

ORIGINAL

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REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

RECEPTION

MINNESOTA DEMOCRATIC FARMER LABOR PARTY

at

St. Paul, Minnesota

June 21, 1968

I guess there is nobody around here to say hello except me. This is really a meeting in which there is standing room only, it is quite obvious. I was going to ask you all to sit down but I am afraid that would be disastrous.

I am very happy that I have this chance of being home with you tonight and I am particularly pleased that we have the good fortune of having you here at this reception. I gather that many of you were with us at the dinner. I hope you were. At least Warren Spannaus, the Chairman, said he wanted everybody to be there that had \$25. (Laughter)

I remember one time when the late President, John Kennedy, came to one of the big dinners, a packed house, everybody had paid \$100 a plate, and he said when he saw this

1 huge audience, "I feel very touched, but," he said, "I
2 gather you were touched before I was." (Laughter)
3 So tonight I feel very touched by this wonderful reception
4 but I think some of you were touched a lot more than I was
5 before you arrived here, but tonight I want you to know
6 how much I am touched by your friendship and your presence.

7 You are going to have a great day tomorrow. This
8 party of ours has always come through its trials and its
9 difficulties. We have one of the great political parties
10 of America, the Democratic Farmer Labor Party. In all of
11 my days of public service, I have been so proud of our
12 political activity here and our political action in Minnesota.
13 We have spent quite a few years building what we have and
14 it seems that each year those that come along to care for
15 this party, to tend to its business, do a little bit better
16 than those who have preceded them.

17 We constantly bring in new people. We have always
18 had an open door to the Democratic Farmer Labor Party for
19 the young, for those that repent for their sins, for being
20 Republicans. (Laughter) We have always had the open door
21 for the independent, that wanted to, at long last, have a
22 political affiliation but, more importantly, we have had an
23 open mind, and one of the things that I want to say to
24 you tonight is this, that none of us can be positively sure
25 that we are right, and because we cannot be positively,

1 unequivocally sure that we are right, you need to have a
2 degree of tolerance for the other man's point of view. He
3 may be right, too, you just can't tell. (Applause)

4 I feel that those who have been so kind and willing
5 to support me, I feel that I have a right to ask you to
6 conduct yourselves in the manner that is becoming a great
7 party. You have hot, hard contests here at home in
8 Minnesota. \The national press has watched what we have done.
9 I always have felt that we can set a good example for the
10 rest of the country. We don't have a machine-bossed
11 political party. As a matter of fact, it is very difficult
12 to give it any bossing at all. (Laughter and applause)
13 But we have done quite well over these past years and I
14 think we will do even better in the coming years, provided
15 that once we have made our choices and the choice of your
16 presidential nominee, which will come at the Chicago
17 Convention, once that we have made that choice, whoever he
18 may be, that we unite behind him to give him all the support
19 of which we are capable. I truly believe that the Democratic
20 Party, and in our State, the Democratic Farmer Labor Party,
21 has served the public interest and served it well. We
22 have not always served it perfectly, because we are people;
23 we have not always known exactly what to do because we are
24 not that wise or that smart, but we have tried to serve the
25 public interest to the best of our ability. We have tried to

1 be constantly mindful of the needs of the people of this
2 State and of this nation.

3 These are the most difficult times that you can
4 imagine or that you have ever lived through in terms of
5 the problems that confront us, a world in ferment, as I
6 said tonight, a nation in change, a world that is striving
7 to find better days and an America that is striving to find
8 better opportunities, and in that kind of an environment it
9 is not unusual that there will be sharp differences of
10 opinion, but it is out of the refiners fire of the conflict
11 and competition of ideas that we ultimately find the right
12 idea or, at least, the idea around which we can concentrate
13 our efforts and build step by step, year by year, the
14 progress that we are so proud of.

15 You folks know that I have been one of those that
16 believes that this country is destined to great things.
17 I don't want to seem like a sentimentalist, and I am not,
18 really, but I think that the history of our country demon-
19 strates that we can do what we want to do and do it well.
20 I happen to believe that this people called the American
21 people are capable of doing incredibly great and wonderful
22 things, and what I would like to be able to do is to help
23 call them to their greatness.

24 Presidents are not always great but the Presidency
25 represents the greatness of the nation, and the duty of a

1 President is to call up the best, first in himself and then
2 in the people that he serves, and if we can call out the
3 best in this country, there is nothing that can stand in
4 our way in terms of building the kind of a life we need.
5 (Applause)

6 Now, I want to leave you with this thought. I
7 was very serious with you, and I don't want to be overly
8 serious. One of the joys of being a Democrat is that we
9 have fun as Democrats when we get together. Even when we
10 abuse each other we have fun. (Laughter and applause)
11 I don't expect you to be foolishly Pollyannaish in your
12 optimism, but I do expect you to act like Democrats and that
13 is, carry yourself with a clear eye and with a sense of
14 confidence and with a great sense of tolerance and under-
15 standing for all those about you and the ideas of others
16 and even in the worst of times we should expect to do the
17 best of things. That is the way to look at it, and if you
18 will just remember that, you will never lose faith. In the
19 worst of times we must do the best of things, and in the
20 moments of the greatest pain, sometimes it helps others to
21 ease their sorrow and their grief if you have just a little
22 smile. Not a laugh but just a little smile of confidence,
23 the faith in yourself and in your fellow man.

24 Now, I like people and so do you or we wouldn't be
25 in this party. I have had the best times of my life right

1 out here in the State of Minnesota with the friends and the
2 neighbors of this State and with the DFL. I was here when
3 we were born, so to speak. (Applause)

4 I will tell you something, I saw a very beautiful
5 lady tonight. She said, "Oh, Mr. Vice President, you won't
6 recall it, but I sat on your lap when you first ran for the
7 Senate." And I said, "Why don't you try it all over again?"
8 (Laughter) My goodness, how these little girls do grow up.

9 Well, let me tell you, youth is not a matter of
10 age. It is a matter of attitude. I have said so many
11 times and I have sort of stolen the words from someone that
12 I can't remember who wrote them, that you are as old as
13 your doubts and as young as your hopes and you are as old
14 as your fears and as young as your ideals, and you are as
15 old as your despair and as young as your confidence.

16 My young friends, it is sure good to be with you
17 tonight. (Applause)

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