

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
WORTHINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMEMORATION

Worthington, Minnesota

May 30, 1975

I'm delighted to be here with you to mark your graduation from Worthington Community College.

This is an exciting time for you -- you are about to enter a new stage in your lives.

This is also an exciting time for our nation; we are about to enter into the third century of our existence as a union.

FDR once said, "The only limits to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today." He then went on to say, "I do not believe that the era of the pioneer is at an end. I only believe that the area for pioneering has changed. The country needs bold, persistent experimentation."

These are fine words for us to ponder -- both as individuals and as a nation. They are as true today as they were when first spoken.

We have always been a nation of pioneers, of challengers of the status quo. The formation of thirteen disparate colonies into a union of states was the boldest of experiments. Who would have thought that thirteen separate entities, each with its own history, some of which did not use English as the language of daily discourse, could succeed in forming a lasting union?

Who would have thought that the document drafted by these colonies to declare their independence from England, the Declaration of Independence, would be the most powerful force for human freedom since the dawn of time, a force whose reverberations are still being felt throughout the world?

Most importantly, who would have thought that thirteen small colonies, with the support only of one-third of the colonists, could defeat mighty England?

The signers of the Declaration of Independence and the men and women who supported the Revolution were not supermen and superwomen. They were mainly ordinary men and women who believed in the rightness of their cause and who were willing to die for it. They were people who recognized that individual commitment, individual initiative, and individual participation matter.

How many of you have heard of Catherine Van Rensselaer Schuyler? British General Burgoyne moved down from Canada in the summer of 1777 with nearly 10,000 men to capture Albany, link up with General Howe coming up the Hudson, and thus cut the rebellious colonies in half. Mrs Schuyler personally set fire to the standing crops in her husband's field, thus denying them to the invading army. Her example inspired others in the path of the British advance to take similar "scorched earth" measures.

The result was that General Burgoyne's Supply situation became so critical that he was forced first into the disastrous battle of Bennington and then into the defeat at the hands of General Horatio Gates and Colonel Dan Morgan at Saratoga.

That defeat and the surrender of Burgoyne's entire army proved to be the turning point of the war. Thus, one person's actions started the chain of events that defeated a mighty army.

There's another example of initiative in our later history. The West was colonized because the men and women of that era had a vision of a better and different future and were willing to sacrifice and endure all forms of hardship to make that dream a reality.

We here in Minnesota owe those original pioneers who settled in Minnesota a vote of thanks for enduring Indian wars, droughts, locust storms and for continuing on. They knew that they might never be remembered by name, and their individual actions might never be recorded by history.

But they also knew that, collectively, they were shaping the future of their homeland. They knew that if they turned their backs on the challenges before them, they would be turning their backs on their grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The era of pioneering is not at an end. While society today is far more complex, the same kind of individual commitment which was critical in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries is critical today. People and their individual actions continue to make a difference -- in government, in science, in the arts, in education, in medicine, in every area of human endeavor.

I'd like to stop for a moment and pay tribute to one man in this community who epitomizes this devotion to the challenge of the future. He is the President of Worthington Community College, W. Donald Ohlsen, who is retiring this year.

President Ohlsen has been a pioneer in the community college movement. His dedication and insistence that community colleges have a role to play in bringing education to the people of Minnesota are responsible for the excellence of this fine institution today.

He has enabled Worthington to grow from a small school district project to one of the shining lights of our state community college system. He faced and conquered challenges to his vision of the importance of community colleges and to Worthington's survival. Here in our own community is a fine example of what individual commitment can mean.

President Kennedy once said, "Peace and freedom do not come cheap, and we are destined -- all of us here today -- to live out most, if not all, of our lives in uncertainty and challenge and peril."

We certainly have seen a great deal of uncertainty, and challenge, and peril in the last decade. Sometimes, it has seemed almost overpowering -- the distortion of the powers of the Presidency by an incumbent President, the divisions in our society over the war in Vietnam, and the deepening recession which grips our country now.

But this should not be cause for playing it safe, for ignoring the challenges that currently confront us.

Trouble and uncertainty are nothing new for America. We have always faced them. We have always grown stronger out of tension, more humane out of pain, more forward looking out of defeat. There is no reason for us to change now.

But we need to recognize that our growth will not be easy. Advances never are easy. The militancy brought about by civil rights reform caused many people unhappiness -- and yet it was necessary. The trauma that followed our deepening involvement in Vietnam brought sorrow and even death to some -- but it did focus attention on our policy and ultimately turn it around. Out of the pain and suspicion of Watergate has come reform and a more responsible government.

The challenges that face us in the future are at least as complex, at least as difficult to deal with as those of the past. They are challenges to peace and to freedom, challenges to the physical environment in which we live, challenges to the structure of our national economy and to the structure of the world economy, challenges to the health and well being of future generations, and challenges to how our government will operate in the future.

Let us look at some of these challenges.

First, challenges to peace: In the future we will have to grapple with the question now only of controlling Soviet and American strategic armaments, but also the strategic armaments of other nations, unless we succeed in developing incentives to encourage nations not to join the nuclear club.

Local conflicts, whether they are the outgrowth of long-standing political differences between nations, of economic disparities, or of civil strife, may challenge peace even more seriously. Effective peacekeeping techniques will be more important than effective war-fighting techniques.

Second, challenges to the physical environment: Our growing need for food and for energy poses serious challenges to the physical environment in which we live. As we turn more to the outer continental shelf and to nuclear power plants for energy, we open up new hazards for the environment as we now know it.

As more food is demanded in the world, agriculture could become more polluting. Soil erosion and the depletion of fresh water may increase in some areas of the world. Fortunately, technology may offer solutions. Self-fertilizing plants, new means of irrigation and drainage, new ways to extract fuels and protect the environment are all possible if we take up the challenge that awaits us.

Third, there are the serious and complex challenges to the economy: What kind of world economy should we have in the future? How much should raw materials cost? What role should the third world play in international economic financial matters? How can our society insure to its own citizens full employment and a balanced economy?

Fourth, challenges to health: Some diseases have been conquered during our lifetimes. Others remain to be conquered. Foremost among these are cancer and heart disease. But methods of prevention, and control, and treatment must and will be found.

New medical techniques are certain to be discovered -- to determine the health of a fetus, to develop artificial hearts and kidneys, to permit better diagnoses of illnesses. The challenge to develop these techniques is out there, as well as the challenge to use them for the betterment of mankind.

National health insurance will be a reality: it offers both the blessing of medical care to all, and the challenge of keeping that care personal and of high quality.

Finally, we must address fundamental challenges to government. The purpose of our government is to see that life is protected, that liberty is safeguarded, and that the pursuit of happiness is facilitated. However, as society becomes more complex, government becomes more complex and remote from the people, and sometimes seems to thwart the achievement of these goals.

We will have to grapple with these problems, and devise new methods of governance, and develop means of keeping the government in touch with the people.

I could go on. There are challenges to be faced in every area of human endeavor. But there also are opportunities to be met everywhere to make life better.

Victor Hugo once said, "The future has several names. For the weak, it is the impossible. For the faint-hearted, it is the unknown. For the thoughtful and valiant, it is ideal. The challenge is urgent. The task is large. The time is now."

Your time, to make your future and our future, is now.

#

✓ President Olsen

✓ John Varace

Repus Mike Menning

✓ Christ

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Sen. John Olson

WORTHINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT

Repus Wendell Erickson

WORTHINGTON, MINNESOTA

MAY 30, 1975

Loren Heeringa
Hair-Enga

Bob Hope
Husley

Einstein

I'M DELIGHTED TO BE HERE WITH YOU TO MARK YOUR GRADUATION
FROM WORTHINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

Beautiful evening
moments

THIS IS AN EXCITING TIME FOR YOU -- YOU ARE ABOUT TO ENTER
A NEW STAGE IN YOUR LIVES.

THIS IS ALSO AN EXCITING TIME FOR OUR NATION; WE ARE
ABOUT TO ENTER INTO THE THIRD CENTURY OF OUR EXISTENCE AS

A Republic - a time of Promise - a time of Peril!

FDR ONCE SAID, "THE ONLY LIMITS TO OUR REALIZATION OF

TOMORROW WILL BE OUR DOUBTS OF TODAY." HE THEN WENT ON TO SAY,

"I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE ERA OF THE PIONEER IS AT AN END.

I ONLY BELIEVE THAT THE AREA FOR PIONEERING HAS CHANGED.

THE COUNTRY NEEDS BOLD, PERSISTENT EXPERIMENTATION."

THESE ARE ~~THE~~ WORDS FOR US TO PONDER -- BOTH AS INDI-
VIDUALS AND AS A NATION. THEY ARE AS TRUE TODAY AS THEY
WERE WHEN FIRST SPOKEN.

characteristics -

*Pioneer, confidence, &
accommodation.*

WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A NATION OF PIONEERS, OF CHALLENGERS
OF THE STATUS QUO. THE FORMATION OF THIRTEEN ~~DISPARATE~~

COLONIES INTO A UNION OF STATES WAS THE BOLDEST OF EXPERIMENTS.

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT THIRTEEN SEPARATE ENTITIES, EACH
WITH ITS OWN HISTORY, SOME OF WHICH DID NOT USE ENGLISH AS
THE LANGUAGE OF DAILY DISCOURSE, COULD SUCCEED IN FORMING A
LASTING UNION?

Who would have thought that the document drafted by these colonies to declare their independence from England, the Declaration of Independence, would be the most powerful force for human freedom since the dawn of time; a force whose reverberations are still being felt throughout the world?

Most importantly, who would have thought that thirteen small colonies, with the support only of one-third of the colonists, could defeat mighty England?

yet, the signers of the Declaration of Independence and the men and women who supported the revolution were not

supermen and superwomen.

Jaune

*Jefferson 33
Madison 25
Hamilton 17* } 1776

*9-4th 56 - 19 in 40's
12 within 20's } average age 36*

THEY WERE MAINLY ORDINARY MEN AND WOMEN WHO BELIEVED IN
THE RIGHTNESS OF THEIR CAUSE AND WHO WERE WILLING TO DIE
FOR IT. THEY WERE PEOPLE WHO RECOGNIZED THAT INDIVIDUAL
COMMITMENT, INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE, AND INDIVIDUAL
PARTICIPATION MATTER.

HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE HEARD OF CATHERINE VAN RENNSALAER
SCHUYLER? BRITISH GENERAL BURGoyNE MOVED DOWN FROM CANADA IN
THE SUMMER OF 1777 WITH NEARLY 10,000 MEN TO CAPTURE ALBANY, *N.Y.*
LINK UP WITH GENERAL HOWE COMING UP THE HUDSON, AND THUS
CUT THE REBELLIOUS COLONIES IN HALF. MRS SCHUYLER PERSONALLY
SET FIRE TO THE STANDING CROPS IN HER HUSBAND'S FIELD, THUS
DENYING THEM TO THE INVADING ARMY.

HER EXAMPLE INSPIRED OTHERS IN THE PATH OF THE BRITISH

ADVANCE TO TAKE SIMILAR "SCORCHED EARTH" MEASURES.

THE RESULT WAS THAT GENERAL BURGoyNE'S SUPPLY SITUATION

BECAME SO CRITICAL THAT HE WAS FORCED FIRST INTO THE DISASTROUS

BATTLE OF BENNINGTON AND THEN INTO THE DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF

GENERAL HORATIO GATES AND COLONEL DAN MORGAN AT SARATOGA.

THAT DEFEAT AND THE SURRENDER OF BURGoyNE'S ENTIRE ARMY

PROVED TO BE THE TURNING POINT OF THE WAR. THUS, ONE PERSON'S

ACTIONS STARTED THE CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT DEFEATED A MIGHTY ARMY.

THERE'S ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF INITIATIVE IN OUR LATER HISTORY.

THE WEST WAS COLONIZED BECAUSE THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THAT ERA
HAD A VISION OF A BETTER AND DIFFERENT FUTURE AND WERE WILLING
TO SACRIFICE AND ENDURE ALL FORMS OF HARDSHIP TO MAKE THAT
DREAM A REALITY.

WE HERE IN MINNESOTA OWE THOSE ORIGINAL PIONEERS WHO
SETTLED IN MINNESOTA A VOTE OF THANKS FOR ENDURING INDIAN
WARS, DROUGHTS, LOCUST STORMS AND FOR CONTINUING ON. THEY
KNEW THAT THEY MIGHT NEVER BE REMEMBERED BY NAME, AND THEIR
INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS MIGHT NEVER BE RECORDED BY HISTORY.

BUT THEY ALSO KNEW THAT, COLLECTIVELY, THEY WERE SHAPING
THE FUTURE OF THEIR HOMELAND. THEY KNEW THAT IF THEY TURNED
THEIR BACKS ON THE CHALLENGES BEFORE THEM, THEY WOULD BE
TURNING THEIR BACKS ON THEIR GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT GRANDCHILDREN.

But, you say. That's History - That's the
Past - yes, but

THE ERA OF PIONEERING IS NOT AT AN END WHILE SOCIETY TODAY
IS FAR MORE COMPLEX, THE SAME KIND OF INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENT

WHICH WAS CRITICAL IN THE EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH CENTURIES

IS CRITICAL TODAY, PEOPLE AND THEIR INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS CONTINUE

TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE -- IN GOVERNMENT, IN SCIENCE, IN THE

ARTS, IN EDUCATION, IN MEDICINE, IN EVERY AREA OF HUMAN

ENDEAVOR.

Lincoln. Emancipation - 8-1
Churchill made the difference for England;
de Gaulle for France
F.D.R. for U.S.
Carter,
Edon
manoni

I'D LIKE TO STOP FOR A MOMENT AND PAY TRIBUTE TO ONE

MAN IN THIS COMMUNITY WHO EPITOMIZES THIS DEVOTION TO THE

CHALLENGE OF THE FUTURE. HE IS THE PRESIDENT OF WORTHINGTON

COMMUNITY COLLEGE, W. DONALD OHLSEN, WHO IS RETIRING THIS

YEAR.

L PRESIDENT OHlsen HAS BEEN A PIONEER IN THE COMMUNITY
COLLEGE MOVEMENT. HIS DEDICATION AND INSISTENCE THAT COMMUNITY
COLLEGES HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN BRINGING EDUCATION TO THE
PEOPLE OF MINNESOTA ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXCELLENCE OF THIS
FINE INSTITUTION TODAY.

L HE HAS ENABLED WORTHINGTON TO GROW FROM A SMALL SCHOOL
DISTRICT PROJECT TO ONE OF THE SHINING LIGHTS OF OUR STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM. HE FACED AND CONQUERED CHALLENGES

-- ~~TO~~ HIS VISION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES ~~AND~~ ^{has}

placed Minnesota in the front line of Higher Education.
TO WORTHINGTON'S SURVIVAL. HERE IN OUR OWN COMMUNITY IS A FINE

EXAMPLE OF WHAT INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENT CAN MEAN.

✓ PRESIDENT KENNEDY ONCE SAID, "PEACE AND FREEDOM DO NOT
COME CHEAP, AND WE ARE DESTINED -- ALL OF US HERE TODAY --
TO LIVE OUT MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF OUR LIVES IN UNCERTAINTY
AND CHALLENGE AND PERIL."

✓ WE CERTAINLY HAVE SEEN A GREAT DEAL OF UNCERTAINTY, AND
CHALLENGE, AND PERIL IN THE LAST DECADE. ✓ SOMETIMES, IT HAS
SEEMED ALMOST OVERPOWERING -- THE DISTORTION ^{*and abuse*} OF THE POWERS
OF THE PRESIDENCY BY AN INCUMBENT PRESIDENT, THE DIVISIONS
IN OUR SOCIETY OVER ^{*Race Relations and*} THE WAR IN VIETNAM, AND THE DEEPENING
RECESSION WHICH GRIPS OUR COUNTRY NOW.

✓ BUT THIS SHOULD NOT BE CAUSE FOR PLAYING IT SAFE, FOR
IGNORING THE CHALLENGES THAT CURRENTLY CONFRONT US.

TROUBLE AND UNCERTAINTY ARE NOTHING NEW FOR AMERICA.

WE HAVE ALWAYS FACED THEM. WE HAVE ALWAYS GROWN STRONGER OUT

OF TENSION, MORE HUMANE OUT OF PAIN, MORE FORWARD LOOKING

OUT OF DEFEAT. ^{and} THERE IS NO REASON FOR US TO CHANGE NOW.

BUT WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE ^{reform and} ~~THAT OUR~~ GROWTH WILL NOT BE EASY. ADVANCES NEVER ARE EASY. THE MILITANCY ^{that gave} BROUGHT ABOUT

^{gave us} BY CIVIL RIGHTS REFORM CAUSED MANY PEOPLE UNHAPPINESS --

AND YET IT WAS NECESSARY. THE TRAUMA THAT FOLLOWED OUR

DEEPENING INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM BROUGHT SORROW AND EVEN

DEATH TO SOME -- BUT IT DID FOCUS ATTENTION ON OUR POLICY AND

ULTIMATELY TURN IT AROUND. ^{shame,} OUT OF THE PAIN AND SUSPICION OF

WATERGATE HAS COME REFORM AND A MORE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

THE CHALLENGES THAT FACE US IN THE FUTURE ARE AT LEAST AS COMPLEX, AT LEAST AS DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH AS THOSE OF THE PAST. THEY ARE CHALLENGES TO PEACE AND TO FREEDOM, CHALLENGES TO THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH WE LIVE, CHALLENGES TO THE STRUCTURE OF OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY AND TO THE STRUCTURE OF THE WORLD ECONOMY, CHALLENGES TO THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS, AND CHALLENGES TO HOW OUR GOVERNMENT WILL OPERATE IN THE FUTURE.

LET US LOOK AT SOME OF THESE CHALLENGES.

FIRST, CHALLENGES TO PEACE: IN THE FUTURE WE WILL HAVE TO GRAPPLE WITH THE QUESTION NOW ONLY OF CONTROLLING SOVIET AND AMERICAN STRATEGIC ^{Nuclear} ARMAMENTS, BUT ALSO THE STRATEGIC ARMAMENTS OF OTHER NATIONS, UNLESS WE SUCCEED IN DEVELOPING INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE NATIONS NOT TO JOIN THE NUCLEAR CLUB.

LOCAL CONFLICTS, WHETHER THEY ARE THE OUTGROWTH OF LONG-
STANDING POLITICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NATIONS, OF ECONOMIC
DISPARITIES, OR OF CIVIL STRIFE, MAY CHALLENGE PEACE EVEN
MORE SERIOUSLY. EFFECTIVE PEACEKEEPING ^{machinery} ~~TECHNIQUES~~ WILL BE
MORE IMPORTANT THAN EFFECTIVE WAR-FIGHTING TECHNIQUES.

SECOND CHALLENGES TO THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT: OUR
GROWING NEED FOR FOOD AND FOR ENERGY POSES SERIOUS CHALLENGES
TO THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH WE LIVE. AS WE TURN
MORE TO THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF AND TO NUCLEAR POWER
~~PLANTS~~ FOR ENERGY, WE OPEN UP NEW HAZARDS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
AS WE NOW KNOW IT.

As more food is demanded in the world, ~~agriculture could~~
~~become more polluting~~, soil erosion and the depletion of
fresh water may increase in some areas of the world.

Fortunately, technology may offer solutions. Self-fertilizing
plants, new means of irrigation and drainage, new ways to
extract fuels and protect the environment are all possible
if we take up the challenge that awaits us.

Third, there are the serious and complex challenges to
the economy: What kind of world economy should we have in
the future? How much should raw materials cost? What role
should the ^{the} third world play in international economic
financial matters? How can our society insure to its own
citizens full employment and a balanced economy?

FOURTH, CHALLENGES TO HEALTH: SOME DISEASES HAVE BEEN
CONQUERED DURING OUR LIFETIMES, OTHERS REMAIN TO BE CONQUERED.

FOREMOST AMONG THESE ARE CANCER AND HEART DISEASE, BUT METHODS
OF PREVENTION, AND CONTROL, AND TREATMENT MUST AND WILL BE

FOUND. *We are on the threshold of dramatic
breakthroughs in conquering a number
of killing diseases*
NEW MEDICAL TECHNIQUES ARE CERTAIN TO BE DISCOVERED -- TO

DETERMINE THE HEALTH OF A FETUS, TO DEVELOP ARTIFICIAL

HEARTS AND KIDNEYS, TO PERMIT BETTER DIAGNOSES OF ILLNESSES.

THE CHALLENGE TO DEVELOP THESE TECHNIQUES IS OUT THERE, AS

WELL AS THE CHALLENGE TO USE THEM FOR THE BETTERMENT OF MANKIND.

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE WILL BE A REALITY: IT OFFERS
BOTH THE BLESSING OF MEDICAL CARE TO ALL, AND THE CHALLENGE
OF KEEPING THAT CARE PERSONAL AND OF HIGH QUALITY.

FINALLY, WE MUST ADDRESS FUNDAMENTAL CHALLENGES TO *Representation*
GOVERNMENT THE PURPOSE OF OUR GOVERNMENT IS TO SEE THAT LIFE
IS PROTECTED, THAT LIBERTY IS SAFEGUARDED, AND THAT THE
PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS IS FACILITATED. HOWEVER, AS SOCIETY
BECOMES MORE COMPLEX, GOVERNMENT BECOMES MORE COMPLEX AND
REMOTE FROM THE PEOPLE, AND SOMETIMES SEEMS TO THWART THE
ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE GOALS.

WE WILL HAVE TO GRAPPLE WITH THESE PROBLEMS, AND DEVISE
NEW METHODS OF GOVERNANCE, AND DEVELOP MEANS OF KEEPING THE

GOVERNMENT IN TOUCH WITH THE PEOPLE. *and accountable
to 'the people'*

I COULD GO ON. THERE ARE CHALLENGES TO BE FACED IN
EVERY AREA OF HUMAN ENDEAVOR. BUT THERE ALSO ARE OPPORTUNITIES

TO BE MET EVERYWHERE TO MAKE LIFE BETTER. *{ But a people that
developed self govt,
opened a continent,
split the atom,*

VICTOR HUGO ONCE SAID, "THE FUTURE HAS SEVERAL NAMES. *Explored
outer
space,
can
meet the
challenge*
FOR THE WEAK, IT IS THE IMPOSSIBLE. FOR THE FAINT-HEARTED,
IT IS THE UNKNOWN. FOR THE THOUGHTFUL AND VALIANT, IT IS
IDEAL. THE CHALLENGE IS URGENT. THE TASK IS LARGE. THE
TIME IS NOW."

YOUR TIME, TO MAKE YOUR FUTURE AND OUR FUTURE, IS NOW.



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