

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

DEDICATION OF
MINNEAPOLIS REGIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN CENTER

Minneapolis, Minnesota

May 4, 1975

This is a memorable day. It marks the beginning of American Indian Week in the state of Minnesota. And today marks the beginning -- the dedication -- of this new Minneapolis Regional Native American Center.

I think it is very important to note that this building is named the Minneapolis Regional Native American Center.

I commend Mr. Don Cook, the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Irv Sargeant, the Director of this center, and all the board and staff members who have worked so hard to make this Native American Center a reality. I commend you for your vision in selecting the name Regional Native American Center for this location.

This title says "welcome," not only to the Indian people in the greater region. It says welcome to our many Indian brothers in our sister city of St. Paul, as well as to our Indian brethren in the 7 Chippewa and the 4 Sioux reservations of Minnesota.

As a regional center, it welcomes the Native Americans from our neighboring states as well.

This beautiful center shows vision in many other ways. Besides being a fine building -- well constructed and functional -- it shows vision in the design of interior space, to handle the varied activities that are planned.

The excellent gymnasium facilities will provide many, many hours of fun and competitive sports, not only for our young people in this urban area, but also for many adults and, as I understand, for visiting Native American teams from around the state.

In addition to recreation, this facility will offer vitally needed social services to our Native American population. Services to be provided here under one roof include legal aid, family and children's service, Hennepin County Welfare service, and Indian Health service. It will also headquarter the manpower training program to assist Native Americans in obtaining jobs.

But there is more. The educational facilities of this building are remarkable. There will be here a museum, a photo gallery, a marvelous library, open to all for research on the great heritage of our Native Americans. The library not only will be filled with books and microfilms, but also will have valuable audiovisual equipment and many other works. A gallery will feature Native American works of art by artists of all tribal nations and will include traditional, contemporary and protest art.

These facilities will assist Native American youngsters to learn about their heritage and will offer adults vital education opportunities. Moreover, non-Indian people in the area, school children as well as adults can come to learn the rich history and major contributions of the first Americans.

This Center is unique. It is unique in that the planning and designing was done with a great deal of consultation and input from the Native American community of Minneapolis. It is unique in that it is the first center of its type in this entire nation in an urban area.

It is unique in that it once again shows to these United States that we here in Minnesota can get together, can cooperate as citizens, as minority groups, as government at all levels -- city, county, state and federal -- and can put together this nation's first urban Native American Center.

But it is mainly the dedication, the conviction, the idealism, and the vision of the Native American population of this city, that are to be most highly commended.

It is fitting that this Center should open now, during America's Bicentennial. For the past month and for the remainder of this year and extended to July 4, 1976, America will be celebrating its 200th year as a nation. Today, across this land in many towns and villages throughout America, various celebrations are planned in honor of that Bicentennial year.

But we as Americans -- all of us -- must seriously re-evaluate and examine this Bicentennial celebration. We in Congress, those of you who are officials in state and local governments, all of us who are citizens of America must use this year of the Bicentennial to examine and re-evaluate.

Certainly, it is a year of celebration -- the celebration of independence and democracy. But if we are truly to rededicate ourselves to the wise, constructive use of these hard-won gifts and opportunities of political freedom, then a first priority on our agenda should be to work toward assuring the rights of justice and the opportunities of freedom for Native American people.

There is no longer any need to spell out the record of countless ways in which America's progress has been established at a great cost to Native Americans. The heavy costs they have borne -- the loss of property, of self-sustaining economy, of human dignity and freedom, of life itself -- in the course of America's drive toward its "Manifest Destiny," are now well known and fixed upon our conscience.

The time has come for government and the people to respond to the urgent petition for a redress of grievances that has been put forward, patiently and responsibly, for years by Native Americans.

There can be only one answer to this petition: To assure to every Native American his just and God-given right to self-determination, as a full and equal citizen of the United States.

When I served as Vice President of the United States, many federal programs were initiated to address the plight of Native Americans in areas of housing, health, education and job training.

But the Native American deserves a chance to develop further his talents and share fully in the future of our Nation.

There are about 800,000 Native Americans in America today. This includes Aleutians and Eskimos in Alaska.

Native Americans are taking more leadership and initiative in solving their problems. But they need to have more opportunities to make their own plans and decisions in programs affecting their daily lives.

Yes, we have made progress. The number of scholarships to Native Americans from the federal government for higher education has risen significantly -- from 139 in 1950, to 12,438 in 1972.

But there is much more that can and must be done.

The median education of the Native American is 9.8 years, compared to 12.1 years for the general population.

Only one third of Indian children graduate from high school. The general population figure is 52.3 percent.

Life expectancy is 5 years less for a Native American than for the general population.

One out of every four Native Americans lives in overcrowded housing. Compare this to one out of twelve for the general population.

And more than one-fourth of Native Americans live in housing which lacks plumbing.

Economically, unemployment rates are painfully higher for Native Americans.

Their median income is far below the national average.

In this year of the Bicentennial we must erase the old attitudes of paternalism toward Native Americans. We in the Congress must support federal programs which stress self-help, self-development and self-determination.

We must continue to work to bring the standard of living for Native Americans to equal that of the country as a whole.

We must equip those Indians who choose to live in cities with the necessary skills to live in equality and dignity.

This Regional Center is a good start toward achieving these goals at the grass-roots level, where there is first-hand knowledge of the job that needs to be done. And it can become a model for the nation of what can and must be accomplished.

The Declaration of Independence, which proclaimed America's independence, states that all men are created equal with certain God-given and unalienable rights, including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Our forefathers established a government to secure these rights. This is what the whole Bicentennial is about. It is about a revolution for human dignity and decency.

Let us now, therefore, dedicate ourselves to guaranteeing these rights for all our people.

#

- May & Hofstad
 - Don Cook - ^{chairman}
 - Lee Cook -
 - Dr. Sargent -
- Members of the Board
- John Lewis - Tom Allen
 - Luc Demars
 - Earl Netwald
 - (6th ward)

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

DEDICATION OF
MINNEAPOLIS REGIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN CENTER

Tom
Hodney
architect

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

MAY 4, 1975

Confraser
Federal funding

L THIS IS A MEMORABLE DAY IT MARKS THE BEGINNING OF AMERICAN
INDIAN WEEK IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA. AND TODAY MARKS THE
BEGINNING -- THE DEDICATION -- OF THIS NEW MINNEAPOLIS REGIONAL
NATIVE AMERICAN CENTER.

L I THINK IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THIS BUILDING
IS NAMED THE MINNEAPOLIS REGIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN CENTER.

L I COMMEND MR. DON COOK, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MR.
~~Don Cook~~ ^{Lee Cook}
IRV SARGEANT, THE DIRECTOR OF THIS CENTER, AND ALL THE

BOARD AND STAFF MEMBERS WHO HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO MAKE THIS
NATIVE AMERICAN CENTER A REALITY. I COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR VISION
IN SELECTING THE NAME REGIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN CENTER FOR THIS
LOCATION.!

L THIS TITLE SAYS "WELCOME," NOT ONLY TO THE INDIAN PEOPLE

IN THE GREATER REGION. IT SAYS WELCOME TO OUR MANY INDIAN

BROTHERS IN OUR SISTER CITY OF ST. PAUL, AS WELL AS TO OUR

INDIAN BRETHERN IN THE 7 CHIPPEWA AND THE 4 SIOUX RESERVATIONS

OF MINNESOTA - *and the Wampanoag's + all other Indian Tribes.*

L AS A REGIONAL CENTER, IT WELCOMES THE NATIVE AMERICANS

FROM OUR NEIGHBORING STATES AS WELL.

L THIS BEAUTIFUL CENTER SHOWS VISION IN MANY OTHER WAYS.

L BESIDES BEING A FINE BUILDING -- WELL CONSTRUCTED AND

FUNCTIONAL -- IT SHOWS VISION IN THE DESIGN OF INTERIOR

SPACE, TO HANDLE THE VARIED ACTIVITIES THAT ARE PLANNED.

THE EXCELLENT GYMNASIUM FACILITIES WILL PROVIDE MANY, MANY HOURS OF FUN AND COMPETITIVE SPORTS, NOT ONLY FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THIS URBAN AREA, BUT ALSO FOR MANY ADULTS AND, AS I UNDERSTAND, FOR VISITING NATIVE AMERICAN TEAMS FROM AROUND THE STATE.

IN ADDITION TO RECREATION, THIS FACILITY WILL OFFER VITALLY NEEDED SOCIAL SERVICES TO OUR NATIVE AMERICAN POPULATION.

SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED HERE UNDER ONE ROOF INCLUDE LEGAL AID, FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICE, HENNEPIN COUNTY WELFARE SERVICE, AND INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE. IT WILL ALSO HEADQUARTER THE MANPOWER TRAINING PROGRAM TO ASSIST NATIVE AMERICANS IN OBTAINING JOBS.

↳ BUT THERE IS MORE, THE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES OF THIS BUILDING ARE REMARKABLE. ↳ THERE WILL BE HERE A MUSEUM, A PHOTO GALLERY,

A MARVELOUS LIBRARY, OPEN TO ALL FOR RESEARCH ON THE GREAT

HERITAGE OF OUR NATIVE AMERICANS. ↳ THE LIBRARY NOT ONLY WILL BE

FILLED WITH BOOKS AND MICROFILMS, BUT ALSO WILL HAVE VALUABLE

AUDIOVISUAL EQUIPMENT AND MANY OTHER WORKS. ↳ A GALLERY WILL

FEATURE NATIVE AMERICAN WORKS OF ART BY ARTISTS OF ALL TRIBAL

NATIONS AND WILL INCLUDE TRADITIONAL, CONTEMPORARY AND PROTEST

ART. (Bennett State College)

↳ THESE FACILITIES WILL ASSIST NATIVE AMERICAN YOUNGSTERS TO

LEARN ABOUT THEIR HERITAGE AND WILL OFFER ADULTS VITAL EDUCATION

OPPORTUNITIES. ↳ MOREOVER, NON-INDIAN PEOPLE IN THE AREA, SCHOOL

CHILDREN AS WELL AS ADULTS, CAN COME TO LEARN THE RICH HISTORY AND MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE FIRST AMERICANS.

yes THIS CENTER IS UNIQUE. IT IS UNIQUE IN THAT THE PLANNING
AND DESIGNING WAS DONE WITH A GREAT DEAL OF CONSULTATION AND
INPUT FROM THE NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF MINNEAPOLIS. IT IS
UNIQUE IN THAT IT IS THE FIRST CENTER OF ITS TYPE IN THIS ENTIRE
NATION IN AN URBAN AREA.

IT IS UNIQUE IN THAT IT ONCE AGAIN SHOWS TO THESE UNITED
STATES THAT WE HERE IN MINNESOTA CAN GET TOGETHER, CAN
COOPERATE AS CITIZENS, AS MINORITY GROUPS, AS GOVERNMENT AT
ALL LEVELS -- CITY, COUNTY, STATE AND FEDERAL -- AND CAN PUT
TOGETHER THIS NATION'S FIRST URBAN NATIVE AMERICAN CENTER.

BUT IT IS MAINLY THE DEDICATION, THE CONVICTION, THE IDEALISM,
AND THE VISION OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN POPULATION OF THIS CITY,
THAT ARE TO BE MOST HIGHLY COMMENDED.

It is FITTING THAT THIS CENTER SHOULD OPEN NOW, DURING

AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL For the past month and for the

REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR AND EXTENDED TO JULY 4, 1976, AMERICA

WILL BE CELEBRATING ITS 200TH YEAR AS A NATION. Today, ACROSS

THIS LAND IN MANY TOWNS AND VILLAGES THROUGHOUT AMERICA, VARIOUS

CELEBRATIONS ARE PLANNED IN HONOR OF THAT BICENTENNIAL YEAR.

BUT WE AS AMERICANS -- ALL OF US -- MUST SERIOUSLY

RE-EVALUATE AND EXAMINE THIS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. We

IN CONGRESS, THOSE OF ^{us} ~~you~~ WHO ARE OFFICIALS IN STATE AND LOCAL

GOVERNMENTS, ALL OF US WHO ARE CITIZENS OF AMERICA MUST USE

THIS YEAR OF THE BICENTENNIAL TO EXAMINE AND RE-EVALUATE.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of
the U.S. and to the Republic
for which it stands -
one Nation, under God,
indivisible, with liberty
& justice for All"

✓ CERTAINLY, IT IS A YEAR OF CELEBRATION -- THE CELEBRATION
OF INDEPENDENCE AND DEMOCRACY. ✓ BUT IF WE ARE TRULY TO
REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE WISE, CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF THESE
HARD-WON GIFTS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF POLITICAL FREEDOM, THEN
A FIRST PRIORITY ON OUR AGENDA SHOULD BE TO WORK TOWARD
ASSURING THE RIGHTS OF JUSTICE AND THE OPPORTUNITIES OF
FREEDOM FOR NATIVE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

"liberty & justice for all"

✓ THERE IS NO LONGER ANY NEED TO SPELL OUT THE RECORD OF
COUNTLESS WAYS IN WHICH AMERICA'S PROGRESS HAS BEEN
ESTABLISHED AT A GREAT COST TO NATIVE AMERICANS. ✓ THE HEAVY
COSTS THEY HAVE BORNE -- THE LOSS OF PROPERTY, OF SELF-
SUSTAINING ECONOMY, OF HUMAN DIGNITY AND FREEDOM, OF LIFE
ITSELF -- IN THE COURSE OF AMERICA'S DRIVE TOWARD ITS "MANIFEST
DESTINY," ARE NOW WELL KNOWN AND FIXED UPON OUR CONSCIENCE.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE TO RESPOND
TO THE URGENT PETITION FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES THAT HAS
BEEN PUT FORWARD, PATIENTLY AND RESPONSIBLY, FOR ^{many} YEARS BY
NATIVE AMERICANS.

THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE ANSWER TO THIS PETITION: TO ASSURE
TO EVERY NATIVE AMERICAN HIS JUST AND GOD-GIVEN RIGHT TO
SELF-DETERMINATION, AS A FULL AND EQUAL CITIZEN OF THE
UNITED STATES.

to every right, privilege, + opportunity to education, health care, housing, jobs
WHEN I SERVED AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, MANY
FEDERAL PROGRAMS ^{have been} ~~WERE~~ INITIATED TO ADDRESS THE PLIGHT OF

NATIVE AMERICANS IN AREAS OF HOUSING, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
JOB TRAINING.

I served as chairman of
the Indians

BUT THE NATIVE AMERICAN DESERVES A CHANCE TO DEVELOP
FURTHER HIS TALENTS AND SHARE FULLY IN THE FUTURE OF OUR
NATION.

THERE ARE ABOUT 800,000 NATIVE AMERICANS IN AMERICA TODAY.

THIS INCLUDES ALEUTIANS AND ESKIMOS IN ALASKA.

{ NATIVE AMERICANS ARE TAKING MORE LEADERSHIP AND INITIATIVE

IN SOLVING THEIR PROBLEMS. BUT THEY NEED TO HAVE MORE

OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE THEIR OWN PLANS AND DECISIONS IN PROGRAMS

AFFECTING THEIR DAILY LIVES.

{ YES, WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS. { THE NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO

NATIVE AMERICANS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR HIGHER

EDUCATION HAS RISEN SIGNIFICANTLY -- FROM 139 IN 1950, TO

12,438 IN 1972.

└ BUT THERE IS MUCH MORE THAT CAN AND MUST BE DONE.

THE ^{average} MEDIAN EDUCATION OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN IS 9.8 YEARS,

COMPARED TO 12.1 YEARS FOR THE GENERAL POPULATION.

└ ONLY ONE THIRD OF INDIAN CHILDREN GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL.

THE GENERAL POPULATION FIGURE IS 52.3 PERCENT.

└ LIFE EXPECTANCY IS 5 YEARS LESS FOR A NATIVE AMERICAN
THAN FOR THE GENERAL POPULATION.

└ ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR NATIVE AMERICANS LIVES IN OVER-
CROWDED HOUSING, COMPARE THIS TO ONE OUT OF TWELVE FOR THE
GENERAL POPULATION.

└ AND MORE THAN ONE-FOURTH OF NATIVE AMERICANS LIVE IN HOUSING
WHICH LACKS PLUMBING.

↳ ECONOMICALLY, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ARE PAINFULLY HIGHER FOR
NATIVE AMERICANS.

↳ THEIR ~~MEDIAN~~ INCOME IS FAR BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

↳ IN THIS YEAR OF THE BICENTENNIAL WE MUST ERASE THE OLD

ATTITUDES OF PATERNALISM TOWARD NATIVE AMERICANS. ↳ WE IN THE

CONGRESS MUST SUPPORT FEDERAL PROGRAMS WHICH STRESS SELF-HELP,

SELF-DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-DETERMINATION.

↳ WE MUST CONTINUE TO WORK TO BRING THE STANDARD OF LIVING
FOR NATIVE AMERICANS TO EQUAL THAT OF THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE.

↳ ~~WE MUST EQUIP THOSE INDIANS WHO CHOOSE TO LIVE IN CITIES~~
must have the opportunity to acquire
WITH THE NECESSARY SKILLS TO LIVE IN EQUALITY AND DIGNITY.

h THIS REGIONAL CENTER IS A GOOD START TOWARD ACHIEVING THESE
GOALS AT THE GRASS-ROOTS LEVEL, WHERE THERE IS FIRST-HAND
KNOWLEDGE OF THE JOB THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE, AND IT CAN BECOME
A MODEL FOR THE NATION OF WHAT CAN AND MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED.

h THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, WHICH PROCLAIMED AMERICA'S
INDEPENDENCE, STATES THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL WITH CERTAIN
GOD-GIVEN AND UNALIENABLE RIGHTS, INCLUDING LIFE, LIBERTY
AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

h OUR FOREFATHERS ESTABLISHED A GOVERNMENT TO SECURE THESE
RIGHTS. THIS IS WHAT THE WHOLE BICENTENNIAL IS ABOUT. IT IS
ABOUT A REVOLUTION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY AND DECENCY.

h LET US NOW, THEREFORE, DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GUARANTEEING
THESE RIGHTS FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE.



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