

REMARKS OF
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
RECEPTION FOR WARD LEADERS, LABOR LEADERS,
FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS, CANDIDATES,
AND REGISTRATION WORKERS

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Bellevue-Stratford Hotel

Monday, September 9, 1968

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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OFFICIAL REPORTERS
25 K STREET, N. E.
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(202) 628-4266

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North Cameo Room
Bellevue-Stratford Hotel
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Monday, September 9, 1968
2:35 p.m.

Mayor Tate, our very good friend, Mrs. Tate, Ann, and all of those that have gathered here today of the Democratic organization, our friends from organized labor, our volunteers, our men and women, our young, our old, I guess you know that this has been a very inspiring day for Mrs. Humphrey and myself and I hope you know why we came to Philadelphia to open our campaign. We came here because this city is not only a great democratic city but it is a great American city. It represents so much.

(Applause)

We came here because of our affection and respect for your Mayor. This friendship, Jim Tate and Hubert Humphrey, is a very sincere one. We came here because the State of Pennsylvania was the first state to give me real encouragement in my search and quest for this nomination and we came here --

(Applause)

-- because when the role was being called out there in Chicago and I was waiting for that number, that magic number of 1312 which was required for the nomination, they called the State of Pennsylvania and it came on thro-gh and put me over.

(Applause)

But above all, we have come here because I believe that every promise that this land has and every problem can be found right here and I believe that the men that represent you at the Congress, our Democratic representatives from the Senate and the House, understand the nature of these problems and also the nature and inspiration of the promises and hopes that we have.

I have been today with the members of your Congressional delegation in Philadelphia. I have been here with Bill Green, who is your city chairman and has done a lot for you.

(Applause)

I have been here with my friend, Joe Clark, and I want everyone here to work for Joe.

(Applause)

1 And I have been here with many people that years and years have
2 helped me in the different organizations of this city.

3 I want a special thank you from the Humphrey's to the
4 labor movement of this city. I want you to know how grateful
5 we are.

6 (Applause)

7 By the way, even when we went by the Union League
8 Club today I found three or four of them waving at me.

9 (Laughter)

10 But I did see a lot of ladies downstairs that work there,
11 they were not only waving, they were throwing kisses. So, it
12 has been a good day for us.

13 I know this will not be an easy campaign. I didn't
14 call you to the service of an easy cause. I realize that there
15 are differences in our country and I sense as you sense
16 sometimes those difficulties break out into emotional fervor.
17 But I tell you that I cannot believe that you as Democrats, as
18 independents, as progressive forward looking people, regardless
19 of your political persuasion, I cannot believe that you want
20 to turn the governing of this country over to the opposition
21 that we have in this campaign. I just can't believe it.

22 (Applause)

23 VOICES FROM AUDIENCE: No. No.

24 (Applause)

25 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I have had the privilege of
serving this country of ours for some time. I think I can ask
you to evaluate the records of those of us who are seeking this
highest office within the gift of the American people. I
stand on that record. But I only stand on it for the purpose
of moving ahead. Any man that rests on the laurels of yesterday
is already a page in history and has very little to offer the
tomorrows.

Every one of us have only one real interest and that
is the future because that is what we are going to live in. The
past is all done. And I am asking you to help me think about
the kind of a nation we want in Philadelphia and America in
the year 1976. I am asking you to help me and to plan and to
think about the kinds of an America that we want in the year
2000.

I said to a group of our young friends in another
room here in this hotel -- and they were bright, we had a
question and answer session, they ask the tougher questions,
too, I tell you -- the bark is off when they ask them. They
don't dress them up -- I said you know the majority of the
people alive in America today will be alive in the year 2000.
I am even working on it myself.

(Laughter)

What an exciting experience that is and we have to ask our-
selves what kind of a country is it going to be. Well, nobddy

1 can predict safely and surely but this we can predict, that
2 whoever is the President of these United States starting 1969,
3 that the decisions that that President makes and the leader-
4 ship that he gives and the words that he says and the actions
5 that he takes will not only affect the lives of the people
6 during his term of office but will affect the lives of people
7 yet unborn, because the power and the majesty of the Office
8 of the President of the United States is such that the decisions
9 that are made there are decisions that linger with us for a
10 long, long time. The decisions that Harry Truman made, thank
11 God he made them, have lingered with us a long, long time.

12 (Applause)

13 And the decisions that these two most recent
14 Presidents of ours have made, President Kennedy and President
15 Johnson, those decisions will linger with us a long, long
16 time, and my friends and fellow Americans, the decisions that
17 the next President makes, and with your help I can be your
18 next President, those decisions will linger with us a long,
19 long time.

20 (Applause)

21 I want you to go to work. I don't want to hear any
22 pessimism. You know, every once in a while I --

23 (Applause)

24 -- every once in a while I hear somebody say, well, I don't
25 know, you know, it looks tough. The party is divided. We
Democrats have never been together except on election day,
as you know.

(Applause)

One of the reasons we are Democrats is that we like to
divide.

(Laughter)

But don't divide so much that you let happen what Benjamin
Franklin once said. He said we are either going to hang
together or we are going to hang separately. And you have
to ask yourself every day, do you want Nixon to be President.

VOICES: No.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Do you want George Wallace
to be President?

VOICES: No.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I don't think you do and
I don't say I am the perfect man but I say in the choices
that you have, I hope that you will never utter one word of
doubt or pessimism. I hope you will go out of this room and
say, look, we have been with the man that we believe can be
the next President of the United States and we are going to
elect him.

(Standing ovation)

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