

SPEECH FILE

16 May Maryland -- Michigan
Statement

FIRST OF ALL, I WANT TO SAY THAT MRS. HUMPHREY AND I JOIN
WITH ALL AMERICANS IN PRAYING FOR THE SPEEDY AND TOTAL RECOVERY
OF GOVERNOR WALLACE. I KNOW HOW TRYING MOMENTS LIKE THESE
ARE. MY HEART GOES OUT TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE WALLACE FAMILY.

I WANT TO CONGRATULATE GOVERNOR WALLACE ON HIS PRIMARY
VICTORIES IN MARYLAND AND MICHIGAN.

BUT THIS ELECTION DAY IS DWARFED IN IMPORTANCE BY THE
TRAGIC VIOLENCE OF YESTERDAY.

I BELIEVE THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE NOT PERMIT AN
ISOLATED ACT OF VIOLENCE TO DISTORT THE TRUE PICTURE OF THE
AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.

OUR NATION IS TOO STRONG, AMERICANS ARE TOO RESOLUTE TO
ALLOW VIOLENCE TO SILENCE THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF ANY MAN OR

OR WOMAN TO SEEK POLITICAL OFFICE.

AMERICANS MAY DIFFER ON THEIR POLITICAL BELIEFS, BUT WE SHOULD NOT LET THESE DIFFERENCES TEAR US APART.

VIOLENCE OF ANY SORT -- EITHER BY WORD OR BY DEED -- MAKES MORE DIFFICULT THE HEALING OF OUR SPIRIT AND THE RECONCILIATION AMONG ALL AMERICANS THAT WE SO DESPERATELY NEED.

AMERICANS PAY A TERRIBLE PRICE WHEN VIOLENCE ENTERS OUR LIVES. WHETHER IT IS VIOLENCE IN THE STREETS, ON THE CAMPUS, IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS OR BY THE USE OF ARMS, VIOLENCE BEGETS VIOLENCE.

THE ANSWER TO VIOLENCE IS MATURE LEADERSHIP WITH COMPASSION AND UNDERSTANDING. THIS IS WHAT ALL AMERICANS SEEK AT THIS TIME OF CRISIS.

AMERICA NEEDS THE SPIRIT OF FELLOWSHIP AND THE GUIDANCE OF LEADERSHIP.

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