Opening Remarks
Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey
Housewives Q & A
St. Louis, Missouri
October 16, 1968

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I want to visit with you only briefly today. Most

of all, I want to hear what is on your minds.

Q+A!

I want to talk with you for just a moment about what is at stake in the decision the American people face less than three weeks from now.

We are not just choosing a President of this country -- or even our Senators, Congressmen and other elected officials.

What we are choosing is the future of our children.

Will our children grow up in a country where one race is pitted against another... where violence and tension and fear are part of every-day life?

Will our children grow up in a world bent on burying itself beneath mountains of nuclear weapons?

Or, will they grow up in a free and open country where people are able to live together peacefully... and where their children will have an even better chance then they had.

These are the choices we face as a free people.

I know you are concerned about what is happening in America. So am I.

You are concerned about the safety of your children when they come home from school.

You are concerned about the quality of the education they receive inside their school.

You are concerned about the breakdown of family values which we see all around us.

When we grew up, narcotics were something that existed in Grade-B movies or were grown somewhere in Asia.

Z Today we find they may have something to do with our teenage neighbor down the street.—

We have to stop the vicious traffic of narcotics and what it is doing to our young people.

I know, too, that you are deeply concerned about the health and welfare of your parents.

Are they to live out their lives in empty, lonely rooms -or as a heavy financial burden to you and your family?

Or are they going to have the chance to live with enough income for decent health care and, above all, self-respect?

And is the life we lead going to be one just of electric toothbrushes...country club memberships...accumulation of more material things?

Or is this rich country finally going to break through and make human, individual values the most important things of all?

In short, can we build an America not just concerned with the quantity of its things, but with the quality of its people?

These are the stakes in 1968.

I know that all of you are going to vote. But I hope you will do more than that.

I hope you will look at these things very carefully -- and study the statements made by Mr. Nixon, Mr. Wallace, and myself.

I hope you will talk these things over with your neighbors and your friends.

And then, I hope you will not only vote -- but that you will get out and work in these next few weeks for the man you feel best fits the future. (Needless to say, I hope you will give extra consideration to Hubert Humphrey).

But whatever you do, I want you to become involved, and take a first-hand role in building the future of this country.

We are not talking politics here. We are talking about your children and mine.

Now I'd like to hear from you.

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