

Senator Fred Harris - Latin America Student News Team

OPENING STATEMENT

STUDENT PANEL

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

Mr. Humphrey

Bob Bird Sr. Co

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Kahn

STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

President Kamm

MARCH 13, 1967

Mayor Hanson

Mr. Henry Bennett  
'Point 4'

Is there anyone here interesting  
Place!

My fellow students, I don't intend to talk long  
today -- simply to get things started. I hear from  
myself all the time. I'm far more interested in  
hearing from you.

⌞ In the way of beginning, I'd like to point out  
that -- very quietly, without any big hoopla -- we have  
just entered the final third of the 20th century.

⌞ Some Carl Sandburg lines, which I read as a  
schoolboy, have always stuck in my mind:

Sen Harris -  
Barry Goldwater

Tyuan Bros

"I am riding on a limited express, one of the crack trains of the nation ... hurtling across the prairie into blue haze and dark air, go 15 all-steel coaches holding a thousand people ... I ask a man in the smoker where he is going and he answers: Omaha."

When those lines were written, the outside limit of man's aspiration was to ride an all-steel train to Omaha.

↳ Today we are in sight of the moon, and beyond.

↳ We take for granted the kind of society we live in.

But I think it might do us some good to get some perspective on our times.

↳ The overall changes the first two-thirds of this century have brought to our lives have been greater than those in the several centuries preceding. And, if we talk about technological change alone, we see more new developments than in the 5 thousand years preceding.

I tell you today that the next 33 years will make  
the last 66 seem a period of stability ~~and~~ *retreat*

These are the years in which you will be in  
charge -- or, as a young fellow looking ahead myself,  
I should amend that to say these will be the years when  
you will almost be in charge.

What are these years going to bring?

As chairman of the Space Council I am quite sure today,  
for instance, that we shall see ahead the establishment of  
permanent bases on the moon ... the development of a  
whole family of earth-orbiting stations, manned and  
supplied by regular ferry services ... the launching of  
unmanned probes to every part of the solar system, and  
probably manned expeditions as well.

As chairman of the new Marine Sciences Council,  
I am equally sure that we shall develop man's capability  
to live on the ocean's floor ...

*I'm going  
to have to  
depend on  
you for  
my future*

that we shall use the tides as energy sources ... that we shall use de-salinated water to make deserts bloom. L

In the next 15 years alone -- the years in which you will be at the peak of your creative and productive abilities -- we shall certainly see:

L In medicine, the routine transplantation of internal organs from one person to another and the widespread use of artificial organs.

L In education, a general use of teaching machines in far more sophisticated ways than today.

L In psychiatry, the common use of drugs to modify the personality. Some campuses are trying this already LSD

L In industry, the application of automation to many kinds of management decision-making.

L In engineering, the channeling of water from surplus areas to shortage areas thousands of miles away.



Brown Told you about  
1900

In worldwide communications, the everyday use of translating machines. ~~of Communication~~ Satellites

Hank JBA  
Hank's  
Coach  
OSU  
Athletic Director

By the year two thousand -- when many of you will bear direct responsibility for national policy -- the scientists tell us we can foresee the virtual elimination of bacterial and viral diseases ... the modification of genetic chemistry ... the evolution of universal language ... commercial transport by ballistic missile ... the use of robots for everyday work and of high-IQ computers for sophisticated tasks ... and the probable creation, in the laboratory, of primitive forms of artificial life ... and shortly thereafter, chemical control of the aging process ... and perhaps even modified control of gravity.

Many of these things we will welcome without reservation. A few bear with them seeds of great danger.

The widest number are, in a sense, "neutral."

└ Their benefit to man will depend on how we use them.

Many of the mistakes ... the injustices ... the imbalances ... and undesirable social conditions, caused by change, which we live with today are here because earlier in this century they either were not foreseen -- after all, they got here in a hurry -- or because their probability was ignored.

└ Today we have the chance to avoid those mistakes.

We have the chance to make changes work for man, and not against him.

└ There are many ways we can do this -- through the upgrading of our education ... through the development of our human resources -- as in the war on poverty ...

through greater and better cooperation between the government, private business, agriculture, labor, our universities.

But the surest, and most important, way to  
get at the problems of tomorrow is for you to become  
personally involved in the world around you.

You remember that old recruiting poster:

"Uncle Sam Needs You."

Well, he does! Your country needs you. It  
needs you in the Peace Corps. It needs you in VISTA  
here at home. It needs you in volunteer organizations. *In Politics,*  
It needs you at your work, on your farm, or in your  
office as a responsible, involved citizen.

The time is now. The time is yours.

And I hope you don't mind if I come along.

Now I'd like to hear from you.

# # #

(Original)

TRANSCRIPT OF ADDRESS AND FORUM

THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FIELD HOUSE, OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

March 13, 1967

**PETERSON - HICKERSON REPORTING SERVICE**

LUTHER 7-9227 • 605 BEACON BUILDING

TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74108

1  
2  
3  
4 TRANSCRIPT OF ADDRESS AND FORUM

5  
6 THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

7 VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

8  
9 FIELD HOUSE, OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

10 STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

11 March 13, 1967  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23

24 Frank L. Peterson  
25 Certified Shorthand Reporter  
605 Beacon Building  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103



1 MR. CHIC DAMBACH: On behalf of the Forum Committee  
2 and Student Association, I would like to welcome you all to  
3 one of the really great events in the history of OSU. I would  
4 like to introduce the people on the platform with us. To the  
5 far left is Dr. James R. Scales, who is advisor to the Forum  
6 Committee. The next is Dr. Dan Kroll, on the Great Issues  
7 Committee, who has been very instrumental in making this  
8 program possible. We thank them for their help, and especially  
9 that of Dr. Robert Kamm. Then there is the Mayor of Stillwater,  
10 Mayor Henson; and then to my right is Bob Bird, president of  
11 the Student Association of OSU.

12 The panel members who have been selected to ask  
13 questions of the Vice-President are, to my far left, Merrill  
14 Jacobs, a graduate student in political science; Richard Ber-  
15 nard, a freshman in political science; Martha Merritt, a senior  
16 in political science; and Dale Stockton, the debate coach here  
17 at OSU. I am Chic Dambach, the chairman of the Forum Committee.

18 Doctor Kamm, the president of the university, will  
19 escort the Vice-President to the platform, and Senator Fred R.  
20 Harris will make the introduction.

21 SENATOR FRED R. HARRIS: Thank you very much for that  
22 warm greeting and thank you for a fantastic turnout for our  
23 distinguished visitor here in Oklahoma and in Oklahoma State  
24 University. LaDonna and I are very proud to accompany here  
25 one of the great men of our age in America. It has been our

1 thrill there in Washington to come to know our visitor in a  
2 very warm and personal way. We have been in his home; he  
3 and his wife, Muriel, have been in ours. And I can say to you  
4 there are few men who burst into greatness, were called to  
5 greatness, during the very brief period in the life of their  
6 country, but our visitor today is one whose service and contri-  
7 bution to our country and to the people of the world have  
8 stretched over a long period. He is old fashioned in the  
9 sense that he doesn't believe that there is any other base  
10 for decisions for those in public office other than the time-  
11 less base of morality. He is old fashioned, in that he is a  
12 man of deep compassion. He is honest with himself. He is a  
13 man who believes in people, who believes that problems are to  
14 be attacked and to be solved; and he is a man of unabashed,  
15 unashamed patriotism for his country and belief in its strength  
16 and future.

17 And so it is a great honor for me to say, ladies and  
18 gentlemen: The Vice-President of the United States, The  
19 Honorable Hubert Humphrey.

20 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you. Thank you very  
21 much, my obviously good friend, Senator Fred Harris. I do  
22 want to thank you for a most generous introduction.

23 May I first of all pay my respects to the officers  
24 of the Student Association, to Gene Reid, of course, and to  
25 Bob Bird and to Charles Dambach and to your distinguished

1 president of Oklahoma State University, who had the good judg-  
2 ment, the good fortune and the good sense to do his graduate  
3 work at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Robert Kamm is one  
4 of our illustrious graduates, and we are just highly honored  
5 that he is the president of this excellent university at Still-  
6 water, Oklahoma. There are many here that I should like to  
7 note by name, but one of the first things a man in public life  
8 learns is that if you start naming too many you always leave  
9 somebody out.

10 So I am going to start for a little while and brag on  
11 Fred Harris, since he did on me. Adlai Stevenson used to say  
12 that flattery was all right if you didn't inhale it; but I just  
13 took a great big, deep breath when Fred Harris was introducing  
14 me outside, because he gave a very flattering introduction.  
15 But we are proud of Mr. Harris, Senator Harris, as the United  
16 States Senator. We are proud of both of your United States  
17 Senators. I know of no state of the 50 states that is more  
18 ably and competently represented in the United States Senate  
19 than the State of Oklahoma by the representation of Senator  
20 Monroney and Senator Harris. These are two great senators.

21 Now, I understand that this hall has been graced by  
22 some other people. I understand my old friend Barry Goldwater  
23 was out here to see you. Well, I don't want to have any of  
24 these late shows and these reruns, so we won't go through that  
25 '64 campaign again. We will just leave it. Barry spoke for the



1 19th century. I want to say a word for the 20th century.  
2 I may even get so reckless as to go to the 21st century if  
3 you encourage me. Then I understand that the Tijuana Brass  
4 was out here. Well, I want you to know that I am a fan of  
5 Albert's myself, and I think the Tijuana Brass is better than  
6 either Goldwater or Humphrey. In fact, we almost had the  
7 Tijuana Brass come to my son's wedding, until they had to  
8 change the wedding date and we couldn't fix up to get the  
9 Tijuana Brass away from a commercial appointment that they  
10 had, because I had in mind a large charitable contribution  
11 on their part.

12 I was greeted as I came to your university by two  
13 youngsters, two fine young people, a grandson and a grand-  
14 daughter of a very great American, and a great American that  
15 lives in the spirit of this university. I understand that  
16 there are buildings here named in his honor, in his memory,  
17 but there is something greater than a building in his memory  
18 and it is the tremendous program of technical assistance that  
19 the United States of America has underwritten since the days  
20 of Dr. Henry Bennett of Oklahoma State University. It is a  
21 marvelous thing to be able to leave such a lasting impact upon  
22 not only your state, your university, but upon the world.  
23 I am pleased that President Kamm is here and that some of the  
24 members of the Board of Regents or Trustees, and the Deans  
25 of the respective schools are here because I think I ought

1 to explain something to the students. You see, I am an elected  
2 officer of government. I have been reading the public opinion  
3 polls, and my work is rather precarious. It has an uncertain  
4 tenure. You never can tell when I will need work, and I am  
5 a refugee from a classroom, I want Doctor Kamm to know. In  
6 fact, when he was in graduate school, first, I was Mayor of  
7 Minneapolis, and prior to that when he was in graduate school  
8 I was Professor of Political Science over at Macalester College,  
9 so just in case things don't work out as I plan them working  
10 out in 1968, I want to leave my application over here on the  
11 desk. I have grown to like this university already; and I am  
12 an easy grader, students. I thought you ought to know that.

13 I have been somewhat shaken today, though. Nobody has  
14 walked out yet. Generally, when I go to speak there are a  
15 few people that get to the wrong meeting, and just at the time  
16 I get up to talk they get up and walk out. They find out they  
17 are in the wrong place. But I don't want to encourage any of  
18 that at all. The best part is yet to come, the questions that  
19 are going to be asked. I want to visit with you very briefly  
20 and then to do what you came here to see happen, to have the  
21 panel ask questions, and hopefully I shall try to provide at  
22 least responsible and responsive answers.

23 I don't intend to take too much of your time in this  
24 preliminary statement, but I do think that we ought to remember  
25 one fact. We have just entered the final third of the 20th

1 century. We are no longer in the first part of the 20th cen-  
2 tury. We are in the final third. We are looking now, and  
3 everything that we do, everything that we talk about, every-  
4 thing that we plan from here on out, ought to be Century 21,  
5 and I am going to talk to you about it because you are going  
6 to have a lot to say about this final third. You already have  
7 a lot to say. Don't you vote here at the age of 19 in the  
8 State of Oklahoma? In some places -- not yet? You want to.  
9 Well, I am for having you vote at 18, so I am for the consti-  
10 tutional amendment.

11 Just to give you an idea of how far we have come and  
12 what has been happening, I want to quote some lines of Carl  
13 Sandburg, my favorite American poet, and in a very real sense  
14 an author. These are words that I have spoken so many places  
15 that they are sort of old hat to some of the people that  
16 follow around. Here are the lines that Sandburg wrote:

17 "I am riding on a limited express, one of the  
18 crack trains of the nation.

19 Hurtling across the prairie into blue haze and  
20 dark air go fifteen all-steel coaches  
21 holding a thousand people.

22 I ask a man in the smoker where he is going  
23 and he answers: 'Omaha.'

24 Well, now, my dear friends, when those lines were written the  
25 outside limit of man's aspiration, of his imagination, at  
least for many, was to ride in an all steel train as far as  
Omaha. I might add, Omaha is a nice place, but don't make



1 that your only ambition in life at this time. But this gives  
2 you some idea of where we are and where we have been; because  
3 today we are in sight of the moon and beyond. We take for  
4 granted the kind of a society we live in; but I think it might  
5 do us some good to get a perspective on our times.

6 The overall changes of the first two-thirds of this,  
7 the 20th century, have brought to your lives and to mine  
8 greater changes than all of those in the several centuries  
9 preceding, and if we talk about technological change, scien-  
10 tific change, we have seen more new developments in the last  
11 50 years than in the 5,000 preceding years, and that is quite  
12 a comparison. And I think I can tell you today as one that  
13 is deeply involved in science and technology in our government  
14 that the next 33 years will make the last 66 seem like a period  
15 of stability or retreat. These are years in which you will be  
16 in charge, these next 33; and I want to take a good look at you,  
17 because you are going to have to be in charge of my Medicare,  
18 and I want to be sure I get it. These are the years that you  
19 are going to be running things, and I want to make sure that  
20 we have some idea of what things these next years are going  
21 to bring. I know that you have a great coach here, a great  
22 athletic director, and he knows how to have that slowdown game  
23 in basketball. I hope he can slow things down just enough  
24 for me to be able to enjoy the next 33 years that we have here,  
25 and I will get around to him a little later.

1           As chairman of the Space Council, and that is one  
2 of the functions I have, I should tell you that every time  
3 the Congress assigns a Vice-President to do anything it's a  
4 rather unusual assignment. The Vice-President is the only  
5 officer in government that has responsibility but no authority.  
6 You can receive all the complaints, but you can't do much about  
7 them. But I have been selected, as every Vice-President is,  
8 to the office of chairman of the Space Council. That's to  
9 deal with all of these fantastic developments in outer space,  
10 the exploration of the stars. Only last summer I was made  
11 chairman of the Council on Oceanography, to deal with all of  
12 the seas. I told President Johnson, I said, "You know, the  
13 Congress has really made quite an evaluation of us. The waters  
14 cover 71 per cent of the earth. Space is infinity. I am in  
15 charge of space, I am in charge of 71 per cent of the earth.  
16 How are you doing with the little speck that you have?" I told  
17 him that my fish and astronauts are acting better than his  
18 voters do. Well, as chairman of the Space Council, I think  
19 we get a little idea of what the future has in mind. Let me  
20 tell you what we see.

21           We see the establishment of permanent bases on the  
22 moon in the next ten years for sure, maybe the next five; the  
23 development of a whole family of earth orbiting stations,  
24 manned orbiting laboratories. We will put our next telescopes  
25 to look at the stars, not on top of a mountain but in space.

1 We have built the biggest telescope that you can put that has  
2 any useful purpose already. What is it, Mount Palomar? We  
3 will put the next telescopes two to three hundred, four hundred  
4 miles above the earth and view the cosmos and the universe.  
5 We will have manned and supplied earth orbiting stations by  
6 a regular ferry service. We will have people that are on  
7 earth that go on up and change the batteries, repair the  
8 satellites and come on down. Our next exercise in the space  
9 program is to develop the techniques where men can live in  
10 space a hundred days, two hundred days, a year; where they can  
11 go on up and do their scientific research, literally have a  
12 university in orbit. And look at how some of these professors  
13 are going to look when they take off in a rocket to go up there  
14 and spend another month or two with their friends in outer  
15 space. It's going to happen. There will be the launching of  
16 unmanned probes to every part of the solar system, and prob-  
17 ably manned expeditions as well, and I am talking about Venus,  
18 Mars and Jupiter. We are going to learn about our environment.  
19 And lest anybody ask you what we want to do this for, I can  
20 only tell you this: That you are children of the sun, the  
21 solar system, and you ought to know all about your neighborhood.  
22 Your neighborhood is no longer Stillwater or this university  
23 or Oklahoma or the United States or even this world. The  
24 environmental conditions that will affect your lives in the  
25 next 33 years or the next 50 years will also be environmental



1 factors from space itself, and we need to learn more about our  
2 home. As chairman of the new Oceanography Council or Marine  
3 Science Council, I am equally sure we are going to develop  
4 man's capability to live on the ocean floor. We are now per-  
5 fecting building mechanisms, machines and structures to put  
6 buildings on the floor of the ocean so that you live there  
7 and study there and work there. We are contemplating how we  
8 will mine the sea bed and its vast depths of gold, of manganese,  
9 copper and precious metals in the ocean, on the ocean floor,  
10 and we intend to exploit and develop it. We shall use the  
11 tides as sources of energy, and we shall have desalinated  
12 water to make the deserts bloom. That is within the next few  
13 years, between atomic energy and the oceans we will have vast  
14 quantities of water at an economical price that literally will  
15 make the deserts bloom.

16 In the next 15 years in which you will be at the peak  
17 of your creative capacities, we will see in medicine, for  
18 example, the routine transplantation of internal organs from  
19 one person to another, and the widespread use of artificial  
20 organs. This is modern surgery. In education, a general use  
21 of teaching machines in far more sophisticated ways than today.  
22 In industry, the common use of drugs to modify the personality.  
23 Now, some campuses are already engaged in this with LSD.  
24 In industry, the application of automation to many kinds of  
25 management decision making; in engineering, the channeling of

1 water from the surplus areas to the shortages, to the deficit  
2 areas thousands of miles away. In worldwide communication,  
3 communications satellites. I can say to Doctor Kamm, the head  
4 of your university, that within the next 15 years a university  
5 such as Oklahoma State University will be conducting classes  
6 not with just your professors here, but through the techniques  
7 of communications satellites and closed circuit television.  
8 You will be able to have professors from ten different coun-  
9 tries on your campus any day, so that the communications  
10 satellites will revolutionize the whole experience of education  
11 and make you students of the world.

12 By the year 2000 -- and that's quite a long ways  
13 away, but not as far as it appears -- many of you will bear  
14 direct responsibility for national policies. The scientists  
15 tell us that we can foresee the virtual elimination of bac-  
16 terial and viral diseases; the modification of genetic chem-  
17 istry; the evolution of a universal language; commerce, trans-  
18 port by ballistic missile; the use of robots for everyday work  
19 and high IQ computers for sophisticated tasks; and the probable  
20 creation in the laboratory of primitive forms of artificial  
21 life, and shortly thereafter -- and I am afraid they are a  
22 little late with this one -- the chemical control of the aging  
23 process, and perhaps even modified control of gravity. We  
24 know we will control the weather. We know that that can be  
25 done in just a short period of time.



1           These are the things that the student of today must  
2 think about, because what is taking place in the laboratory  
3 today, my fellow students, will be a reality 15 to 20 years  
4 from now, and everything that I have mentioned to you today  
5 is taking place in the laboratory. It is there in experimental  
6 form, and it is now only the matter of perfecting it. Who  
7 would have dreamed that we would have come as far as we have?  
8 The computer, the first computer, is 17 years old, and it's a  
9 museum piece in the Smithsonian Institution. John Glenn's  
10 space capsule, our first space capsule, is six years old, and  
11 it's a museum piece. We are moving at such an unbelievable  
12 pace of scientific and technological change that you wonder,  
13 "What next?"

14           Now, I must say that science and technology are  
15 neutral. What happens with this change is in your hands.  
16 Most all of these things that I have talked about can either  
17 be for good or for evil. Their benefit to man will depend on  
18 how we use them, and that's why we need the liberal arts  
19 college. This is why we need to study the humanities as well  
20 as the sciences. Many of the mistakes, the injustices and the  
21 imbalances and undesirable social conditions that are caused  
22 by change which we live with today are here because earlier  
23 in this century they either were not foreseen or they were  
24 probably ignored.

25           Now, make no mistake about it, the scientific changes

1 that I have spoken to you about will literally revolutionize  
2 the American society and the society of the world. The question  
3 is: What is going to be the impact on people? Will we have  
4 more humane people? Will we have a more just society? Will  
5 we have a society in which there is a greater degree of oppor-  
6 tunity, or will we use these instruments to be our masters  
7 rather than to be masters of science and technology? Today  
8 we have the choice and we have the chance to avoid these  
9 mistakes. I believe it was Toynbee who reminded us that these  
10 are the most dangerous of times and yet they are the most  
11 hopeful of times, filled with unbelievable danger and yet  
12 filled with unbelievable promise. Who was it that said --  
13 H. G. Wells, that civilization is a race between catastrophe  
14 and education, and I think it is. For the first time in our  
15 lives we have the means, the tools, to make it possible for  
16 all of mankind to share in the benefits of developed civili-  
17 zation.

18 One of the ways to do this, as I say, is to upgrade  
19 education. The development of our human resources -- and this  
20 is what your government is trying to do, working together with  
21 government and private industry and trade unions and agricul-  
22 ture and universities, a great new American partnership, to do  
23 what? To upgrade the quality of life, not just the quantity  
24 of life, but the quality of life, and we are reaching down now  
25 to the least of these. We are going into our ghettos and our

1 world poverty areas and we are finding there that there is  
2 great talent, great ability that has gone to waste, and we  
3 are beginning to rescue that and bring it into the mainstream  
4 of American life, because of all the wonders that I have  
5 spoken to you about, remember what St. Augustine said. He  
6 said the most wondrous thing of all is man himself, much more  
7 wondrous than any scientific breakthrough. And the question  
8 that we have to keep in mind is: How do we develop the moral,  
9 the ethical purposes as a people to convert this fantastic  
10 wealth and productivity, this science and this technology  
11 into the kind of a world which we want? How do we use nuclear  
12 energy for peace rather than for war? How do we organize the  
13 peace in the world so that man can save himself from bloodbaths?  
14 How do we finally narrow the gap between the rich and the poor  
15 nations of the world? Because, make no mistake about it,  
16 where there is constant want, there is no peace, and poverty  
17 is the greatest threat to the peace that we have.

18 So this is what a university is about, and this is  
19 what you are about, and that is why I came out here, to remind  
20 you of an old recruiting poster that your fathers knew, and it  
21 still is being used. It's that poster that says, "Uncle Sam  
22 needs you," and they used to have that finger out like that.  
23 Well, he does, and he doesn't need you men just in the Armed  
24 Forces, because there are ways that they take care of that, as  
25 you know. But he needs you, though. This country needs you.



1 It needs you in the Peace Corps. It needs you in VISTA,  
2 Volunteers In Service To America. It needs you to help the  
3 children that are deprived, that have had an inadequate edu-  
4 cation, and on every campus of every college and university  
5 there should be a cadre of young men and women, bright, dedi-  
6 cated, socially conscious, that go on out to help the under-  
7 privileged, to train them, to work with them, to take the  
8 university and make it an experience in life rather than on  
9 the campus. I want the American universities to be involved  
10 in community life. I want them to be, as we say, where the  
11 action is, and a university needs to be a part of a living  
12 community, not just the campus itself.

13 Now, I am going to go over here and sit down, and  
14 you can toss those questions. Be a volunteer. Join up.  
15 Don't be a cynic. Let me just tell you as one who has been  
16 in graduate school: You don't prove yourself to be an intellec-  
17 tual by just being against things. You just prove yourself to  
18 be wrong sometimes. Join a political party of your own choice.  
19 If you want some private advice after the meeting, I will talk  
20 to you. I have heard so many students say, "Oh, I don't want  
21 to get involved in politics, it's dirty." They just want to  
22 sit up there, you know, on the sidelines, and when the folks  
23 are out there on the political battlefield they just want to  
24 stand there and say, "Look at those crooks." Well, if you  
25 think politics is dirty, get yourself a bar of political

1 Ivory soap and get in there and clean it up. That's all I am  
2 telling you. Give of yourself, and when you give of yourself  
3 you will get more than you give. The greatest joy that a  
4 person has in life is working with others, sharing with others,  
5 and the more you give the more you receive. The more you  
6 share the more you have. The more you work, the more energy  
7 you have, so since you really want some action, go to it.  
8 I will try to help you out. Let's go.

9 MR. DAMBACH: The questions being asked are from the  
10 panel members themselves. Many of them have been submitted  
11 by the students, and we appreciate those questions. To begin  
12 the questioning is Mr. Dale Stockton.

13 MR. STOCKTON: Mr. Vice-President, many have argued  
14 that the war in Vietnam poses serious moral questions, and I  
15 notice that you spoke about the need for humanities to discern  
16 some of the questions of a humane society. How does the  
17 Johnson administration treat the moral elements in any serious  
18 question of international affairs where the national self-  
19 interest has to be given premium?

20 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: The best definition that  
21 was ever given of a war was by General Sherman, and I do not say  
22 this in profanity, but only as a historical reference, that  
23 war, General Sherman said, is hell, and that's it. It is  
24 carnage. It is destruction. It is blood. It is death and  
25 it is pain. But mankind has been striving for centuries to

1 find a substitute for war, and no country has done as much to  
2 have urged that substitute or that alternative, no country has  
3 done more than the United States of America. We know that the  
4 war in Vietnam has tragic implications and tragic develop-  
5 ments. This is true of every war. But as to the moral aspect  
6 of it, if I may just try to put it in perspective, I don't  
7 believe it's very moral, my well-fed, prosperous fellow  
8 Americans, since this nation does have about half the total  
9 gross national product of the world for our two hundred  
10 million people -- the rest of the three billion get the rest  
11 of it -- I don't think it's very moral for a nation that has  
12 been blessed as this one has, that has the role of responsi-  
13 bility in world affairs that this one has, the role of being  
14 really the leader of free peoples -- even though we didn't  
15 design it that way, it has happened that way -- I don't think  
16 it would be very moral to let a totalitarian, dictatorial,  
17 tyrannical regime roll over nations, absorb them in the name of  
18 peace. Let me just -- if you will give me a moment. Today we  
19 have a better relationship with the Soviet Union than we had 20  
20 years ago. It is our hope, and we have some reason to believe  
21 that that hope can be fulfilled, that the United States and the  
22 Soviet Union can work together on a number of matters to create  
23 a more peaceful and a more stable world. But in 1945 at the  
24 end of World War II, the American people, as usual, dismantled  
25 their military establishment. Mr. Stalin did not. He had



1 twenty million men under arms. In 1946, Mr. Stalin said to  
2 Harry Truman, then the president, "I want to keep certain  
3 provinces, certain areas in northern Iran. My forces are  
4 there. I am going to keep it. I am going to take it." And  
5 we could have said, "Why, go ahead, it isn't worth the life  
6 of one American. Who cares?" But President Truman didn't  
7 say that. He said, "Mr. Stalin, you signed some agreements.  
8 You are going to keep them. Get out. And if you don't get  
9 out, the power of the United States will be used to get you  
10 out." A little later, Mr. Stalin tried us again -- by the  
11 way, Stalin got out. A little later, Mr. Stalin tried us in  
12 the northeast provinces of Turkey; and then there was the  
13 civil war in Greece, which was not much of a civil war. It  
14 was a Communist inspired insurrection. Mr. Truman 20 years  
15 ago yesterday issued what was called the Truman Doctrine, and  
16 it was unpopular. America was relatively disarmed, but Harry  
17 Truman said that "It will be the policy of the United States  
18 of America to aid and protect nations who are made the victims  
19 of armed minorities within and aggressive forces from without,"  
20 and that has been the policy of this country through every  
21 president, regardless of political party. We could have given  
22 no aid to Greece and Turkey. There was no one to defend them.  
23 They were helpless, they were prostrate, they were broken.  
24 Berlin, in 1948, there were people today -- then, who are still  
25 talking the same way today, that said, "Why take a stand for

1 Berlin? It isn't worth anything. It's rubble. It's a hundred  
2 miles inside of the Communist world, inside the Iron Curtain,"  
3 and Harry Truman said, "We are not going to let Berlin die,  
4 because the day you let West Berlin die, on that day every  
5 other nation is threatened, because the aggressor has an in-  
6 satiable appetite," and we took the risk of confrontation again  
7 with the Soviet Union. We did it in Cuba. We did it in Korea,  
8 and we are having to do it in South Vietnam. The morality of  
9 this is that it is not moral for a people that believe in  
10 freedom to sacrifice the freedom of others simply because it  
11 would require some sacrifice on your part to protect the free-  
12 dom of others. The lesson of life is to protect and to help  
13 others. Now, our nation -- I will wind this up in a hurry.  
14 I know many people have said, "Look, we have killed innocent  
15 people, our bombs have killed civilians and babies and mothers,"  
16 and I suppose there is truth to that. There have been people  
17 that have been killed. But your government has not bombed  
18 civilians. Your government has not bombed open cities. Your  
19 government has sent its bombers in after targets, military tar-  
20 gets that have been placed in an area surrounded by civilians,  
21 and your pilots today are under more severe limitations and  
22 restrictions on bombing than any pilots that have ever been  
23 sent to fight so that they don't have unnecessary killing.  
24 But remember this, that Mao-Tse-tung said the people are the  
25 sea in which the fish of the guerilla swims. The guerilla warrior



1 is in the sea of the people, and sometimes innocent people are  
2 hurt, but I want those who have moral outrage against our America  
3 on these matters to ask what is the morality. What is the  
4 morality of having 50,000 officers of local government, teachers  
5 and nurses and doctors killed and assassinated and beheaded  
6 and kidnapped as the Viet Cong has done in South Vietnam?  
7 What is the morality? I guess that's enough.

8 MR. STOCKTON: I can see your concern for the people  
9 of foreign countries, and we are certainly in sympathy with  
10 that. We spend about three billion dollars a year, or a month,  
11 on the war and we have given traditionally a little less than  
12 two billion per year for economic aid of the underdeveloped  
13 countries. Doesn't the fact that we are spending 18 times as  
14 much in one year on the war than economic aid show more concern  
15 really for the welfare of America than it does for the under-  
16 developed nation?

17 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: We are in a war, and wars  
18 are expensive. That's the most expensive luxury, the most  
19 expensive operation that any country can possibly have. I  
20 can't think of anything that is more wasteful than spending  
21 60 -- 50 billion dollars for defense, unless you desperately  
22 need it. The greatest blessing that this world could have is  
23 if you could have disarmament and arms control so that we could  
24 convert these resources into peaceful uses. It would be wonder-  
25 ful if you didn't have to have a police department in Stillwater

1 or Oklahoma City, but you do have to have one, and you can  
2 better use that money to pay for teachers and doctors and  
3 social workers and to help the mentally retarded and to help  
4 the crippled, and it would be much better, but there are times  
5 when you are compelled by life -- the realities of life to  
6 take and spend resources for other things. We are spending  
7 about two billion dollars a month in Vietnam right now. Now,  
8 not all of that is for military. Much of that goes for food,  
9 supplies, medical care, for economic aid, so that it isn't  
10 all as if it's being used for bombing. Your government has  
11 said through the President of the United States that if we  
12 can get peace in Vietnam we are prepared to join with North  
13 Vietnam, we are prepared to join with all of the neighbors of  
14 Southeast Asia in a massive program of economic development  
15 of Southeast Asia. It is we who are asking for this. I have  
16 yet to hear a spokesman for China or Hanoi to say that they  
17 are willing to spend a nickel, or whatever their form of  
18 currency may be, for any development in the Mekong River or  
19 for Southeast Asia, but your government is willing to. Your  
20 government is putting money in the Asian Development Bank;  
21 and your government is not spending just two billion dollars  
22 a year in foreign aid. The total amount of foreign aid, in-  
23 cluding our Food for Peace program, our economic assistance,  
24 our contributions to the World Bank, the Inter-American Develop-  
25 ment Bank, the Inter-American Development Association, the

1 United Nations, runs over six billion dollars a year. That's  
2 a rather substantial sum. So that we have not been -- we have  
3 not been niggardly. We have not been the people that have  
4 held back. We might ask once again what would happen if you  
5 could get peace, and I want to talk to you just one minute:  
6 When I was in the Congress, in Korea -- the war in Korea came  
7 to an end. We spent more money in Korea by far than we are  
8 spending in this struggle. We are spending about 9.9 per cent  
9 of our gross national product today in Vietnam. That's for  
10 your total defense, not Vietnam, total defense; that's every-  
11 thing. We are spending about -- a little over three per cent  
12 of our GNP right now for Vietnam, three per cent. At the end  
13 of the war in Korea we were spending vast sums of money, up as  
14 high as 16 per cent, from 14 to 16 per cent of our GNP. The  
15 war was over. The cities of America had slums, the poor of the  
16 world were poor, the hungry of the world were still hungry.  
17 The schools of America needed Federal aid. The slums and the  
18 poor people of America needed help. Did our government and  
19 did our country take the money that you saved after war was  
20 over in Korea and put it into these other things? The answer  
21 is no. No, we didn't. We cut taxes, we cut expenditures and  
22 we said, "The war is over. Let's retrench." Now, the war is  
23 going to be over in Vietnam, and we pray it will be over soon.  
24 We don't know. We can't tell. But when it is over, your  
25 government is already today under appointment by the President



1 establishing and has established a task force, a study group  
2 to plan the projects and the programs for America and elsewhere  
3 in the world after Vietnam. And I want your help, because I  
4 am going to be out with my picket sign on that day and say,  
5 "Now, since we don't have to spend 22 billion dollars a year  
6 in Vietnam, are you willing to use that money in the war on  
7 poverty at home? Are you willing to use that money in the war  
8 on hunger through the world? Are you willing to use that money  
9 for economic development around the world?" After Korea the  
10 American people said no, the Congress said no. After Vietnam,  
11 I hope that you will be with me so we can say yes, because I  
12 think that's what we need to do.

13 MR. DAMBACH: Next will be Richard Bernard.

14 MR. BERNARD: Mr. Vice-President, in line with your  
15 very determined words that you just expressed on Vietnam,  
16 let me ask what might perhaps be the key question: Why aren't  
17 we bombing Hanoi and Haiphong?

18 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Why aren't we?

19 MR. BERNARD: Right.

20 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: War is a dangerous business.  
21 Even limited wars are very dangerous. The purpose of your  
22 country, since World War II, has been to organize the peace  
23 and not to promote a conflagration between the superior powers.  
24 There are two great world powers today and only two great world  
25 powers at this stage, the United States of America and the

1 Soviet Union. There are other dangerous powers, such as  
2 Communist China, even with its turbulence, and there are  
3 others of smaller countries that could precipitate a set  
4 of conditions that could drag other people into the fight.  
5 Your President tries as Commander-in-Chief to prevent the  
6 development of conditions that would draw into this limited  
7 conflict in Vietnam the major powers. In other words, we want  
8 to be sure, No. 1, that we take no step if we can possibly  
9 avoid it that would precipitate or trigger the participation  
10 in a military manner by the Soviet Union. Remember, the Soviet  
11 Union has a treaty with North Vietnam, and how do you think Ho  
12 Chi Minh feels? We have a treaty with South Vietnam. When  
13 South Vietnam asked us for help, we came with it. When Ho Chi  
14 Minh asked for help, he got some SAMS -- surface-to-air missiles--  
15 some guns, some trucks, some gasoline, but that's it, and we  
16 are hopeful that that's all it will be, and we don't want to  
17 see the hordes of Chinese come pouring over that border, so  
18 we have restrictions. We have certain restrictions that denies  
19 us -- our pilots, for example, getting too close to that Chinese  
20 border. We do not believe bombing Hanoi as such would be of  
21 military value. Hanoi is not a particularly important military  
22 center. There are some facilities around Hanoi, in the out-  
23 skirts of Hanoi, like a thermo plant, a cement plant, a steel  
24 plant, that are of military significance. Those targets are  
25 now being taken out. We had hoped that that wouldn't be

1 necessary, because some day they will have to be rebuilt, and  
2 that's why we have exercised this incredible patience and  
3 restraint, so that we didn't bomb them out. What good would  
4 it do to bomb out and destroy Hanoi? It's a city that has  
5 no real military industrial capacity, and to bomb it would  
6 only be to engage in unnecessary loss of life and destruction  
7 of property, and as to Haiphong the same thing is true. Now,  
8 as to the harbour of Haiphong, we could mine the harbour.  
9 We could, I said. I want to be very careful here so my friends  
10 of the press understand this. We could. We are not. We have  
11 made no such decision, but we could mine it. We could shell  
12 it with guns or drop bombs, but it just so happens that in that  
13 harbour a number of Soviet ships come every so often, and about  
14 the first time you drop a bomb down the smokestack of one of  
15 those ships you want to remember some other lessons in history.  
16 Remember the Maine. Remember the Lusitania. And it doesn't  
17 take any sense to get this country of ours into a major war.  
18 It doesn't -- the art of statesmanship is not how you get into  
19 a war, a nuclear war. Statesmanship is how do you prevent it,  
20 and we have been trying to prevent it. Now, we feel that we  
21 can interdict the supplies that come out of Hanoi and out of  
22 Haiphong without running the risk, first, of unmerciless  
23 destruction of civilians in Hanoi, and secondly, of running  
24 the risk of civilian losses in Haiphong and coming into open  
25 confrontation with the Soviet Union. I can only tell you



1 that the targeting that we have in North Vietnam is carefully  
2 thought out by the best commanders we have, the best diplomats  
3 we have, the best advice that the President has. And I might  
4 add that the issue is not whether we should bomb or not bomb.  
5 That's not the issue. Some people have tried to make that the  
6 issue. The issue is: What is effective? What is it that is  
7 effective in preventing the success of aggression from the north  
8 and of promoting self-determination in the south? The rate of  
9 bombing, the intensity of bombing, the targets that are bombed,  
10 all of these are strategic and tactical problems. It isn't  
11 a matter of whether you should bomb or you shouldn't bomb.  
12 And for those that think if you stop the bombing you will get  
13 peace, I say the evidence is on the other side. We have  
14 stopped it. We didn't bomb a single place in North Vietnam  
15 from 1963 to 1965, and the war was raging in South Vietnam at  
16 that time, and North Vietnamese mainline troops were in South  
17 Vietnam. The National Liberation Front had been organized  
18 out of Hanoi. It was operating in South Vietnam. Your govern-  
19 ment didn't drop one single little bitty firecracker in North  
20 Vietnam, much less a bomb, and we appealed, as did other govern-  
21 ments, to North Vietnam for peace. We had 25,000 American  
22 troops in 1965, January, in South Vietnam. We never bombed  
23 a place in North Vietnam until February, 1965. Did it bring  
24 Ho Chi Minh to the conference table? Not on your life. They  
25 poured in more men, more supplies, more mainline units, and

1 later on we bombed. Then in May of 1965 we had a five day pause.  
2 You know what the response was from Hanoi. They considered it  
3 an ultimatum. They never even opened the letter of your govern-  
4 ment to that government. They rejected it out of hand through  
5 the Russian ambassador who brought it back to the United States  
6 and said, "I am sorry." Later on in 1966 we had a 37 day pause  
7 in the bombing, and why? Because certain countries came to us,  
8 eastern European countries. We have no lack of contacts, you  
9 know. We have hundreds of diplomats. We even have self-  
10 appointed ones. We have all kinds of diplomats all over the  
11 world. We had the vice-president of the United Arab Republic.  
12 We had the president of India, we had the 17 non-aligned nations.  
13 We had the -- we had all kinds of people. We had the Holy See,  
14 the Pope and the others that were trying to help us bring a  
15 conference. The eastern European countries, socialist, commu-  
16 nist countries, came to our government and said, "If we could  
17 get 14 to 20 days" -- this is a historical fact -- "14 to 20  
18 days, we think we can get North Vietnam to come sit at a  
19 conference table and start to talk." Your government weighed  
20 this very carefully. The military commanders were opposed to  
21 it. They said, "It will cost American lives. It will only re-  
22 sult in failure, and it will mean that supplies pour in from  
23 the north at the expense of American lives." But your Presi-  
24 dent is a man that wants to see peace, as is your Vice-President,  
25 and we have done a little bit for it in our lifetimes, too.



1 And so we took the risk, and at the end of 14 days we didn't  
2 get a nibble. It was like fishing in a lake where there were  
3 no fish. They came in and said, "Give us seven more days, or  
4 until the twentieth day." We gave 20 days. No bombing. They  
5 came back and said again, "We have had no luck. Give us seven  
6 more days." And we went to the twenty-seventh day and not as  
7 much as even a courteous reply. Instead of that, denunciations  
8 from Hanoi. And at the end of the twenty-seventh day, the  
9 people that had come to your government suggesting that we  
10 have a pause in the bombing in order to get negotiations didn't  
11 come back again. It was all over. We went ten more days while  
12 we had men like myself and Arthur Goldberg and Averill Harriman  
13 and Dean Rusk and the Pope, the President of India, Mr. Tito  
14 of Yugoslavia, the Vice-President of the United Arab Republic,  
15 we had hundreds of diplomats and others that are not classified  
16 as diplomats out trying to get a peace feeler. We didn't even  
17 get a whisper. And now it is no longer a matter of a pause.  
18 The North Vietnamese say that they want your President to  
19 give an unconditional permanent cessation of bombing pledge,  
20 and maybe they might talk. I want to remind this audience  
21 that in Korea we had talks that lasted two years, and twice  
22 as many men, Americans, your fathers, your fathers and brothers  
23 and cousins, twice as many of them were killed after the talks  
24 started as before. So your President has said that we will  
25 negotiate any place, anywhere, under any reasonable circumstances,

1 in any proper forum, but we want to be sure that when we  
2 negotiate and when we stop the bombing to get the negotiations  
3 that there is at least some little give on the other side;  
4 as he said, any little indication that they are really inter-  
5 ested. And I must say: Is that asking too much? Why is it  
6 that we don't have Americans today buying ads in papers in  
7 other countries and saying, "Ho Chi Minh, won't you come to  
8 the conference table?" I can tell you today as your Vice-  
9 President that if anybody in Oklahoma can contact Ho Chi Minh  
10 and get him or any of his emissaries to come to a conference  
11 table, I give you my word as your Vice-President and a member  
12 of the President's Cabinet that we will have the Secretary of  
13 State or a prominent ambassador at that conference table within  
14 24 hours, and we will have a cease fire and we will have the  
15 peace. But we can't get anybody to talk about peace except in  
16 America. We have got a lot of folks here talking about peace;  
17 but we need people on the other side talking about peace.

18 MR. DAMBACH: Martha Merritt.

19 MISS MERRITT: The President has been described as  
20 having a credibility gap with the American people over the war  
21 in Vietnam. In your opinion, does that credibility gap exist?

22 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I am sure you expect me to  
23 say no, and that's just what I am going to say. I don't believe  
24 a credibility gap does exist. Some people feel that we must  
25 have all of the detailed information every day about what we

1 are going to try to do. Now, the surest way to not get peace  
2 is just to talk too much about every contact that you have.  
3 Right today, just as we are in this room, your government has  
4 contacts with forces that represent North Vietnam, the Viet  
5 Cong. There is no lack of contacts. We either have them our-  
6 selves or our friends and allies have them. We are never short  
7 of contacts. There is always a chance, we always hope there  
8 is a chance that those contacts will materialize into something  
9 real; but if I were to be asked by one of my friends from the  
10 press, "Who is that contact?" and I said, "Well, I can't answer  
11 that," somebody is going to say, "Well, there he goes again.  
12 See, he just won't tell you the truth." Well, I want to tell  
13 you: If we start telling who the contacts are, they are gone,  
14 they are out of business, and we have lost -- time after time  
15 this same thing has happened, time after time, because people  
16 have leaked -- the news has leaked or some information has  
17 leaked, and it has been resulting in failure of our efforts,  
18 diplomatic efforts. I think what the credibility gap refers  
19 to is, for example, that the cost of the war in fiscal '67  
20 was more than the President's budget was for '67. Now,  
21 there was a reason for that. We didn't know what our rate of  
22 buildup would be. We didn't know what might happen the next  
23 year, and we ended up after Korea having billions and billions  
24 and billions of dollars worth of military equipment that you  
25 paid for as taxpayers, and that your government sold at five



1 cents on the dollar afterwards, and we don't think that's very  
2 smart planning. So we said, "Look, we will see what goes  
3 through fiscal '67" -- that's up to June 30, 1967 -- "and  
4 we will come back to Congress in January of 1967 and ask for  
5 a supplemental." Some people say, "Well, the President should  
6 ask for it all at once. He knew it was going to cost another  
7 nine billion dollars. Why didn't he ask for it?" He didn't  
8 know it was going to cost nine billion dollars at all. He was  
9 hoping it wouldn't cost nine million dollars, and that's not  
10 credibility. I think that you had better -- let's put it this  
11 way: Why is it that some people are unwilling to believe their  
12 President, their Secretary of State, their Secretary of Defense,  
13 but seem to be willing to believe some wandering troubador from  
14 North Vietnam, or somebody else that comes around and says,  
15 "Well, I have got some information," and then when we say that  
16 the information is not accurate, somebody says, "Well, we don't  
17 believe you." I am of the opinion, my fellow Americans, that  
18 the man who is in the White House today and the man that pre-  
19 ceded him and the man that preceded him -- I think that every  
20 President of the United States has in his heart and in his mind  
21 but one desire, how to keep a peaceful world and how to pro-  
22 tect this country and make it a better country. I don't think  
23 you have ever had a President, Democrat or Republican, that  
24 didn't try to do what they thought was right, and you don't  
25 have Presidents that lie to you about your lives. You don't



1 have a Secretary of State who purposefully lies to you or  
2 falsifies the record, or the Secretary of Defense. These men  
3 are human beings. They love their families. They love their  
4 country. Why is it that we have to have people believe that  
5 somehow or another, for some cheap political gain, which ob-  
6 viously isn't working, some cheap political gain that a Presi-  
7 dent or a Vice-President or a Secretary of State or a Secretary  
8 of Defense would deliberately falsify? They are not going to  
9 do it. What North Vietnam wants out of this country today is  
10 doubt, suspicion, division, and if this country becomes filled  
11 with doubt about its leaders in this crucial thing -- you can  
12 argue about social security and minimum wages and farm programs--  
13 but we are in a battle, and if the enemy can promote division  
14 and disunity, promote doubt and confusion, can promote lack of  
15 trust of you in your generals, in your President, in your Vice-  
16 President, in your Secretary of State, in your Secretary of  
17 Defense, if the enemy can do that, they will win this war;  
18 because, remember, Ho Chi Minh said, for himself and for his  
19 forces then known as the Viet Minh, "We did not win the war  
20 against the French at Dien Bien Phu," he said, "we won it in  
21 Paris." I happen to think that the Viet Cong and North Vietnam  
22 and their propagandists from North Vietnam and Hanoi are hop-  
23 ing that they can win this war in Washington, that they can  
24 win it in Oklahoma, that they can win it in Minnesota, by  
25 dividing us, by getting us to be doubtful of each other, to be

1 suspicious of each other, to distrust each other, and don't  
2 you let it happen, because the men that you put over there --  
3 and your government put them there, and they didn't go because  
4 they wanted to take a trip -- there are 425,000 men over there.  
5 If you are not going to give them support, you ought to take  
6 them home. You have no right to leave those men over there  
7 without support.

8 MR. DAMBACH: The final question this afternoon will  
9 be from Mr. Merrill Jacobs.

10 MR. JACOBS: Mr. Vice-President, to what extent do  
11 you foresee a permanent United States military commitment to  
12 Southeast Asia, not only in Vietnam but such places as Thai-  
13 land? Does this look like a permanent arrangement?

14 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: The question is as to what  
15 extent do I see the possibility of a permanent military commit-  
16 ment, not only in Vietnam but in other areas of Southeast Asia.  
17 I don't see any permanent placement of American forces in  
18 Southeast Asia. You know the President of the United States  
19 did give a public commitment on this matter of South Vietnam.  
20 I think I should share with you a little intimacy about that.  
21 The President was in Manila and there was a great propaganda  
22 campaign going on all over the world to the effect that the  
23 United States was building permanent military bases, that we  
24 were going to stay there permanently; that we were going to  
25 occupy South Vietnam, so to speak, or we were going to make

1 it an American military base. Your President said that six  
2 months after the cessation of hostilities and the withdrawal  
3 of the troops of North Vietnam, and after the agreement upon  
4 peace terms, six months after those circumstances have been  
5 fulfilled that we would withdraw all American forces; that  
6 we would turn over all American bases to the civilian authori-  
7 ties of the South Vietnamese Government. Now, that was a  
8 pretty broad declaration. Some people think it went too far,  
9 because there are countries that are divided, such as Korea,  
10 in which we still have 50,000 troops on that 34th Parallel,  
11 and I might add that I think that investment and that guard  
12 there is well worth it. We have no intention of making South-  
13 east Asia an American garrison, none whatsoever. Our intention  
14 is, and our hope is, that we can help Southeast Asia develop  
15 the viability and the strength to defend itself and build it-  
16 self, and we think the prospects are good. Let me show you  
17 some of the evidence that has taken place already. We, first  
18 of all, as most of us -- I think if I would go through this  
19 audience and ask you what you know about Southeast Asia, most  
20 of you would start out with chow mein, Chaing Kai-shek, and  
21 then down to -- you could name some of the countries, and this  
22 is not any reflection on you. The American educational estab-  
23 lishment has not truly interested itself in the main on Asia.  
24 We are children of Europe, most of us, and yet in our lifetime  
25 the struggles in which this country has been involved have



1 started in the Pacific, Pearl Harbour, Korea, and now in South  
2 Vietnam. Asia represents one-half of the population of the  
3 earth, and I don't think that the United States can be a world  
4 leader with a half-world knowledge, and Asia represents a vital  
5 and strong people that need and want to come out of their  
6 backwardness in many areas into a whole new life, and there  
7 is a mighty contest going on in Asia today between the forces  
8 of militant Asian communism on the one hand and nationalism  
9 and the desire for independence and freedom of the people on  
10 the other hand. Now, our participation today in South Viet  
11 Nam, while it has been costly and painful, has yielded some  
12 results. For example, for the first time the Asian nations  
13 are working together in regional organizations: The recent  
14 economic conference in Seoul, Korea, where the ten Asian  
15 nations set up the Asian Pacific Council for further consul-  
16 tation in terms of economic and social development; the South-  
17 east Asian Educational Conference at Bangkok, where they are  
18 planning a vast expansion of both elementary -- of elementary,  
19 secondary and higher education; the Japanese Foreign Ministers  
20 Conference in Tokyo, a tremendous new interest by Japan in  
21 building a better and more stable Asia; the improved relation-  
22 ships that we have in Asia with India and the prominent role  
23 that both India and Pakistan will play in the future of Asia;  
24 the peace at Tashkent, which Mr. Kosygin of the Soviet Union,  
25 to his everlasting credit, helped bring about. These are the

1 signs of a new and better Asia. There was a war going on in  
2 Asia not long ago between Indonesia and Malaysia. That war  
3 is over, and that war took thousands of lives. Indonesia,  
4 which is one of the great nations of the world, only a year  
5 and a half ago was in the iron grip of Chinese Communist power,  
6 iron grip of it. Three million members of the Communist party,  
7 25 million members in the Communist fronts, Sukarno and his  
8 group had completely gone over to the Chinese Communist party,  
9 and they had withdrawn from the United Nations, broken their  
10 relationships with other countries, and our presence in Viet-  
11 nam, my fellow Americans, has helped Indonesia regain her  
12 freedom. The Foreign Minister of Vietnam told the man who is  
13 talking to you -- and I have known him for 20 years -- he came  
14 to my home in Minnesota in September of this year, and said in  
15 substance that, "We are winning the freedom of Indonesia, Mr.  
16 Vice-President, we are winning it back, because the United  
17 States of America is in Southeast Asia defending free people  
18 and warding off Communist aggression." They never would have  
19 had a chance, so there is progress, and much is beginning to  
20 develop; and I think that you are going to see a tremendous  
21 development in Southeast Asia, the Asian Development Bank,  
22 the Mekong River Development. David Lilienthal, as you know,  
23 is over there with a tremendous plan, a great plan of engineer-  
24 ing development, so be of good cheer and remember that nation  
25 building takes longer than winning wars.

\* \* \* \* \*







# 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](http://www.mnhs.org)