

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

MOUNT SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE

Los Angeles, California

October 26, 1971

In the last few months I've had a chance to speak to many college audiences.

All across this nation, in Texas, in Rhode Island, in California, in Louisiana I have sensed a new spirit of purpose and commitment among students.

Students have told me that they want to participate.

They want to register.

They want to vote.

They want to work for candidates.

Some of them even want to be candidates.

And I believe that students will get involved and transform their potential power into real power.

Today I want to urge you to assume a special burden.

As college students you are a privileged minority of young people.

You are privileged because you are receiving a subsidized education. No student in America could afford to pay for the true value of his or her education -- for the libraries, for the dormitories, for the faculties of trained scholars.

And the federal government also subsidizes higher education.

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?

And as college students you are also a minority of the young.

Of the 11 million potential new voters in 1972, only 4 million will be in college.

Because you are a privileged minority, I hope you will go out from your beautiful campus and into the community. To pass the word to other young people.

Go to East Los Angeles. Go to Watts. Go to the high schools in the Los Angeles area and let these young people know that they must and they can participate and be heard.

In 1968, the Census Bureau did a study of the election and reported that "the highest proportion of these not registered and not voting fall among blacks, those who did not finish high school, manual and service workers and those of lower incomes."

Millions of poor Americans of all races are being denied the opportunity to share in governing America.

And you have a real chance to change this.

This tragic flaw in our democracy must be corrected or we will become a nation of government by the minority for the majority.

Students have an important role to play in preventing this from happening.

Students must organize to assert their rights.

In some college communities students are denied the right to establish residence and vote as other citizens moving into the community are allowed to do.

A student should have the right to establish a voting residence in his college community so long as he meets the legal definition of residence applied to other members of the same community whether they are doctors, lawyers, or plumbers.

A person's status as a student is irrelevant under the Constitution for the purpose of determining residence to vote.

A number of states -- including California -- have recently moved to permit students to vote in their respective college communities. And I hope more will follow.

And to the many young women in the audience I want to say that you have a special responsibility to involve more women in the American political process.

The men who say politics is only a man's game don't know what they are talking about.

There are 70 million women in America over 18 and only 64 million men. Women voters clearly outnumber the men.

And more women become active political workers than men.

Despite their potential power and despite their participation, I believe women are soefully underrepresented in the high councils of American government.

We have one woman Senator. There should be more.

We have 13 women Representatives. There should be more.

We have no women on the Supreme Court and no women cabinet members. There should be several.

We have 63 women serving in top policy jobs at the federal level out of a possible 3,800 top policy slots. We should have thousands more women at work in top jobs at the federal, state and city levels of government.

Equal employment opportunity for women must be a reality if skill, talent, and commitment are to be the criteria for jobs. And they must be.

In order to make the voices of women heard, the young women and the young men in this audience have to commit themselves to the hard task of voter registration and voter organization.

Put the heat on the men of the political world.

You shouldn't have to beg for equal rights for women.

They are your right.

I am sure that many of you ask what is at stake: Is it really worth the trouble to get involved?

Well, I believe the greatest stake is your role in the future. The future is now.

What you do or do not do now determines what will happen or what will not happen tomorrow.

If we want clean air, we must begin to act now.

If we want safe neighborhoods, we must begin to act now.

If we want better health care for all Americans, we must act now.

If we want better education, we must act now.

If we want Americans troops to leave Vietnam in the very near future, we must act now.

All of you here today must begin to think about where we are going as a nation and as a people.

None of us can be satisfied with the outlook for the future.

This is why you must begin to speak out with your voices and your votes. I feel certain the American political process will respond to your new sense of commitment, to change and to greater political participation by all Americans.

I urge you to vote.

If you think you can abstain from voting and still be heard, you are wrong. Nothing will fall into your laps without organizing your voting power to fight for what you think should be done now in America.

If I were 18 and saw a nation still at war in Southeast Asia, I would vote.

If I were 18 and saw white teenage unemployment at 13.5 percent and black teenage unemployment at 33.5 percent, I would vote.

If I were 18 and knew that over 5 million of my fellow Americans were unemployed, wanted to work, and couldn't find jobs, I would vote.

If I were 18 and had avision of a better America -- and I know you have that vision -- I would vote.

If I were 18 and had heard so many government promises but seen so few results, I would vote.

And If I were 18 and saw my government responding to the

crisis of the moment at home and abroad, but lacked even the feeblest plans for next year or the next decade in education, in health care, in housing, I would vote.

All of you here today must register and vote if this nation is to begin to respond to the great problems of today and the future.

Cant Hold a job

- ✓ note for H H
- ✓ Dollen
- ✓ in flation
- ✓ unemployment
- ✓ comm chura in U.S.

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Honorary Student  
Georum

MOUNT SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 26, 1971

Sister Cecilia Louise - President

- ✓ Wanda Mulliken
- ✓ Cheryl Garrett

000233

IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO SPEAK TO  
MANY COLLEGE AUDIENCES.

*in Minnesota, New Jersey, Mass,*  
ALL ACROSS THIS NATION, IN TEXAS, IN RHODE ISLAND, IN

CALIFORNIA, IN LOUISIANA I HAVE SENSED A NEW SPIRIT OF PURPOSE  
AND COMMITMENT AMONG STUDENTS.

STUDENTS HAVE TOLD ME THAT THEY WANT TO PARTICIPATE.

THEY WANT TO REGISTER.

THEY WANT TO VOTE.

THEY WANT TO WORK FOR CANDIDATES.

SOME OF THEM EVEN WANT TO BE CANDIDATES.

AND I BELIEVE THAT STUDENTS WILL GET INVOLVED AND  
TRANSFORM THEIR POTENTIAL POWER INTO REAL POWER.

*Special Responsibility*  
-2-

TODAY I WANT TO URGE YOU TO ASSUME A SPECIAL BURDEN,

AS COLLEGE STUDENTS YOU ARE A PRIVILEGED MINORITY OF  
YOUNG PEOPLE,

YOU ARE PRIVILEGED BECAUSE YOU ARE RECEIVING A SUBSIDIZED  
EDUCATION. No STUDENT IN AMERICA COULD AFFORD TO PAY FOR THE  
TRUE VALUE OF HIS OR HER EDUCATION -- FOR THE LIBRARIES, FOR  
THE DORMITORIES, FOR THE FACULTIES OF TRAINED SCHOLARS.

AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ALSO SUBSIDIZES HIGHER  
EDUCATION.

*For example,*  
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?

-3-

L AND AS COLLEGE STUDENTS YOU ARE ALSO A MINORITY OF THE  
YOUNG.

L OF THE 11 MILLION POTENTIAL NEW VOTERS IN 1972, ONLY 4  
MILLION WILL BE IN COLLEGE.

L BECAUSE YOU ARE A PRIVILEGED MINORITY, I HOPE YOU WILL GO  
OUT FROM YOUR BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS AND INTO THE COMMUNITY. TO PASS  
THE WORD TO OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE.

L GO TO EAST LOS ANGELES. GO TO WATTS. GO TO THE HIGH SCHOOLS  
IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA AND LET THESE YOUNG PEOPLE KNOW THAT  
THEY MUST AND THEY CAN PARTICIPATE AND BE HEARD.

-4-

IN 1968, THE CENSUS BUREAU DID A STUDY OF THE ELECTION AND  
REPORTED THAT "THE HIGHEST PROPORTION OF THOSE NOT REGISTERED  
AND NOT VOTING FALL AMONG BLACKS, THOSE WHO DID NOT FINISH  
HIGH SCHOOL, MANUAL AND SERVICE WORKERS AND THOSE OF LOWER  
INCOMES."

*get these have a great stake in Govt Policies.*

[ MILLIONS OF POOR AMERICANS OF ALL RACES ARE BEING DENIED  
THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE IN GOVERNING AMERICA.

[ AND YOU HAVE A REAL CHANCE TO CHANGE THIS.

THIS TRAGIC FLAW IN OUR DEMOCRACY MUST BE CORRECTED OR WE  
WILL BECOME A NATION OF GOVERNMENT BY THE MINORITY FOR THE  
MAJORITY.



STUDENTS HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN PREVENTING THIS  
FROM HAPPENING.

*and,* STUDENTS MUST ORGANIZE TO ASSERT THEIR RIGHTS. *Others Do*

*L* IN SOME COLLEGE COMMUNITIES STUDENTS ARE DENIED THE RIGHT  
TO ESTABLISH RESIDENCE AND VOTE AS OTHER CITIZENS MOVING INTO  
THE COMMUNITY ARE ALLOWED TO DO.

*L* A STUDENT SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO ESTABLISH A VOTING  
RESIDENCE IN HIS COLLEGE COMMUNITY SO LONG AS HE MEETS THE LEGAL  
DEFINITION OF RESIDENCE APPLIED TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SAME  
COMMUNITY WHETHER THEY ARE DOCTORS, LAWYERS, OR PLUMBERS.

~~A PERSON'S STATUS AS A STUDENT IS IRRELEVANT UNDER THE  
CONSTITUTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING RESIDENCE TO VOTE.~~

-6-

L A NUMBER OF STATES -- INCLUDING CALIFORNIA -- HAVE RECENTLY  
MOVED TO PERMIT STUDENTS TO VOTE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COLLEGE  
COMMUNITIES. AND I HOPE MORE WILL FOLLOW.

L ~~AND TO THE MANY YOUNG WOMEN IN THE AUDIENCE I WANT TO SAY~~  
*also,*  
THAT YOU HAVE A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO INVOLVE MORE WOMEN  
IN THE AMERICAN POLITICAL PROCESS.

L THE MEN WHO SAY POLITICS IS ONLY A MAN'S GAME DON'T  
KNOW WHAT THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT.

L THERE ARE 70 MILLION WOMEN IN AMERICA OVER 18 AND ONLY  
*in Politics, numbers count?*  
64 MILLION MEN. WOMEN VOTERS CLEARLY OUTNUMBER THE MEN.

L AND MORE WOMEN BECOME ACTIVE POLITICAL WORKERS THAN MEN.  
*Women. sensitive to the important social  
issues.  
educ, Health*

-7-

DESPITE THEIR POTENTIAL POWER AND DESPITE THEIR PARTICIPATION,

I BELIEVE WOMEN ARE WOEFULLY UNDERREPRESENTED IN THE HIGH

COUNCILS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.

L WE HAVE ONE WOMAN SENATOR. THERE SHOULD BE MORE.

L WE HAVE 13 WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES. THERE SHOULD BE MORE.

L WE HAVE NO WOMEN ON THE SUPREME COURT AND NO WOMEN CABINET

MEMBERS. THERE SHOULD BE SEVERAL.

L WE HAVE 63 WOMEN SERVING IN TOP POLICY JOBS AT THE FEDERAL

LEVEL OUT OF A POSSIBLE 3,800 TOP POLICY <sup>offices</sup> ~~jobs~~. WE SHOULD HAVE

THOUSANDS MORE WOMEN AT WORK IN TOP JOBS AT THE FEDERAL, STATE

AND CITY LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. — Industry Professions,

*say*  
L EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN MUST BE A REALITY

IF SKILL, TALENT, AND COMMITMENT ARE TO BE THE CRITERIA FOR JOBS.

~~AND THEY MUST BE~~

L IN ORDER TO MAKE THE VOICES OF WOMEN HEARD, THE YOUNG  
WOMEN AND THE YOUNG MEN IN THIS AUDIENCE HAVE TO COMMIT THEMSELVES  
TO THE HARD TASK OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTER ORGANIZATION.

PUT THE HEAT ON THE MEN OF THE POLITICAL WORLD.

~~YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO BEG FOR EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN.~~

~~THEY ARE YOUR RIGHT.~~

L I AM SURE THAT MANY OF YOU ASK WHAT IS AT STAKE: IS IT  
REALLY WORTH THE TROUBLE TO GET INVOLVED?

-9-

WELL, I BELIEVE THE GREATEST STAKE IS YOUR ROLE IN THE FUTURE.

THE FUTURE IS NOW.

*Today first day of the best of your life*

WHAT YOU DO OR DO NOT DO NOW DETERMINES WHAT WILL HAPPEN

OR WHAT WILL NOT HAPPEN TOMORROW.

⌞ IF WE WANT CLEAN AIR, WE MUST BEGIN TO ACT NOW.

⌞ IF WE WANT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS, WE MUST BEGIN TO ACT NOW.

⌞ IF WE WANT BETTER HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS, WE MUST

ACT NOW.

⌞ IF WE WANT BETTER EDUCATION, WE MUST ACT NOW.

⌞ IF WE WANT AMERICANS TROOPS TO LEAVE VIETNAM, ~~IN THE VERY~~

~~NEAR FUTURE~~, WE MUST ACT NOW.

-10-

ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY MUST BEGIN TO THINK ABOUT WHERE WE  
 ARE GOING AS A NATION AND AS A PEOPLE. *Future*

NONE OF US CAN BE SATISFIED WITH THE OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE.

THIS IS WHY YOU MUST BEGIN TO SPEAK OUT WITH YOUR VOICES  
 AND YOUR VOTES. I FEEL CERTAIN THE AMERICAN POLITICAL PROCESS  
WILL RESPOND TO YOUR NEW SENSE OF COMMITMENT, TO CHANGE, AND TO  
 GREATER POLITICAL PARTICIPATION BY ALL AMERICANS.

*We can change things!*

I URGE YOU TO VOTE.

*L* IF YOU THINK YOU CAN ABSTAIN FROM VOTING AND STILL BE  
HEARD, YOU ARE WRONG *L* NOTHING WILL FALL INTO YOUR LAPS WITHOUT

ORGANIZING YOUR VOTING POWER TO FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU THINK SHOULD BE

DONE NOW IN AMERICA.

*To Cop out is to  
 Give up! To Cop out is to turn Power  
 over to others.*

-11-

IF I WERE 18 AND SAW A NATION STILL AT WAR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, I WOULD VOTE,

IF I WERE 18 AND SAW WHITE TEENAGE UNEMPLOYMENT AT 13.5 PERCENT AND BLACK TEENAGE UNEMPLOYMENT AT 33.5 PERCENT, I WOULD VOTE,

IF I WERE 18 AND KNEW THAT OVER 5 MILLION OF MY FELLOW AMERICANS WERE UNEMPLOYED, WANTED TO WORK, AND COULDN'T FIND JOBS, I WOULD VOTE,

IF I WERE 18 AND HAD A VISION OF A BETTER AMERICA -- AND I KNOW YOU HAVE THAT VISION -- I WOULD VOTE,

IF I WERE 18 AND HAD HEARD SO MANY GOVERNMENT PROMISES BUT SEEN SO FEW RESULTS, I WOULD VOTE,

-12-

AND IF I WERE 18 AND SAW MY GOVERNMENT RESPONDING TO THE  
CRISIS OF THE MOMENT AT HOME AND ABROAD, BUT LACKED EVEN THE  
FEEBLEST PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR OR THE NEXT DECADE IN EDUCATION,  
IN HEALTH CARE, IN HOUSING, I WOULD VOTE.

ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY MUST REGISTER AND VOTE IF THIS NATION  
IS TO BEGIN TO RESPOND TO THE GREAT PROBLEMS OF TODAY AND THE  
FUTURE.

# # # # #





# 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](http://www.mnhs.org)