



FOR RELEASE

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May 17, 1968

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

WOMEN IN THE WAR ON POVERTY

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAY 16, 1968

I want to make it absolutely clear that I am here as your Vice President. Many, many weeks ago -- before certain things happened -- you invited me -- as your Vice President -- to visit with you.

You did the same thing last year. And I came then too -- as your Vice President.

So there's no politics involved here.

I'm particularly sensitive to the need to make these political disclaimers because your charming and effective Chairman is Ladonna Harris -- and your luncheon speaker was the great Senator from Oklahoma, Fred Harris.

And you know how rumors get around. People might start thinking that this whole conference was part of a stop-Stassen movement or something like that.

Let me only say that next year, when you hold your Third Annual Conference, I'd like to be invited again -- but not as your Vice President.

This is a reception, not a meeting. So let me say just a little to you . . . and just as succinctly as possible.

I salute you and all the women of America for your magnificent support of the war on poverty.

But I will not take the time to praise your efforts on behalf of WICS (Women in Community Service) or of Head Start or of VISTA or the dozens of other programs.

I want to talk a little instead about where we go from here.

For the most part, you represent the so-called Power Structure of America -- and I do not use the term disparagingly. You represent the groups of women in America who, for the most part, have made it -- as professionals . . . as labor officials . . . as business leaders . . . as social workers . . . as government officials.

You represent part of the power of America that gives us the right to hope that we can win the war on poverty in America.

To be effective, however, that power must be used in common cause with those who have thus far been left out of our society. It must be shared with those people, not just used on them.

They have a real kind of power to offer, too -- citizen power, which is being demonstrated in another part of this nation's Capital right now. Thousands of Americans have come here as hopeful citizens. They have come peacefully, like other marchers in 1963, knowing that the success of their cause depends on their moral power and not on violence.

Their grievances, and those of all the poor people they represent, are just -- hunger in a land of agricultural plenty . . . unnecessary infant mortality in a nation with the most advanced medical science . . . illiteracy and lack of skill in a country which has, from the beginning, known that man cannot be both ignorant and free.

(con't)

Let's be clear about this: the power of just grievances and peaceful petition in a country with a conscience -- and America has a strong one -- plus the power of "the establishment" -- can -- together -- solve the problem of poverty in America by the time the children sleeping in lean-to's in East Potomac Park tonight grow up.

We can do it now -- if we just make up our minds to...

Our present poverty program is an important asset in this effort.

More than any other public program in our history, it has demonstrated that the "ins" and the "outs" can in fact talk to each other, persuade each other, and help each other.

It has given us the experience to know that the disadvantaged, the unskilled, and the un-hoping can be made full and active participants in our society.

And it gives us a viable framework for an expanded effort -- a framework new within the last four years.

The war on poverty involves much more than OEO. It includes education and welfare and training and health and housing and economic development.

It depends on state and local action as well as federal...private action as well as public.

But OEO is central to the war on poverty. It must be adequately financed.

This Administration is determined to get every penny we can from the Congress for the anti-poverty program.

President Johnson has asked Congress for 2.18 billion dollars for OEO programs for the next fiscal year -- starting in July.

This is half a billion dollars more than we have this year.

It is almost three times as much as we had the first year of the program.

National concern is focused right now -- and for necessary reasons -- on budget deficits and on tax policy.

But human deficits and social policy must not be...and they will not be...disregarded.

Every dollar less for OEO means a dollar less for Head Start -- or Job Corps -- or Neighborhood Youth Corps -- or Operation Mainstream -- or VISTA -- or Upward Bound -- or Health Centers -- or other exciting and needed programs.

These programs must not be crippled.

But federal dollars will never replace the warmth and the dedication of concerned Americans. That is why I have come today to salute you, the Women of America.

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To be effective, however, that power must be used in common cause with those who have thus far been left out of our society. It must be shared with those people, not just used on them.

They have a real kind of power to offer, too -- citizen power, which is being demonstrated in another part of this nation's Capital right now. Thousands of Americans have come here as hopeful citizens. They have come peacefully, like other marchers in 1963, knowing that the success of their cause depends on their moral power and not on violence.

Their grievances, and those of all the poor people they represent, are just -- hunger in a land of agricultural plenty ... unnecessary infant mortality in a nation with the most advanced medical science ... illiteracy and lack of skill in a country which has, from the beginning, known that man cannot be both ignorant and free.

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Bookbinder
May 14, 1968

NOTES FOR V.P. GREETINGS TO RECEPTION OF DELEGATES TO
CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN THE WAR ON POVERTY

May 16, 1968

I want to ~~make~~ it absolutely clear that I am here as your Vice-President. Many, many weeks ago -- before certain things happened -- you invited me -- as your Vice President -- to visit with you. ~~Just~~ ^{you} ~~as you had last year,~~ ^{didn't the same} and I came then too -- as your Vice President.

So there's no politics involved here.

Let me only say that
~~Now -- as to next year~~ -- when you hold your Third Annual Conference, I'd like to be invited again. But not as your Vice President.

I'm particularly sensitive to the need to make these political disclaimers because your charming and effective Chairman is Ladonna Harris -- and your luncheon speaker was the great Senator from Oklahoma, Fred Harris. And you know how rumors get around. People might start thinking that this whole conference was part of a stop-Stassen movement or something like that.

This is a reception. Not a meeting. So let me say a few serious things to you just as succinctly as possible:

I salute you and all the women of America for your magnificent

support of the war on poverty.... But I must tell you frankly that you

have not done as much as our needs require.... You have been discussing

what those needs are all day -- and you will continue tomorrow. ^{But} So I will

not take the time to ~~praise you for~~ your efforts on behalf of WICS (Women in

Community Service) or of Head Start or of VISTA or the dozens of other programs.

to talk a little about where we go from here.
I want instead to ~~urge you to find out what more you have to do.~~

you
For the most part, ~~this group~~ ^{is} here today represents the so-called Establishment,

of America
the Power Structure. ^{and} I do not use ~~these~~ ^{the} terms disparagingly. ~~I think~~

You represent the groups of women in America who, for the most part,

have made it. ["]As professionals, ["]As labor officials, ["]As business leaders,...

["]As social workers, ["]~~Yess~~ ["]As government officials. You represent power --

~~the most operating part of it~~ ^{that gives us the right}
the best kind of power -- womanpower. That power must be mobilized as

to hope that we can win the war on poverty in America
never before on behalf of the public interest. I do not think that continued

[To be effective, however, that power must be]
social progress in this country will come ~~just from confrontation~~ unless we

in must be used in
can persuade the so-called Establishment forces to make common cause with

these who have thus far been left out from that social progress. ^{of our society. It must be} ~~The Poverty~~

shared with the people, not just used on them.
~~program~~ more than any other program in our history, ^{it} has demonstrated that

the ins and the outs can in fact talk to each other, persuade each other, and

help each other.

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And, believe me, they have a kind of power to offer, too --
 Citizen power, which is being demonstrated.

In another part of this nation's Capital another type of power is
 being demonstrated, ^{right now} Citizen power. Thousands of ^{American} people from many parts
 of the country have come here as ^{hopeful} proud citizens -- exercising their Consti-
 tutional rights to petition their government for the redress of grievances.

~~I was there today in Resurrection City -- to make them welcome and to~~
~~commend them for their active citizenship.~~

not some of them
 Their grievances are just -- *and that of all the poor people the reason?*
and that of all the poor people the reason?

There are many people in and out of government concerned about the
 of a great deal of *plenty* in unnecessary infant mortality in
 Poor People's Campaign. ~~Examine~~ This concern is understandable. There
 a nation with the most advanced medical science...
 are health problems which must be carefully watched. There is the danger of
 illiteracy ~~and~~ lack of skill in a country which
 But I wish there were much more attention given to what brought these people
 here, from the beginning, *human that human can't be both*
 to their nation's Capital that how they are getting here or how they are
 poor and ignorant.
 going to behave.

what do they want? It is too easy to say
 Their grievance is that they have been left out.

The fact is that there are millions of Americans who do have just
 not grievance or desire to share of
 grievances. They have not shared in America's phenomenal progress. They
 that they want a fair share of the pie. *what they really want*
 is access to the
 have not been given the equal opportunities ~~for~~ most of us do enjoy. They

I think the power of just grievance and peaceful petition
 in a country with a conscience -- *and America has a strong one*
 have in fact been part of "the other America."

plus the power of the "establishment" I am assuming
 To solve the problem of poverty in America by the time the children
 We can take satisfaction in the progress that we have made these last

can be little
 few years. But there is no comfort in such satisfaction. Because those not
 yet reached ~~it~~ cannot take *satisfaction or comfort* from other people's progress. So let us

It has given us the experience to know that
 take on the next battles instead of gloating about yesterday's victories.
~~could be disadvantaged, the unskilled, and the semi-hungry.~~
 There are still hungry people in America. There are still millions living
 can be made full and active participants in our
 in rat-infested homes. There are still millions of illiterates in America.
 society.

There is still the practice of racism in America -- despite our ~~heroism~~

And it gives us a viable framework for
 tremendous progress.
in a special effort -- a framework new within
the last 4 years.

The war on poverty is much more than OEO. It ^{includes} is education and welfare
 and training and health and housing and economic development. It ^{depends on} is State
 and local action as well as Federal, ~~It is~~ private action as well as public.

But OEO is central to the war on poverty. It must be adequately financed.

I'm proud to tell you that this Administration is determined to

get ~~from Congress~~ every penny for OEO which the Congress authorized last

year for Fiscal 1969. That means \$2.18 billions ^{dollars} -- not as much as OEO

could effectively use,
 needs, I'm sure, ~~-- but that means~~ almost half a billion dollars more than

this year. And it means almost three times as much as the first year of

the program.

The Nation
 We need your help to *see that Congress* persuade the Congress to give OEO the full
 amount authorized. *papers are not copied*
 No amount of concern about budget deficits or taxes can

justify reducing OEO's budget by a single dollar. Every dollar taken away

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from OEO means a dollar less for Head Start -- or Job Corps -- or VISTA -- or Upward Bound -- or Health Centers -- or a hundred other exciting and needed programs.

or Neighborhood Youth Corps

B

The war on poverty is a great and noble war. It needs to be escalated, ^{can} ~~And it will~~ be escalated. Let us pray that today's talks in Paris will lead to peace -- that we can start diverting our resources to the only war we seek ~~in this land of ours~~ -- a war against poverty and ~~racism and despair~~ *in America.*

But ~~Federal~~ dollars will never replace ^{the} ~~to~~ warmth and the dedication of concerned Americans. That is why I have come today to salute you, the women of America.



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