



FOR RELEASE

WEDNESDAY PM'S
AUGUST 7, 1968
Telephone 202/225-2961

NOTES
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS CONVENTION
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
AUGUST 7, 1968

To receive your Americanism award is a great honor for me -- a deeply personal one, for which I am extremely grateful.

I have chosen to speak thoughts which are, I believe, deeply held by most Americans, but too seldom expressed.

I have chosen to speak out on behalf of America, not a nation that has lost its way, but a restless people striving to find a better way.

I believe the time has come to put aside cynicism and pettiness... to forget old fears and animosities, where they exist, and to bring forth tolerance...understanding...and mutual trust.

The time has come to recognize that this nation has more strength than weakness...more hope than despair...more faith than doubt -- and that we have more chance than any nation in history to cope with the problems we face.

The time has come for those who share a deep and abiding belief in the purposes and potentialities of this nation to say: I love my country.

The time has come to express a new American patriotism.

...Not a patriotism expressed alone in flags or parades, but in a willingness to get down to the hard, tiring, endless work that every generation before us has paid out to keep alive the vision of what America can be.

The time has come, in short, to reaffirm once more that we can do whatever we must do to carry forth the unfinished and peaceful business of this country.

It will not always be easy.

In the words of John F. Kennedy -- who last received this award -- "Peace and freedom do not come cheap, and we are destined -- all of us here today -- to live out most if not all our lives in uncertainty and challenge and peril."

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But we must do what is necessary to secure peace and freedom --

...in the world, so that all nations may rescue resources from the wasteful arts of war and divert them to the humane pursuits of peace,

...at home, so that every American may enjoy security and a full share of opportunity in his community.

We all know these things will not be achieved easily or without sacrifice.

They will be achieved only through specific acts which add up, one after another, to the peace and security we all seek.

Peace will be built in the world through this country's response to such situations as the suffering we now see in Biafra.

We have the chance -- as Americans...as members of the United Nations...and in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross to bring help to suffering, starving people beset by forces beyond their control.

I believe this nation must be willing to do whatever is necessary to break through the red tape and complications which withhold food from those who need it in Biafra.

I believe, too, that we must be willing to exert the same patience and courage in support of our negotiators in Paris as our fighting men have been willing to exert in Vietnam -- as we seek a peaceful and honorable settlement to the Vietnam war.

Here at home, we must be willing to pay the price for law and order in every American neighborhood, so that every American citizen can walk the streets in confidence and safety.

We must build law and order not just on law enforcement, but on law observance. I am talking about the law observance that comes from people who believe in their country and who have a real stake in their society.

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We won't have peace in the world -- or peace in our own American neighborhoods -- unless we the American people will stand together for these goals. We must be not an America of one mind...but an America of one spirit.

We must preserve and nurture all the fundamental rights of free expression -- yet reach across the divisions that today too often separate race from race, region from region, young from old, worker from scholar, rich from poor.

That is this country's business today: To build one America, not two... to stand up again in patriotism and with pride in our citizenship.

There are those who doubt this country. But I know you do not. And I do not.

We are going to get the job done.

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✓ MARTIN G. RILEY

National Commander, Catholic War Veterans

Father O'Donnell

Auxiliary

Father Strahan

Will introduce the Vice President and present to him a Distinguished Service Award (gold medal and framed citation)

only 3 times since
1953

Cardinal Spellman

Chief Justice Warren

John Kennedy

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ORIGINAL

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

SPEECH

OF

THE HONORABLE HUMPHREY H. HUMPHREY,
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

before

THE THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION

of the

CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS OF THE U.S.A.

Minneapolis, Minnesota

August 7, 1968

PAGES 1 thru 23

HOOVER REPORTING COMPANY, INC.

Official Reporters

Washington, D. C.

346-0686

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Minneapolis, Minnesota

Wednesday, August 7, 1968

The Convention was called to order at 12:15 o'clock,
p.m., by James F. X. Carney, General Convention Chairman.

CHAIRMAN CARNEY: Ladies and gentlemen, we are honored to have the Vice President of the United States of America.

[Thereupon the Vice President was accorded a standing ovation.]

NATIONAL COMMANDER MARTIN G. RILEY: I will give you all a couple of minutes to take your pictures. You are going to take them; so let's take them now and get them over with.

[Applause.]

NATIONAL COMMANDER RILEY: Will you ladies and gentlemen be seated, please.

Distinguished guests, members of the Catholic War Veterans, and our Ladies Auxiliary, and friends of the Catholic War Veterans, this is indeed an auspicious day in the history of the Catholic War Veterans.

We have had many great men, many great leaders, do us the honor of addressing our conventions and accepting our rarely given high awards throughout our thirty-three years. However, I don't think that we have ever had a more auspicious or any greater honor shown to our organization than is being shown today, with the Vice President of the United States here to address us. I frankly am touched, as I know you are.

Some things possibly that you all do not know is the activity of the Vice President in the field of Federal and veterans legislation.

Both as a Senator and as Vice President, the Honorable Hubert Humphrey has always supported the programs designed to help the veterans and his dependents; and in his present office is still continuing this tremendous support of what we need and what we deserve.

[Applause.]

Now, in my contact throughout the country with other veterans organizations and the other veterans' National Commanders, particularly, I find that my feelings and my remarks are identical with theirs. He has given us real support, and if we could only get it throughout the Congress we would be, and this country would be, in better shape.

[Applause.]

In addition to this great attribute, the Vice President has always been what we are always looking for, a very patriotic American; a man who believes in this country, who believes in its laws, and who believes in the enforcement of the laws. It is an old, old phrase, not used enough, and I am going to repeat: a distinguished patriotic American.

And in recognition of this, the National Board of the Catholic War Veterans has authorized me to award our Distinguished Service Medal for his work in Americanism, in his work in humanity, because this has been certainly one of his outstanding fortes.

Mr. Vice President, I would like to ask you to

accept --

[Thereupon the Vice President was accorded a standing ovation.]

NATIONAL COMMANDER RILEY: I didn't finish that, before you started the applause. That was: -- our Distinguished Service Medal.

So I will now present to you, for such remarks as he cares to make, the distinguished and honorable Vice President of the United States.

[Thereupon the Vice President was accorded a standing and cheering ovation.]

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you very much.

Distinguished National Commander Mr. Riley and all of the distinguished officers of the Catholic War Veterans, Mrs. Carr of the Auxiliary --

And I hope you gentlemen won't mind if I did take a little extra time to say hello to the Auxiliary.

[Applause.]

And to the junior member of the Auxiliary, Bridget -- [laughter] -- who greeted me in the way that every man that ever ran for public office likes to be greeted. [Laughter]. She's a dear and sweet little lady.

Commander Riley and my good friends, Father O'Donnell, Father Strahan, and my long-time friend from the Congress of the United States who has delivered to you this

keynote message, Congressman Carey. You know, it's so good to see Hugh out here in Minnesota. I tried to do him some good back there with his Scandinavians in Brooklyn, when I visited his home district. [Laughter].

I made him an Honorary Norwegian! [Laughter].

And just to prove that he is that, he came out here to this great center of Scandinavian culture in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

[Applause.]

Congressman Carey is a delight to his friends, and he is one of the most respected and effective members of the House of Representatives. I cherish his friendship and am honored by it. And he has made me mighty happy to come out here to my home State, to my home city where I served once as Mayor, and to bring you a message which I know has been a message of inspiration to this great convention and a message that will mean so much to the people of this State, to this great Midwest.

We want to thank the Catholic War Veterans for coming to our part of the country this year. We are so grateful for your attendance in this convention. You represent over a quarter of a million of the finest citizens in the land; and you have come here with your families, many of you, to share in what we hope is a very pleasant experience for you.

We have kept it a little warm. I might say that

there is a good deal of hot air these days going around.

[Laughter].

I didn't know it would work its way up north this rapidly! [Laughter and applause].

Maybe it's good that you are not here this last week in August; it might even be hotter!

[Applause.]

You have honored me today so much by this award, this Distinguished Service Award, the gold medal, and this citation from the Catholic War Veterans. I have been told -- and I hope that I am correct, because it would be such a very significant honor to me to know that I was right in this, that the late beloved Cardinal Spellman was also a recipient of this Award.

He happened to be a very good friend of Mrs. Humphrey's and mine. We visited him many, many times; many times. In fact, I was with him on two or three occasions when he left on his annual pilgrimage to see our servicemen overseas just before Christmas.

And I know that one of the great leaders of our Nation, a highly respected and honored General of the Armed Forces, General MacArthur, was a recipient of this honor.

And then, above all, since I am a political man, a former President and a very great President and a wonderful dedicated spirit for this Nation, the late John Kennedy, was

the recipient of this award.

[Applause.]

All I can say is you put me in some mighty good company; and I am deeply grateful, highly honored, touched and moved by this, by this presentation.

I think I can tell you that as a boy my father used to get me to do the things that he wanted me to do not so much by discipline as what he did by, oh, sort of incentive and motivation. Whenever he really wanted me to shape up, to be what he thought his son ought to be, he'd always more or less tell me how much faith and trust he had in me and how he knew I was going to be able to do this or do that. And it worked!

At least in part. I would try to do what he wanted me to do. I react a whole lot more from faith and trust than I do from doubt and criticism. I guess most of us are that way. I find that that's the way it works best at home, too. I get along better that way in the household -- [laughter] -- and I think most of us have found that to be our experience.

This presentation, to me, places an extra responsibility on my shoulders. It also places in me an extra desire to be worthy of your trust, to be worthy of your confidence.

I said, in an interview not long ago, to a gentleman that was questioning me about some of the aspects of my political life, public and private life -- I was asked about what is the most precious quality that a man can have in public

life. What is it that means the most to him? What is it that gives him the greatest strength?

And I said it is when the people trust you. Trust.

And one of the ways for a man to do a good job is to know that the people do trust him, and he dare not break that trust.

Well, today you have put your trust in me. You have honored me as few citizens in this land have ever been honored, and that display and demonstration of your trust will not be forgotten.

I listened very carefully to Commander Riley's words. I know what this organization stands for -- and thank God it does stand for what its Charter proclaims. It stands for law and order in this country, and respect for the institutions of this country. And it stands for many other good things; for the flag, and what that flag means.

You know, Woodrow Wilson said that the American flag was not just a flag of the American people, but he longed to see the day that it was the flag of all humanity. Not that we were to be conquerors, not that we had any designs of imperialism; but, rather, that it would have the respect of all humanity for what it meant to our own people, and thereby what it meant to our people it could mean to others.

And this great organization, through its Charter, stresses respect for law and order, respect for the flag and

the institutions of this country, respect for public officials, respect for God and country and home.

Some people say that's rather old-fashioned. Well, if it is, let me tell them that that's something old-fashioned that we need to make new-fashioned -- right now, before it's too late.

Because if there's any great need today in this land, it is for people to appreciate what this America means to ourselves and to the world, and what it's all about.

I have chosen to speak some thoughts which are, I believe, deeply held by most Americans -- but all too seldom expressed. Today we generally hear the loud and raucous voices of the protester, of the demonstrator, and of those who seek to impose upon the public their own self-styled, self-righteous point of view.

But, ladies and gentlemen, the voice of America is not that voice. The voice of America is the quiet, almost silent voice and spirit of an overwhelming majority of the American people who love this country, love what it stands for, love what it means to them, and are unashamed to say, "I'm a patriot" and that "I am an American and proud of it!"

[Applause.]

I have not felt that it was necessary for me to down-grade our country in order to up-grade myself. I have not felt that it was necessary to constantly, constantly, center

my attention upon our weaknesses and our limitations in order to prove that I was a person sensitive to our needs. I happen to believe that this Nation of ours is neither sick nor has it lost its way. I believe that America is showing the signs of growth, the signs of maturity, and that it is restlessly and fervently seeking to find a better way for all of its people. And it is because I believe this that I have tried to take this message of an America that should have confidence and faith in itself, of the people who should seek to find answers to our problems, not through a frenzied emotional outburst but through reason and through restraint, and through the peaceful processes of our democracy.

There isn't a single problem that we can settle on the streets, ladies and gentlemen. Not one. There is not a single problem confronting this land that can be settled in violence and lawlessness and crime. Not one. But there is a --

[Applause.]

But there isn't a single --

[Applause.]

But there isn't a single problem that I know of in America that is not subject to solution if we but put ourselves to the task.

I would like to ask this audience of patriots, of servicemen, the women of the Auxiliary, children of your families -- I'd like to ask you to take an inventory of your

land. The inventory of the assets of America, and its liabilities. And if, in your private concerns, you can come out with as good a balance sheet on the profit side, on the asset side, as you will when you take an inventory of the values and the assets of this Nation, you will be rich indeed.

You see, I believe the time has come -- in fact, it's overdue -- to put aside this skepticism and this cynicism and pettiness in which some people seem to glory in indulging, and forget a lot of those old fears and animosities, and to bring forth a new era of tolerance and understanding and mutual trust.

The curse and the poison of bigotry and intolerance have no place in the American scene. None whatsoever.

[Applause.]

The time has come, as I see it, to recognize -- and to say so -- that this nation has more strength than weakness; it has much more hope than despair; it has more faith than doubt; and that we have more chance than any nation in the history of the world to face up to and to cope with whatever problems we have.

And the time has come for those who share this deep and abiding faith and belief, and I do, having this faith and belief in the purposes and the potentialities of this Nation, to stand up strong and tall and to just say in plain, simple language, "I love my country!"

[Applause.]

If a man doesn't have that feeling, he has no right to impose himself on the public in search of office. If I didn't say, every day of my life, that I love my God and I love my country and I love my family, I would be unworthy of seeking a single vote for the highest office of this land.

[Applause.]

So I believe the time has come to once again express an American patriotism. A new, if you please, American patriotism.

Apparently everybody wants something new. Not just a patriotism expressed alone and our respect for the flag or our enjoyment of a parade, but a willingness on the part of each and every one of us to get down to the hard, tiring, endless work that every generation before us has paid out to keep alive the vision of what America can be. And every generation has done just that.

The time has come to reaffirm once more that we can do whatever we must do to carry forth this unfinished business and this peaceful business.

I know it's not going to be easy. And if it were easy, you wouldn't want to do it. You have been organized to do things that are difficult to do. You have been organized to protect the veteran and his family; you have been organized to help get things done in Congress and State Legislatures;

you have been organized to make this a better country. If it were easy, you wouldn't be needed. But you are needed -- desperately needed.

In the words of John Kennedy, whom you honored with this same citation and who last received this Award, "Peace and freedom" -- listen to what he said now -- "Peace and freedom do not come cheap. And we are destined, all of us here today, to live out most if not all of our lives in uncertainty and challenge and peril." End of quote.

That's the way it is.

[Applause.]

But it's because we know that peace and freedom do not come cheap that we are so anxious to protect them, to guard these precious values. And it is because we know and we know that none of us are going to live in a period that is easy and sure and secure. We are going to live in a time in which our lives are filled with uncertainty and doubt and challenge and peril.

Of course we are. And I gather that many other a generation has lived the same way.

But this doesn't mean we turn away from the challenge; it means we seize it. This is the test of a nation's greatness. The tougher the problem, the greater the people.

There was an old minister that once said, "In the worst of times you must do the best of things." And these are

difficult times. Therefore we must do the best of things. Not good enough to curse the darkness; we have to light our candle -- of hope and of faith.

Ladies and gentlemen, I don't care what programs people announce to you. I care not the details of those programs. I care not how clever somebody may be. Unless the people of this country and their leaders have faith in one another, unless we have an overwhelming dose of confidence and optimism and determination, we are not going to succeed. But if there's any characteristic of this land which has prevailed throughout all of its life, it is a willingness to meet any challenge.

America is just another name for the word "future". We have always been the Land of Tomorrow. We have always been a people that had great hope. We have always been a people that were courageous, and explorers and adventurers. We have never been willing to settle on yesterday's results -- not a single businessman or labor man, not a single student or teacher.

We want a better day.

It is because of this consuming desire to a better day and a better life that this Nation is where it is today, which is the envy of the world. And, mark my words, we have a great task in protecting it; so we need to secure the peace and freedom.

There isn't a man or a woman in this room that wants

war. Wars are, by nature, ugly and unpopular; but, by the same token, veterans of this organization know that John Kennedy was right. Peace and freedom do not come cheap. And they can be taken away. They can be lost. And that's why the people must stand guard at all times.

We need to rescue this world, hopefully now in the days ahead, rescue it from the terrible cost of war, so that we can take these resources which are now used in the battle and put them to work for people at home and abroad, in building a better life.

The late, beloved Pope John said, "Where there is constant war there is no peace." And I think we have learned that.

Pope Paul said, only a year and a half ago -- and, by the way, I talked to him about that very encyclical when I visited with him in Rome a year ago April. He said, "Development is the new word and a new name for peace. Development."

So we need, somehow or other, to find a way to bring these resources that we now expend in battle and in the military, bring them as many of them as we can to the peaceful pursuits of mankind, both at home and abroad.

Peace will be built in the world through this country's response to many situations. I couldn't help but note, as I was getting ready to come to you, and I was thinking about it these few days that I had here at home in Minnesota --

and, by the way, this is the only public appearance I am making until Friday night. I came out here. I just figured that the public could only take about one Party at a time; so I decided -- [laughter and applause] -- I decided that I'd come out to my place out here at Waverly, out in the country where it is so peaceful, where I could get some much-needed sleep, where I could do a lot of resting, much reading -- which I have been doing, and my eyes are sore from it -- and a good deal of writing. Because we might have a little work to do in the weeks ahead, and I thought I'd sort of store up a little information for that time and a little energy.

Well, I said that I wanted to come here because of the honor that you pay me; and I want you to know that -- that in this great effort that we make individually and as a nation for peace, sometimes little things count. Let me make it crystal-clear, so that we have no doubt about it, this Nation, you know, is a nation not of destroyers but of builders. I wish we could somehow or another convince some of the doubters in this country that our purpose has never been as conquerors but, rather, protection of others. Our purpose has never been to destroy but, rather, to build. Our purpose has never been war but, rather, peace.

And the building of peace and the finding of it is as difficult as victory on a battlefield and sometimes little things are important.

For example, I read in the paper, in the Eastern press in particular, about the country in Africa, this area in Africa called Biafra. Biafra is a long ways away, and you may say to yourself, "What does it mean to me?"

Well, let me tell you that each and every one of us are a little closer together than we ever were before in this world of change. And when they are suffering any place in the world, remember they are God's children that are suffering; and if there's any way that we can alleviate that suffering without doing damage to ourselves, then we have some responsibility.

And I think we have a chance now, as members of the world community and as members of the United Nations, in cooperation with the great religious organizations, the great churches and the International Committee of the Red Cross, to bring help to suffering and starving people best by forces beyond their control.

I believe this Nation must be willing to do whatever is necessary to break through the international red tape and the complications which have withheld just the basic necessities of food from those who need it in a place even called Biafra.

[Applause.]

I might add that we ought to break through the red tape here at home to provide food for the people who need it

here.

[Applause.]

How foolish we are. We get into such arguments. You and I know that there ought not to be a single child in this land that goes ~~without~~ adequate food. We have got it until it is running out of our ears, and it ought to be manifestly clear that, regardless of the arguments between Federal, State and local government, that there ought to be a way so that every child in this land called America can know each day that it will have enough to eat.

[Applause.]

Finally, friends, I believe, too, that we must be willing to exert great patience, determination and courage in support of our negotiators in Paris now, as our fighting men have been willing to exert in Vietnam; and we seek a peaceful and honorable settlement in the Vietnamese war.

Let me make it crystal-clear that this Nation has no intention -- at least I believe the people of this country have no intention -- of leaving the peoples of South Vietnam at the mercy of an aggressor. I don't think they have any desire to do that. I think the people of this land want a peaceful settlement of this struggle, and want it as soon as possible, but they don't want to sell out.

And if I am the President of the United States, they won't get a sell-out!

[Applause and cheers.]

Let me not be misunderstood. The present President of the United States is not going to let any sell-out happen, either!

[Applause.]

We are perfectly willing to walk that extra mile for that great and noble cause of peace. To stop the killing; seeking a cease-fire; seeking a political settlement. And I ask the people to back the men that are there, these negotiators of ours who are trying, day-in and day-out, meticulously, tirelessly, with great diplomatic competence, to find a way to bring this killing to an end.

[Applause.]

Violence abroad and violence at home are wrong. We can no more afford to have aggressors abroad get their way than we can afford to have lawbreakers at home get their way.

[Applause.]

And before you can build a better world, you have to put down the violence; and before you can build a better city, you have to put down the violence.

[Applause.]

I think I should tell you that, 22 years ago this month, right in this hotel, when I was Mayor of this city, I had to have the police department come in here and put down violence when a group of people tried to break up a meeting.

I didn't particularly care for the meeting myself. As a matter of fact, the spokesman of that meeting wasn't speaking my thoughts. But I happen to believe in free speech, and I happen to believe that everybody is entitled to be heard. I don't think they all need to be taken seriously, but they are entitled to be heard.

[Laughter and applause.]

And I do not believe in "Junior Storm Trooper" tactics, and I do not believe in people coming in and breaking up other people's meetings. I do not believe --

[Applause.]

I do not believe that that's the way that you practice freedom and democracy.

Freedom is not license, and democracy is not anarchy. I do not believe that the way you right social ills is by creating a bigger one, by killing, looting, lawlessness and violence.

And because I don't believe that that's the way you would make this a better Nation, if I have my chance to say anything about it I'll make it my responsibility to work with the law enforcement officials of this country to see to it that peaceful processes are protected and violence is put down. That's the way it ought to be.

[Applause and cheers.]

Now, my friends, let me tell you that we won't have

any peace in this world or peace in our American neighborhoods unless we American people will stand together for these goals and these objectives. Every man and woman ought to be able to walk through a public park without being molested in this country.

I might add that if you want law enforcement you are going to have to pay for it. It means having more and better police. It means being willing to pay them what they deserve. It means that they must be better trained. It means that we must apply every modern technique of training and education. It also means, my dear friends, that the ills that beset this city and this State and this Nation -- that we get at those.

Let me make it crystal-clear that we do not want a police state. What we want is a state of justice, of law-abiding citizens, citizens who observe the law because the law they find is just. And for those few that will not observe it, the full power of the State, the community, must be brought to bear upon them to deny them the chance to destroy.

So I come to you not with a long prepared message but, rather, with a message from the heart. I am concerned about my country, about our country. What I am concerned about is that the great silent majority, of which you are members, has not yet spoken. We have let a loud, raucous, at times violent, minority capture the headlines, run the

streets, break up the meetings, expound before committees, say and do anything they want. And too many of us have stood idly by.

I am not asking you to follow a pattern of harassment and violence and vulgarity that is characteristic of so many things today; I am merely asking you to think in your own mind and heart the kind of America you want.

Let me tell you, the loudest noise in the world is that noise of a ballot of a free citizen in a free country, expressing in this ballot the citizen's, his or her, attitudes on government and confidence or lack of confidence in public officials. Louder than all the chanters and all the demonstrators and all the paraders put together can be the silent majority of America, the non-violent majority of America that speaks and speaks firmly and yet quietly on Election Day.

[Applause.]

All across this country.

[Applause.]

So take your citizenship to heart. Remember that the challenge is still here for us, of one nation. We don't want a nation divided, rich and poor, black and white, north and south; Catholic, Protestant and Jew. We want one nation.

And if we remember the next line, then we will know what we are talking about -- one nation, not under a loud,

noisy cliché; not one nation dominated by a powerful man or group or party -- we want one nation, under God.

[Applause.]

And if it is that one nation under God, it will be indivisible, and it will have liberty and justice for all.

And that's what you stand for. That's what I stand for. It's old-fashioned American patriotism, but it's exactly what is needed in these new days. We need to go back, if I may say, to the heritage of our forefathers in order to be strengthened for the times ahead.

Thank you very much; very, very much.

[Standing ovation and cheers.]

NATIONAL COMMANDER RILEY: This session is recessed.

[Whereupon, at 1:05 o'clock, p.m., the session was recessed.]





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