

# STENOGRAPHIC TRANSCRIPT

In re: Speech by

HON. HUBERT H. HUMPHREY,  
Vice President of the  
United States of America

At Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

*Delegate Reception*

JOHN J. FICEK, JR.  
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In re: Speech by

HON. HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
Vice President of the United States

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.  
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The HON. HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, Vice President of the United States of America, arrived in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, on Thursday, 15 August 1968, and before a gathering in the reception room of the Hotel Bethlehem, 437 Main Street, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, gave the following speech:-

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CONGRESSMAN ROONEY: May I have your attention, please?

Mr. Vice President, Governor Leader, Congressman Vigorito, distinguished public officials, and delegates: I am indeed delighted to have this opportunity to introduce to you the man that will introduce the next President of the United States.

(APPLAUSE)

This evening indeed has been a very great honor for the Greater Lehigh Valley, having our next President visit this wonderful area. I can't recall in my ten years of active interest in politics a greater interest in this area since 1960

1 when we elected another Democratic President, John F. Kennedy.

2 The reception at the airport this evening was spon-  
3 taneous and I understand from the local police officers they  
4 estimated the crowd to be well over 5,000. This, Mr. Vice  
5 President, is an indication of the great feeling that the  
6 people of the Greater Lehigh Valley have for you.

7 At this time it gives me a great honor to present to  
8 you our former Governor of the great Commonwealth of Pennsyl-  
9 vania, Governor Leader.

10 (APPLAUSE)

11 MR. LEADER: Thank you, Congressman Rooney.

12 Mr. Vice President, Congressman Vigorito and my  
13 fellow Democrats: I am going to ask you to go dry for the next  
14 few minutes and I hope they will shut down all the 7-up stands.  
15 I am going to take two minutes to present our distinguished  
16 visitor to you tonight, one minute to tell him about you and  
17 one minute which perhaps will be unnecessary to tell you about  
18 him.

19 I want to say to you, Mr. Vice President, that you  
20 see standing here before you a large representation of the  
21 leadership of the Democratic Party in the eastern half of  
22 Pennsylvania. These people are going to help to nominate you  
23 the week after next in Chicago, and they are going to help to  
24 elect you President in November.

25 (APPLAUSE)



1           These people are your friends. These people share  
2 your political philosophy. These people believe in the things  
3 you believe in, Mr. Vice President, and they believe in your.

4           (APPLAUSE)

5           Some people have said Hubert Humphrey was too liberal,  
6 and some people say Hubert Humphrey is not liberal enough any  
7 more, and some people say he is a hawk, and some people say  
8 Hubert Humphrey is a dove. But I say this to you: No man in  
9 the history of these United States of America ever brought  
10 with him in his aspiration to the Presidency the set of  
11 credentials this man has.

12          (APPLAUSE)

13          On the lighter side, may I say none has ever starred  
14 on the Joey Bishop Show, the Johnny Carson Show, and the Hugh  
15 Downs Show in such quick succession.

16          (APPLAUSE)

17          Ladies and gentlemen, a man whom all of us love, the  
18 Vice President of the United States, and the next President of  
19 these United States.

20          (APPLAUSE)

21          VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Governor Leader, Congressman  
22 Rooney, and Congressman Vigorito: First, may I just express  
23 here what I failed to do at the airport, my great respect for,  
24 my admiration for this wonderful Congressman from this par-  
25 ticular district, this fine Fred Rooney, one of the finest men

1 I know in the Congress of the United States.

2 (APPLAUSE)

3 And alongside of him here on this platform is a very  
4 distinguished Congressman that has served for years in the  
5 House of Representatives -- I am sure he has some friends here,  
6 but he is another good Democrat from Pennsylvania -- and that  
7 is Joe Vigorito.

8 (APPLAUSE)

9 Several years ago when I came to this state there  
10 was an extremely able and capable and dynamic good-looking  
11 young man that was the Governor of the State of Pennsylvania.  
12 That man today, the former Governor of this state, is my  
13 chairman in this state, trying to help me gain the Democratic  
14 nomination, and once we get the Democratic nomination to help  
15 you and help me to go on to see that a Democrat is in the White  
16 House next January.

17 (APPLAUSE)

18 We are getting right down now, friends, to where we  
19 start to add up what counts. I would like just to take a  
20 little of your time tonight. We are going to have some visits,  
21 and I want to visit informally and socially with you. The  
22 first thing I can tell you is that I can't see you. I hope  
23 that some day television will get lights and permit me to see  
24 you, because you are my inspiration.

25 The second thing I want to tell you is that whenever

1 I have seen you on other days I have found a group of Democrats  
2 that think well of their party, are willing to get in and work  
3 hard and to make possible the victory here in eastern Pennsyl-  
4 vania that means so much if we are going to have an opportunity  
5 to carry this state and to carry this nation.

6 You know, a few days ago there was a group of people,  
7 fellow Americans, that got together down at Miami Beach. They  
8 had quite a time down there. It was the closest thing to a  
9 wake that we have had for a long, long time.

10 (APPLAUSE)

11 Someone said a while ago that in four days they were  
12 able to do something that set the country back eight years.  
13 Our four days in Chicago -- the four days will be coming very  
14 soon of our convention, I believe can be four days that will  
15 set this country ahead four years if we just settle .....

16 (APPLAUSE)

17 I have talked to many of you on other occasions and  
18 I don't intend to over-do my welcome here tonight. I want to  
19 come to you, though, to tell you that we have our work cut out  
20 for us, but it is work we can do. I have served the Democratic  
21 Party all my adult life and I am very proud of that opportunity  
22 to serve.

23 I said to a group today over in the State of New  
24 Jersey, a group of delegates I was talking to, that possibly  
25 once again I might present my credentials. Adlai Stevenson



1 who lent so much character and meaning to our party once  
2 summarized what I believe is an expression of faith, an ex-  
3 pression of commitment that is required for mature political  
4 leadership. He said these words. He said "Liberalism is not  
5 a frenzied emotional outburst of the moment, but rather the  
6 dedication of a lifetime."

7 Ladies and gentlemen, I have tried during my public  
8 service to give a dedication of at least this much of my life-  
9 time. I started out as a mayor of a great city out in the  
10 midwest, Minneapolis, Minnesota. We started there with a  
11 program of reform and social progress. In these days we hear  
12 a great deal about law and order. Some people discuss it  
13 theoretically. Some people discuss it in order to frighten  
14 other people into a type of political support.

15 I had the privilege and duty as a mayor of a great  
16 city to see to it that law and order was a fact and not merely  
17 speech, that law and order was a reality, not merely a promise,  
18 and I believe I can say without fear of being contradicted that  
19 we gave to a community of over a half million genuine, effective  
20 honorable, impartial, fair, law enforcement.

21 But we did something else. We gave to that city a  
22 new spirit. We gave it the first fair employment practices  
23 act. We gave it a whole new rebirth of its school system. We  
24 gave it posture. We took our welfare rolls, and long before  
25 a so-called war on poverty we were able to take 90 percent of

1 the relief ? off the welfare rolls and train them,  
2 work with our employers and trade unions, work with our vo-  
3 cational schools and see that those people were given a mean-  
4 ingful job in which they could earn a living wage and could  
5 once again be self-sustaining, self-respecting citizens. That  
6 is the first successful war on poverty and we did it . . .

7 (APPLAUSE)

8 I have had the good fortune of being the first  
9 Democrat in my state ever elected to the United States Senate  
10 in over a hundred years.

11 (APPLAUSE)

12 I might say since then we never let a Republican get  
13 close to one of those Senate seats.

14 (APPLAUSE)

15 By the way, I think I should tell you Pennsylvanians --  
16 I hope you won't feel unhappy about it -- no matter what  
17 happens at the Democratic Convention the odds are that a  
18 Minnesotan will be the nominee of your party.

19 (APPLAUSE)

20 With one exception, I should say. But I can say  
21 this: that whoever is the nominee of our party, at least from  
22 the three leading contesting candidates, that we are going to  
23 be able to say that a friend of mine was nominated. I have  
24 had the rare privilege of bringing, for example, Senator  
25 McGovern into politics. I think he is a fine man and I want



1 you to know what I think of him. I think he is a good man,  
2 a good Senator, a man of conviction and deep dedication. I  
3 know that he is a good Democrat and I know whatever happens  
4 at that convention he is going to support the nominee of our  
5 party, just exactly as I am going to support the nominee of our  
6 party.

7 (APPLAUSE)

8 Senator McGovern lived alongside the Humphreys in  
9 Washington, D. C. for better than twelve years. We are close  
10 personal friends. He had a little different point of view on  
11 a matter or two and he decided to run for President. I think  
12 I must have convinced him. I talked to him so many times  
13 about how exciting it is and also at times how tiring it was  
14 to be a candidate for President.

15 I have grown up in Minnesota politics with my friend  
16 and colleague Minnesota Senator McCarthy, and I want to make  
17 it quite clear I don't think it is necessary for me as one of  
18 the contenders and contestants in the Democratic Convention  
19 seeking the office of the President, I don't think in order to  
20 get myself up a little higher I have to push somebody else down  
21 a little lower.

22 (APPLAUSE)

23 Let me just have your attention again for a little  
24 bit. I want those who are supporters of mine here in Pennsyl-  
25 vania and anyplace else to keep one thing in mind: That this

1 party of ours is bigger than any of us, that everything that  
2 I have politically I have at least in part gained because I  
3 have had the help of people within the Democratic party.

4 I want to serve this party and this country. I want  
5 to serve it faithfully and well. During my 16 years in the  
6 United States Senate I tried to serve what I believed were  
7 the needs of this nation. I tried to serve the liberal cause  
8 and responsible government. In those 16 years I had the privi-  
9 leges for 1,000 days , almost three years, of serving as the  
10 floor leader, the majority whip for the late President Kennedy.

11 I contested with President Kennedy in the primaries  
12 and when I was defeated I did what any good Democrat ought to  
13 do: When you are defeated by a fellow Democrat, join ranks  
14 with him.

15 (APPLAUSE)

16 You will be interested to know that in that crucial  
17 election of 1960 which was very close and hard fought, that  
18 one of the states in the midwest -- and there were only three  
19 of them, Missouri, Illinois and Minnesota -- every state from  
20 there to California went against us, that one of those mid-  
21 western states, the states between the Alleghenies and the  
22 Pacific that went for John Kennedy that cast the majority vote  
23 was the State of Minnesota.

24 (APPLAUSE)

25 I am happy to say that I led that fight. I carried



1 my state in that election, running for reelection to the United  
2 States Senate, by 275,000 votes. Senator Kennedy, the Demo-  
3 cratic candidate, carried it by almost 25,000 votes. But we  
4 won. And I'll tell you how. We stuck together, we fought to-  
5 gether, we worked together, and I want you to know that I in-  
6 tend to do for Mr. Nixon what Mr. Kennedy did to him in 1960.

7 (APPLAUSE)

8 Now, my friends, for the last four years -- in fact,  
9 it was about four years ago this month that I was in Atlantic  
10 City and I was nominated for the second highest office and a  
11 gift of the American people, the office of the Vice Presidency.  
12 That was a great, great honor for me, and I will never forget  
13 that evening, and I will never forget the privilege that was  
14 mine in my acceptance speech that some of you may remember.

15 Ladies and gentlemen, these past four years I have  
16 done what you would have expected me to do when you elected  
17 me as your Vice President. The first duty of a Vice President  
18 -- and I might say the first duty of a man that has leadership  
19 and responsibility in this party -- the first duty of a Vice  
20 President is to be faithful and loyal to his country and then  
21 faithful and loyal to the President. (APPLAUSE)

22 For almost four years now I have been a member of  
23 the team of the administration. Somebody asked me not long  
24 ago in Washington, "Mr. Vice President, will you be any  
25 different? Will your administration be any different than



1 the present administration?"

2 I said "For four years I have been a member of the  
3 team, and there is a lot of difference between being a member  
4 of the team and being the captain of the team. Now I want to  
5 be the captain of your team."

6 (APPLAUSE)

7 We have what it takes to unite this party sufficiently  
8 to carry on this fight successfully. Make no mistake about it:  
9 There is going to be a big choice here on election day. You  
10 are going to have to make the choice of whether or not you want  
11 this country to be governed by the candidate of the Republican  
12 Party, the candidate that saw the necessity of clearing his  
13 political assignment and political choice for Vice President  
14 not with the liberals in his party, not with the moderates in  
15 his party, but saw the necessity of clearing that appointment  
16 and that selection with the head of the Dixiecrat movement of  
17 1948 and the head of the southern conservatives in 1968.

18 I am going to ask you now to gird yourselves for the  
19 battle. It will be a good fight. We will fight it clean.  
20 We will fight it hard. But I ask you to help me and help  
21 yourselves and to help this country. I ask you to help us  
22 to continue the progress we made. I ask you to help us to  
23 help meet the Republican challenge to us.

24 (APPLAUSE)

25 (End of speech)





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