

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY

New Orleans, Louisiana

October 14, 1971

This is a young nation.

And because we are so young we continually search our past for guidelines and precedents that will help us deal with an on-rushing future.

Today I want to question this practice.

I do not believe the past is a valid or particularly helpful guide to the future. America's preoccupation with its past is an escape -- a way to avoid the future.

As young Americans in a young nation, you must begin to ask what are we and where are we going?

Whether you choose to or not -- whether you cop out or opt in -- the future and tremendous changes it will bring will be with you.

There isn't a corner of this country, there isn't a nation on this globe where you can escape the inevitability of future change.

Let me ask:

Are you content that 70 percent of the American population now lives on less than 2 percent of the land?

Do you think our cities can survive if this trend continues and our population which is now 208 million increases to 320 million by the year 2000?

Have you asked whether rural America can survive as a viable economic entity when 650,000 rural Americans leave the countryside each year abandoning their farms and leaving small towns to die?

Are you pleased that few Americans can afford to be sick because hospital costs have risen 122 percent in the last ten years?

Do you think we can halt air, noise and water pollution -- now threats to our health and lives -- and still expand our industrial production and meet consumer demands?

How are we going to provide the 25 million new jobs needed in just nine years when over 5 million Americans are unemployed today?

These are just a few of the questions you must face now. There is one more question I would like to ask:

As young, college-educated Americans, what are you going to do tomorrow about these problems and the future?

It seems to me that we are talking about public policies for the future and attitudes of national leaders. I believe that young Americans no longer have to plead, persuade or influence policies or political leaders.

Young Americans now have the vote.

You now have potential power because there will be 25 million new voters in 1972. In the great state of Louisiana, there will be close to 220,000 new voters.

I use the phrase potential power because power comes from organization.

Young people in America today are not organized.

The bankers are organized.

The farmers are organized.

The unions are organized.

The elderly are organized.

Why not the young?

I've been in politics long enough to tell you that few things will fall into your laps by merely wanting or wishing them.

You must demonstrate political muscle and fight for what you want and what you believe is right.

And I believe that college-educated youth have a real obligation to organize and fight for all young people.

There are seven million students now in our system of higher education. You are a privileged minority of the young.

Do you realize that the federal government alone spent 25 percent more money on higher education in 1969 than it spent on welfare?

Do you realize that the federal government spends nearly three times more on college buildings and dormitories than it does on public housing for the poor?

As a privileged minority, as leaders of youth, students must begin to think in terms of how to change policies and elect leaders who will care about the needs of all of the 93 million Americans under 25 years of age.

I believe your list of immediate goals should include:

-- a free nutritious lunch for all school children regardless of income.

-- federal and state programs of child care for new born and the very young in need.

-- Jobs now for unemployed teenagers. The unemployment rate for white teenagers is 13.5 percent. Black teenage unemployment is at a scandalous level of 33.5 percent.

-- An end to illiteracy in America.

-- Expanded vocational and manpower training programs for young people.

-- Jobs for the returning Vietnam veterans. Their unemployment rate now stands at 8.4 percent.

-- Jobs for young teachers, lawyers, English majors and college educated people in general. Unemployed PhD's are everywhere.

-- A national system of voter registration for federal elections.

-- Last -- perhaps most important -- peace now in Vietnam.

All of these goals are within the reach of young Americans. I strongly support all of them and have been fighting for them in the Congress. But you must care enough about where young people and this nation are going if we are to achieve these ends.

I understand that the New Orleans Student Government Association was able to involve several hundred students recently in a voter registration drive.

This is a beginning. Expanded registration programs are badly needed.

If the government, and I mean any government -- city, state, county, or federal -- remains unresponsive or insensitive to your needs it will partly be your fault.

I believe that the political system can be made to work for you if you want it to and if you are willing to fight for what you believe, organize for power, and vote.

Change

This is Young nation
We are not encrusted
by Tradition

Disenchantment -

war vs - peace

But now you can change
things -

VOTE Power

25 1/2 million -

Register - organize -

Everyone organizes

Labors, Business, farmers
Elderly

Cop out - or Opt in

Future -

Are you content: 70% or 2%?

- Cities - Popul 300 million

- Rural Amer. - migrant

- Health care costs

- Pollution - noise
congestion

- Jobs - Veterans, minorities

- Race -
Political Muscle -

Do things -

1 You are minority
of Privilege -

93 million under 25 yrs

Hunger, illness, child care,
Arms Control, Environment, Racial
Reform

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FOR: Senator

FROM: Dan

SUBJECT: Appearance at Loyola University Student Government
Association

If the weather is good, they plan to have you appear on the steps of the library. They expect 1,000 - 2,000 students from the colleges in the New Orleans area -- Tulane University, Dominican. Sam Greggorio, President of the Student body will introduce his Vice-President, Cyndy Littlefield, who will then introduce you.

You will be the only speaker that day. They have given you about an hour to speak. They would like an extensive Q & A session and will set up microphones in the audience for this purpose.

If the weather is bad, the event will be held in the Field House or student center. Audience microphones will be set up in the alternate site.

Your remarks last about 20 minutes.

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(Recycle) #2

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(Paste
Du Robb)
LSU

✓ Cindy Littlefield
Father Kennelly
Father Carter

✓ President Sam Gregoris

~~REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY~~

Leatrice Stevens

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY

Editor

"The Maroon"

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

OCTOBER 14, 1971

maroon + Gold

~ Dana Student Center
Wolf Pub -
(Cultural Center)

Tulane
beat
N.C.

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THIS IS A YOUNG NATION.

AND BECAUSE WE ARE SO YOUNG WE CONTINUALLY SEARCH OUR PAST
FOR GUIDELINES AND PRECEDENTS THAT WILL HELP US DEAL WITH AN
ON-RUSHING FUTURE.

TODAY I WANT TO QUESTION THIS PRACTICE.

I DO NOT BELIEVE THE PAST IS A VALID OR PARTICULARLY HELPFUL
GUIDE TO THE FUTURE. AMERICA'S PREOCCUPATION WITH ITS PAST IS
AN ESCAPE -- A WAY TO AVOID THE FUTURE.

AS YOUNG AMERICANS IN A YOUNG NATION, YOU MUST BEGIN TO
ASK WHAT ARE WE AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?

WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO OR NOT -- WHETHER YOU COP OUT OR
THE
OPT IN -- THE FUTURE AND/TREMENDOUS CHANGES IT WILL BRING WILL
BE WITH YOU.

THERE ISN'T A CORNER OF THIS COUNTRY, THERE ISN'T A NATION
ON THIS GLOBE WHERE YOU CAN ESCAPE THE INEVITABILITY OF FUTURE
CHANGE.

LET ME ASK:

L ARE YOU CONTENT THAT 70 PERCENT OF THE AMERICAN POPULATION
NOW LIVES ON LESS THAN 2 PERCENT OF THE LAND?

L DO YOU THINK OUR CITIES CAN SURVIVE IF THIS TREND CONTINUES
AND OUR POPULATION WHICH IS NOW 208 MILLION INCREASES TO 320
MILLION BY THE YEAR 2000?

L HAVE YOU ASKED WHETHER RURAL AMERICA CAN SURVIVE AS A
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COUNTRYSIDE EACH YEAR ABANDONING THEIR FARMS AND LEAVING SMALL
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L ARE YOU PLEASED THAT FEW AMERICANS CAN AFFORD TO BE SICK
BECAUSE HOSPITAL COSTS HAVE RISEN 122 PERCENT IN THE LAST TEN
YEARS?

DO YOU THINK WE CAN HALT AIR, NOISE AND WATER POLLUTION --
NOW THREATS TO OUR HEALTH AND LIVES -- AND STILL EXPAND OUR
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AND MEET CONSUMER DEMANDS?

L HOW ARE WE GOING TO PROVIDE THE 25 MILLION NEW JOBS NEEDED
IN JUST NINE YEARS WHEN OVER 5 MILLION AMERICANS ARE UNEMPLOYED
TODAY?

L THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE QUESTIONS YOU MUST FACE NOW.
THERE IS ONE MORE QUESTION I WOULD LIKE TO ASK:

AS YOUNG, COLLEGE-EDUCATED AMERICANS, WHAT ARE YOU GOING
TO DO TOMORROW ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS AND THE FUTURE?

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IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT PUBLIC POLICIES
FOR THE FUTURE AND ATTITUDES OF NATIONAL LEADERS. I BELIEVE
THAT YOUNG AMERICANS NO LONGER HAVE TO PLEAD, PERSUADE OR
INFLUENCE POLICIES OR POLITICAL LEADERS.

YOUNG AMERICANS NOW HAVE THE VOTE.

L You now have potential power because there will be 25
million new voters in 1972. In the great state of Louisiana,
there will be close to 220,000 new voters.

(congrats on
your voter
Registration)

I use the phrase potential power because power comes
from organization.

L Young people in America today are not organized.

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THE BANKERS ARE ORGANIZED.

THE FARMERS ARE ORGANIZED.

THE UNIONS ARE ORGANIZED.

THE ELDERLY ARE ORGANIZED.

WHY NOT THE YOUNG?

I'VE BEEN IN POLITICS LONG ENOUGH TO TELL YOU THAT FEW
THINGS WILL FALL INTO YOUR LAPS BY MERELY WANTING OR WISHING
THEM.

I YOU MUST DEMONSTRATE POLITICAL MUSCLE AND FIGHT FOR WHAT
YOU WANT AND WHAT YOU BELIEVE IS RIGHT.

AND I BELIEVE THAT COLLEGE-EDUCATED YOUTH HAVE A REAL
OBLIGATION TO ORGANIZE AND FIGHT FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE.

✓ THERE ARE SEVEN MILLION STUDENTS NOW IN OUR SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION. YOU ARE A PRIVILEGED MINORITY OF THE YOUNG.

✓ DO YOU REALIZE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ALONE SPENT
25 PERCENT MORE MONEY ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN 1969 THAN IT SPENT
ON WELFARE?

✓ DO YOU REALIZE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SPENDS NEARLY
THREE TIMES MORE ON COLLEGE BUILDINGS AND DORMITORIES THAN IT
DOES ON PUBLIC HOUSING FOR THE POOR?

✓ AS A PRIVILEGED MINORITY, AS LEADERS OF YOUTH, STUDENTS
MUST BEGIN TO THINK IN TERMS OF HOW TO CHANGE POLICIES AND
ELECT LEADERS WHO WILL CARE ABOUT THE NEEDS OF ALL OF THE
93 MILLION AMERICANS UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE.

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I BELIEVE YOUR LIST OF IMMEDIATE GOALS SHOULD INCLUDE:

-- A FREE NUTRITIOUS LUNCH FOR ALL SCHOOL CHILDREN REGARDLESS
OF INCLME.

-- FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS OF CHILD CARE FOR NEW BORN
AND THE VERY YOUNG IN NEED.

-- JOBS NOW FOR UNEMPLOYED TEENAGERS. THE UNEMPLOYMENT
RATE FOR WHITE TEENAGERS IS 13.5 PERCENT. BLACK TEENAGE UNEMPLOYMENT
IS AT A SCANDALOUS LEVEL OF 33.5 PERCENT.

L- AN END TO ILLITERACY IN AMERICA.

L- EXPANDED VOCATIONAL AND MANPOWER TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE,

[- JOBS FOR THE RETURNING VIETNAM VETERANS. THEIR UNEMPLOYMENT
RATE NOW STANDS AT 8.4 PERCENT.

[- JOBS FOR YOUNG TEACHERS, LAWYERS, ENGLISH MAJORS AND
COLLEGE EDUCATED PEOPLE IN GENERAL. UNEMPLOYED PHD'S ARE EVERYWHERE.

-- A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF VOTER REGISTRATION FOR FEDERAL
ELECTIONS.

-- LAST -- PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT -- PEACE NOW IN VIETNAM.

ALL OF THESE GOALS ARE WITHIN THE REACH OF YOUNG AMERICANS.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT ALL OF THEM AND HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR THEM
IN THE CONGRESS. BUT YOU MUST CARE ENOUGH ABOUT WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE
AND THIS NATION ARE GOING IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE THESE ENDS.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE NEW ORLEANS STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION WAS ABLE TO INVOLVE SEVERAL HUNDRED STUDENTS RECENTLY IN A VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE.

THIS IS A BEGINNING. EXPANDED REGISTRATION PROGRAMS ARE BADLY NEEDED.

IF THE GOVERNMENT, AND I MEAN ANY GOVERNMENT -- CITY, STATE, COUNTY, OR FEDERAL -- REMAINS UNRESPONSIVE OR INSENSITIVE TO YOUR NEEDS IT WILL PARTLY BE YOUR FAULT.

I BELIEVE THAT THE POLITICAL SYSTEM CAN BE MADE TO WORK FOR YOU IF YOU WANT IT TO AND IF YOU ARE WILLING TO FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE, ORGANIZE FOR POWER, AND VOTE.

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