

"IT'S HAPPENING"

(Dick Clark Productions)

with

Hubert H. Humphrey

Vice-President of the United States

Hollywood Palace Theatre

Hollywood, California

7:30 p.m., July 27, 1968

REPORTED BY Robert H. Clark, CSR

OUR FILE NO.

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1  
2 MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Mark Lindsay

3 Participants: Debby Vottino

4 Jay Kathy

5 Mary Dougherty

6 Alessa Dixon

7 Leslie Price

8 Holly Winner

9 Patricia Mazey

10 Ed Voses

11 Lois (?)

12  
13 \* \* \* \* \*

14  
15 MARK LINDSAY: Ladies and gentlemen, we have had many  
16 famous personalities visit us on "It's Happening," and today  
17 we are honored to have as our very special Happening guest  
18 one of the country's most distinguished citizens. Ladies and  
19 gentlemen, the Vice-President of the United States, Mr.  
20 Hubert Humphrey.

21 (Applause.)

22 Mr. Vice-President, I think all the young people  
23 in the country join me today in thanking you for coming here.

24 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPRHEY: Thank you very much. I like  
25 that jacket.

26 MARK LINDSAY: The one you are wearing is very nice, too.

1 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: This is out of this world.  
2 I think this would be good for presiding over the United  
3 States Senate. I think we will try it. It looks great.

4 MARK LINDSAY: I will give you the material.

5 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you.

6 MARK LINDSAY: A lot of people in the audience would  
7 like to ask you some questions, Mr. Vice-President. So if it  
8 is all right with you, we will follow in the audience.

9 Here is a little girl.

10 A VOICE: Mr. Vice-President, do you think the voting  
11 age should be lowered to 18?

12 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I surely do, my dear. In fact,  
13 18 years ago I thought the voting age should be lowered to 18.  
14 I am all for it.

15 A VOICE: Mr. Vice-President, would you consider your-  
16 self a strict parent?

17 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, it depends on whom you  
18 are talking to. If you are talking to my 19-year-old son,  
19 he tells me sometimes he thinks I am strict. But most of the  
20 time I think I would be just in between, just strict enough --

21 A VOICE: Mr. Vice-President, how important do you think  
22 it is for a candidate to have the support of the nonvoting  
23 adolescents?

24 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I think it is very good to  
25 have the support of the very young people. I try to get it.  
26 As you have indicated, they cannot vote, but they have a lot

1 of influence with their parents and with their older brothers  
2 and sisters, and they are just awfully good company --

3 A VOICE: What do you think about the generation gap?

4 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: That is a toughie. You know,  
5 this thing that we call the generation gap is not particularly  
6 new. I think it is a little different now. As one thinks  
7 back, I believe that most of us, when we were teen-agers,  
8 always felt that there was quite a gap between the older  
9 group and the teen-ager group and the younger group; but I  
10 believe this particular generation may have a more meaningful  
11 generation gap. It is, frankly, the postwar group of  
12 children and young people since World War II that have  
13 appeared. It is a period of time in which aggression has  
14 never been known for at least many young people. Of course,  
15 many have lived in less than favorable circumstances, and I  
16 believe there is some reality in what we call the generation  
17 gap. I think the best thing to do is take time out and talk  
18 things over. Everybody seems to be busy today, and we don't  
19 do enough, and possibly a little more talking would bridge  
20 the gap.

21 A VOICE: Do you feel there is a lack of communication,  
22 then?

23 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Yes, I do. I think many times  
24 young people feel that those in public life don't listen to  
25 them, and sometimes I feel they feel that their parents don't  
26 listen to them, and sometimes the parents feel that the young



1 people don't listen to them. So maybe if we could kind of  
2 put the noise level down a couple of notches and get down to  
3 where the loudest thing you say is just good, we would all  
4 be listening just a little better.

5 Thank you.

6 A VOICE: Mr. Vice-President, how do you feel about the  
7 young people's music of today?

8 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Would you repeat the question?

9 MARK LINDSAY: She wants to know what you think about  
10 the young people's music of today.

11 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I think the young people are  
12 really with it. They are swingers. I like them. I like the  
13 beat. I like the rhythm. I am one of these fellows that  
14 likes a lot of music. I like all kinds of music, from the  
15 most modern jazz to the most classical music, to the kind of  
16 good young people's music that we hear today with all the  
17 guitars and all that goes with it. The more the merrier.  
18 I think it is good.

19 I even like to dance, maybe not the kind the young  
20 people do, but I make an honest effort.

21 A VOICE: Mr. Vice-President, do you feel the present  
22 draft laws should be abolished?

23 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I think the present draft law  
24 is very unfair. I think it should be changed. I think the  
25 present draft law, with all the exceptions that it has, all  
26 the variations, leaves a young man with uncertainty.

1 I believe in what we call the random selection, or  
2 lottery system, and when a young man's number is called at a  
3 certain age group, then he goes, and for those that are not  
4 called, they are not going to be called. I believe there  
5 ought to be some certainty in the draft law rather than this  
6 constant doubt and apprehension which upsets the lives of  
7 millions of young people, and I have advocated a change --

8 A VOICE: What do you think the black youth and white  
9 youth can do about the black crisis?

10 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: The first thing I think we  
11 can do is recognize people are people, regardless of color,  
12 creed or background; start to respect people for the fact  
13 that they are people, and quit going around trying to put up  
14 all of these artificial barriers.

15 The second thing I believe is important for young  
16 people, think in terms of service. If you have a better  
17 break than somebody else, be willing to share just a little  
18 bit.

19 I have had a chance to work with young people a  
20 great deal in recreation, job training, job placement, and I  
21 have found that a great number of our young people are doing  
22 a great deal of work to help others.

23 Take, for example, in the VISTA program. This is a  
24 younger group. Many of them volunteer their services to  
25 America. They are doing a fine job out in the inner cities,  
26 and ghettos, and areas of deprivation, to help young people

1 get a start in life.

2 The best thing that a young person can do for  
3 another one is to help him, and accept him fully as a member  
4 of the human family, and quit going around putting labels and  
5 tags on it. As soon as we have a sense of pride, a sense of  
6 acceptance, then I think we will get along a whole lot  
7 better in this world.

8 A VOICE: Mr. Vice-President, do you advocate more  
9 programs like VISTA?

10 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I surely do. This young  
11 generation does a tremendous amount of good. This is some-  
12 thing far too many people don't hear about. This is the  
13 generation that has filled the Peace Corps, for example, with  
14 thousands of volunteers. This is the generation that has  
15 given to the National Teachers Corps. Very young people are  
16 coming into the National Teachers Corps and are working in  
17 the toughest spots in America, in the ghettos.

18 This is the generation that has put many thousands  
19 into the VISTA program, and besides that, there are programs  
20 that I can't remember by title that are private programs,  
21 working through the voluntary organizations, in which there  
22 are hundreds of thousands of young people working.

23 Last year, over 400,000 college students volunteered  
24 their services to help young people who were in need, in  
25 education, in recreation, in sports, in health, and there were  
26 over 500,000 high school juniors and seniors that went out and



1 helped young people that were in need.

2 Now, I think that is the kind of politics that we  
3 ought to have; the politics of service, rather than just the  
4 politics of noise. I believe that the young people when they  
5 join up now in political activities can do a tremendous job  
6 by just going out and trying to help somebody else. By  
7 helping somebody else, you get a friend, and it is a great  
8 way to have a wonderful lasting friendship.

9 A VOICE: Mr. Vice-President, what do you propose in  
10 order to keep the youth of America involved in politics once  
11 the election is over?

12 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, I guess I was maybe  
13 anticipating what you might say, even though I didn't know  
14 what you were going to say, because it seems to me what we  
15 need to do with our young people is not merely to talk at  
16 them, but to let them feel a sense of belonging and entering  
17 into the participation of activities that is going on.

18 If politics is something that is different, if it  
19 is sort of out of step with what is going on with the rest  
20 of the country, then it is <sup>not</sup> going to be very meaningful. It  
21 becomes an exercise every two or four years. I believe the  
22 time is at hand now when young people can come into political  
23 life and into the political party to become an integral part  
24 of the community, rather than something that you drag out  
25 when you run a candidate for office.

26 There are the young people out in the ghettos, and



1 let them join up in community service programs, and I think  
2 you will get thousands of young people joining politics.

3 The main thing you have to do is get the older  
4 folks to accept them, and that is something that simply has  
5 got to be done.

6 When I started politics, they called my gang  
7 "Humphrey's Diaper Brigade," and we were pretty young at  
8 that time.

9 A VOICE: How old were you?

10 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: You mean how young?

11 A VOICE: How young were you when you became interested  
12 in politics?

13 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I guess about ten years old.  
14 Truly, I used to travel about with my dad once in a while,  
15 when he used to go to political conventions. But I started  
16 out at about age 16, actually, sort of campaigning around  
17 with others, and by the time I was 18 to 20, I was full-  
18 fledged, and I was really involved in it with what we called  
19 the Young Democrats then, and I have been at it ever since.

20 I became mayor of my city when I was 33 years of  
21 age, and I recruited a large number of young people. I used  
22 to teach courses in government, and I remember it was said  
23 that politics is dirty, and I said, "If you think it is dirty,  
24 get in and clean it up. Quit staying on the sidelines." I  
25 said, "Let's see you go into action." Do you know what they  
26 did? They did a good job. They got me elected. I want to

1     thank them.

2                     (Applause.)

3             A VOICE: Mr. Vice-President, if the peace talks in  
4     Paris fail to produce fruitful results, what steps will you  
5     take?

6             VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: My dear lady, first of all,  
7     you are sure pretty. I don't think those peace talks are  
8     going to fail, and I mustn't think so. You know, just like  
9     war has kind of a built-in escalation, so that peace talk has  
10    a built-in momentum to it.

11            I am convinced, as well as I am looking at you now,  
12    what is happening in Paris is going to materialize into a  
13    negotiated political settlement. Most of the people are  
14    willing to sacrifice and search for peace that we desire for  
15    our men over in the battlefields of Vietnam; and if you do  
16    that, you are going to get peace, just as surely as you and I  
17    are in this room tonight.

18            MARK LINDSAY: Mr. Vice-President, we are pleased you  
19    are taking time out with a busy schedule. Do you know, this  
20    has been a great thrill for us.

21            VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: No, but if you will hum a few  
22    bars, I will try and fake it.

23            MARK LINDSAY: Seriously, let me thank you for taking  
24    the time to be with us. Thank you very much.

25            VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you, Mark. It has been  
26    a special pleasure to be here.

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1  
2 STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
3 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ) SS.  
4

5 I, Robert H. Clark, CSR, a Notary Public in and for  
6 the State of California, do hereby certify:

7 That, the foregoing, consisting of 10 pages, is a  
8 full, true and correct transcript of proceedings taken before  
9 me at the time and place therein set forth, and was taken down  
10 by me in shorthand and thereafter reduced to typewriting  
11 under my direction.

12 WITNESS my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of August,  
13 1968.  
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17 Notary Public in and for the County  
18 of Los Angeles, State of California  
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