

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

PRESIDENTS TO PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE

Washington, D. C.
October 1, 1971

It is always a pleasure for me to talk to a group like yours.

As Presidents of colleges and universities and as student body presidents you are moulders and leaders of a nation's youth.

This afternoon I want to talk to you briefly about youth and the job that young people and those who lead the young must undertake.

I was elected Mayor of Minneapolis at age 34. At 37 I was first elected to the Senate. I ran for the Presidential nomination in 1960 when I was 49. Even at 53, when I was elected Vice President, I felt young. And today, I feel a closer bond with the youth of this country than I ever have before.

How can one feel this way?

Very frankly, I believe I understand what young people in America want today. Now correct me if I'm wrong.

First of all, they want the truth.

They want equal treatment and equal opportunity.

They want commitments, not dreams.

They want action and progress -- not empty promises.

Basically, young people want and deserve many of the same things that any American citizen -- regardless of age -- wants.

Most important of all, young people in America today are tired of glowing governmental rhetoric. I believe young Americans have lost patience with an Administration that pays lip service to the hopes and spirit of American youth, but does little to meet the real needs of youth.

Let me illustrate:

-- The president has changed the school lunch regulations for this fall, preventing 2,000,000 additional children from participating in this vital program. The Administration has turned hot lunches into cold promises all across the nation.

-- The President tried to limit funding for the summer lunch program this June. Fortunately, Congress was able to restore the funds.

-- The President quietly disbanded his Cabinet-level Council on Youth Opportunity on April 1st of this year. This was the only government agency solely committed to the problems of youth -- especially the poor.

-- The President vetoed a Manpower Training Act which contained \$36.4 million for the neighborhood Youth Corps. He had only requested \$5 million. And meanwhile, teenage unemployment among white youths now stands at 13.5 percent, and is at a scandalously high level of 33.5 percent for black teenagers.

-- This summer, in the face of these alarming unemployment figures, the President reduced the number of special Federal summer jobs by 13,000.

-- There are few jobs for the returning Viet Nam veteran. Their unemployment rate stands at 8.4 percent.

-- And where are the jobs for young teachers, lawyers, English majors and college educated people in general? In our present recession, jobs are tragically scarce, and we find thousands of Ph.D's unable to find work; their talent and their great investment in education wasted and lost to a nation that desperately needs help.

-- The President refuses to provide the nation with a comprehensive plan for economic reconversion in the face of reduced spending in the defense industries. Thousands of young engineers and scientists are jobless -- talents that could be used to fight pollution and crime.

-- The President has given no recognition or response to his own Council on Youth, which met in Estes Park, Colorado, last April.

-- The President's Attorney General is unwilling to issue guidelines to states on how they should implement the 26th Amendment. Nor is he willing to have the Department of Justice play any role in shaping state residency laws as applied to new voters.

My friends, the Nixon Administration has developed no comprehensive program for youth and has tried to emasculate existing youth programs. While voicing concern, while paying lip service to the hopes of youth, the President continues his deliberate policy of no youth policy.

Now, that is my point of view. I am a political figure and a Democrat.

You may disagree with me. But the important thing is that you roll up your sleeves and go to work in the political arena, that you battle for your ideas, whatever they may be.

And at last, young people down to 18 have been given the weapon to fight for good jobs, for better education, for a better quality of life. You now have what labor unions have, what farmers have, what the elderly have, what other citizens have -- the vote.

The 25.5 million new voters in 1972 have the power of deciding the election.

And what is needed now are youth organizations entering the political arena and saying to national political leaders: We want a job for every unemployed teenager. We want every child in America to receive a free hot lunch. We want a cabinet department on Youth and Youth Affairs. We want effective job retraining programs for veterans and aerospace workers. We want peace now.

You have had a great impact on American policy. You can have an even greater impact now.

But nothing is going to be dropped into your laps. You have to organize and fight for your goals -- our goals.

You started to do this in 1968. If you are to profit from your new-found power tomorrow and in the coming months and years, you will have to become effective power brokers on the national scene.

And if I may carry this theme one step further and speak directly to those of you who may identify with one of the two major political parties, I would urge you to fight for what you need and deserve within the structure of that party.

I believe a third party would be an unreal escape into a never-never land of dreams that will never be realized. It would be a device of desperation when cool thought, action, commitment, courage, and dedication are needed in both major political parties.

Politicians have always spoken to youth saying you have the moral power, the idealism, the energy to change this nation.

I believe this.

But I also believe the adjectives and the times have changed.

You have the votes, the political power to create change -- you no longer have to wish and dream. You can make it happen.

And this is the message I hope all of you will bring back to your college campuses.

The road is not paved with gold, and the rainbow is sometimes obscured by smog and pollution. But what you want is within your grasp.

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

PRESIDENTS TO PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

OCTOBER 1, 1971

IT IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO TALK TO A GROUP
LIKE YOURS.

AS PRESIDENTS OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND AS
STUDENT BODY PRESIDENTS YOU ARE MOULDERS AND LEADERS OF A
NATION'S YOUTH.

THIS AFTERNOON I WANT TO TALK TO YOU BRIEFLY ABOUT
YOUTH AND THE JOB THAT YOUNG PEOPLE AND THOSE WHO LEAD THE
YOUNG MUST UNDERTAKE.

I WAS ELECTED MAYOR OF MINNEAPOLIS AT AGE 34. AT 37
I WAS FIRST ELECTED TO THE SENATE. I RAN FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL
NOMINATION IN 1960 WHEN I WAS 49. EVEN AT 53, WHEN I WAS
ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT, I FELT YOUNG. AND TODAY, I FEEL A
CLOSER BOND WITH THE YOUTH OF THIS COUNTRY THAN I EVER HAVE BEFORE.

HOW CAN ONE FEEL THIS WAY?

VERY FRANKLY, I BELIEVE I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE
IN AMERICA WANT TODAY. NOW CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG.

FIRST OF ALL, THEY WANT THE TRUTH.

THEY WANT EQUAL TREATMENT AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.

THEY WANT COMMITMENTS, NOT DREAMS.

THEY WANT ACTION AND PROGRESS -- NOT EMPTY PROMISES.

BASICALLY, YOUNG PEOPLE WANT AND DESERVE MANY OF THE SAME
THINGS THAT ANY AMERICAN CITIZEN -- REGARDLESS OF AGE -- WANTS.

MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, YOUNG PEOPLE IN AMERICA TODAY ARE TIRED OF GLOWING GOVERNMENTAL RHETORIC, I BELIEVE YOUNG AMERICANS HAVE LOST PATIENCE WITH AN ADMINISTRATION THAT PAYS LIP SERVICE TO THE HOPES AND SPIRIT OF AMERICAN YOUTH, BUT DOES LITTLE TO MEET THE REAL NEEDS OF YOUTH.

LET ME ILLUSTRATE:

-- THE PRESIDENT HAS CHANGED THE SCHOOL LUNCH REGULATIONS FOR THIS FALL, PREVENTING 2,000,000 ADDITIONAL CHILDREN FROM PARTICIPATING IN THIS VITAL PROGRAM. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS TURNED HOT LUNCHES INTO COLD PROMISES ALL ACROSS THE NATION.

-- THE PRESIDENT TRIED TO LIMIT FUNDING FOR THE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM THIS JUNE. FORTUNATELY, CONGRESS WAS ABLE TO RESTORE THE FUNDS.

-- THE PRESIDENT QUIETLY DISBANDED HIS CABINET-LEVEL COUNCIL ON YOUTH OPPORTUNITY ON APRIL 1ST OF THIS YEAR. THIS WAS THE ONLY GOVERNMENT AGENCY SOLELY COMMITTED TO THE PROBLEMS OF YOUTH -- ESPECIALLY THE POOR.

-- THE PRESIDENT VETOED A MANPOWER TRAINING ACT WHICH CONTAINED \$36.4 MILLION FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS. HE HAD ONLY REQUESTED \$5 MILLION. AND MEANWHILE, TEENAGE UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG WHITE YOUTHS NOW STANDS AT 13.5 PERCENT, AND IS AT A SCANDALOUSLY HIGH LEVEL OF 33.5 PERCENT FOR BLACK TEENAGERS.

-- THIS SUMMER, IN THE FACE OF THESE ALARMING UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES, THE PRESIDENT REDUCED THE NUMBER OF SPECIAL FEDERAL SUMMER JOBS BY 13,000.

-- THERE ARE FEW JOBS FOR THE RETURNING VIET NAM VETERAN.
THEIR UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STANDS AT 8.4 PERCENT.

-- AND WHERE ARE THE JOBS FOR YOUNG TEACHERS, LAWYERS,
ENGLISH MAJORS AND COLLEGE EDUCATED PEOPLE IN GENERAL? IN OUR
PRESENT RECESSION, JOBS ARE TRAGICALLY SCARCE, AND WE FIND
THOUSANDS OF PH.D'S UNABLE TO FIND WORK; THEIR TALENT AND THEIR
GREAT INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION WASTED AND LOST TO A NATION THAT
DESPERATELY NEEDS HELP.

-- THE PRESIDENT REFUSES TO PROVIDE THE NATION WITH A
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR ECONOMIC RECONVERSION IN THE FACE OF
REDUCED SPENDING IN THE DEFENSE INDUSTRIES. THOUSANDS OF YOUNG
ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS ARE JOBLESS -- TALENTS THAT COULD BE
USED TO FIGHT POLLUTION AND CRIME.

-- THE PRESIDENT HAS GIVEN NO RECOGNITION OR RESPONSE TO HIS OWN COUNCIL ON YOUTH, WHICH MET IN ESTES PARK, COLORADO, LAST APRIL.

-- THE PRESIDENT'S ATTORNEY GENERAL IS UNWILLING TO ISSUE GUIDELINES TO STATES ON HOW THEY SHOULD IMPLEMENT THE 26TH AMENDMENT. NOR IS HE WILLING TO HAVE THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PLAY ANY ROLE IN SHAPING STATE RESIDENCY LAWS AS APPLIED TO NEW VOTERS.

MY FRIENDS, THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS DEVELOPED NO COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR YOUTH AND HAS TRIED TO EMASCULATE EXISTING YOUTH PROGRAMS.

WHILE VOICING CONCERN, WHILE PAYING LIP SERVICE TO THE HOPES OF YOUTH, THE PRESIDENT CONTINUES HIS DELIBERATE POLICY OF NO YOUTH POLICY.

NOW, THAT IS MY POINT OF VIEW. I AM A POLITICAL FIGURE AND A DEMOCRAT.

YOU MAY DISAGREE WITH ME. BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YOU ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AND GO TO WORK IN THE POLITICAL ARENA, THAT YOU BATTLE FOR YOUR IDEAS, WHATEVER THEY MAY BE.

AND AT LAST, YOUNG PEOPLE DOWN TO 18 HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE WEAPON TO FIGHT FOR GOOD JOBS, FOR BETTER EDUCATION, FOR A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE.

YOU NOW HAVE WHAT LABOR UNIONS HAVE, WHAT FARMERS HAVE, WHAT THE ELDERLY HAVE, WHAT OTHER CITIZENS HAVE -- THE VOTE.

THE 25.5 MILLION NEW VOTERS IN 1972 HAVE THE POWER OF DECIDING THE ELECTION.

AND WHAT IS NEEDED NOW ARE YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS ENTERING THE POLITICAL ARENA AND SAYING TO NATIONAL POLITICAL LEADERS:

WE WANT A JOB FOR EVERY UNEMPLOYED TEENAGER. WE WANT EVERY CHILD IN AMERICA TO RECEIVE A FREE HOT LUNCH. WE WANT A CABINET DEPARTMENT ON YOUTH AND YOUTH AFFAIRS. WE WANT EFFECTIVE JOB RETRAINING PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS. WE WANT PEACE NOW.

YOU HAVE HAD A GREAT IMPACT ON AMERICAN POLICY. YOU CAN HAVE AN EVEN GREATER IMPACT NOW.

BUT NOTHING IS GOING TO BE DROPPED INTO YOUR LAPS. YOU HAVE TO ORGANIZE AND FIGHT FOR YOUR GOALS -- OUR GOALS.

YOU STARTED TO DO THIS IN 1968. IF YOU ARE TO PROFIT FROM YOUR NEW-FOUND POWER TOMORROW AND IN THE COMING MONTHS AND YEARS, YOU WILL HAVE TO BECOME EFFECTIVE POWER BROKERS ON THE NATIONAL SCENE.

AND IF I MAY CARRY THIS THEME ONE STEP FURTHER AND SPEAK DIRECTLY TO THOSE OF YOU WHO MAY IDENTIFY WITH ONE OF THE TWO MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES, I WOULD URGE YOU TO FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU NEED AND DESERVE WITHIN THE STRUCTURE OF THAT PARTY.

I BELIEVE A THIRD PARTY WOULD BE AN UNREAL ESCAPE INTO A NEVER-NEVER LAND OF DREAMS THAT WILL NEVER BE REALIZED. IT WOULD BE A DEVICE OF DESPERATION WHEN COOL THOUGHT, ACTION, COMMITMENT, COURAGE, AND DEDICATION ARE NEEDED IN BOTH MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES.

POLITICIANS HAVE ALWAYS SPOKEN TO YOUTH SAYING YOU HAVE THE MORAL POWER, THE IDEALISM, THE ENERGY TO CHANGE THIS NATION.

I BELIEVE THIS.

BUT I ALSO BELIEVE THE ADJECTIVES AND THE TIMES HAVE CHANGED.

YOU HAVE THE VOTES, THE POLITICAL POWER TO CREATE CHANGE -- YOU NO LONGER HAVE TO WISH AND DREAM, YOU CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN.

AND THIS IS THE MESSAGE I HOPE ALL OF YOU WILL BRING
BACK TO YOUR COLLEGE CAMPUSES.

THE ROAD IS NOT PAVED WITH GOLD, AND THE RAINBOW IS
SOMETIMES OBSCURED BY SMOG AND POLLUTION. BUT WHAT YOU WANT
IS WITHIN YOUR GRASP.

#

United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

Marsha -

These are notes from
my speech to
Assoc College Student
Presidents last Friday

Put in the folder —
I may need them again

1875

Dwaine Draper
third annual
Presidents to Presidents
conference -
Assoc. of Student Govts

Jerry Landroth
one of funders
served as V. P. 2 yrs

This is a Young Nation
+ growing younger
200th Anniversary

where are we -

where are we going -

⊗ The Present is the future!
what we do or do not do!

Goals - Priorities -
Planning

Nat. Growth Policy
Urban - Rural

The 1960's -

Discovery -
Decision

Race
Poverty

Space - ^{Union} discovered could
Do what we
wanted

Now what do we want?

You want -

You will be here

Need Nat Youth Advisory
Council - Youth Office!

(Youth Programs dismantled
Cabinet Dept - Youth Office

Political Change. | Responsibility
Vote Age 18.

25 1/2 million

But all are not in College
But you should lead
for others

Use the System

Change the System

Pol. Parties

not just Nat'l Elections
Local, State -

Law

Rt to Peace

Rt to prohibit + hunt to Peace

Rt to Job -

Rt to Educ - what kind

Rt to Health

Rt to Equal oppo

Rt to Justice

Rt to Compassion

Rt to decent Neighborhood

Rt to Housing

Rt to Clean environ

Rt to ~~compassion~~ leisure
& Recreation

\$1410 -

Interns for Pol. Leadership

4 10,000,00 - Each 7 3 yrs.

Practical Pol. Involvement
with elected officials



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