you are going to have, to have new educational techniques. You can really see why we need to have under our war on poverty these programs that touch the lives of the families of the poor. This is the real strength of America here. This is the real beauty of America. You talk about beautifying America, this is the way you beautify America, by beautifying the children through education and through health, through their keeping their teeth good. Do you ever do that? Do you take care of your teeth? Huh?

That's right, and through keeping your...."What did she say?".....
(child had answered Vice President Humphrey's previous question by saying, "Yes, father," and it was related to him).....Well, that's right, I am a daddy, but not, (chuckle).....And I want the youngsters here to do one thing for me. I want you to remember that, I want you to remember how important it is that you stay in school and get a good education. I look particularly in the back rows back here where these are the young folks in the 7th and 8th grades, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, I suppose, back here. I want you to go on through high school and get a good high school education and then I want you if you possibly can to go on to your community college or a college or university or a technical school to get more education. Now, I want everyone here today to promise in their own heart, promise here in your own heart that you are going to do your best to get a full education because the Archbishop, the Monsignor and the Father and Sister Mildred Francis and the School Board and the Mayor and the Congress^{man} and the people in your community, your parents and your neighbors and the Vice President and the President, we're all going to help you get that education, everyone, because we want you to be good Americans. This is the best country in the world, isn't it? We love our country. And, do you know how to make it a better country? I'll give you the secret how to make it a better country. You make yourself better. And when you make yourself better, it'll be a better country. Now I see a lot of men out here that are going to be good athletes and we need good ones, we got to win the Olympics, and I see a number of young girls here that will make fine nurses and teachers, and we need a lot of nurses and teachers, librarians and we need good mommys and daddys too, and so we want everybody here to do a better job, everyone. Now you've all taken the Pledge of Allegiance, haven't you, to your country? And, do you know what that Pledge of Allegiance really says? It says

that we have one country, not two, not north and south, not city and country, but one country, under God, under God, the God to whom we pray. And then it says, indivisible. Now, that word means that we are not separated, we're all together, work together no matter who we are or what we are, where we come from, how we look, we're all together, one country together, and with liberty and justice for all. That means to play fair, that means to be a good citizen. That means to respect the other fellow's point of view and his right. Now will you all remember, therefore, that what you are going to do is be a first class American. Isn't that the best thing you can be? A first class American. All right, now, I want to wish you well and you do a good job in school, the teachers tell me you're awfully smart and you're good students. Isn't that right? All right. God Bless You and have a nice time now. Bye-Bye now.

I am deeply grateful to Mayor Tate, to Mr. Dilworth, Members of his Board for accompanying you, Mr. Vice President on this tour. This school here is labeled "catholic" but I think you know, at least we should know, that we have opened the doors of this school to the neighborhood and that actually more than 1/3 of the youngsters here are not of the catholic faith but nevertheless you won't be able to tell by looking at one or another of them because the education directed to all of them is a sound fundamental type of an education. We are grateful, also, for the various federal grants which help us to render a service, again, not to the school, not to the church, but to these youngsters. For your visit, your kind words, we are deeply grateful, however there is a tradition in this school, sometimes limited to the Archbishop, but certainly on this occasion I yield to your presence,

and that is, I believe, you have one more message to give these youngsters.
May I suggest that you give it to them. (Archbishop Kroll)

Vice President Humphrey resumes his talk.....

"I have a very, very, very special announcement for you and a very, very special gift for you, namely, that you are going to have a free day. How do you like that? Do you like that? And, by the way, I want the students to notice that the sisters were applauding and clapping their hands louder than you were. And you get the free day, too, sisters. Thank you very very much. God Bless You.



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