

## OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

REMARKS
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
MAY 5, 1968

The order of this day -- like the business of this century -- is FREEDOM.

It is unfinished business -- every place in the world.

Here in this country and abroad -- in Washington and in Warsaw and in Chicago -- Freedom faces different enemies, meets different problems, makes different gains.

But at home and abroad, the convulsive, turbulent processes of freedom are at work -- processes that are never quiet, never still, never satisfied. No people have ever gained freedom -- or held it -- without torment, difficulty and ferment, from the earliest days of recorded history. That is why we meet here today.

- -- on the 177th anniversary of Poland's declaration of freedom; but freedom is still to be won in Poland.
- -- in the 192nd year of America's declaration for freedom; but freedom is still America's unfinished business.

World War II unleashed great forces of liberation in the twentieth century, even as, paradoxically, it fastened a new type of tyranny upon vast numbers of people in too many nations.

But even in those nations the seeds of emancipation are beginning at long last to sprout.

In Eastern Europe the monolith of communism has been fractured. People are demanding -- and getting -- emancipation from rigid, inflexible state control.

Today the emancipation of Eastern Europe continues -- and so does the American revolution.

"Freedom Now" and "We Shall Overcome" are common cries all over the world.

FREEDOM and PEACE are the universalities of humanity's purpose and meaning. And as distance disappears these stars draw closer.

The world gets too small to hide a tyranny.

There was a time when what happened in Krakow hardly reached Warsaw. Later, what happened in Warsaw hardly reached Paris. Today, what happens in Stare Miasto reaches all the way to Humboldt Park.

In both places the dream is the same -- for freedom doesn't lead ever to satisfaction. It is an eternal stairway of the human aspiration.

And if America stands at the moment on a higher landing of that stairway than Poland does, the Polish-American stands on both -- and in both cases pushes upward.

You and those who came with you, and before, brought the lively creative qualities of the Polish people and blended them into the New World:

A love of country -- and made it love of this country, too.

A blunt dislike for special privilege, and a complete commitment to equal opportunity for every man and woman.

A little haunting sadness that things are never perfect -- and an optimism that they can be better if you work hard enough.

America needed that spirit when your fathers and mothers came.

America needs it now.

You above all know that when we talk of "bridge building" we mean bridges among people -- bridges built of human understanding so that they will carry the business of nations.

We can be justly proud of the work of the Polish National Alliance between the people of Poland and the people of the United States.

We can be proud of the American Research Hospital for Children in Krakow -- and some of us here, Congressmen, officials, and private citizens -- and I -- are just a little extra proud of that.

Today we celebrate a Constitution of freedom -- a landmark in liberty's history, and an eternal benchmark for its future.

Today and every day we learn a little more about what it takes to make freedom real -- now -- here -- in Poland -- everyplace in the world.

"Freedom Now" is not just a call for racial equality. It is a call for universal justice, and you can say it in any language.

The same drive to freedom is going on throughout the world -- and America must continue to lead that drive.

Your fathers came here because in America there was opportunity. They believed a man should leave his home and try a new life where there was a chance that it would be a better life.

And they found it. Polish Americans have played their full part in every aspect of national life -- from the hardest kind of work in the fields and factories to the highest levels of professional, intellectual, cultural and political achievement.

Now we believe that the same broad scope of opportunity should be open to people of every nation -- that every homeland should be a land of opportunity. Our nation is committed to that goal.

You shouldn't have to cross the ocean to find a better life -- and you shouldn't even have to cross the street.

Opportunity -- a chance to be the best you can become -- has become a home-town affair. No man ought to have to leave his family to find opportunity -- above all, not in America. No Americans ought to understand that more clearly than Polish Americans separated from families overseas.

Early in the life of this nation, some Americans were made free because Thaddeus Kosciusko willed his American property for that purpose.

Other Americans can have real opportunity now -- not next year but now -- because Polish Americans will refuse to see justice denied to any American.

There are people here today whose fathers brought the first new light of freedom to the people of Eastern Europe.

There are others here today whose fathers or brothers or sons have fought and died for freedom, serving their country in the New World.

What Polish Americans have done for themselves in America -- what they have done for America -- makes this nation more believable everywhere, and gives people everywhere more faith in themselves.

This is your tradition. It is mine. It is ours. We will go on building it -- together -- Polish-Americans and every-other-kind-of-American-there-is-or-ever-will-be.

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MILEGO ZOBACZENIA (Dough Me-wah-go Zo-baa-chen-yah) (good health and happiness until we meet again) Speech of

The Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey Vice-President of the United States

at

Humboldt Park, Chicago, Illinois on May 5, A. D. 1968

In Honor of the

177th Anniversary of the Polish Constitution.

Introduced by Mr. Aloysius A. Mazewski, President of the Polish National Alliance.

and honored indeed to again greet our distinguished friend of long standing who three years ago on this platform inspired a similar observance with his words of experience and statesmanship. Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my distinguished honor and privilege to present to you the Vice-President of the United States, Hubert H. Humphrey. (Applause.)

VICE-PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY: Thank you very much.

President Mazewski, may I first say just a few words of congratulation to the Gordon Tech Band out there for the fine job they did. (Applause.)

Madam Vice-President, Irene Wallace, may I congratulate you on your fine work in making this Polish Constitution Day Celebration such a magnificent reality and I commend you, too, on your resolution that you read and adopted here.

President Mazewski, you conducted the meeting on the resolution just the way I would conduct the Senate on the A & A. (Applause.) I think that I can learn a trick or two from you. As a matter of fact, Governor Shapiro is a very good friend; the distinguished, beloved and great Mayor of Chicago, Mayor Daley, Congressman

Rostenkowski, Congressman Pucinski, Congressman Derwinski, those are good Polish names. (Applause.)

Mr. Mayor, I know you have a number of Scandinavians in Chicago and I was discussing all of these
matters with this Congress all day and they tell me there
is a close relationship between the Scandinavians and
Poles. (Applause.)

Monsignor Abramowicz, I know that I speak for this great audience when I say thank you for your beautiful prayer, thank you for the message that you brought to this city, to this assemblage, for all of us who are privileged to be in public life.

My good friend who was so kind to travel with me, Father Mike Simbrowski and other Reverend Clergy, my first statement in my new found language is "Witam was," and for a man whose mother was born in Norway, that is not bad. What a great joy it is to be here on this beautiful day, how happy I am to once again return to Humboldt Park, to Chicago, to our great friends gathered in this park of Polish Decent, to the illustrious public officials that also want so much to be here in the presence with you, to be in the presence of the leadership of this community that has built a great city and Chicago is a great city, it is America and Mr. Mayor, I am proud to

be in Chicago. (Applause.) Chicago of Carl Sandburg, the Chicago of vitality and progress; is it any wonder that so many people of Polish extraction came to this city, because it is a strong city, it is a working city, it is a vital city and it is filled with the love of freedom and search for social justice and progress.

Today, I want to talk to you on the subject that is closest to the heart of the American people and I believe the people throughout the world. The order of this day, like the business of this century is freedom. What a beautiful word, what a wonderful, wonderful challenge it is, the unfinished business every place in the world. It is the word that challenges the best in us, the word that makes people great. Here in this country and abroad, in Washington, in Warsaw, in Chicago, freedom faces different enemies. It has to meet different problems and it is also a struggle for freedom but at home and abroad after the turbulent process of freedom are ageless processes that are relentless processes that never quiet, never still, never satisfied. People have never gained their freedom nor have they ever held it for long without torment, without sacrifice, without difficulty or ferment.

From the earliest days of recorded history,

that is why we are here today and I am especially proud to be here today as your Vice-President to speak for our country, to speak for our land. You know I have the rare privilege of being nominated to this high office by a young man of Polish Decent, a congressman in this district in Chicago so I am doubly proud to be here as your Vice-President today. (Applause.)

We are here today on the one hundred seventyseventh anniversary of Poland's declaration of freedom. Freedom is still to be won in Poland. We are here today on the one hundred ninety-second year of America's declaration of freedom and freedom is still America's unfinished business. How proud we should be here of everyone of us, Catholic, Protestant and Jew, Americans of all kinds because our Constitution here in America was the inspiration, it was indeed the force that gave inspiration to patriots of Poland for their constitution. The Polish Constitution was fashioned on the work of our Founding Fathers so we are tied together not merely by sentiment, even by history and by law. This is why May 3rd Constitution Day for Poland takes on an added significance in America. We are in a more dramatic period, unleashed great forces of Labor Relations in the twentieth century even as dramatically and paradoxically fashioned

a new type of tyranny upon vast numbers of people in far too many nations but let those who practice dictatorship, those who would embrace totalitarianism, let them understand from this platform and this day, this country that the future does not belong to them, the future, indeed, belongs to the men and women of freedom and of course, the forces of freedom. (Applause.) We see it every day in those nations that became the captive nations, the seeds of emancipation are beginning, at least, to sprout and grow. We had reference to it here this afternoon in eastern Europe, the so-called monologue of communication, the concrete, they call it communism has been stirred, the people are demanding and they are getting emancipation from the rigid inflexible state control. Freedom is not weakening, totalitarianism is being shakened and weakened and today even as I speak to you this afternoon, the emancipation of eastern Europe continues and I say my dear friends, so does the continuing American revolution for freedom and opportunity because our revolution lives on, our revolution was the promise of total dignity for every meaningful sentence for every American and until every man regardless of color or creed, no matter how he speaks his last name or pronounces it, until every American realizes full opportunity and full measure of dignity,

our revolution will not be complete. (Applause.)

There are words that are phrased that have a meaning to all of us, "freedom now," you heard it, "We shall overcome" and what do we mean by "We shall overcome, " we mean that all of us shall overcome injustice, shall overcome discrimination, shall overcome poverty, shall overcome fear and shall overcome tyranny. That is what those words mean. They belong to all of us. Freedom and peace, they are the universality, the common denominators of human persons and as distance disappears in the age of airplane and space, the stars draw ever closer, the world is too small to hide tyranny, the world is too small to hide totalitarianism. There was a time, though, that what happened in Krakow hardly ever reached Warsaw, there was a time that what happened in Warsaw hardly reached Paris and today what happens in the starem miastu, the old city of Warsaw reaches all the way to Humboldt Park. Yes, there is no place to hide, there can be no secret, in both places the dream is the same, the dream of freedom is the stairway of human aspiration and I submit to this great assemblage that if America stands at this bridge just a little higher, on the higher landing of that stairway, then does the Polish American stand on both stairways and in both cases pushes upward for his

freedom, her freedom and other peoples' freedom. (Applause

Aren't we a fortunate country to have so many people from all over this globe, God Almighty endows us, indeed, loves the American people because he gave us the best of all the lands, the best of all the continents, the best of all the people, one people, not many people in one nation, one nation to be sure but many, many people. How proud I am to say it. I know we are proud to remember it, that this is a nation of many peoples, is one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all; that is our purpose. (Applause.)

When I look out at this audience and see a strong, sturdy people, proud people, Mr. Mayor, like you talked of the people that love their neighborhoods, people that love their families, people that love their church and I am proud even to be in their presence. I know that those who came to these shores, those who have come recently and before you, brought the life creating qualities and energies of the Polish people that blended them in the New World. Look at what you brought, how lucky we are that you brought a love of country, every Pole is known for that. You not only brought a love of country, you made it a love of this country, too. You have two loves, how lucky, (Applause.) and you brought

a great devotion to God and church. You gave America a renewed faith. You brought a dedication to family and strengthened the very social fibre of this country through that dedication. You brought a dedication to the special privilege and compliment to equal opportunity for every man and woman, you brought a little haunting sadness of that, that things are never perfect but you brought it up to the optimism that it is a real healthy optimism that they should be better if you work hard enough to make it better. (Applause.)

America needed it then and it needs it now that spirit which your fathers and mothers brought as they came to our shores. How I know that America needs it now, America needs people who are self-reliant, America needs people who are proud to be Americans. America needs people today who won't sell this country short.

America needs people to speak up for America and I know that I am talking to people that can speak loud and clear. (Applause.)

Polish People ask not for gifts or even for charity, what they ask for is a chance and opportunity.

(Applause.) My friends, you are setting that example, you help every American and every American wants the same and let's make it on your best to help every American.

Now, you know above all that when we talk of bridge building, we mean bridges between and among people. I was so pleased to hear Iren Wallace in her resolution which was adopted by this Assemblage to speak of the necessity of the importance of more building of the bridges of understanding and communications between this land and the Polish people, bridges built of the human understanding so that they will carry the business, the nations and we can be justly proud today of the work of the Polish National Alliance. Mr. President, I had been meeting with the Polish Alliance for many years and the first meeting was some twenty years ago in Minneapolis, Minnesota when we got together then, we sang those old, wonderful songs, the Poles sang and we visited together and I even ate Polish sausage. (Applause.)

Well, when we speak of these terms like "bridge building," we can be proud of this organization building the bridges between the people of Poland and the United States. Remember, that is the enduring diplomacy, not of government and government but the people go on forever and it is understanding between people that count, that is what built for friendship. We can be proud of the bridge building of the student exchanges, the doctors that are here, the scientists, muscians and artists, we can be

proud of Mr. Mazewski right here in Chicago of the exchanges of museum pieces where wonderful art works tell us the story of the family of mankind and of the relationship between the people of our two countries. We can be proud of the American Research Hospital for children of Krakow, some of us here, Congressmen on this platform, the official and private citizens and I say that I had a little hand in it myself, are very fortunate and proud that today stands in Krakow, one of the oldest, great cities of the world of civilization, a new, wonderful children's hospital as a gift of the people of the United States to the children of Poland. (Applause.)

So, today, we celebrate Constitution of Freedom in the landmark of history and the betterment of man for the future. Let me take a moment to say that Constitution is another term for law and order and it also is another word for justice and opportunity so that when we say "Celebrate the Constitution Day," Poland or America's, we dedicate ourselves as we listen to a prayer by fellow Americans. We rededicate ourselves to progress with order and order with progress to law and order and social justice. (Applause.) Every American city needs it, my fellow Americans and our prayer should be that God Almighty gives us a sense of vision that will permit us to heal

the wounds of injustice in this matter and at the same time, not to destroy what we built, not to destroy by violence and riot and burning but rather to build and to build until man has full opportunity for every American. (Applause.)

My fellow citizens, we must believe this, that we can lose this nation, all that it stands for unless every one of us is willing to purge his mind and soul of every form of bigetry and discrimination, at the same time working for justice and opportunity and do it within the framework of the law, within the democratic process. (Applause.) Today and every day we learn just a little bit more about what it takes to make freedom real. Here Poland and every place in the world so that freedom now is not just a call for racial equality but it is a call for universal justice and you can say freedom now in any language. I know now how to say it in Polish and I say once more that comes to my mind is "Sto Lat," I remember that one for sure. The same drive to freedom that goes out throughout the world, that is the reason your fathers and mothers came here because it is in America they felt there was an opportunity, they believe the man should leave his home and try a new life where there was a chance to be a better life, they could find it and they found it

here. The Polish Americans have played their full part in every aspect of our professional life from the hardest kind of work in the field of factories to the highest level of professional, intellectual learning and cultural America and political affairs. We have our artists and musicians and one of my closest friends of the Congress of the United States, Senator Edmund Muskee of the State of Maine, how lucky we are to have here on this platform judges and lawyers and members of the clergy and here is this distinguished Congress Assembly of men of Polish background but proud Americans, patriotic Americans, good Americans.

I listened to the announcement before about the Rostenkowskis, Kluczynskis, Puscinskis, Derwinskis and even John Marcin, himself, they are all here on this platform. As we believe in the same proud scope of opportunity, we believe it should be open to people of every nation, that every owner of a home should be allowed every opportunity, that is what our nation is committed to and, Mr. President, President Mazewski, I heard him speak, I knew what you were speaking of, let me say that the processes of democracy are at work in this country as to establishing to bring about justice, to guarantee the safety and security of nations around this world,

Poland included, are stands that this government is brave enough to take. We had been willing to take in Vietnam because we believe that the aggressor must be stopped and we are willing to take stands, fight any place in the world, (Applause.) stands to secure the peace and stands for justice; these are not easy decisions. We are satisfied not to be policemen standing by, we seem to inspre it. We do not want to be the nation to police the world, we believe, if you please, to be the world teacher, doctor, humanitarian, that is our mission but let it be clear that freedom as John Kennedy put, does not come cheap. You have to be willing to pay the price for it and America paid that price, that is why America today is the greatest country on the face of the earth. (Applause.)

Before that comes that we speak of, you shouldn't have to cross the ocean to find it, you shouldn't even have to cross the street for the opportunity for a chance to be the best that you can be, should become and has become a home town affair. Opportunity is right here in Chicago, opportunity is right in your neighborhood and that is what you are working for. That is what your government worked for, that is what your President works for and your President works mighty hard for it, I might add, too. (Applause.) Yes, no man ought to have to

leave his family or his community to find opportunity.

Above all, Americans ought to understand this more clearly than the Polish Americans who were separated from families overseas.

Early in the life of this nation, some Americans were made free because the man that we placed the wreath here today willed his American property for that purpose. I am sure we haven't forgotten Thaddeus Kosciuszko was one of the first American Patriots to emancipate the slave. What a remarkable achievement. He not only fought for our liberty, he gave liberty. He gave to the needy and other Americans have the real opportunity now, not this year, not next year but now because the Polish American will have to say "Justice denied any American here," that we honored here today is the same as our example and we should live that example. There are people whose fathers brought them the first light of freedom to the people of eastern Europe. There are others here today whose fathers or brothers or sons who have fought and died for freedom or served their country in the New World. What Polish Americans have done for themselves in America which is an inspiring story as they have done for America makes this nation a better America and gives people everywhere on the face of this earth more faith in themselves.

By your example you helped, you will help demonstrate democracy. (Applause.)

Well, my friends, you have given me such a special privilege today to speak to you; what a very beautiful day, how lucky, the sun is radiant, the temperature is perfect, the people are great. It is the kind of day that makes you happy, the kind of day that makes you proud to be a free man, all of this that I talked of freedom, the fight for it, the opportunity to struggle for it, justice, the eternal search for it, all of this is in your tradition. It is in my tradition, too, and it is ours, it belongs to us but remember this, remember what I said earlier, liberty and justice for all, there is no liberty for anyone long unless there is liberty for your neighbor, for the other fellow, too. There is no justice for Polish Americans or Scandinavian Americans or Igloo Americans or any other kind of Americans unless there is justice for every American; black, white, Catholic Protestant and Jew. (Applause.)

what we seek to do is build this America, to make such a shining example of what mankind can do, that without ever having to fire a shot, without having sent a soldier any place, the power of the idea of freedom as we have developed it will literally overwhelm the world

because what mankind wants more than anything else is to be himself, to be a free man, not just an American, not just a Pole but a free man and I come here to testify today as to someone who has lived in the public life that because of freedom is not in retreat, because of freedom is on the march; because of social justice is not in retreat, because social justice is on the march. Ladies and Gentlemen, if you just give your best to this country, if you will stand up once again as you never stood up before, for with this, America needs this, the best home on earth and we can do anything that needs to be done.

Dzienkuje.

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