

Norman Augsburg Family

President Anderson
Dr Bernhard Christensen

REMARKS

THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
CENTENNIAL COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Chs Bd Regents
Leonard Ramberg
then
(young, youthful, +
Handsome!)

AUGSBURG COLLEGE

100th graduation

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

JUNE 1, 1969

(Boh Hope - Gestown - To you who are about to go out in the
World - Don't go!)

↳ This has been quite a year for higher education ...

anyway you look at it. You can tell your children; I was there

in 1969. *(Boh Hope Star)* *(what are you going to take)*

The headlines of campus disorders often cause us to lose
sight of another vital fact: more Americans are in college this
year than all the Americans alive when our nation was founded.

↳ More Americans are in graduate schools today than all the
Americans who bore arms during the Revolution.

↳ By the time one of you is likely to stand in this place at some
future Commencement, the American people will number more
than 300 million --and the people in the world almost too many
to even think about.

And I need not recite for you the future needs and problems of those people.

You will be in charge! You will be responsible for our national security and my medicare.

You will be responsible for the education of my grand children and the freedom of my great-grandchildren.

So I propose to take a look at you and have a talk with you.!

But first a word about your parents — think about you!

It may be hard to believe but, in another century's history books, the very people who have been helping with your tuition may be ranked among the greatest radicals in modern history.

Believe it or not. — Crisis of War & Depression

Theirs is the first generation in all of history which, by its own hand, has surrendered the privilege of telling its offspring: This is how things are; this is how they always have been; this is the way the world goes.

-3-

/ I am not going to bore you with tales of the Great
Depression, or of World Wars, and of the hardships your
 parents faced.

/ Nor will I recount the struggles that took place in our
 country to achieve the measure of well-being and social
 justice we have reached today.

/ But I can tell you, it has been no picnic. / It has been no
improvised "happening."

/ It has taken involvement, and hard work, and study, and
self-doubt, and passionate disagreement, and finally, under-
standing and motion.

/ Progress has ridden no fast express. / It has been a local
all the way. *Start & stop - with plenty of detours!*

/ Thus, as older generations welcome you aboard, I think
 you ought to know that they've not been cooling their heels
waiting for you. !

-4-

+ grandparents

↳ The generation of your parents has lived amid the flood-
waters of history. Most of them have known genuine hardship.
Many of them have lost loved ones on other continents. Their
old horizons have gone far off in space, yet they have followed,
cautious but willing. The world has come to their dinner table,
and at times has seemed to stay a long while, yet they remain
hospitable.

↳ They have made history! Yet to many of you, I know,
it seems "the heavy hand of history."

But Remember this: The challenges they faced didn't leave
room for some of the niceties of today.

They had to meet trouble in large sizes.

↳ They had to feed and clothe and house and transport and
produce and educate and struggle in big portions, just to
overcome the clear and present perils of their time.

-5-

Individualism has been the backbone and concern of their work. Yet, to serve the individual, they had to build on a scale which at times seemed to dwarf the individual.

By and large they have been, I believe, a resourceful and courageous generation.

And now, to you, I know, it seems they have hidden their history! *and how unfortunate!*

Over the battlefield they have laid out the golf course.

For those of you who have grown up within putting distance of a country club or within walking distance of a second car, it is hard, I know, to recognize many vestiges of their radicalism.

But they were radicals. They broke through.

They made the beginnings, the great beginnings, for better America. *It*

*Tremendous material improvement
and expansion of education + beginning
of a world order that has thus far prevented*

The Carnage of nuclear war.
~~Now to the Parents - Let me speak -~~
We must listen!

Troubled Generation

- Poverty
- Hunger
- Disease
- Illiteracy
- Racism - Prejudice
- Slaves -
- ~~broken system~~
- ~~responsibility~~

'Where's the action now?' you ask.

And I reply: There's plenty of action.

There's work to be done right here in Minnesota
 in all the 50 states of our union, And there's work to be done
 in the world.

Not merely to protest injustices, but to do something
 about them.

The challenges you face are far greater, and far more
 exciting than those faced by your parents. The scale of effort
 to be required of you will be far greater than that required
 of them.

* * * *

For the fact of our time is this: The poverty our nation
 knew in the Great Depression the peril that mankind
 knew in World War II --these are nothing compared to the
poverty and peril that surround our strong, rich America
today.

-7-

∠ There are desperate conditions of injustice and hunger
and disease throughout most of the human family.

∠ There are, in human society, conditions which not only
bring a sense of shame and insufficiency to those of us
who live in such a blessed landbut conditions which
can lead to the eruption of the little disorder, which can grow
to the small war, which can build to the cataclysm which
could destroy rich and poor, black and white, believer and
non-believer--all of us alike.

Bud ∠ I believe you sense the full measure of what you face.

∠ I have seen you in the Peace Corps, helping strangers.

∠ I have seen you marching down dusty roads on behalf of
fellow Americans whose skin doesn't happen to be white.

∠ I have seen you, in VISTA or the Teacher Corps.,
lifting the forgotten to a place of self-respect in life.

∠ I have seen you, standing calm, resisting the temptation
of violence, for what you believe in.

-8-

↳ I have seen you, wearing your nation's uniform,
fighting bravely for a cause far more difficult to understand
than any we have defended before.

↳ I have seen you speaking out, from deep personal
conscience, without thought of personal popularity.

*a great &
gifted
generation!*

↳ You perform remarkably well in the system your parents
built, yet I know that you are probing relentlessly to find your
own personal relationship to it... desperately seeking
identity in a society of bigness.

↳ For your generation, the old labels seem to have little
meaning.

↳ Whether you are part of the "New Left" or the "New Right"
or the "Out" or the "In," your concerns are far more for
basic humanity than they are political.

↳ And I think it is a mistake to see in either your protests,
your reservations, or your dissent, much that can fit into the
traditional political categories.

-9-

Indeed, if much of our political history seems to have escaped you, you ~~are~~ ^{seem} not too troubled by the loss. You are deeply and personally caught up in what matters today.

↳ You set high standards for yourselves, and you judge yourselves harshly.

↳ And you show a remarkable degree of serious introspection for the children of prosperity.

↳ This is the overriding truth about this generation of college students... and its time somebody said so.

↳ But I sometimes fear that, in your introspection, you may come to believe you are alone.

↳ I tell you now that you are not alone.

↳ When you speak out and act alone in America, you are more a part of this land and more a source of its strength than are all of the multitude who stand in silence, no matter how vast they may seem.

-10-

"The most dangerous enemy to truth and freedom amongst us," said Ibsen, "is the compact majority."

↳ Oppose that compact majority, and you are sure to collect a few bruises. But I have found that the best remedy for a bruise is to collect a few more.

↳ The more you speak out, and the more you act, the more you are going to discover that you are lending courage to a surprising number of people whose feelings will come to the surface in response to yours.

↳ That's the meaning of leadership--to inspire others, to help them free themselves of their own needless fears.

↳ True freedom in any land is a relentless, never ending process of self-discovery among its people. ~~The work of~~

~~Quitting is never done~~

-II-

↳ This you will preserve, for our own land, not because it is your inheritance; nor because some destiny says you must; but because your own free search for individual identity in the living present, demands it.

The strongest bulwark of liberty is man, free and in search of himself. - Adlai Stevenson

* * * *

↳ Yours is the opportunity to prove in the world what the generation of your parents has already begun to prove in America: That the course of history is not a mindless juggernaut we are powerless to control, but a fresh challenge susceptible to courageous action in each generation.

↳ It's good to study history, but it's even better to make it.

↳ I hope you will be sensitive to that opportunity.

↳ I hope you will waste no time in seizing it.

-12-

↳ The story is told that Pericles of Ancient Greece in his later years came across a young lawyer of Athens who was deeply devoted to causes, who wished to change immediately what was wrong in the world.

↳ Pericles chastized the young man for being too bold and brash--for concerning himself with things better left to older men.

↳ The older man patronizingly said: "Of course, I understand for I, too, was over-eager in my youth, But, now that I am older, I have learned better. Take my advice and do not become so involved."

↳ To which the young man replied: "I regret I did not have the privilege of knowing you when you were at your best."

↳ We are at our best when we dare most. The difference between competence and greatness is the ability to do the impossible.

← Victor Hugo

*This has been quite a year for higher education... anyway you look at it. You can tell your children; I was here in 1969.
(The heading of campus disorder often came up & was argued of another vital fact.)*

Centennial
Centennial

Remarks
The Honorable H.W.H.
Commencement Exercises
Angsburg College
Minneapolis, Minnesota -
June 1, 1969

(1)

Hubert Humphrey feels a kinship with college students.
I like to be where the action is.
I was raising Cain with the system before you were born.
And as I am just beginning to get started I don't doubt that I will be raising Cain when you are running things, too.

In fact, I wish I were being graduated today. I might have a better idea where my next job is coming from.

Today, I speak in a relatively new role. I speak for management.

As management's spokesman, I wish first to thank you for service to your nation.

The View From Management

In all these years of study, I am sure you thought you were improving your position to compete in the years ahead or to enter a profession. But you today are more than college graduates.

From management's viewpoint, you are valuable national resources.

More Americans are in college this year than all the Americans alive when our nation was founded. More Americans are in graduate schools today than all the Americans who bore arms during the Revolution. ~~Those are lots of resources.~~

~~And we will need them all.~~

~~For~~ By the time one of you is likely to stand in this place at some future Commencement, the American people will number more than 300 million—and the people in the world almost too many to even think about.

And I need not recite for you the future needs and problems of those people.

You will be in charge. You will be responsible for our national security and my medicare.

You will be responsible for the education of my grandchildren and the freedom of my great-grandchildren.

So I propose to take a look at you and have a talk with you.

a word

About Your Parents

But first, about your parents. . . .

It may be hard to believe but, in another century's history books, the very people who have been helping with your tuition may be ranked among the greatest radicals in modern history.

Believe it or not.

*And so you get
what you want
every*

~~Some of your parents might flinch if you told them there were radicals in your family. But they have been nothing less.~~

Theirs is the first generation in all of history which, by its own hand, has surrendered the privilege of telling its offspring: This is how things are; this is how they always have been; this is the way the world goes.

~~Your fathers and mothers were born children of hills and valleys. Today, they see the galaxy itself.~~

~~They have created amazing new systems of management, science and technology.~~

~~They have fought and won wars.~~

~~They have designed and created international political and economic institutions that they hoped might help keep the peace.~~

~~They have revitalized an economy that was faltering and made it vibrant and successful.~~

~~They have found new and better systems to care for people.~~

~~Looking Backward~~

~~And I have been right in the midst of it with them, just as I am with you.~~

I am not going to bore you with tales of the Great Depression, or of World Wars, and of the hardships your parents faced.

Nor will I recount the struggles that took place in our country to achieve the measure of well-being and social justice we have reached today.

But I can tell you, it has been no picnic. It has been no improvised "happening."

It has taken involvement, and hard work, and study, and self-doubt, and passionate disagreement, and finally, understanding and motion.

Progress has ridden no fast express. It has been a local all the way.

Thus, as older generations welcome you aboard, I think you ought to know that they've not been cooling their heels waiting for you.

The generation of your parents has lived amid the floodwaters of history. Most of them have known genuine hardship. Many of them have lost loved ones on other continents. Their old horizons have gone far off in space, yet they have followed, cautious but willing. The world has come to their dinner table, and at times has seemed to stay a long while, yet they remain hospitable.

They have made history. Yet to many of you, I know, it seems "the heavy hand of history."

3

Remember this: The challenges they ~~have~~ faced didn't leave room for some of the niceties of today.

They ~~have~~ had to meet trouble in large sizes.

They ~~have~~ had to feed and clothe and house and transport and produce and educate and struggle in big portions, just to overcome the clear and present perils of their time.

Individualism has been the backbone and concern of their work. Yet, to serve the individual, they ~~have~~ had to build on a scale which ~~has~~ seemed at times to dwarf the individual.

By and large they have been, I believe, a resourceful and courageous generation.

Looking Forward

And now, to you, I know, it seems they have hidden their history.

Over the battlefield they have laid out the golf course.

For those of you who have grown up within putting distance of a country club or within walking distance of a second car, it is hard, I know, to recognize many vestiges of their radicalism.

But they were radicals. They broke through.

They made the beginnings, the great beginnings, of a better America.

"Where's the action now?" you ask.

And I reply: There's plenty of action. Roll up your sleeves and have some.

There's work to be done right here in ~~Michigan~~—in all the 50 states of our union. And there's work to be done in the world.

Not merely to protest injustices, but to do something about them—~~that's where the action is.~~

~~That's why God gave youth to the young. Otherwise He might have given it to the elderly.~~

~~Your parents had to fight desperately, at your age, to stave off poverty at home and violence abroad—and they in large part succeeded.~~

~~But~~ The challenges you face are far greater, and far more exciting, than those ~~they~~ faced. The scale of effort to be required of you will be far greater than that required of them.

A Matter of Fact * * * *

For the fact of our time is this: The poverty our nation knew in the Great Depression . . . the peril that mankind knew in World War II—these are nothing compared to the poverty and peril that surround our strong, rich America ~~in the world~~ today.

faced
by
you
parents.

Minnesota

There are desperate conditions of injustice and hunger and disease throughout most of the human family.

There are, in human society, conditions which not only bring a sense of shame and insufficiency to those of us who live in such a blessed land . . . but conditions which can lead to the eruption of the little disorder, which can grow to the small war, which can build to the cataclysm which could destroy rich and poor, black and white, believer and non-believer—all of us alike.

~~That is where the action is.~~

~~This is the environment in which you will be in charge.~~

~~This is the human adventure on which you embark.~~

~~Young America's Response~~

page
220

I believe you sense the full measure of what you face.

~~I feel a sense of concern and of involvement among you.~~

I have seen you in the Peace Corps, helping strangers.

I have seen you marching down dusty roads on behalf of fellow Americans whose skin doesn't happen to be white.

I have seen you, in VISTA, lifting the forgotten to a place of self-respect in life.

I have seen you, standing calm, resisting the temptation of violence, for what you believe in.

I have seen you, wearing your nation's uniform, fighting bravely for a cause far more difficult to understand than any we have defended before.

I have seen you speaking out, from deep personal conscience, without thought of personal popularity.

You perform remarkably well in the system your parents built, yet I know that you are probing relentlessly to find your own personal relationship to it . . . desperately seeking identity in a society of bigness.

on the Teacher Corps,

~~Labels Lack Meaning~~

For your generation, the old labels seem to have little meaning.

Whether you are part of the "New Left" or the "New Right" or the "Out" or the "In," your concerns are far more for basic humanity than they are political.

And I think it is a mistake to see in either your protests, your reservations, or your dissent, much that can fit into the traditional political categories.

Indeed, if much of our political history seems to have escaped you, you are not too troubled by the loss. You are deeply and personally caught up in what matters today.

(5)

*This is the overriding truth about this generation
of college students... and its time somebody
said so.*

You set high standards for yourselves, and you judge yourselves harshly.

And you show a remarkable degree of serious introspection for the children of prosperity.

~~The Search For Identity~~

~~But~~ And I sometimes fear that, in your introspection, you may come to believe you are alone.

I tell you now that ~~when you stand alone~~, you are not alone.

When you speak out and act alone in America, you are more a part of this land and more a source of its strength than are all of the multitude who stand in silence, no matter how vast they may seem.

"The most dangerous enemy to truth and freedom amongst us," said Ibsen, "is the compact majority."

Oppose that compact majority, and you are sure to collect a few bruises. But I have found that the best remedy for a bruise is to collect a few more.

The more you speak out, and the more you act, the more you are going to discover that you are lending courage to a surprising number of people whose feelings will come to the surface in response to yours.

That's the meaning of leadership—to inspire others, to help them free themselves of their own needless fears.

True freedom in any land is a relentless, never ending process of self-discovery among its people.

This you will preserve, for our own land, not because it is your inheritance; nor because some destiny says you must; but because your own free search for individual identity in the living present, demands it.

The strongest bulwark of liberty is man, free and in search of himself.

* * * *

~~Serving Those In Need~~

A good number of your generation have already learned this lesson, in search of themselves in places and causes far distant from East Lansing, Michigan.

It is your opportunity to carry that lesson into forgotten corners of our country—and of the world—where people have never had any reason to learn it, or believe it.

We face today the incomparable opportunity—in the red dust of South American villages, in the neon minefield that is Watts, California—to stimulate the will to seek identity and to discover one's course.

You will be tempted to chart your progress by Gross National Product or by trade indices, or by other quantitative measures, some of which you distrust today.

(C)

~~But may I suggest that you also measure your progress by whether those you help—those who have known in their lives nothing but despair and defeat—by whether they can begin to have faith, by whether they can begin to have hope, by whether they can begin to find themselves.~~

The Opportunity To Make History

Yours is the opportunity to prove in the world what the generation of your parents has already begun to prove in America: That the course of history is not a mindless juggernaut we are powerless to control, but a fresh challenge susceptible to courageous action in each generation.

It's good to study history, but it's even better to make it. I hope you will be sensitive to that opportunity.

I hope you will waste no time in seizing it.

The story is told that Pericles of Ancient Greece in his later years came across a young lawyer of Athens who was deeply devoted to causes, who wished to change immediately what was wrong in the world.

Pericles chastized the young man for being too bold and brash—for concerning himself with things better left to older men.

The older man patronizingly said: "Of course, I understand for I, too, was over-eager in my youth. But, now that I am older, I have learned better. Take my advice and do not become so involved."

To which the young man replied: "I regret I did not have the privilege of knowing you when you were at your best."

We are at our best when we dare most. The difference between competence and greatness is the ability to do the impossible.

The American Song

~~Despite the fact that I represent management here today, I will tell you this:~~ If you do not choose to follow precisely the trails that others have blazed, then I do not think we ought to count the future unsafe in your hands.

In your search for identity and self-knowledge, you will have much to discover before you determine what is worthwhile, and what is worthless.

But in a land of individuals, better the mystery of the search than some counterfeit security. In a world society desperate for change, better your dedication to it than your fear of it.

It is the special blessing of this land, that each generation of Americans has called its own cadence, and written its own music—and our greatest songs are still unsung.



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