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REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

GRADUATION BANQUET OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CLASSROOM

WASHINGTON, D. C. - SHOREHAM HOTEL

MARCH 5, 1971 - 8:00 P.M.

Nothing ok. If continual

DEAN ABERNETHY AND ALL YOU ILLUSTRIOUS
PARTICIPANTS IN THIS FINE PROGRAM, I MUST SAY
THAT THE IDEA OF SPEAKING AT A GRADUATION
OF A PRESIDENTIAL CLASSROOM IS A GREAT
PRIVILEGE FOR ME. FIRST, THE FEELING OF
FINALLY GRADUATING GIVES ME A REAL SENSE
OF ACCOMPLISHMENT, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS
IN ACADEMIC AND CONGRESSIONAL CLASSROOMS.
EVEN MORE GRATIFYING IS THE FACT THAT I HAVE
BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND A PRESIDENTIAL
CLASSROOM -- SOMETHING I SHOULD HAVE PARTICIPATED
IN LONG AGO.

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IN DUE RESPECT, A CLASS FOR THE PRESIDENT
WOULD ALSO BE A WORTHY UNDERTAKING CONSIDERING
THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

BE THAT AS IT MAY, I KNOW AND YOU KNOW
THAT NO ONE EVER COMPLETELY GRADUATES, UNLESS
WE CONSIDER GRADUATION AS A FORM OF ADMISSION
TO A HIGHER ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE.
IT IS IN FACT THIS VERY KIND OF DYNAMIC
DEFINITION WHICH IS BUILT INTO THE PROGRAM
WHICH YOU ARE NOW CONCLUDING, AND HOPEFULLY,
INTO YOUR FUTURE ACTIVITIES.

Graduation - Presidential Classroom

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WHAT I AM COUNTING ON IS THAT AFTER THIS

BRIEF BUT PROFOUND INTRODUCTION INTO THE

MECHANICS OF OUR GOVERNMENT WHICH YOU HAVE

HAD, YOU WILL ALL RETURN TO YOUR RESPECTIVE

HOMES WITH A CRITICAL EYE AND A COMMITTED

HEART; THAT YOU WILL TACKLE THE VERY REAL

PROBLEMS WHICH OUR GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR

FAILED TO MASTER. ~~IT~~ IT IS UP TO YOU AS MUCH

AS IT IS UP TO US TO INSPIRE THE NATION AND

MOVE THIS COUNTRY ON IN AN ORDERLY BUT

DYNAMIC FASHION.

Plunge in!

John Wayne - you who are about to graduate
+ go out in the world - Don't Go!

Alfred Hitchcock - I've Peered into the Future -
Start work!

IN FACT THE EFFORT MUST BE A COOPERATIVE
ONE: NOT JUST BY PLEDGING OURSELVES TO
REMAIN SPIRITUAL SOUL MATES BUT TO ENTER INTO
A SOLID WORKING RELATIONSHIP. / AGE SHOULD

NOT BE AN OBSTACLE TO A PROGRAM OF MUTUAL
ENDEAVOR. /

WALT WHITMAN POINTED THIS OUT
WHEN HE DESCRIBED THE COMMON GROUND OF YOUTH
AND OLD AGE:

"YOUTH, LARGE, LUSTY, LOVING --

YOUTH, FULL OF GRACE, FORCE AND FASCINATION,

DO YOU KNOW THAT OLD AGE MAY COME AFTER YOU,

WITH EQUAL GRACE, FORCE, FASCINATION."

YOUNG AS I AM, I COULD NOT AGREE WITH
OLD WALT MORE. I SAY TO YOU YOUNG PEOPLE, IF
YOU ARE TO BE TRUE TO YOUR OWN SELF, LISTEN
TO YOUR CONSCIENCE, AND THEN PLUNGE IN AND
SEEK A MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE IN PRACTICAL, REAL
POLITICS AND COMMUNITY ACTION

IT'S A TIME FOR MASSIVE, NOT PARTIAL
INVOLVEMENT. STUDENTS MUST BE BROUGHT DIRECTLY
INTO OUR POLITICAL LIFE, NOT JUST BY DELEGATING
TO THEM THE MENIAL TASKS OF STUFFING ENVELOPES
OR RUNNING MIMEOGRAPH MACHINES, BUT HELPING
TO SHAPE POLICY.

YOU HAVE AN EAR TO THE ACTION AND THE TYPE
OF PERCEPTION THAT IS INVALUABLE TO THE
WHOLE LEGISLATIVE AND DECISION PROCESS.

I AM SUGGESTING THAT WHAT IS NEEDED IS
A FULL-SCALE PROGRAM OF PRACTICAL POLITICAL
EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION. I HAVE PROPOSED
A BILL, THE YOUTH PARTICIPATION ACT OF 1971,
IN THE SENATE WHICH WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR AMERICAN YOUTH TO SERVE IN POLICY-MAKING
POSITIONS AND TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL,
STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
BENEFIT TO THE COUNTRY.

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THE ACT WOULD SET UP A FOUNDATION ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND A NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON YOUTH.

A CITY MAYOR MIGHT APPLY TO THE FOUNDATION JOINTLY WITH A LOCAL YOUTH ORGANIZATION FOR FUNDS TO SET UP AN ADVISORY OFFICE ON YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN CITY GOVERNMENT. THIS OFFICE COULD HELP THE MAYOR AND HIS ADMINISTRATORS:

(A) TO CREATE POSITIONS THROUGHOUT THE CITY GOVERNMENT FOR YOUTH TO WORK; FOR EXAMPLE, AS COMMUNITY AIDES WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OR THE WELFARE DEPARTMENT; AND (B) TO ADMINISTER A CITYWIDE SUMMER YOUTH VOLUNTEER PROGRAM PROVIDING EDUCATION, JOB TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- 8 -

THE FOUNDATION MIGHT ALSO FUND STUDIES ON WAYS TO ENCOURAGE MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS NOW THAT THE VOTE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO 18 YEAR OLDS.

THIS PROGRAM IS TAILORED FOR THE STUDENT WHO TAKES HIS RESPONSIBILITY AS A CITIZEN IN A FREE SOCIETY SERIOUSLY AND WANTS TO DO SOMETHING ACTIVELY ABOUT IT.

IT IS THIS KIND OF INVOLVEMENT WHICH INJECTS NEW IDEAS INTO THE SYSTEM AND FORMS THE BACKBONE OF THE ENTIRE GOVERNMENTAL PROCESS.

Decade of DISSENT, DISORDER DEBATE - DISCOURAGE + DEUSIM

IN THIS WAY PARTICIPATION DOES NOT PRECLUDE
PROTEST, NOR DOES COMMITMENT NULLIFY DISSENT.

Best of Times
- worst of Times

WE HAVE LIVED THROUGH A MOST SHATTERING
DECADE WHEN PROBLEMS AT HOME AND ABROAD *have*
ROCKED THE SHIP. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST, NOR
CERTAINLY THE LAST PERIOD OF STORMY
WEATHER, BUT THE POINT IS THAT WE LIVED
THROUGH IT WITHOUT A TOTAL VIOLENT UPSET.

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1960's
Discouraging

Pondering
arena
has
changed

MANY REASONS CAN BE FOUND TO EXPLAIN
WHY WE PERSEVERED. CERTAINLY ONE WAS THAT
THE YOUTH OF THIS COUNTRY ROSE TO NEW HEIGHTS
SOUNDING THE AMERICAN CONSCIENCE TO RESPOND
WITH MORAL CONVICTION AND IMAGINATION TO THE
URGENCIES WHICH CONFRONTED US.

- Discouraging - Poverty -
- Discouraging - Disease
- Discouraging - Urbanization
- Discouraging - Pollution
- Discouraging - Racism
- Discouraging - Limits of Power + Wealth
- Discouraging - Horror of war.

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AT TIMES, THE SOUNDING WAS HARsher THAN
MANY CARED TO ACCEPT, CAUSING THEM FREQUENTLY
TO REACT IN A MANNER NOT AKIN TO THE AMERICAN
TRADITION OF OPEN-MINDEDNESS. THERE WERE
OTHERS WHO WELCOMED HARSH AND CONSTRUCTIVE
CRITICISM BUT ESCHEWED MANIFESTATIONS OF
VIOLENCE WHICH WERE AS UNALIGNED WITH AMERICAN
TRADITIONS AS ACTIONS BY THEIR REACTIONARY
COUNTERPARTS.

L NOW THE SOCIOLOGISTS ARE TELLING US THAT
THE PICTURE IS LIKELY TO BE DIFFERENT IN THE
'70'S. WE ARE ASSURED OF LESS TURBULENCE AND
MORE APATHY.

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Participation

L WHAT WE NEED INSTEAD IS GREATER PARTICIPATION.

IT'S NOT THE SYSTEM WHICH SHOULD BE CONDEMNED.

ANY SYSTEM NEEDS FUEL TO RUN, AND WE'VE GOT

ALL THE FUEL WE NEED RIGHT HERE L AS A RESULT

OF CONGRESSONAL ACTION AND THE RECENT

SUPREME COURT DECISION, THERE WILL BE

18 YEAR OLDS VOTING IN THE PRESIDENTIAL

ELECTION OF 1972, AND MANY WILL BE VOTING IN

STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS. L THAT MEANS THAT

SOME OF YOU WHO ARE 16 AND 17 WILL BE VOTING

IN THE NEXT NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

Voting is a Power & Privilege
Living Constitution
System - Change

Vote
18
Edna
18yr

- 12 -

✓ VOTING IS A POWER AND A PRIVILEGE ✓ IN
ORDER TO MAKE THE SYSTEM RUN THE VOTER MUST

RECOGNIZE HIS RESPONSIBILITY AND MAKE AN

INTELLIGENT INFORMED DECISION, ✓ THE BEST

WAY TO DO THAT IS TO roll up your sleeves -
~~GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY~~

ENTER THE POLITICAL ARENA BY WORKING AT THE

DIFFERENT LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND IN THAT

WAY TRULY BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH THE ISSUES.

2 ✓ WE MUST NOT LOSE THE MOTIVATION OF THE

'60'S WHICH HAS BEEN LIKENED TO THE SPIRIT

OF THE '30'S. I HOPE THE SOCIOLOGISTS ARE

WRONG AND THAT THIS CHANGE OF HEART IS NOTHING

MORE THAN A SYMPTOM OF MATURATION.

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I FOR ONE AM GOING BACK TO ADOLESCENCE.
I AM, AS YOU KNOW, THE JUNIOR SENATOR FROM
MINNESOTA, BUT THIS IS ONE INSTANCE WHEN I
AM PROUD AND EVEN ENCOURAGED BY MY DEMOTION.
I HAVE RETURNED TO THE SENATE, A BODY, WHICH
DESPITE CERTAIN WEAKNESSES, IS IN MY OPINION
A CENTRIFUGAL FORCE IN THE WHOLE SYSTEM OF
GOVERNMENT. I VIEW MY ROLE AS A DEMOCRATIC
SENATOR UNDER A REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION A
MONUMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY.

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WHEN OUR NATION'S CAPACITY TO GOVERN
ITSELF AND CHART ITS DESTINY WAS BEING PUT
TO THE MOST SEVERE TEST IN ITS HISTORY,
LINCOLN SAID:

"THE DOGMAS OF THE QUIET PAST ARE
INADEQUATE FOR THE STORMY PRESENT. THE
OCCASION IS PILED HIGH WITH DIFFICULTY, AND
WE MUST RISE WITH THE OCCASION. WE MUST THINK
ANEW; WE MUST ACT ANEW; WE MUST DISENTHRALL
OURSELVES."

TO "DISENTHRALL" LITERALLY MEANS TO
"FREE FROM BONDAGE."

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ~~ARE~~ ^{are} DEMANDING A

RELEASE

-- FROM THE CONTINUED TRAGEDY AND
DEMORALIZATION OF THE WAR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA;

--FROM THE TENSION AND WASTE OF AN
ESCALATING NUCLEAR ARMS RACE;

--FROM THE ANXIETY OF A CRITICALLY
DESTABLIZED ECONOMY;

--FROM THE HYPOCRISY OF A SUPPOSEDLY
AFFLUENT NATION WITH A SOCIAL CONSCIENCE FAILING
TO PROVIDE THE MEANS WHEREBY OUR MINORITIES
AND POOR MAY REGAIN THEIR PRIDE AND SENSE
OF HUMAN DIGNITY;

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--AND FROM CONTINUED GOVERNMENTAL DELAY
 IN THE MEETING OF CRITICAL HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION,
JOB OPPORTUNITIES, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE NEEDS.

IT IS TO THIS REQUIREMENT FOR NEW THINKING
AND NEW ACTION TO ESTABLISH A FUTURE OF PROMISE

IN AMERICA, THAT ~~we must dedicate ourselves~~
 DIRECTING MY TOTAL EFFORTS IN THE SENATE.

I, ALONG WITH MY COLLEAGUES IN THE SENATE, AM
 COUNTING ON YOUR SUPPORT, YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS
 SO THAT OUR PROCESS OF GOVERNMENT REALLY
 GOVERNS; SO THAT WE CAN DISENTHRAL TO

ENTHRAL.

~~Democ - Churchill~~ - ~~America - Heterogeneous~~
~~Pledge -~~ ~~ozone nations, under God, indivisible,~~
~~with liberty & justice for all~~
 new Patriotism



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