

REMARKS TO AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE BREAKFAST MEETING  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
April 30, 1975

Congress must take the responsibility to do something other than criticize. Congress needs to put its own house in order and to modernize.

I think we ought to quit talking about foreign policy. The word foreign means "something alien." You can't talk interdependence and use the word foreign. There are no foreigners here. We are people of the human race who are working together in the great human manner.

For example, the Senate Committee called Foreign Relations must be re-named and it should be called the Committee on International Relations. The House has re-named their committee, and I am trying to get the Senate to do the same. We are still talking about international policy in terms of Washington's Farewell Address.

There are important issues facing us, such as, how we can get Congress to cooperate with the Executive Branch of government and the Executive with Congress? Congress cannot run international policy on a day to day basis. It cannot be done. It is not equipped to do this. Congress can hardly run the cafeteria.

And, let me tell you something else. In the government you must have trust. Regrettably the bonds of trust are shattered here in Washington. When we have a President of a different party, I think we learn a great deal. While we may disagree on policy matters, somewhere along the line you have to have trust. Trust helps bind the nation together. In suspicion, fear, and doubt you can do nothing. I sense in Congress a lack of trust in the Executive Branch and the Executive Branch of us. If we build on mistrust, we will lay the foundation for destruction.

An area in which Congress needs to organize is in its committee structure. This would enable us to deal with problems like arms control, proliferation of nuclear weapons, and the constant threats to peace through the dangerous arms race. We have to understand that the policy of our country must be directed only toward closer cooperation with what we call the industrialized nation, but we need

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to understand that we have a responsibility of cooperation with the developing nations. This means that we cannot be isolationists. Isolationism isn't a policy. Isolationism is insanity. There is no longer such a thing as isolationism. To speak of isolationism, as a matter of national security, is like speaking of cancer as a way of health. We cannot withdraw America from the international arena, as some people want, to just take care of ourselves. We tried that once in the 1930's. We raised our tariffs. We refused to join the League of Nations. We closed ourselves off from the rest of the world and we soon closed our factories, lost our jobs, and closed up our businesses.

That's the memory Hubery Humphrey has. I want to share it with you, because I remember it vividly. Let it be remembered that, "Those who cannot recall their history will be compelled to relive it." I don't want you to have to relive World War II, the great depression and the tragedies of the 30's and the 40's.

The big question ahead of us is: How do we work with the developing countries and their treasure houses of potentiality, the economic questions dealing with trade and access to supply and markets. And what about, the questions of nuclear proliferation, the arms race, and economic and social development. Above all, I want this country of which I am a citizen and privileged to serve to have high moral purpose in our international policy. American must not be identified year in and year out with regimes that are oppressive. We must be identified with people. One of the reasons I am here this morning is to reach out to you with ideas. The American people should identify with the people of other nations. Governments change but humanity is here like the waters of the sea.

And now I must go to a committee meeting. But before I go, I must add this. Give of yourself. Learn of us and we of you. When we learn, we are bound to do things better. We still make mistakes because men and women are fallible. We are not perfect. There are no saints in Congress or in any part of it. We are human beings with our limitations. But if we know more of each other, we will tend to understand each other and we will make fewer mistakes. We will have a better chance to live in peace and harmony.

Thank you very much.

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