NEWS FROM: DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE 2600 Virginia Avenue, N. W. Washington, D. C. Telephone: 202/333-8750

For Release Wednesday PMs October 23, 1968

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HUMPHREY DECLARES ECONOMY CAN PROVIDE JOBS FOR ALL WHO WANT THEM

Harlingen, Texas, October 23 -- Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey today derided the claim that "jobs for Mexican-Americans or Negroes can only come by taking them away from whites."

In a ceremony dedicating the Bi-lingual Manpower Technical Skill Center of the James Connally Technical Institute, Humphrey said that the American economy is strong enough to provide a job for everyone who wants one. He called the new bi-lingual training center "a symbol of a fresh commitment which America has made in the 1960's to give every man the dignity of a job, no matter who he is, not matter how humble his circumstances."

He reminded his audience that "when someone gets a job who didn't have one before, when somebody gets education or training who didn't have it before, all of us benefit." Stressing that this country was built on the idea that "one man was as good as another," Humphrey said that we must "join hands in this country, to stand up against racism, to stand up against suspicion and hate, to stand up against those who want to stop this country's journey into the future."

The Vice President declared that the "work for all of us" is to "fulfill the promise of America" with faith, wisdom and vision.

The text of Mr. Humphrey's remarks is attached.

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REMARKS VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY DEDICATION BI-LINGUAL SKILLS CENTER HARLINGEN, TEXAS OCTOBER 23, 1968

I was a little concerned when I learned I should give a non-partisan speech in Harlingen.

There are a lot of good Democrats in the Rio Grande Valley -- and I didn't want to disappoint them.

I learned that I was invited to talk about job training and bi-lingual educa-

Those have been Democratic causes ... and I don't mind saying so.

But now that I have seen this school ...

Now that I have heard what it is going to mean to tens of thousands of Anglo and Mexican-American workers...

I want to avoid partisan politics.

I want to be partisan in favor of people...in favor of opportunity...in favor of giving every American a chance to make the most he can of himself.

That's the kind of politics I like best, anyway.

The Bi-lingual Manpower Technical Skill Center of the James Connally Technical

Institute -- which I dedicated today -- is an important symbol of our times.

First, it shows dramatically what we can achieve ... together.

Who build this school?

The people built it -- working together, whether they spoke English or Spanish ...whether their parents came from Texas, or Mexico, or someplace else.

The officials of Harlingen and surrounding counties helped build it.

The state of Texas...Texas A & M...the Area Development Commission helped build it.

And the United States government helped build it -- because enough Americans everywhere are dedicated to the idea that people...everywhere...should have a chance in life.

Second, this school proves that swords can be beaten into plowshares.

My friends, the war in Vietnam will end. I believe the arms race can be slowed and hopefully ended before it ends the human race.

That must not mean closed factories ... idle people and wasted resources.

It has to mean new and rapid progress here at home...in our cities and in our rural areas...in education and job training and conservation and pollution control.

If we are not prepared to do these things...if we decide to sit back and relax ...the peace we will have won will be a mixed blessing at best.

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Third, this training center is a symbol of a fresh commitment which America ... has made in the 1960's to give every man the dignity of a job -- no matter who he is ... no matter how humble his circumstances.

I have heard some people say that jobs for Mexican Americans or Negroes can only come by taking them away from whites.

Let me tell you something -- that couldn't be more wrong.

Yes, I want the Mexican-Americans to have a job.

I want everybody in this country to have a job.

And we have the economic power in America to add new jobs -- so that all can share in the prosperity of this land.

Let's not fool ourselves: When someone gets a job who didn't have one before ...when somebody gets education or training who didn't have it before -- all of us benefit.

We lift the country.

We create new tax-paying citizens. Then, we get real order and justice. And what's more, we do what is right.

Yes: I want to change things. I want to change them for the better. Some Americans have been left waiting outside for more than one hundred years. It's time they had their chance.

I say this country does not have to be torn and divided.

We don't have to hate each other.

We can build this country together -- just as we built the railroads...just as we built our highways...just as we built the buildings of morter and steel in our great cities.

I say: Now is the time to stand up for America -- the greatest country in the world.

Now is the time for everyone who cares to join hands in this country...to stand up against racism...to stand up against suspicion and hate...to stand up against those who want to stop this country's journey into the future.

I say: Now is the time for us to trust one another.

We began our journey more than 200 years ago.

We came to this country burning with the idea that one man was as good as another...that what was wrong could be made right...that people possessed the basic wisdom and goodness to govern themselves without conflict.

. . more

Now we come to a new moment of crisis in that journey.

We are called:

-- to heal the hatreds and divisions among us;

-- to reaffirm the basic decency of spirit which lies within us as people.

-- to reassert this nation's moral leadership in a world that desperately seeks that leadership.

-- to tell a new generation that what we have is good ... that it is worth saving ... that the dream of their parents is still a worthy dream.

This is work for all of us.

And if we do this work -- faithfully, wisely and with vision -- we can fulfill the promise of America, described in the immortal words of that great American author, Thomas Wolfe:

"To every man his chance, to every man, regardless of his birth, his shining golden opportunity. To every man the right to live, to work, to be himself -- and to become whatever thing his manhood and his vision can combine to make him... This...is the promise of America."

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America doesn't need your brand of medicine, Mr. Wallace. I know what the opposition is saying behind the scenes. They say "law and order" but they really mean black and white. They say: Humphrey wants to give a black man a job. He wants to give a Spanish syrnapped American a jox And it will be your job. Hymph ey wants to go too fast. Let me tell you something -- that Couldn't be more wring the Moyacan Clinencan to have a yoh, Yes, I want Bajave & black man a job. I want everybody in this country to have a job - collation, his rac -- black, white, red, green, or yellow. Let's not fool ourselves: When someone gets a job who didn't have one before ... when somebody gets education or training who didn't have it before --- all of us benefit. We lift the country. And we have the economy power in america to a just new jobs - so that all can share in the prispents of this land.

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I seek to work through the Presidency of the United States.

I do not have a massive advertising budget. I do not have a multi-million dollar TV blitz. I only have you

... millions of people against millions of dollars.

Let's break through Mil/ Nixon's smokescreen.

And let's break through to a New Day for the American people.

I ask your help

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