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ADDRESS
OF THE
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- - -

May 3, 1968

1:58 o'clock, p. m.

Cleveland Hopkins Airport

A D D R E S S

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You have been a very patient and wonderfully warm and hospitable and friendly group, and I want to particularly thank all of the bands that are here today. You have really honored me by your presence, and you have gone far beyond the call of duty, or pleasure, in spending so much time here at the airport.

I am sorry that I didn't get a chance to shake hands with each and every one, particularly the baritone horn players, because I used to play the baritone horn myself. I notice that they have improved since my day.

I want to thank, also, the students that are here from Kent State University. You have been most kind and wonderful to come and join us, and I know that we have people here from all walks of life. I even found a fellow with a Nixon button out there. Now, look at that. Right there, just a little right of the center.

I'm so very pleased to see my friends of the labor movement that are present. I saw my good friend at C.W.A., the Communication Workers, and I told you that when Humphrey declared his candidacy,

1 you'd get a good settlement, and you have.

2 And may I just once again thank the
3 public officials that have come here today on
4 my account. I know that it is time that you
5 take from very important work. I'm very honored
6 that you come here to say hello, and I want to
7 thank, in particular, the mothers and fathers
8 that have brought their little children. I think
9 the nicest compliment a man in public life receives
10 is when a daddy or mother hands their little child
11 over to you and says, "Shake hands," in this
12 instance, with the Vice President.

13 Well, I'm kind of soft on kids, so it
14 makes me feel very, very good, and these little
15 ones that are down here in front, I want to thank
16 all of them.

17 May I say, if I could have sign-carriers
18 like that for the rest of my life, I'd be the
19 happiest man that ever lived, and I want to thank
20 these young folks.

21 Now, there are just too many people here
22 to take out by name -- my Democratic colleagues
23 and officials, and the officers of the Democratic
24 party, state and local, I'm sure you know we are
25 going to be seeing a good deal of each other in

1 the days ahead.

2 I just leave you with this message:
3 The spirit that I have seen in this airport is
4 the spirit I hope can prevail in this campaign.

5 There are people here of different
6 persuasions; there are people here who carry
7 different signs, but they are all in good manners;
8 they are all in the spirit of good fellowship and
9 good, clean competition, and I want to say to my
10 friends of the Democratic party, I hope that we
11 will always conduct ourselves in such a manner
12 that whoever may be the victor in any election,
13 that we can honestly say that we did our best
14 without doing the worst. To me, that is very,
15 very important.

16 It is not only that you win, which we
17 intend to do; but it is how we win, which we
18 intend to do.

19 And I wish to say to our friends here
20 that have greeted me with such good cheer and such
21 interesting and attractive insignias and signs
22 from the opposition party, our heart goes out to
23 you. You are wonderful people, and may I say, in
24 our victory we will always be charitable of the
25 opposition. We will always be charitable, and just

1 in case it should work the other way, will you
2 feel the same way?

3 And I want to thank the young friends
4 who are over here from the El Kauf Temple that
5 have come to get us in the spirit of good fellow-
6 ship, patriotism and American unity. This is one
7 thing that our country needs to emphasize more
8 than ever before, not that we have to be of one
9 mind; not that we need to always agree on every
10 issue; not that we need to all be alike -- we do
11 not need an America that recites as if it had
12 learned it by memory, each and every word, so
13 that we are alike. What we need is an America
14 of many voices, of many ideas -- a vast diversity,
15 but also an America, if you please, that has one
16 spirit: a spirit of fellowship, a spirit of
17 patriotism, a spirit of national unity.

18 You know, you can disagree without
19 being too disagreeable, if you will just try.
20 And we can, and I think it's a good thought to
21 keep in mind. We can be a United States of America
22 without all of us marching to the same music, but
23 each of us marching in our own cadence, but toward
24 the same goal. And what is that goal? A goal of
25 full and equal opportunity within these great

1 institutions of democracy; a goal of full and
2 equal opportunity for every man, woman and child,
3 without regard to how they spell their name, what
4 is their race, their religion or their creed.

5 The important thing for everybody in
6 this audience to remember is this: Abraham Lincoln
7 once said that America was the last best hope of
8 earth, and it is. And the only way that that hope
9 can be made a reality is if the American people
10 stand together in the great enterprises that we
11 have to fulfill at home. The enterprises of
12 giving every American his chance; the enterprise
13 of seeing to it that our cities are rebuilt; the
14 enterprise of seeing to it that we walk that extra
15 mile that may be necessary for an honorable peace;
16 and the enterprise, if you please, of never, never
17 withdrawing from our duty; with every right as a
18 responsibility; with every privilege as a duty; and
19 rights and privileges only to those who are capable
20 of acting responsibly and who are strong enough to
21 carry burdens and fulfill duties.

22 I want to thank you. This is the way I
23 am going to talk to the American people, and I want
24 your help in this election. I want it not only for
25 myself; I want, in this election, that we will bind

1 up this nation's wounds; that we will help each
2 other, and whatever may be the result on that
3 first Tuesday after the first Monday in November,
4 that we can say that we have done our best and
5 that we are Americans and we have carried out the
6 democratic process, and we are going on to make
7 this a better America for everyone.

8 Thank you very much.

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