

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

August 10, 1968

THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Vice President of the United States

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

SUNKEN GARDENS, BRACKENRIDGE PARK

GEORGE JONES COURT REPORTERS

1401 TOWER LIFE BUILDING
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78205

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HONORED GUESTS

The Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey
Vice President of the United States

Henry B. Gonzales
Congressman, Texas 20th District

Abraham Kazen, Jr.
Congressman, Texas 23th District

1 CONGRESSMAN GONZALES: Ladies and gentle-
2 men, I know you have been standing out in the sun for a
3 long time and it is not my place to make a long speech.
4 I want to say we have one of the most distinguished gen-
5 tlemen in our country today here to speak with us. I
6 feel we are all very honored to have such a remarkable
7 and devoted and dedicated person such as our Very Able
8 Vice President to be here with us.

9 I present to you now who I consider to be
10 the best choice and also who I consider to be the next
11 president of the United States, the Honorable Hubert H.
12 Humphrey, Vice President.

13 (Applause.)

14 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you very,
15 very much. Thank you. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.
16 Thank you very much.

17 Ladies and gentlemen, this is a very fine
18 gathering. Mrs. Humphrey and I have had a marvelous day
19 in San Antonio. Those who traveled with me found this to
20 be one of the most pleasant, one of the most entertaining,
21 one of the most happiest days in our public life. We want
22 to thank the people of this city, particularly the young
23 people. You are so welcome here. You are good cheer,
24 your hearty welcome, your nice appearance, you are very
25 welcome and appreciated by myself to be here.

(Applause.)

Let me just add a word or two of appreciation for what you good folks have done for your country and yourselves. There is a gifted and talented man, I speak of the gentleman with me who has been by my side all day while in your city. I speak of Congressman Gonzales who has represented this city and district with dedication and distinction and with great success for all of you.

The right story of Henry Gonzales is, I think, an inspiration to every one of us. I found out that most people that attain any success in any life had a very humble beginning. This is a wonderful thing about our country.

Today, the great leaders of industry, with few exceptions are people that came from rural homes, homes with moderate income, from different nationalities and different groups.

There is no one group in America that has a monopoly on leadership and character. This nation of ours is rich and fertile. I have found the business leaders, business, labor, the Government, in all professions, most of them would be people that have had to earn their way, work their way up the ladder of success from a very humble start. Your Congressman is that kind of person. I think that is why he has not only a great mind but, a

1 far greater and compassionate heart.

2 I am very proud of my friend and your Con-
3 gressman, Henry Gonzales. I am proud of what he is now and
4 what he has been all of his life and how he has developed
5 that life. He is the son of an immigrant. I am also the
6 son of an immigrant mother. Many of us are just first gen-
7 eration Americans.

8 Henry Gonzales's father came from the
9 State of Cotilla in Northern Mexico. He migrated here to
10 San Antonio. Like most of the young people just starting
11 out, he started out in a very humble way. He attended
12 public schools. He had this great desire for education
13 which I want to impress upon you young people because edu-
14 cation is the key to our success. It is the hope that you
15 have for tomorrow.

16 He graduated from the public schools in
17 San Antonio and went to San Antonio College. That was not
18 a great big university. It is a very small college. Then,
19 he went on to the University of Texas and on to St. Mary's
20 School of Law. He got himself an education.

21 Thomas Jefferson once said you have a choice
22 if you want freedom. You have a choice between ignorance
23 and freedom and you cannot be free and ignorant but, you
24 can enjoy freedom with an education.

25 This man, your Congressman, has been a

1 teacher every day of his life. He has been a teacher in
2 the Congress. He has fought for education. I know because
3 I fought alongside of him. I think the history of this
4 country will record in these years of the 1960's that more
5 has been done to open the door to the people regardless of
6 race, color and creed than any decade in any other part of
7 our history.

8 Congressman Gonzales has had something to
9 do with it. That is a bright sun out there. I put my
10 hand up just to look at these happy and young faces. You
11 know, our President is a former schoolteacher. I am a
12 former schoolteacher. The majority leader of the Senate
13 is a former schoolteacher. The majority leader of the
14 House also. I do not have to tell you about teachers.
15 Every one of us saw the shortcomings of education. There-
16 fore, we resolve to do something about it.

17 In the last four years we have increased
18 our budget at the federal level by over three hundred per
19 cent, up to four billion dollars from thirteen million
20 dollars. That is the best investment any country ever made
21 when they invest in their children.

22 Well, let me tell you once more about my
23 friend, Henry. He has gotten back in the shade. He has
24 done his work. Now, he served on the city council. He
25 served as mayor pro tem. He served as a state senator.

1 He has been called many names, probably some unkind. I
2 was called a few unkind words when I came in here today.
3 I will tell you what. The greatest thing is to be known
4 as a citizen of the United States of America and a United
5 States Representative to the Congress.

6 (Applause.)

7 Now, let me just leave you with this
8 thought: I have had many people say to me, "Why do you
9 want to run for president for? Don't you know you will
10 have a lot of work to do, difficult decisions, impossible
11 jobs when you get elected?" I know all that. Indeed
12 I know it. A long time ago I decided to enter public life.
13 I tried to do it for one basic reason. I felt some way I
14 might be able to help and contribute just a little bit for
15 the betterment of this country. I have a great faith in
16 the people of this land. I believe there is everything
17 here that we need to make ourselves a happy and prosperous
18 and a good people. So, I entered public life to see if I
19 could not in some little way help to guide the energy of
20 the people to constructive good. I want to be president
21 of this country for the young people of America.

22 (Applause.)

23 Because it is for the young people that the
24 future belongs and this nation is a nation of tomorrow.
25 America's greatest days are yet to be lived. We are only

1 beginning to start, just beginning to do what we can do. I
2 want to be president of a young country because this young
3 country is filled with faith and vitality and I want to be
4 president so that these young men, whatever their race, their
5 creed, their color, their background, whatever it is, that
6 they will always be proud of the fact they are Americans,
7 that they belong to this country. Not only shall they be
8 proud that they are Americans but they will be proud they
9 helped to build this country. I know that there are great
10 things to be found in our people. I want to see the day
11 when they will judge people on one way, on the merits. We
12 won't ask them about their race, their customs. All
13 we do is ask them what can you do. What are you willing
14 to do.

15 (Applause.)

16 When that day comes, my friends, this land
17 will be a great and wonderful country, even far beyond our
18 present means because of the young people I see before me.

19 I want you to be so proud that you live
20 in these United States. I want you to be so proud that
21 you contributed to this. I want you to work hard to get
22 a better education. I want you to be a good neighbor. I
23 want you to speak well of the other fellow. I want you to
24 do unto others as you would have them do unto you. I want
25 you to remember this America is not north, south, east or

1 west. It is not black or white. This is one country. It
2 is your country, my country, America the beautiful. It is
3 beautiful because of the people in it.

4 To the adults that are here, I want you to
5 set a good example about everything we have talked about
6 here. We do not need any more laws about human relations.
7 We know what is right and we know what is wrong. Every one
8 of us here knows that we need each other. Every American
9 knows today that our country has difficulties, great diffi-
10 culties, great problems. Every one of us knows the day
11 may come when we even have to stand alone and sometime
12 someplace we are going to need everybody. Everybody at
13 his top performance, everybody carrying his share of the
14 load, everybody working together. This means that we must
15 preserve the institution of law and order in our country.
16 We must work out the problems not through violence but
17 through reason, not through crime but through cooperation
18 and ableness.

19 I ask the people in this community in San
20 Antonio to set an example for the rest of America and show
21 her whatever your problems are, you can settle them as human
22 beings, reasonable human beings, thinking them out, working
23 them out as people, not as lawless characters running around
24 and injuring others and hurting others and even hurting
25 yourself.

1 Let us make it our business to make the
2 year of 1968 the greatest year in America's life, the time
3 when we decided we would do things together, the time we de-
4 cided to work together and to live together.

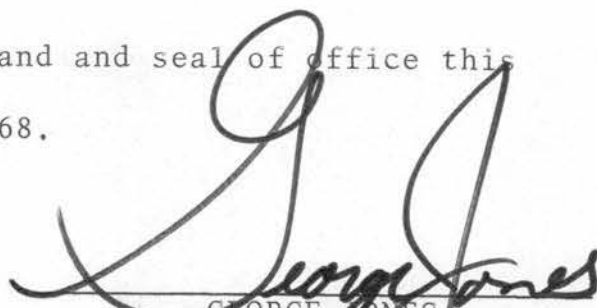
5 Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

6 (End of speech.)
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1 STATE OF TEXAS)
)
2 COUNTY OF BEXAR)

3 I, GEORGE JONES, Court Reporter and Notary
4 Public in and for the County of Bexar, State of Texas, do
5 hereby certify the above constitutes a true and correct
6 transcription of my stenograph notes taken on the 10th day
7 of August, A.D., 1968.

8 Witness my hand and seal of office this
9 11th day of August, A.D., 1968.

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12 GEORGE JONES
13 Notary Public in and for
14 Bexary County, Texas
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NOTES
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
~~TARTEADA~~ **TARDEADA**
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

August 10, 1968

Congressman

~~Senator~~

Henry Gonzalez is a man who has always

looked to the future to discover what should be done today.

In the early 1950's he led the fight for San Antonio's first municipal ordinance banning segregation in all city-owned public facilities.

2)

That's my kind of fight . . . as Mayor of Minneapolis I fought and won the battle for our first Fair Employment Practices Commission.

As a State Senator, Henry Gonzalez conducted an unconventional filibuster. . . it was a liberal filibuster against a package of segregationist bills which sought to circumvent the Supreme Court's decision on

3)

school desegregation.

He was the first State Senator to introduce a minimum wage bill for the state of Texas . . . he has led the fight for the health, education and economic betterment of migrant workers . . . and he has been an eloquent advocate of federal aid to education at the primary, secondary and college levels.

4)

He has worked with our Latin citizens on problems of special concern -- for example, the Bi-Lingual Education Act is now part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Henry Gonzalez stands proudly in a great American tradition as the son of an immigrant. His father, a

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colonist of the state of Durango, in northern Mexico, migrated to San Antonio. Henry attended the San Antonio public schools, San Antonio College, the University of Texas, and St. Mary's University School of Law. He served on the San Antonio City Council, was Mayor Pro-Tem, and then State Senator.

6)

Yes, he's been called all kinds of names -- the names reserved for men of conscience and deep social concern.

B ut now he bears one of his country's proudest names: United States Representative.

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