RESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHRE WESTERN WASHINGTON STATE COLLEGE

BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

SEPTEMBER 28, 1966

The first thing I want to do today is give

recognition to two friends who prevailed on me to be here today -- Congressman Lloyd Meeds and my old friend Barney Goltz, who is your director of planning and development Barney was in some of my political science classes -- back in my days as a professor -- at Macalester College in Minnesota.

Lloyd and Barney had another ally in Ted Van Dyk of my staff, who is minding the store back in Washington. I know that Ted was born and raised here in Bellingham, and he's still a loyal civic booster.

Barney, this is wonderful country. I may just follow you out here. I can't think of anything more stimulating than living in the Northwest and being with college students.

I came here directly from Eugene, Oregon, where I addressed the student body at the University of Oregon. It's quite an experience flying up across the Columbia River, seeing the Cascades to the right, Puget Sound and the ocean to the left, and the green land in between.

This is a good land. It is the land of the future. And I envy your opportunity to be where you are, and to be educating yourselves at this time when young people have more to look forward to than

at any other time in our history.

I understand that today is the first day of classes in the fall session. For many of you, it is the first day of college. And I can't help feeling some of the excitement and anticipation that I'm sure you do.

More young Americans are in college this year than all the Americans alive when our nation was founded. More Americans are in graduate schools than all the Americans who bore arms during the Revolution.

And our country will need the efforts and the personal commitment of every one of these Americans -- every one of you -- in the years ahead.

By the time one of you may be standing here as a public official at some future occasion, the

American people will number more than three hundred million -- and the people in the world almost too many to even think about.

You will be in charge. You will be responsible for our national security and my Medicare. You will be responsible for the education of my grandchildren and the freedom of my great-grandchildren.

The generation of your parents had to fight desperately, at your age, to stave off poverty at home and violence abroad -- and they in large part succeeded.

Yet the challenges facing you are greater, and far more exciting, than those they faced. The scale of the effort to be required of you will be far greater than that required of them.

There are some who are critical of today's young

people. I cannot agree with them.

I have met and talked with thousands of young

Americans across our country -- and in uniforms

and shirtsleeves overseas.

I feel a sense of concern and of involvement

among you.

You set high standards for yourselves, and you

You set high standards for yourselves, and you judge yourselves harshly.

I believe you are performing remarkably well in the system your parents built, yet I know that you are probing relentlessly to find your own personal relationship to it . . . seeking your own identity.

And that is as it should be.

The story is told that Pericles of Ancient Greece in his later years came across a young lawyer of Athens who was deeply devoted to causes, who wished to

change immediately everything that was wrong in the world.

Pericles chastised the young man for being too bold and brash -- for concerning himself with things better left to older men.

Pericles said: "Of course I understand for I, too, was overeager in my youth. But now that I am older I have learned better. Take my advice and do not become so involved."

To which the young man replied: "I regret

I did not have the privilege of knowing you when you
were at your best."

I hope, as young people, that you will become involved in what is happening around you.

If you do not choose to follow, precisely, the trails that we have blazed ahead, then I do not think

we ought to count the future unsafe in your hands.

For it has been the special blessing of this land that each generation of Americans has called its own cadence, and written its own music -- and our greatest songs are still unsung.

Now, in this beautiful setting, I would like

to do something that gives me a great deal of pleasure.

For many years you could be just about certain that any building financed in some way by the federal government would be dull and pedestrian in its architecture.

But, like a lot of other things, this is changing too.

We are determined to try to put some fresh spirit into architecture . . . to stimulate and to

reward excellence in design.

One of the ways this has been done was through a nationwide contest for design excellence, sponsored by the new Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Only five examples of excellence were singled out for this award throughout the country. They were chosen by a panel of distinguished architects from among more than three hundred and fifty entries.

In the college housing category, the only winner was the Ridgeway Dormitories here at Western.

The Ridgeway Dormitories fit harmoniously into their setting. They were built for people, and it shows. And, as with other buildings of excellence, just living with them every day should make life just a little better and more pleasant.

So now it is my honor to present this design award and to congratulate the architect, Fred Bassetti and Company; the landscape architect, Richard Haag, Associates; the builder, Cawdrey and Vemo, Vomo Incorporated, and Western Washington State College.

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