

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

TV INTERVIEW BY MARIE TORRE, KDKA

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

- - -

Saturday, September 14, 1968

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

WARD & PAUL

OFFICIAL REPORTERS

25 K STREET, N. E.

Washington, D. C. 20002

(202) 628-4266

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
TV INTERVIEW BY MARIE TORRE, KDKA
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

- - -

Saturday, September 14, 1968
11:30 a.m.

- - -

MISS TORRE: You know, when a man runs for the Presidency of the United States we tend to forget that there is a human being behind the political image. We hope to get behind that image of Hubert Humphrey today by giving him a respite from the political issues.

We want to talk instead about Humphrey, the man, and we trust, Mr. Vice President, that you rather welcome the opportunity to put aside the issues for a while.

During a campaign such as you are conducting now, visiting one city after another, answering the same kinds of questions, how do you muster the enthusiasm to give meaningful answers?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, maybe that is why I get in trouble once in a while, Marie, because I get so tired of trying to give the same answer. It is so boring to me that I get to thinking it must be boring to other people, so once in a while I vary it a little bit and then somebody says, you know, he has changed his mind. He is in conflict. He disagrees.

Well, it isn't that. Frankly, I just don't like peas and corn and radishes every day. I occasionally like a little broccoli or succotash or some other. I like to kind of change the diet. I enjoy hamburgers but not three times a day, seven days a week, and you put your finger right on one of the real problems of campaigning.

You are supposed to get up and be constantly consistent, to the word. Deadly. Just --

MISS TORRE: You know, I have heard more than one member of your staff say that they find it difficult to keep up with you, men younger than yourself. How do you manage to remain energized? Is it vitamin pills, exercise? What do you do?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Glands.

MISS TORRE: Glands?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Yes, it really is. I think it is the genes, what you inherit, and it is also attitude.

My father used to tell me that most of your troubles are in your mind and I remember a word he used to use -- "ac'tivity" -- "activ'ity" -- get going.

Self-pity is the bane of all ego. He used to tell me

1 you really don't have time to get sick. Once in a while I
2 would have to take off a bit. But the whole idea would be to
3 be a spirit that is refreshed, keep yourself moving and not
4 be worried too much about one's self, and I was finding a lot of
5 things to do and I generally like what I am doing, most of
6 the time, and I get into it with a little bit more gusto than
7 is really necessary, but that is the way I am.

8 You know, you have to be the way you are. Most of
9 the time you ought to be, at least.

10 MISS TORRE: When you want to get away from the job,
11 how do you escape? What do you do?

12 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Oh, I like to walk. I
13 like good music. When I have a Sunday at home -- we have a
14 stereo and I put on good records or tapes. We have both. We
15 have a record machine as well as a tape machine. And I am
16 glad you are not around our apartment because I occasionally
17 go charging around there if it is good jazz music, having
18 a good time, and if it is symphonic music, just leaning back and
19 listening. I just enjoy that.

20 And, of course, when I have an opportunity, I like
21 to go to my home in Minnesota where we have a lake home, where
22 I can really get out and work in what I call the woods. It
23 really isn't a woods. It is sort of a tremendous claim we
24 have there. And I get out and clean out the underbrush, take out
25 the underbrush.

My children all razz me saying daddy is going to
sweep out the garage again.

It is good to get physical exercise when you are in
my kind of work, you are under great mental strain and frequently
a great emotional strain, and I know of no better way to get
rid of that than to have physical exercise. It is like if you
go through any great shock, if you can just sort of throw
yourself into some hard work that is a total change of pace
and activity, you feel better.

MISS TORRE: Are you telling us that you are a
helpful man around the house?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: You ask Mrs. Humphrey. I
think I am but she frequently says why don't you just go and
tend to your work. But we have -- I am not much of a house
keeper except for my things, and then ever so often Mrs.
Humphrey starts to rearrange those things and that is when
things start happening in the family.

We seldom have political arguments but occasionally
we have them over neckties. If I get new ones I sort of put
them away and then she puts them out. I say the old ones
aren't worn out.

I am

Really, you will find/kind of an economic conservative.
You will find that out.

MISS TORRE: What else do you argue about?

1 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Oh, my goodness. Shoes.
2 I was complimenting you on your pretty shoes and telling you
3 women at long last are getting shoes that look like they are
4 liveable.

5 I can remember Mrs. Humphrey telling me how her feet
6 always hurt. I would say what are you wearing those ridiculous
7 pointed shoes for anyway? Why do you let some fellow over in
8 Italy or France or somebody tell you how to dress? Why don't
9 you rebel against them?

10 MISS TORRE: How do we do it?

11 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I don't know. The shoes are
12 beautiful now and they really look wonderful and they look
13 comfortable, but I bet my wife has done more for the shoe
14 business than any living woman, I am sure of it, because
15 every pair of shoes -- those pointed ones they used to get
16 that would hurt, and I would say, there is no sense of you,
17 Honey, trying to stimulate the economy single handedly.
18 Even though President Johnson is strong for stimulation of the
19 economy, don't feel it is a personal burden.

20 MISS TORRE: During one of your visits several years
21 ago you were in the process of giving up your home and moving
22 into the apartment where you are living now. You were saying
23 how happy you were about this because it would mean no more
24 mortgage problems or house problems, and now you want to
25 move into another house, the most famous one in the land.

1 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Let me correct something.
2 I really was not for moving into the apartment. Like most
3 husbands I have been outdisciplined and I have changed, but
4 we had a beautiful home in Northwest Washington, out in Chevy
5 Chase, and it was paid for, the first time I ever had anything
6 really all paid for, and because it was a long way away from
7 work and because it wasn't so adequate as it ought to be,
8 with our children having grown and left, Mrs. Humphrey went
9 apartment hunting one day. She is a very persuasive woman.
10 She found a beautiful one. I rebelled, but she dragged me
11 there. One day I found a paper in front of me. She said, sign
12 it. We talked about it. She got all of my friends to talk
13 to me and tell me what my rate of investment was. It was a 30-
14 year mortgage. Then, I got to thinking it was such a
15 personal compliment that she thought I was good for 30 years
16 work that I up and signed.

17 But I like that apartment. It is really beautiful,
18 down around the Potomac, and you have a standing invitation
19 to come down.

20 MISS TORRE: I will.

21 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: A very comfortable place.
22 We entertain a good deal and have lots of fun.

23 MISS TORRE: Tomorrow on Eyewitness News, we will
24 continue our portrait of Vice President Hubert Humphrey. Mean-

1 while, we will return to Bill Burns in just one minute.

2 Continuing our report on the private world of
3 Hubert Humphrey, we are concerned today with what life in the
4 White House would be like with Hubert Humphrey there.

5 You know, Mr. Vice President, President Kennedy
6 brought what could be called a sophisticated air to the
7 White House. President Johnson induced what some call a
8 barbeque flavor. What can we expect from you?

9 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, a great deal of
10 openness, and a substantial -- quite a number of young people.
11 We like young people. And our home is that way in Minnesota.
12 If we entertain, which we do, not as often as some think, we
13 generally have young people, primarily because we have young
14 married couples in our family, very attractive young people,
15 and I like them around. They do something for you. They
16 lift you and they are very bright and they are full of
17 energy. They are attractive, gay, and yet at the same time
18 they give you the best arguments.

19 You know, the young people of today, they are not
20 afraid of you at all. They come right -- they bore right in
21 on you and I think they would do it right in on the President
22 just as they would on anyone else.

23 So there will be that. And I would hope we would
24 make the White House appear to be a real American home, and I
25 think we can, not just a showplace but to have this sort of
family music, the singing that comes from a happy home, and from
good friends, and good fellowship.

I am sure that it is more difficult to do this than
I portray but we are going to make a real effort at it. And
I hope that sometime, because as I have told you, that you'
will have, if I become President, that you will have the chance
to come over and see us, but, you know, I jokingly said that,
you know, we are trying to move into public housing. Isn't
that something? I mean, here is the White House, owned by
the American public. We have our own private house and I
have been wondering what if I got elected President what I
would do with our apartment? And so --

MISS TORRE: Are you worried about that?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Yes, I really am, because
I don't want to sell it and I want -- maybe I can have it as a
little hideaway, so to speak. But we will have to face that.
That won't be the biggest national problem.

MISS TORRE: Mr. Vice President, how much thought
went into your decision to run for the Presidency? Was
it something that you discussed with the family or was it a-
part from the family consideration?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: No. I discussed this very
deeply and in full with my family -- my daughter, my sons, my
wife, and a number of friends. Actually, I took quite a

1 little time to really come to grips with it, to make up
2 my mind. Many people thought, well, he will do it quickly and
3 I wasn't trying to play a game. The first call that I
4 received was from my daughter. I mean, when we got back to
5 Washington. Actually, the first call that I received was
6 from Margaret Truman Daniels. Yes, she called me when we were
7 in Mexico City. It was on that occasion on my visit to Mexico
8 City that President Johnson made his speech on March 31st,
9 and the very first call I received was from Margaret Truman
10 Daniels down at Mexico City, but the first call when we got home,
11 on the very night that we got home, my daughter, Nancy, called
12 me and Nancy is the most non-political member of the family.
13 She is the one that I generally call to see what the young
14 people are really thinking about. She is a young mother
15 and she always tells you, daddy, you people down in Washington
16 just don't know what we are talking about out here, and I say,
17 well, what are you talking about, and she really gives me a
18 kind of an insight into what is going on in suburbia amongst
19 the married community. She has three children. Nancy called
20 up and I said, Nancy, what happened to you? She said, I
21 thought it out -- she has got the best sense of human of
22 anybody in the family and she has more sense, I think, than
23 anybody in the family -- and she told me to do this.

24 Well, then I discussed it very seriously with Muriel,
25 my wife, and I had not planned on it really and truly, I mean,
26 to share a very intimate thought with you about it. My
27 wife and I had decided that this was beyond anything that we
28 could do or should think of doing, that maybe if the President
29 ran again that we could hope to be on the ticket. I could hope
30 to be on as Vice Presidential candidate again, and that was it.

31 I felt that was -- even this was a very high honor.
32 Not even that, indeed it is a very high honor and I had given
33 up any thought at all of ever seeking the Presidency because
34 I felt by 1972 if President Johnson were re-elected -- and
35 I think he could have been -- I still think he could have
36 been -- that I would be then sixtyone years of age and I felt
37 that the country would hardly want to have a man seeking the
38 office, that it is one thing if you are an incumbent at
39 that age but --

40 MISS TORRE: I know you don't like to think of the
41 prospect of defeat, but in life we must --

42 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Surely.

43 MISS TORRE: -- we must think of all contingencies.

44 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Yes.

45 MISS TORRE: What would you do if you were not to
46 become President of the United States?

47 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, I am a very positive
48 thinker, Marie, and I have concentrated on being the President
49 and my whole attitude and everything I say and do is directed

1 towards the fact that I will be the President of the United
2 States. But we are friends and we are talking very honestly.

3 A man must constantly keep in mind anything that can
4 happen to him. One of the reasons I selected a man like
5 Senator Muskie as my running mate is I wanted a good man
6 alongside of me, somebody that you could be proud of, somebody
7 that could be President if I were elected and anything
8 happened to me, which is entirely possible. And, so you have
9 to face up to it.

10 So, let's say if I did not succeed, what would I do?
11 Well, I can tell you the first thing, I will have no remorse.
12 Of course, I will be disappointed, but there is so much to do
13 in this world. I love young people. I would teach, most
14 likely, and I would travel. I would -- I have been wanting
15 to travel anyway and maybe I might get my chance. I would
16 have a wonderful opportunity to do that, and I would lecture.
17 I would like to do that. I would -- I would like to be a free
18 spirit, and one of the things that I find in the academic
19 spirit today is that you can be a free spirit, particularly
20 if you have background and experience and possibly both the
21 strength of mind and the weaknesses that I am a free spirit.
22 I say things sometimes, gosh, I wish I hadn't said, but it is
23 me, you know. If I have got to be a disciplined human being
24 24 hours a day, I cease to be a personality, is the way I
25 feel about it, and I cease to be me.

MISS TORRE: But does it give you pause at all, though,
Mr. Vice President, to think of what happened to President
Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Yes, but you can't let that
control your life. Life is uncertain. My goodness, I had
one of the very dearest friends of mine just the other day just
go like that, and you can't -- I lose my brother a year ago and,
my, that was a tragedy to me. I just -- you just can't let
that get you because life is so uncertain. You have to live
your life fully. You have to really be prepared at all times
that there may never be another moment and you just have to
go with it, that is all, and how do you know what is going to
happen to you?

So -- well, let me say it this way. If I had to
have something like that happen, nothing would be -- if I
could feel the sense of pleasure, nothing would be more pleasing
than to know that it was in the service of my country.

MISS TORRE: It seems a good, noble wish to conclude
our portrait, Mr. Vice President. Thank you so very much
and good luck.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you.

MISS TORRE: We will return to Bill Burns in just
one minute.

#

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
AS INTERVIEWED BY BILL BURNS, KDKA,
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

- - - -

Saturday, September 14, 1968

WARD & PAUL
OFFICIAL REPORTERS
25 K STREET, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

(202) 628-4266

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
AS INTERVIEWED BY BILL BURNS, KDKA,
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

- - -

Saturday, September 14, 1968

- - -

MR. BURNS: This is Bill Burns for Eye Witness in Pittsburgh. With us is the Vice President of the United States, Hubert H. Humphrey.

Mr. Vice President, let's get right into it. How do you feel you stand at this point in your campaign? Do you think you are ahead, that you are even with your opponents or running behind?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, I think I am working very hard. I believe that we have a difficult campaign ahead of us. But, I have really -- I don't try to keep a day-by-day head count, so to speak, as to where we stand. I believe the important thing is to get some momentum and I began to feel this week that we are getting that momentum. We are beginning to join the issues between myself and my opponents. People are beginning to show greater enthusiasm. My supporters are buckling down to the task of winning this campaign.

You know, we Democrats spent a lot of time since last January fighting amongst ourselves. Now, we are gathering around the family table in the spirit of reconciliation and healing, pulling things together, and I feel that it is coming just about like I would want it, sort of on schedule. If you interview me in the middle of October I will bring you good news from the Democratic side.

MR. BURNS: Well, You say the middle of October good news. Do you mean that the news is not so good now at this stage of the game before October?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, let me just say better news, then.

MR. BURNS: Better news.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Yes, sir.

MR. BURNS: What do you think you have to do between now and election day? What must you accomplish for victory?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I must first of all be able to state the issues and sell them and I am going to do that with complete candor.

I need to arouse the enthusiasm of our supporters, but more importantly, to point out the differences between the Republican nominee and myself and indeed, the third party nominee. I happen to believe that Mr. Nixon and Mr. Wallace are

1 at this point in a struggle for very much of the same vote, and
2 what I need to do and what I am doing is to mobilize that other
3 great section of the vote that will go to neither the third
party candidate or to the Republican nominee.

4 MR. BURNS: It is interesting that you bring Mr.
Wallace into it. Do you feel that he will hurt Mr. Nixon
more than he will hurt you vote wise?

5 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Ultimately I do so, yes
indeed. I think Mr. Nixon is tailoring his campaign to what I
6 would call the southern strategy. He has already taken exception
to the matters that relate to school desegregation. He says
7 he supports the Supreme Court decision, but he doesn't like
its implementation. He doesn't spell out just how he would
8 change that implementation. He has been to Texas and he has gone
down the traditional list of conservative issues that have been
9 used by the conservative Republican candidates. He at Miami,
at the Republican Convention, had his meeting with the southern
10 Republican leaders, came out of that conference on the arm of
SUrom Thurmond, one of the most conservative Republican Senators,
11 leader of the Dixiecrat faction. I think it is quite obvious
that Mr. Nixon has decided to put a southern accent to his
12 campaign with the old southern conservative strategy. When I
came to the Senate we used to talk about the coalition. It
13 was the coalition between the conservative southern Democrat
and the Republican, the majority of the Republicans, conserva-
14 tive Republicans.

Now, there is a liberal faction in the Republican
15 Party and I have a feeling that that faction before this cam-
paign is over, is going to be rather disenchanted with their
16 nominee. I notice now, for example, that some of the
Republican spokesmen on the more liberal side are asking Mr.
17 Nixon to clarify his views on a number of issues and clarifica-
tion as yet has not been forthcoming.

18 MR. BURNS: Hitting on some of those issues, Mr.
Vice President, there has been some criticism of late that
19 on Vietnam you have come up with two different stories. Will
you clarify once and for all your position on Vietnam?

20 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: My position is stated in
the majority plank of the Democratic platform. That is my
21 position. When I am asked a number of questions, individual
questions, each question being worded just a little bit
22 differently on some political detail, tactic or specific matter,
there is always the possibility that one's response can be inter-
23 preted as being in conflict with what his position is. But
as I have stated so clearly on many news shows similar to yours
24 here, sir, and to the great network shows, my position is as
stated in the majority plank of the Democratic Party. I have
25 made it very clear that whatever action we take should not in
any way seriously impair the safety of our troops in South

1 Vietnam. I have also made it clear that we are seeking a
2 negotiated political settlement. I have made it clear that any
3 change in any tactic or strategy that we employ should lead or
4 lend itself towards a negotiated political settlement.

5 Now, all of those matters are to be found in considera-
6 ble detail in the plank on Vietnam in the Democratic platform.
7 And I believe that I can do the best service for those that
8 have any doubt as to my view, to ask them to read that plank
9 and to look at it, study it carefully, and then put at the top
10 of it or I am happy on this occasion to put at the top of it,
11 this is the position of the Vice President. This is my position.
12 I would have voted for the majority plank. I had a hand in
13 shaping the majority plank. My strong supporters helped design
14 the majority plank. That is my position.

15 MR. BURNS: In other words, then, Mr. Vice President,
16 you do not favor halting the bombing entirely of North Vietnam
17 unless there is some reciprocation by the Communists, is that
18 correct?

19 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: That is stated in the majority
20 plant and it is stated, I think, in the precise type of language
21 that leaves no chance for misinterpretation. You see, one of
22 the things that happens, Bill, when I get a question directly
23 like yours, if I start to expound again on it, I change one
24 word, not because I wanted to change it, it is just because we
25 are extemporizing here. I do not memorize these things. And,
then, somebody says, you know, I think he may have changed his
mind or that he is wobbling on the Vietnam plank. I have
stated my views dozens and dozens of times and the best thing
that I can do, and I resolve to just answer these questions in
this manner, my position is to be found in the majority plank
that is in the plank. I say majority because there was a
contest, as you know.

MR. BURNS: Yes.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: In the plank on Vietnam
in the Democratic Platform. I think that is sensible, reasonable,
and I think it lends itself towards a negotiated political
settlement. I want to say nothing or do nothing during this
campaign or at any time that will lead Hanoi to believe that they
should continue this war, continue the killing, refuse to
negotiate seriously in the hopes that they are going to get a
softer deal, an easier arrangement out of me than they can get
right now in the conference table at Paris. We have two of the
most able diplomats that America has ever produced in Mr. Harriman
and Mr. Vance. They are both there in Paris. They are ready
to talk to the North Vietnamese. They are ready to negotiate
a political settlement. And, I believe that the greatest
service that I can perform for the mothers and the fathers who
have their sons in Vietnam is to make it very clear to Hanoi
that now is the time to negotiate, now is the time to stop the
killing. Now is the time to quit fighting and to start talking.

1 Now, if any word of mine can promote that sort of situation,
2 then maybe I would be helpful in saving a life. Maybe I would
3 be helpful in reducing the violence that is in this world today.
4 That is my position.

5 MR. BURNS: Mr. Vice President, is there any hope for
6 something definite to come out of those Paris peace talks within
7 the near future or are they just stalmated? Just a road block
8 or what?

9 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I am glad you asked me, is
10 there any hope.

11 MR. BURNS: I mean definite hope, some brightness.

12 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I can only express the
13 hope. I cannot be precise on that because I have no way of
14 knowing what the enemy is going to do or how it is going to
15 respond. I can tell you that we are going to persevere in
16 those talks. We need the same kind of determination in the
17 search for peace and a negotiated political settlement at the
18 conference table as we have determination on the battlefield.
19 We ask our men to literally, well, they do give their lives and
20 they have been giving them by the hundreds. Now, that is the
21 supreme sacrifice. I think that we have a right to expect that
22 we should have the same kind of perseverance and courage, probi
23 patience, probing, and initiative and creativity at the
24 conference table that we demand of our men on the battlefield.

25 MR. BURNS: Mr. Vice President, from Vietnam, let's
go to the subject of the Pueblo. 82 men have been in prison
since January.

Now, do you feel it is so bad for the great U.S. to
eat a little crow, to apologize? In other words, if you were
elected President, would you be willing to apologize to North
Vietnam and get those men home or leave them languish?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: First of all, I am not at
all sure if you "apologize", that it would even release the men.
Secondly, I don't believe we have anything to apologize for.
That is my honest conviction and I think that for us to try to
make up some sort of an apology in order to placate or
appease the appetite of the, the propaganda appetite of the
North Koreans, would not be right.

MR. BURNS: Leave the men there, you mean, Mr. Vice
President?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: If we have any apologies
to make, if there was evidence that indicate that we had done
something wrong, then that is one thing, but I do not see that
body of evidence. Now, I would suggest that the best way to
get these men back is to be patient, persevering in our
diplomacy, use every conceivable diplomatic channel that we
have, and to remember that we had an incident somewhat similar
to this in the 1950's when some aircraft crews were intercepted
by the Soviet Union. They were accused of violating the Soviet

1 air space. They did not violate the Soviet air space. They
2 were reconnaissance planes and the Soviets intercepted them
3 and they imprisoned our pilots. They were there for many
4 months, and then all at once the Soviet Union decided to release
5 them. Of course, that was the product of a good deal of nego-
6 tiation and diplomatic pressure. I do not believe that they would
7 have been released one day earlier had the American Government
8 humiliated itself and violated its sense of integrity by saying,
9 look, we violated your air space or we did something that was
10 wrong, because a great nation like ours if it is in error should
11 admit it, but if it is not in error we should not play loosely
12 with the truth. I sincerely believe that we will contribute more
13 to the safety of our country and to the men who protect this
14 country by being truthful and being respectful and being
15 courageous rather than attempting to find some easy way out that
16 is fictitious, false, and is not honorable. I just believe that
17 we have to do what is right.

18 Now, you have asked me about the Pueblo, and all the
19 information that I have, sir, tells me that we have done
20 nothing wrong. We have not violated international law. Now,
21 if there is additional information that comes forth, this
22 government is going to be willing, I am sure, to expose that
23 information but it doesn't have any that I know of, and I speak
24 now as a citizen and as the Vice President.

25 MR. BURNS: Mr. Vice President, getting back to the
campaign, then, law and order has become a top issue. Just how
do we go about getting law and order? There seems to be quite
a difference of opinion between the Republican opponent and
yourself.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, first of all, I regret
that there is what appears to be partisan debate over law and
order. I really do not know of a single candidate for public
office that believes that we ought to advocate lawlessness. I
know of no candidate that believes that we ought to have crime.
And, I surely know of no one that condones violence. Speaking
for myself, I want to make it very clear that if I am elected
President of the United States, I shall do my utmost to mobilize
the resources of the Federal, state and local governments to
suppress violence wherever it takes place, because law and
order or just plain order is a requirement for social progress,
particularly in a democracy where you have other ways of
redressing your grievances.

But the subject of law and order, I think, poses
a Constitutional question that we ought to talk about. The
President can be helpful by his demeanor, by his words, by his
deeds, by his proposals to Congress, but we do not have a
federal police force. We have less than a 1000 United
States marshals for the whole United States. In our Constitution
we reserve the police power, thank goodness, for the states.

1 The Tenth Amendment of the Constitution makes that very, very
2 clear. So that all the police power is reserved for the states
3 and the people thereof. That means that we do not have a federal
4 police. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is an investigative
5 service and on those acts, criminal acts which are interstate
6 it has some jurisdiction, but we do not have federal police
7 roaming the streets of Pittsburgh or the precincts of Allegheny
8 County under the direction of the President of the United
9 States. I think that is putting far too much power in the hands
10 of the central government, and so did the Founding Fathers of
11 this Republic. So that police power rests with the governors,
12 with the local officials, counties and village, municipal, as
13 we say, municipal officials, city and village and town officials,
14 and that is the way it ought to be.

15 Now, what can we do, though, to help these men,
16 because I don't know of a mayor in this country that wants crime
17 or lawlessness. They all in a very real sense are deeply con-
18 cerned about the rising crime rate, particularly amongst
19 young people, and that is where the crime rate has increased.
20 They are very erked, all of us, by any violence or any taking
21 to the streets and mayors are hard put to preserve law and order
22 and so are governors. So what we need to do is to professionalize
23 our police departments. Law enforcement is not cheap.

24 MR. BURNS: How do you mean professionalize?

25 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Better training. Many of
our police officers today have little or no training. I know
that in Allegheny County you are going to set up a police
training institute. I just heard about it. I was in New Jersey
the other night and they have what they call Operation Combine
where they have a training program for state troopers, county
sheriff officers, municipal police officers, chiefs of police,
other officers of the police department in law enforcement
techniques, riot control, in all forms of the use of modern
technical equipment, human relations training, community
relations, so they are upgrading the quality of your police
officer so that that police officer knows your rights as a
citizen and knows his rights as a law enforcement officer.

Now, you know, we ask a social worker to have a college
education. We put a social worker in the ghettos, as we say.
In order to go there he has to have a college education. We
put the police officer there who will be in touch with more
people day by day than any social worker and in many of our
communities an 8th grade education, many times little or no
knowledge at all of Constitutional law, statutory law, little
or no training or experience in modern police methods, that is,
apprehension, methods of apprehension of criminals or control
of riots.

I am saying that the Federal Government's role is
to help states and municipalities with resources, experts,

1 technicians, funds. There isn't a city in the United States
2 that is not just struggling to have enough money to take care
3 of its municipal services. So, our role is to help with the
4 financing and we did that in what we call our Safe Streets
5 and Crime Control Act, but we need to expand on that.

6 The state's role is to help set up these training
7 institutes. And also in our universities. There aren't a dozen
8 universities in America today that have training programs, that
9 is, professionalized police training programs.

10 Now, they ought to have that because the police are the
11 front line of our domestic security.

12 One other thing I would like to say is, let's have
13 some respect for our police.

14 MR. BURNS: I was going to say today it is hard --
15 right in the City of Pittsburgh they are having a hard time
16 getting police because they are tired of being badgered and
17 being looked down upon.

18 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: That is right. When I was
19 Mayor of my city -- and by the way, what I speak of is very
20 much out of my own experience as well as my contacts with local
21 officials. I have been working very closely for the last four
22 years as Vice President with the mayors of all of our cities.
23 That has been part of my job. I believe that we should in each
24 city start to have programs of what I would call police honor
25 days where we have, where we honor outstanding men, outstanding
police officers for their work, not only because they have saved
a life but their conduct, their demeanor. I think we need a
better system of merit promotion in many of our cities. I think
we need to focus attention upon the quality of our police and
by the way, in many cities they are grossly underpaid. Actually
the police officer's salary on a national basis provides him
about two-thirds of the income that he needs for a minimum
standard of living. Now, that is not right. You cannot ask
the man that has to stand out here and take harassment and abuse,
and he does, and literally lays his life on the line, you
cannot ask him to do that at salaries and compensation that just
do not adequately care for his family. You can't get good
public servants without the --

MR. BURNS: Would you be in favor, then, of the
Federal Government subsidizing police forces?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I believe in Federal
Government financial assistance to municipalities and state
agencies for the upgrading of the quality of the training of
police officers and the augmentation of their salaries for
whatever may be required to modernize and properly equip a
police department, the sheriff's office, the state crime control
bureau, or whatever it may be, a kind of federal grant in aid.

Now, we are providing some of that right now through
out Safe Streets and Crime Control Act. I don't say that that

1 money has to go directly to salaries, but it can help pay for
2 some of the things that a locality is required to pay for today,
3 like a crime laboratory, and some of that money then can be
4 shifted over to salaries. But more importantly, the local
5 people, you and I, we have a stake in good law enforcement.
6 The poor have a stake in good law enforcement.

7 More crime is committed in the areas where the poor
8 live. More crime is committed against the poor than any
9 group and more crime is committed by the poor. So, when my
10 Republican opponent says that he is for doubling the rate of
11 convictions, that is one part of it. But he must also come to
12 understand that crime and violence has a breeding ground in the
13 slums and the ghettos.

14 I don't want to have it appear that if a man is poor
15 he is prone to be a criminal. That is ridiculous. But the
16 fact is and it is a fact that more crime is committed in the
17 areas of poverty than in any other area of your city, and more
18 crime is committed against the poor, white or black, than any
19 other group and more crime is committed by the poor against
20 one another and the rest of the community than by any other
21 group. Now, those are facts and for the Republican nominee to
22 try to ignore those facts, I think, is to be very naive, as he
23 said of me.

24 MR. BURNS: That is correct.

25 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: And not only to be very
naive, I think it is to ignore the truth or refuse to deal
with it.

Now, it is a fact that civil order and civil justice
are two sides of the same coin. You cannot have just repression.
You also have to have justice. Any mayor knows that, and I
gather most governors would know it. And for a man to be
President of the United States, knowing full well that he does
not have the police power, he is not the sheriff, he is not the
chief of police, he is Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces
but he is not the local chief of police, he is the President of
the United States, that man who seeks to be President should do
all that he can to encourage respect for the law by, may I say,
not running down our courts, not attacking the Attorney
General, not impugning the motives of our judges, but he should
also understand that his greatest contribution to a peaceful
America, promoting domestic tranquility, is in trying to redress
the grievances that people have. In other words, doing something
about the inequities, the poverty, the sickness, the illiteracy,
the deprivation that grips people.

Now, again I want to say that poverty and deprivation
are not synonymous with criminal behavior, but anybody that
doesn't understand that conditions of poverty and deprivation
and unemployment and illiteracy and frustration and bitterness,
anyone that doesn't understand that those conditions are

1 conducive to criminal behavior and are a breeding ground for
2 crime just doesn't have the qualifications to lead this country,
3 sir, because America cannot be a police state. America must be
4 a state of law and order. It must be a safe country and it must
5 be a just country, safety and justice. Those are the things that
6 the Constitution requires. The Constitution says to promote
7 domestic tranquility and to assure justice.

8 Now, if you don't understand the obligations of the
9 oath of that Constitution, you have disqualified yourself for
10 the office of the Presidency. To promote domestic tranquility.
11 That is what the President is supposed to do, to promote it.
12 He doesn't run the police department. But he promotes it through
13 his ideas, through his thoughts, through his words, through his
14 programs of federal grants in aid, and so forth. But, he has
15 the responsibility under the Constitution to assure justice,
16 and I think that it is something that every good citizen better
17 ponder very, very carefully.

18 MR. BURNS: Why do you want to be the President of
19 the United States?

20 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: To do just what I said.

21 MR. BURNS: It is an awesome job.

22 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Yes, but someone does it and
23 someone must do it. I have been a public man for a long time. I
24 really believe in public service. I believe in it not only as
25 a citizen but as a man of conviction. I was taught both in my
religion and in my home, in my school, that to serve is a great
honor. I guess there are many ways of saying it, to minister
unto others, to serve. I think public service is a high calling.
It is a very demanding calling. Most of us at times fail in
some of those responsibilities. We try to improve. I hope
during my years of public life that I have learned, that I have
matured, that I have become a more understanding man, yet at
the same time, one that appreciates the requirements of public
service.

There isn't any doubt but what it is one that --
the Office of the Presidency absorbs your whole life, but what
greater calling is there in this country than to be able to
serve the people, to occupy by whatever talents God may have
given you, the highest office of this land, use those talents
for what you believe is the national good. I have said about
the Presidency, it offers an opportunity for a man to be the
nation's educator, not only his nation's leader but the educator.
It offers you the greatest opportunity to perform social
service, service to your fellowman, of any office or gift of
the people of this world. I don't think there is any office
that offers a greater opportunity. It is very demanding but
it has its rewards are in the feeling or in the knowledge that
you have done something for somebody, that you have helped your
country.

1 I don't know -- you know, there is nothing wrong with
2 patriotism.

3 MR. BURNS: I think patriotism is great.

4 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: It is great, you know.
5 Sometimes people like to pooh-pooh it around this country but
6 just think of how wonderful it is to know that you are a part
7 of the history of this land, that you maybe have been able
8 to make some contribution to the promotion of or to the realiza-
9 tion of the American dream. I think it is just the grandest
10 calling. Of course, that is why I am motivated.

11 MR. BURNS: Where along the line during your public
12 life -- you were a mayor, U.S. Senator, though you started out
13 as a pharmacist -- somewhere along the line where did you get
14 the idea some day, I would like to be the President and run
15 for President?

16 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I guess I can't put any
17 particular date on it. I got to thinking about it, of course, in
18 the late 1950's and I tried in the primaries of 1960. That
19 was a very interesting experience for me. I think I learned a
20 great deal.

21 I had a wonderful privilege in those primaries. I
22 ran against John Kennedy in the Democratic primaries, a tremendous
23 man, and you know, I never felt that I really was defeated
24 because defeat to me means that you, well, that you haven't done
25 your best, that you didn't give it your best. I did not win
but I ran against one of the most gifted and one of the most
intelligent and attractive personalities and spirits that this
nation has ever known, and not to have won in that contest was
not really a very humiliating matter to me. So, I -- and after
it was all over, I just pulled up my socks, so to speak, and I
said let's go to work and I went out and campaigned for John
Kennedy, and I was his deputy floor leader in the Senate and
one of the great moments, periods -- I think maybe a better
way to say it, is one of the most rewarding periods in my life
was the association that I had with John Kennedy.

So, I suppose in answer to your question, I started
thinking about it around 1959, 1960.

MR. BURNS: Now, today you are out campaigning.
These anti-war demonstrators are out demonstrating against you
and maybe some of the polls are not as favorable as you would
like them. You have personal feelings. Doesn't it bug you in
some manner? It has got to reach you somehow.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Yes, I am a human being.
You know, sometimes with all of the emotion that is run through
the spirit of a man, some of us in public life try to pretend
that these things don't affect us, but I think candor and
frankness on these matters is maybe rather refreshing and not
only that, it is better that way. You don't have to think of
what you said last night.

1 Who was it -- Abraham Lincoln said, if you tell the
2 truth, you really don't have to spend much time worrying about
3 what you said last time.

4 Of course, some of these matters bother me but I also
5 know as a public man in a society where dissent is a part --
6 well, it is a part of the movement of our society. In is part of
7 the ferment of democracy, that you have to expect a certain
8 amount of heckling, a certain amount of harassment.

9 I don't mind it until it starts to get disorderly.

10 When I have been asked about these things, I have said
11 dissent, yes, disorder, no. And I have to tell you in all
12 candor that one of the things that disturbs me greatly is that
13 some of the people who seem to be the least respectful of the
14 rights of free speech for the other fellow are some of those who
15 have been privileged to have the finest education that this
16 country can offer.

17 Now, for a young man that has never had anything in
18 this life, that has been the victim of discrimination and
19 inequity and injustice, I can see how he might not be very respect-
20 ful of me because he might say, you are responsible.

21 But for a young man or young woman that has had a
22 college education, that has been given every chance, and many
23 times a scholarship, for that person to ignore the basic rights
24 of a free society, free speech, freedom of assembly, freedom
25 of the press, freedom to vote, to have an attitude of dogmatic
-- a dogmatic attitude that I am right and you are wrong, and
I am not going to let you talk and I am going to break up your
meeting, I think that that is unpardonable.

I say many times to my young friends that dissent,
that the first credential of an educated man is good manners.
The second credential is tolerance and understanding. And the
third credential is respect for the other fellow's point of view.

Now, it is not protecting free speech when either
a government or a mob abridges it. When you are shouted down,
whether your name is George Wallace or Richard Nixon or Hubert
Humphrey, that is not free speech and that is not freedom of
assembly and people who do that act more like storm troopers
than they do free men. And it is about time that we called a
halt to it.

So, I speak very sharply about it and very openly.
I believe in dissent. Peaceful picketing. Carry your signs.

MR. BURNS: What about the draft card burners?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I have no time for them.
I think that that is an act of juvenile senility, if you can
put that together, and of total disrespect for the institutions
of this country. There are many other ways for men and women
to show their displeasure with public law.

I happen to think that the Selective Service System
needs revision. I think it has many inequities in it. I

1 happen to believe in the lottery system, in random selection,
2 rather than all of these built-in types of exemptions which
3 promote a great deal of unrest amongst young people. But the
4 draft card burner and the flag burner doesn't demonstrate that
5 he is a man of conscience. It demonstrates that he is a man of
6 violence. He is a man of arrogance. And he is really a
7 coward because the person that is brave is the one that will
8 take his case in a free society where the political processes
9 are open to him, to the people, through argument, through
10 reason, and not through acts of destruction. This is why
11 violence, flag burning, draft card burning, have to be not only
12 not condoned but condemned, and those who are guilty of these
13 kinds of things ought to be held in utter disdain by the American
14 people

8 MR. BURNS: Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

9 Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, Democratic candidate
10 for President. This is Bill Burns in Pittsburgh for Eyewitness
11 News.

11 ###



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