

BOND
ADDRESS OF HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

At the
LOS ANGELES COUNTY FEDERATION OF LABOR
AFL-CIO RECEPTION
Santa Monica Room, Century Plaza Hotel
Century City (Los Angeles), California
Monday, July 29, 1968, 4:00 p.m.

REPORTED BY Robert H. Clark, CSR

OUR FILE NO. 16075-D

CLARK, SNYDER & MARTIN
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTERS
1636 WEST EIGHTH ST., SUITE 201
LOS ANGELES 17, CALIFORNIA

DUNKIRK 8-1476

ADDRESS OF VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY

AT THE

AFL-CIO RECEPTION

SIGMUND ARYWITZ: Ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honor and great pleasure to introduce to you my friend and your friend, the next President of the United States.

(Applause.)

VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you, Sigy. I appreciate that introduction, and I want you to know that I come here to speak to some mighty good members of the labor movement, because my seniority clause in my contract is running out.

First, let me pay my respects to Tom Kitz once again; so happy to see you, Tom, as I came in the door out here. Where is he? He is around here some place. I will say hello. That light is pretty bright on me here.

I want you to know how good it is to be back home again. When I say "back home," because I have been out here to this great metropolitan area and this State of California, out here in metropolitan Los Angeles, all of these neighboring counties, so many times in the past that some of you used to think that I was a dues-paying member of your respective locals of your unions.

Well, I have something going for me that is better than that. I have an honorary life membership in half a

1 dozen or more of these great internationals, and some non-
2 dues-paying memberships; and fellows, if you can get it that
3 way, it is really good.

4 (Applause.)

5 I am positively delighted that I have come here
6 today. You know that we are engaged now in a very active
7 campaign, and I think everyone here knows that one of the
8 reasons that I am a candidate for the nomination of the
9 office of presidency of the Democratic party is because my
10 friends from the labor movement came to me and asked me to
11 get in and fight for this nomination.

12 When that first invitation came from George Meaney,
13 in Washington, he came in and talked to me about it. I said
14 I would like to talk it over with a few of our respective
15 friends and see what it looks like.

16 I remember going out to Pittsburgh, where my
17 friends in the steelworkers were having their state conven-
18 tion, and we had quite a little gathering. I can recall half
19 a dozen more of the internationals that had their legislative
20 conferences in Washington for their executive board meetings,
21 and then their delegate meetings in either Washington or
22 down at Miami or up in Philadelphia or up in Pittsburgh or
23 in New York City, or some place else, where I was privileged
24 to speak. There were a couple of times in Atlantic City.
25 Every place that I went, I received a wonderful response from
26 my friends in organized labor, and I am here now with those

1 friends once again; and I am going to put it right on the
2 line. I need your help, and I need it very badly, and I
3 don't only need it for myself in this fight for this office,
4 but I really believe that I need it for you as well, because
5 if we stick together, if you and COPE, the good work that
6 you are doing in COPE, and you, my Teamster friends in
7 DRIVE, and the Railroad Brotherhood and all of your friends
8 in all of your political action organizations, and you over
9 there, the Machinists and the other different groups, if
10 you will get in here and give me your help, we are going out,
11 No. 1, and get this Democratic nomination signed up, sealed
12 and delivered, and we are going out and take on the
13 Republicans.

14 (Applause.)

15 I consider one of the highest honors that has come
16 to me in politics is to have enjoyed the endorsement and
17 support of organized labor in every campaign in which I have
18 been involved, from the very first time that I ran for mayor.
19 The first time that I ran for mayor, the labor movement and
20 myself didn't quite make it. We ended up a few votes short.
21 So we decided that we would try it again.

22 When I was elected mayor of my city, I was the
23 endorsed candidate of the AFL, and at that time there were
24 two main labor movements, the AF of L and the CIO, and I had
25 the Railroad Brotherhood with me. I had the Joint Teamsters
26 Council with me. I had them all with me, and I have been a

1 candidate since that time, since 1945, several times; 1945,
2 '47, '48, right on up, '54, 1960, and the presidential and
3 vice-presidential elections, 1964, and every time I have been
4 the luckiest man on the ticket. But why? Because each and
5 every time my friends in organized labor have come forward
6 and said, "We are going to help you. We are going to work
7 for you. We are going to fight for you." And each and
8 every one of those times we have been successful, and the
9 reason we have been successful is because you were in there
10 pitching, and I was in there standing alongside of you.

11 Now, that partnership can win any time, and I want
12 to keep the partnership working, and I want to keep working
13 out here in California.

14 I don't know who the Republican nominee is going
15 to be. I have kind of a suspicion. I think he will be the
16 one that you will kind of be happy about being the one, and
17 we can even up a lot of old scores, and we can go out and
18 win a victory.

19 (Applause.)

20 We have a lot of work to do with this country. I
21 am not running for this highest office as a gift of the
22 American people, or because it is just pleasure, or because
23 it is going to be an easy assignment. You and I know better
24 than that. We know that there are great problems of running
25 our country at home and abroad. We know that there is a
26 tremendous desire for the American people to find a peaceful

1 solution for a very difficult war.

2 I pledge myself and I pledge to you that I will
3 use every energy, every talent that I have, not for a sell-
4 out, not by a long shot, but to bring about an honorable and
5 lasting peace, and that's what you want and that's what I
6 want.

7 (Applause.)

8 I know what else you are concerned about. You are
9 concerned about your families. You are concerned about the
10 conditions of this country. You are concerned about opening
11 up the doors of opportunity to our fellow Americans, and we
12 have to do it. The labor movement has led the right for
13 education for 150 years. Let's just trace a little history
14 for a moment.

15 When this country came into being, there was a
16 labor movement. My friends here from the Carpenters, you
17 were one of the originals, the Carpenters and Joiners.

18 There was a labor movement in America when we had
19 Independence Day on July 4, 1776. The labor movement has
20 fought for every basic program today that is on the statute
21 books that is a benefit to the human family, from workmen's
22 compensation to Social Security, from the minimum wage to
23 the protection of the consumer, public health, Medicare,
24 education; you name it, and the organized labor movement of
25 America has been in there to help make it possible. That is
26 why I am proud to be a candidate supported by the labor

1 movement of the United States.

2 (Applause.)

3 You ladies and gentlemen know that we have got
4 things to do tomorrow, as well as the pride that we have in
5 the accomplishments of yesterday. I am not going to spend
6 much time in talking about the yesterdays, because we can't
7 do anything about them except to learn from them or to be
8 happy with the good things that have taken place or feel
9 bad about the bad things that have taken place. We have
10 learned some lessons, but we have got cities to build in
11 this country, some cities to rebuild. We have got children
12 to educate in this country, and there are plenty of our
13 children that have never had a break. They never had a
14 chance. I have had a chance, but I want to see everybody
15 else have that same chance, and even better. We have some
16 young people in America that not only need educational
17 opportunities, they need an extra measure of opportunity,
18 because they have been denied. We have got workers in this
19 country that are potential union members, and potential
20 members that need to be trained and put in the jobs. There
21 is unlimited talent in this country that is untapped.

22 When I see, for example, the great athletes that
23 come out of the ghettos, when I know that an Olympic champion
24 can come out of a hole of deprivation and carry the banner of
25 America before the whole world, I know that some of those
26 homes for the poor today can give us scientists and doctors

1 and craftsmen and I know they can give us great political
2 leaders and great spiritual leaders and cultural leaders.
3 That talent is there. All we have to do is develop it, and
4 help them develop their own talents.

5 I am a man that believes in self-help. I am a man
6 that believes in self-respect. I am a person that believes
7 in human dignity, and the labor movement has helped make this
8 possible. I want to say to you in conclusion that this
9 labor movement has a glorious opportunity to help lift
10 America to new standards. You have done it in the past.
11 You can't rest on your laurels any more than I can.

12 I go out to young people today and they don't know
13 what I have done yesterday. They have got to be interested,
14 and I have to be interested in what we are going to do
15 tomorrow, and that is for you, too. So we have got a lot of
16 work to do, and one of the things that we have to do is to
17 remember the importance of political action and political
18 education, and here I come back again to these great movements
19 that you have in these great voluntary forces working in the
20 labor movement, and I summarize them all into one phrase,
21 COPE, your Committee on Political Education.

22 I know that each of your unions have your own
23 political activities. Some of you have separate ones. Let's
24 put it all under one banner, political activities, political
25 education, and political action.

26 If we don't get voters registered out here in Los

1 Angeles, and voter registration is top on our priority list,
2 then we are not going to win elections. We have got to get
3 them registered, and you have got to find ways and means to
4 get them registered. We have to go into every section of
5 this state to get voters registered, or if we don't, we will
6 lose.

7 Remember, every time that there is a low registra-
8 tion, the conservatives win. Every time there is a high
9 registration, we have a better than 50-50 chance to win,
10 and I want to have at least as good a chance as 50-50. So
11 go out now and stir up your membership. You won't have much
12 trouble after the Republican convention, I'll guarantee.
13 The juices will start to run, and after the Republican
14 convention, keep your eyes on the Democratic convention.

15 I just want you to know I am your candidate. I
16 want your support. I want your help. I need your help.
17 If you will give me your help, then I will guarantee that
18 when the November elections are held, you will be on your
19 way to the inaugural, and it won't be for a Republican; it
20 will be for a Democrat.

21 Thank you.

22
23 * * * * *
24
25
26

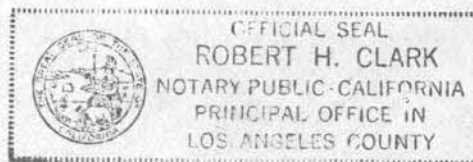
1
2 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
3 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) SS.
4

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

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

12 WITNESS my hand and seal this 17th day of August,
13 1968.
14

15 *Robert H. Clark*
16 _____
17 Notary Public in and for the County
18 of Los Angeles, State of California





Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org