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VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEMOCRATIC

CENTRAL COMMITTEE VALENTINE DANCE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY - MARYLAND

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FEBRUARY 14, 1968

Plowmer 7 ishuman Club-Receptor

It is always good to be back in Montgomery County,
the place which was home to Muriel and me and to children for eighteen years -- a long time in the life of any family.

This is where our children grew up and where they attended school. This is where we developed some wonderful friendships with our neighbors on Coquelin Terrace -- friendships we shall always cherish.

18 fice

Being voters in Minnesota, we never became directly involved in that great enterprise which occupies so many of our friends in Montgomery County: Democratic precinct politics.

For a long time I thought I lived in Chevy Chase -until I found that to be really "in" I had to say I lived
in seven-sixteen. 7 - 16

That active involvement in precinct politics has made the Montgomery County Democratic Party truly unique.

This is the county where the Democratic Party is in continuous session -- where registration drives take place twice a year without urging and cajoling from on high.

This is the county which ranks first in the Dollars for Democrats Drive...where the precinct workers knock on doors for contributions year after year...where the residents are willing to contribute to the party,

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election year or not...where there is grassroots party strength.

Montgomery County, as has often been pointed out, is one of the most prosperous counties in the nation.

We don't need my friend Dick Scammon to tell us that prosperous counties are not always Democratic counties.

The fact that you have been able to overcome your statistical handicaps -- to stay respectable politically despite your general respectability -- demonstrates a deep devotion to traditional Democratic causes ... education health...civil rights...a full measure of opportunity for every American.

Those are some of the causes Evron Kirkpatrick, who is here tonight, named when he urged me to get active in politics years ago.

I know that he and the rest of you must share my sense of pride in the dramatic progress we Democrats have made calling during the last few years.

If there are victories behind us, however, there are also some urgent challenges ahead of us -- as a party and as a nation.

Do we mean to press on with our quest for full and equal opportunity, for clean and safe cities, for prosperous rural communities in America? -- Or is this society ready for The Pause so example promoted year after year by our opponents?

Are we ready to meet our obligations abroad in this hungry, striving dangerous world? -- Or do we mean to withdraw, and let the fate of this planet be decided in a nuclear age without U.S. participation?

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John F. Kennedy once said, "Peace and freedom do not come cheap, and we are destined -- all of us here today -- to live out most if not all of our lives in uncertainty and challenge and peril."

To survive and progress in that kind of a world requires courageous, determined leadership -- leadership able to keep bright the vision of a world where there is peace, where there is freedom from want, from hunger, from fear and ignorance.

We Democrats have provided that kind of leadership over the years in the White House, in the Congress, in our own communities.

Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and John F. Kennedy provided it.

President Lyndon B. Johnson is providing it today.

AN ADDRESS BY

THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

THE VICE PRESIDENT
OF
THE UNITED STATES

TO THE

DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Indian Spring Country Club Silver Spring, Maryland February 14, 1968

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AN ADDRESS BY

THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

At The

Indian Springs Country Club Silver Spring, Maryland

To The

DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Wednesday February 14, 1968 1

PROCEEDINGS

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MR. HUMPHREY: Thank you, Chairman Dick Shifter, thank you for calling this meeting to order, interrupting the fun, for which you'll never be forgiven.

Senator Dan Brewster, and Senator Joe Tydings, my very two good friends of the Senate, I'd like to give all of their constituents a report, as President of the Senate. Both of these men are doing extraordinarily well; they not only get A for effort, but A for performance.

(General applause.)

I always like to hear the name of Louis Goldstein, and when I heard Louis mentioned here tonight, I felt very, very much at home, and I've had the privilege of being a sort of seat-mate here this evening at the table here with your wonderful state Senator, Peggy Schweinhaut, that has been sitting over here with us.

(General applause.)

And I want to extend my greetings to a gentleman, I trust he's with us tonight, Senator Blair Lee and Mrs. Lee, and to --

(General applause.)

-- and to Senator Jim Clark and Mrs. Clark. I know they're with us this evening. And the members of your House of Delegates that are present with us. I was very privileged to meet some of your Members here, and the dean of the delegation, and I know that the members of the County Council have had to

go and tend to official business, for which we wish to commend them, and they had to leave here this evening.

Can I just take one moment to express our thanks to
the manager of the Indian Spring Country Club, to Mr. Helbruner,
for his fine cooperation, and I want to thank him also for
another matter that is of some significance to me. This club,
where we now meet, the Indian Spring Country Club, is a club
for all Americans, not just some Americans.

(General applause.)

And I'm very, very proud to be included in that select membership of what I consider the best elite in the country, a citizenship of the United States of America, no matter who you are.

(General applause.)

Now, I frightened you and almost frightened myself when I came up here. I picked up a pack of papers from the table, and I said "Well now, do you suppose he's going to do what he generally does?" I was talking to myself at that particular moment, and then I received a very firm, stern and knowing look from Muriel, and I'm happy to tell you that she has conquered the weakness and limitation with which I've been plagued so many, many times, of getting up on a platform like this and keeping you far too long. I do want to recognize that this is a party for fun; this is a Valentine's party, and I'm glad to see all you husbands behaving as well as you are tonight,

and showing the kind of attention which we hope that you'll show 365 days a year, as I always do in my home.

I jotted down very quickly when I --- Dick Shifter told me that he was going to call on me, that admonition I receive from President Johnson every time for an occasion like this. He always -- I don't know why it is; it must be because he knows me so well, but he says "Hubert, there are a few places that you're not supposed to speak." Now, that doesn't mean that he doesn't speak there, but he says I'm not supposed to speak there. He said "At barbecues, at rodeos, cocktail parties;" some of my best speeches have been, may I say, at those occasions, "and at dances." Tonight I want to say that I'm a free man; I'm taking no Presidential dictation.

(General laughter; applause.)

I'm glad you applauded that; you may not when I'm through.

We're here on a very happy occasion, as you are. I believe candor on a moment like this is very helpful for all of us. First, I want to tell you why we were a bit tardy. I've just plain been having the flu for a couple of days, but my father used to tell me "Stay out of bed; most people die there." And I've always tried to keep that in mind. I haven't been doing much sleeping or much relief for the pain and the aches. But about 6:00 o'clock this evening, I told Mr.

McNamara, of my office, I said "Will you please inform Mr.

Dick Shifter that I don't know if I'm going to make it." But I said, "I just have to make it; it's out in my old neighborhood, and out with my friends, and I've just got to get there, but please tell him that I doubt that I can stay very long. I'll just come out and just sort of look, you know, just look in and then have to leave." That's -- I always feel badly around 6:00 o'clock, either in the morning or in the evening; it doesn't make any difference. And a few minutes later, my secretary came in and said "If you'd go over to the Senate baths and take care of yourself, instead of sitting around here signing this mail, and doing all these things and griping about it, you might be able to go to that party tonight." So I did. And I went on over, and they rehabilitated me in one easy lesson.

(General applause.)

So I want to apologize to the plowman and the fishermen and the Suburban Women's Club, and the National Democratic Women's Club, and all those receptions that we missed; I want to apologize for our tardiness in coming here, but the simple truth was that I thought that if I waited a little while, and sort of got in shape, I'd come and maybe enjoy it, and frankly, I've had a ball already and I plan on enjoying much more of it.

(General applause.)

I never realized it was quite so far, however, from Harbor Square, Southwest, to Indian Spring Country Club.

did think that the Secret Service would be able to violate a few of the ordinances, but I quess they remembered what happened to Eisenhower one time when he was speeding through Montgomery County. We were coming out here at about fourteen miles an hour, stopping not only at the red lights, but to prove that this is a party of prudence and frugality and judgement, we even stopped at the amber lights. That isn't the way it's always been, however, having lived in Montgomery County, and occasionally been accused of going a little too fast here and there. Muriel and I are back home with friends: we've seen many tonight. We've lived -- we lived longer in this county, in one home, than any place, at least in my life and I believe -- no, Muriel lived in her home of birth a little longer than that. But I had never stayed put eighteen years any one place, and we moved into Copeland Terrace in December, 1948, and we left Copeland Terrace in October, 1966. We really have never left it. Copeland Terrace, Chevy Chase. really have never left it, because how can you leave -- how can you leave the memories and the friends of so many years? How can you leave even the fingerprints and the handprints of your children that are there on the steps out there of our porch that we added on our house. That was a sort -- we bought a sort of a plot of land and a small house, and then we started adding on to it, you know; a little bit here and a little bit there. How can you leave a community where you

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knew the neighbors up and down the circle? Many was the night that I'd come home very late, and take a long walk just to get a little exercise and a little fresh air, and believe it or not, I met some of my friends. I won't say who they were, because it was too late for any of us to be out, but I was glad to know that I had such energetic, broad-minded, socializing friends as we did have.

Well, it was a wonderful experience for us, and we met some dear and wonderful people. Our children attended these schools; at one time we belonged to three PTA's in Montgomery County, all at once. And you don't forget those experiences either.

(General laughter.)

So we have friends and we have neighbors that we love and we cherish, and many of them are here tonight. But I must confess to you that our voting residence, and indeed, our true home, was and is and will continue to be, in Minnesota. Therefore we — thank you; I know there's some Minnesotans here; don't hesitate.

(Applause.)

In fact, I just met the son of a State Central Committeeman of ours out in Minnesota, and I said "Look, I grew up with your father, Emil Presterman, one of the real, good progressives out in our state." Well, we never did become directly involved in Montgomery County politics; that is, on a voting

basis, even though I want to tell you that I was tempted at times to vote both places. But we didn't think it would be exactly proper to become fully involved in Democratic precinct politics, and when you speak of Montgomery County, and Democratic politics, you speak of the very heart of politics, precinct politics.

For a long time I used to think that I lived in Chevy
Chase, until one day Dick Shifter said to me "You're really
not on the in, Humphrey, if you just say 'Chevy Chase.' What
you've got to say is that you live in 716." And I know that
that's where I lived, but I never was able to exercise all the
rights and the prerogatives and all thereunto, as they say
when they give you all those honorary degrees, Doctor
Kirkpatrick.

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Now, the active involvement in precinct politics has made Montgomery County's Democratic Party truly unique. I guess one of the reasons that we enjoyed our political friends out here, and we have opened up our home on occasion for political caucus; I remember one evening we opened up our home for a yard party, so to speak, for our Democratic workers. One of the reasons we enjoyed it so much is that this party and this county is just exactly like the kind of party we built out in Minnesota. Issue-oriented, forward-looking, well organized, precinct organization, with people that care, that have concern, that are willing to get in and do something about the

public issues of the day. That's the kind of politics that
we have; that's the kind of politics that Orville Freeman,
Secretary of Agriculture, knows. That's the kind of politics
that Don Frazier, and Eugene McCarthy, and Joe Kerr, and Hubert
Humphrey, and Walter Mondale and others, knew and understand,
in Minnesota, and that's the kind of politics that makes this
party and this county unique on the Eastern Seaboard, and I
want to say right from this platform that if Democratic Party
politics is going to be the kind of politics that the American
people will endorse, it needs to be an issue-oriented politics
such as you have right here in Montgomery County.

(General applause.)

I like the fact that you don't wait for a registration drive, you know, about every four years. And your party is in a kind of continuous session; registration takes place at least twice a year, without too much urging or cajoling, and I like to know that this county has been first in the ranks of Dollars for Democrats. And by the way that's a good way to get acquainted with an awful lot of nice people. Just go on out, door to door; it'll do you a lot of good. You'll meet some fine people, some of they may even invite you in for a cup of coffee or something else, and you'll get a chance to talk to some good folks. Dollars for Democrats, and if somebody wants to go to \$10.00, don't stop them. It's good for their soul and good for our treasury.

I know that in this county there are people that are willing to work, election year or not. This is a grass-roots party, and it's testified to tonight. I've traveled a lot in this country; I've been in forty-nine of the fifty states. I've been in over six hundred of the cities of the United States since I've been Vice President. I think I've seen about as many Democratic organization people as you can find, and I can tell you that there are very few that exceed the kind -- or that surpass the kind of enthusiasm and dedication that Dick Shifter and his Committee, you folks out here, represent. This is the way you win elections. You know, I know that Montgomery County, without even Dick Scanlon telling me, is one of the most prosperous counties in the United States. I read all about that; I used to wait for it to splash over on me, and I'm happy to tell you it didn't do too badly. I'm not complaining; I want you to know I like my work, the working conditions are fine. I'm available for renewal of contract; don't worry about that at all.

(General applause.)

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I thought Montgomery County'd like to hear that. But you've been able to overcome some of these statistical handicaps that are -- economists and others bring to our attention. You've been able to stay respectable politically, despite your general respectability, and that's some accomplishment! You've been able to stay in that category of the affluent

American, and still have a degree of social consciousness and political intelligence that gives you Democratic majorities. You've demonstrated the thing that I think is important: a concern, as I said earlier, over issues, a deep devotion to traditional Democratic causes. And let me tell you, there are some traditional Democratic causes, and this isn't a one-issue party, even though some people would like to make it so. You've demonstrated your interest in education, your interest in health, your interest in civil rights, your interest in community development, your interest in a full measure of economic and social opportunity for every American, and that's what this Democratic Party is all about.

This Party is about making every American a participant, a full participant in the American life, and in the American experiment. That's why we're here. And I want to commend you, because so many people, once they have it made, once they seem to feel that somehow or another, things are good for them, and they have tenure, and they have security and they have in-grade promotions, etcetera, etcetera, I'll be darned if they don't start turning Republican.

(General laughter.)

I used to say back home that we had what we called physiological politics; empty stomach, full head; full stomach,
empty head. But in Montgomery County, you've got a reasnably
full stomach and my, what a full heart and a full head, and

it's all Democratic. That's why I like it.

(General applause.)

Now, some of these causes that I mentioned, such as education, and opportunity, and civil rights, and health and community development, and housing and urban — the improvement of our cities, these are the things that Everett Kirkpatrick, and I'm happy to mention him here, because here he sits, over here tonight, and if there's any — if any people — if there are people in America, and I know there are a lot of them, that wish that this fellow Humphrey had never happened, they shouldn't hate me. They should hate Kirkpatrick; he was my professor at the University of Minnesota; he used to get me back in his office and say "Now, you quit pulling all this graduate school stuff and get into politics." It's his fault. Absolutely.

(General applause.)

In fact, Orville Freeman and Hubert Humphrey used to spend a great deal of time over at Kirk's home, and up at his office, talking about how we would remake the world. Now, we haven't quite finished it yet, but we've been working on it. I don't want to take blame for some of the problems that we have at the present time.

Well, I know that my friend, Doctor Kirkpatrick, and I'm happy that he's here tonight; he honors me by his presence -- I know that he and the rest of you share my sense of pride in

the dramatic progress that we Democrats have made during these last years, these last few years; indeed, for a long time in this century. Now, we've had many victories behind us, but I learned a long time ago that doesn't stand you good enough in the days ahead. What we need to talk about are the urgent challenges that face us, and I've said from a hundred and one platforms, the difference between the two political parties is essentially one of emphasis, attitude and approach. Republicans talk about the problems and the difficulties; we talk about the challenges and the opportunities, and it is a great deal of difference. We know there are problems; we know there are difficulties. Who doesn't? You don't need to have a specialist outline for you today the problems that confront us. You can ask any man that stands on any street corner. I'll never forget that famous dissertation, sociological study of Gunnar Myrdahl, when he said, speaking about the race problem in America; he said "If you want to find out what's wrong with America, you do not have to be a social science research scholar. Just go and ask anybody that you meet on the street, and they'll tell you. Everybody know's what's wrong. The question is what to do about it." And we've searched pragmatically, not for doctrine or dogma, but pragmatically for the answers; as Franklin Roosevelt once said, "We will try, and if we fail, we'll try something else, and try and try again." And that's what we've tried to do. And I

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would say that a curse of any political party in a democracy is to be either dogmatic or doctrinaire. We're not always successful; we don't always have the answers. And you can't always wait for all the evidence to come in. You have to try; you have to put a great deal of faith in people, and above all you have to have faith in your own capacity to at least make some change for the good.

I think there are some fundamental issues that stand before us, and I'll state them very promptly and quickly. Do we mean to press on with our quest for full and equal opportunity and all that that means? For clean and safe cities? To really come to grips with the problem of urbanization in this country, which today is like a festering sore, with very little antiseptic. Do we mean to try to develop freedom of choice in this country, where people can live so they can take a choice between a modern city and a modern rural America? Or do we mean to stand still, gripe and complain, at best when we seem to be somewhat forward-looking, say "Pause." The only pause that refreshes that I know of is in a bottle, and it's effervescent. There is no pause in politics, in political economy, that refreshes. You have to move ahead.

And there's another issue, and this is right at the core of democratic life. Are we ready to meet our obligations abroad? Not just our social obligations, not just being willing to be nice to people, but are we willing to meet our

obligations to the hungry, to the sick, to the striving, to the frightened, to the weak? And my fellow Americans, I am concerned about this. I hope that American liberalism never becomes the birth -- the rebirth, so to speak, of American isolationism. And I can remember --

(General applause.)

-- I can remember growing up in a society of the Farm Labor
Party, and the Populists and the Progressives, and I can remember the Burton K. Wheelers, and I can remember even the
Charles Lindberghs; I can remember the Lundines and the
Shipsteads, and I can remember also the Bob LaFollettes. Good
men; Populists, Liberals, Progressives, but with no understanding or comprehension whatsoever of America's role in the world
of the 20th Century.

The modern-day American liberal, progressive, moderate or call him what you will, must recognize that what happens in the Middle East, may be more critical to the well-being of your family than what happens in our own Middle West; that what happens in Southeast Asia may be much more vital to the future of your life than what happens in Northeast America. This is a small planet, and the thing that amazes me is that the scientific and intellectual community itself seems to sense it the least. We are a small family on a small globe, closely related; no way, no place to hide, and you can't stop the world and get off, and I must say for those that believe

in law and order, for those that believe in human liberty, for those that believe in constitutional government, for those that believe in social progress through peaceful revolution. that any form of violence, on the streets, or in the rice paddies, violence by armies or querillas or saboteurs, or even militants, that violence abrogates every hope of sensible constructive social progress. If you want a world of peace, and of order. And this is why we take our stand. Not easy; it's never been easy, and it never will be. May I say, as one who was once a local government official, it is not easy to face the mobs; it is not easy to face the criminal element. It is not easy to enforce the law. It is not easy to stand up against organized crime. But if you're worth your salt, you'll do it.

(General applause.)

And it is not easy to stand up against organized international criminal behavior; it is not easy -- it is not easy to stand up against forces that have developed new techniques of destruction. I'm not sure that we have all the answers, by a long shot. But one thing I do know, and I conclude on this note; that if we here in America, with our wealth and our know-how, cannot win the war on poverty in this country, with a people of common heritage, speaking a common language, in one country, these United States of America, if we with what we have, can't do what we say we want for this world, what

makes you think you can win the war on poverty anywhere else in the world? What makes you think that you can win it in India, or Africa, or Asia, or Latin America, if we can't do it here? I happen to think that a foreign policy is oftentimes but the projection of a domestic policy. That's why what we do at home in fulfillment of equal opportunity really tells more about what we're going to do abroad than anything else that we do.

(General applause.)

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And, my fellow Americans, if this nation with its power, its wealth, its know-how, its resources, is unwilling to help the weak to stand up against the brute, willing to take its stand for self-determination, for soverighty of nations, who do you think will? Or don't you think we should?

I must say, ladies and gentlemen, I am disturbed, not about a particular issue, not about a particular country, but by what I consider to be a rising -- a rising tide of with-18 drawal. Not merely with geographical withdrawal, but withdrawal from responsibility. America's too good to have an international lost weekend. This country means too much to the world to merely take on the title of leader, without its responsibilities. You can't be a leader anymore, and you never could, unless you wanted to take on all the burdens, all the duties, all the responsibilities, all the -- all the difficulties that come with that unique place in history. Sometimes

I wonder today if we understand that leadership poses upon us the highest calling. Now, we can give it up; we can resort to Fortress America, for the next decade. I'm sure that we would still survive as a nation, and maybe longer. But if you want to speak of immorality, what could be more immoral than the most blessed nation on the face of this earth, squandering its wealth and its power upon itself? What could be worse, what could be more immoral, more ugly, than a nation with what we've been blessed with, to use it only for ourselves?

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This is why I believe that John Kennedy, when he said that peace and freedom do not come cheap, and we are destined, all of us here today, to live out most if not all of our lives in uncertainty and challenge and peril, was telling the American people once again one of the plain truths, that it's going to be tough, it's going to be difficult. There are no easy days ahead. But he also has told us, as Lyndon Johnson has told us, that this nation is capable of doing anything that it wants to do. It isn't, as the President said in his State of the Union Message, that we're without the capacity to do it; it isn't that we're without the resources to do it. It isn't that we do not have the know-how to do what needs to be done. The only question is: do we have the will? And the purpose? And the difference between a great country and an ordinary country is not its wealth, not its size, not its

power, but as Huxley once said, "What will you do with these things?" What will we do with these things? And that's what we're talking about, and that's what we're going to be talking about in the months ahead.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very proud to say, very happy to say, that I have a unique opportunity as an individual in this country to serve at a time, as citizen and as public official, in a nation that has done more for more people, unselfishly, generously, bravely, than any nation in the history of the world, and I'm very proud to stand alongside of a man who has given to this nation leadership that has made great breakthroughs in areas of human endeavor, in education, in health, in the improvement of our environment, in civil liberties, in civil rights, that no President ever even dreamed possible

(General applause.)

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And I'm very proud to be a member of a political party that has provided the kind of leadership that requires courageous determined leadership, able to keep a bright — to keep bright the vision of a world where there is hope for peace, where there is freedom from want, freedom from hunger, and freedom from fear, and freedom from ignorance. I know these are goals, but they are our prayers and our goals, and we Democrats have provided just that kind of leadership over the years in the White House, and in the Engress, and in many of our

communities. I had the good fortune of coming into my maturity as a young man when there was a great President that took this country by the hand, literally, and by the heart, and said "All we have to fear is fear itself." Franklin Roosevelt.

(General applase.)

And I don't mind saying that I had the privilege of coming to the Congress of the United States when the most courageous President in my memory served, one who was condemned, villified, criticized, and they tried to humiliate him and to debase him, but he has come through like a shining light, and he stands today as one of the all-time greats, even as he lives, and even as he is with us. Believe me, what a privilege it was to campaign in the year 1948 with a man they said couldn't win, and who won a great victory, Harry Truman.

(General applause.)

And I had the chance, as few others will ever have, of being the Majority Whip in the United States Senate, from the day, January, 1961, until November, 1963, and indeed into 1964; I worked with, gave unqualified loyalty to, and had deep affection for, and maintain an ever-abiding admiration and affection for, a President that literally stirred the heart of this nation and the spirit of this nation, and that was John Kennedy.

(General applause.)

And I now stand alongside of a man that he selected, that President Kennedy selected; I think his greatest decision, by the way. The man that he selected because he thought that he had what it took, and what was required in case anything went wrong. I stand alongside of a man who knows how to be President, who has gone through the most difficult days, who has presented to this government of ours and to our people the most far-reaching programs, and with the cooperating of that Congress, has put those programs into action, and they're yours. You ought to be proud of them; don't downgrade them, they're your children. Love them and make them a part of your 12 ife. I want to say that a great President, a great President does not have to be loved, even though it is wonderful to be loved; he does not have to be popular, even though it is satis-15 Fying to have popularity. But a great President needs but one kind of reaction from his people: respect. Respect.

(General applause.)

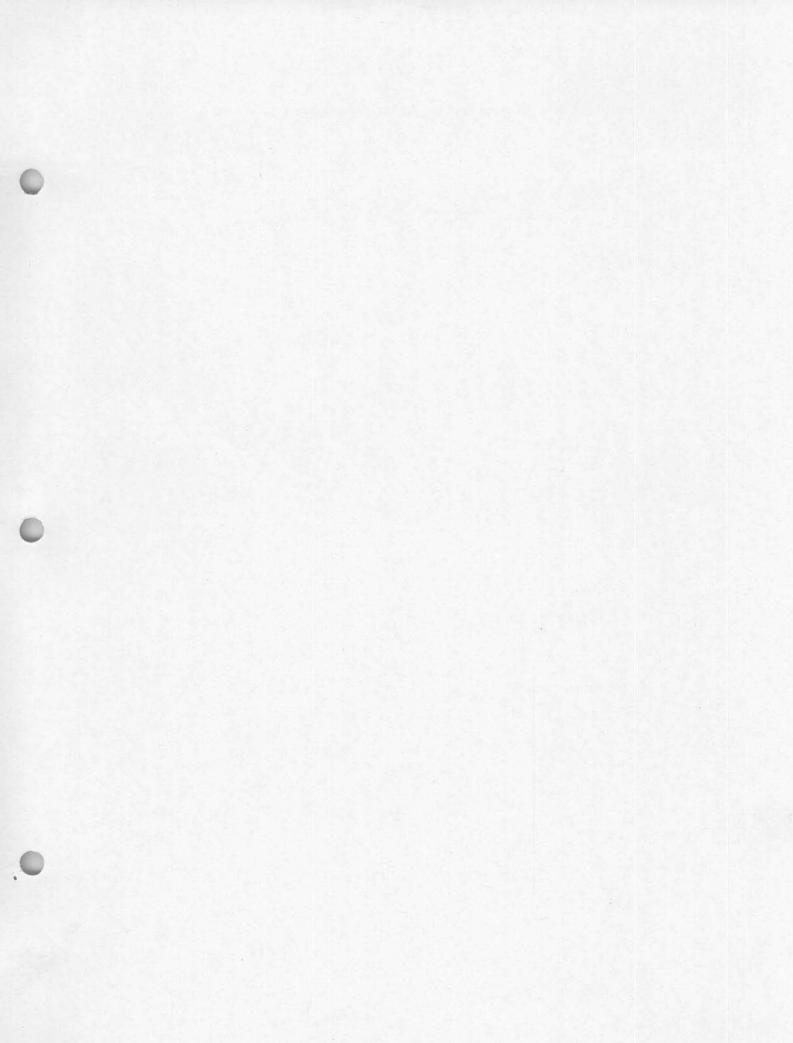
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And it is my considered judgement that when the American 19 people are called upon to make that fateful decision as to the 20 kind of leadership they want for their country for the next four years, they're going to take a look, not at image, not at advertising, not at the synthetics, not at the makeup, but they're going to take a look at the substance. They're going to take a look at the character; they're going to take a look 25 at the strength of the man. They're going to take a look at

his experience. They're going to take a look at the man, not the facsimile of the man, and when they do, I expect to see Lyndon Baines Johnson President of the United States in 1969. Thank you very much. (General applause.)



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