

REMARKS OF
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES
MINNESOTA SCHOOL FOR THE BRAILLE

May 31, 1975

When my good friend, State Senator Clarence Purfeerst, invited me to speak at Commencement exercises for the School for the Braille, I was most pleased and honored.

The Minnesota School for the Braille has made a major contribution to this state in helping to prepare our Blind and Visually impaired children to live more meaningful and productive lives through the skills which have been developed here during their stay.

Those of you who have participated in preparing these young men and women for the honor we are about to bestow upon them today, can take pride in your efforts through today's ceremonies and through their future accomplishments. The parents of these young people can take great pride in this moment. It represents a great milestone not only in their lives, but also in your own.

Over the past several years we have seen dramatic improvements in this country in the kinds of career opportunities which are available to our blind and the visually impaired. In addition to the opportunity to enter the professions of law and teaching, opportunities are opening for computer programmers, and punch card operators. In the Federal Government we see more jobs for the blind to become Tax Information Services consultants with the I.R.S., or program information specialists with the Social Security Administration. These people provide information to the public about what kinds of benefits or services are available.

But there is much we have left to do in providing greater opportunities for our blind.

There are 2.1 million blind people or persons with severe vision impairments in this country. It is interesting to note that of this number, 63 percent are 65 years of age or older, with 25 percent in the 45 to 64 years of age range, 8 percent in the 25 to 44 year range, and only 4 percent of our visually handicapped below the age of 25 years.

These figures clearly indicate that blindness has its primary impact on our elderly. But they also tell us that medical technology is helping to make great strides in improving the sight of our people, particularly our young.

The challenge which young people face today is to become active, independent, contributing members of our society. Use to the fullest the skills which you develop at the School for the Braille.

I was pleased to hear that the school has an active Scouting program, and that many of you have actively participated. The lessons in citizenship that you gain from such a program can be priceless. You are to be encouraged to take those lessons with you and use them all your lives.

I have noted with interest the future plans of these six young people. There are few youth graduating from high school today, who have such definite plans for their futures. I commend you, your parents, and the staff and counselors in your preparation for the future.

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Luci Kramer

Mary Beth Moline
(nervous)

REMARKS OF

~~David H.~~ Sunny
John Boone

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Brunel Olson
Seth Hearn

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

MINNESOTA SCHOOL FOR THE BRAILLE

First Day Out of Hand

MAY 31, 1975

Rep ^{Don} Burnsheel

Sen Clarence Purfeerst

Supt Svalde

Equal opportunity

Superintendent ^{Vince}~~Donna~~ Svaldi

WHEN MY GOOD FRIEND, STATE SENATOR CLARENCE PURFEERST,
INVITED ME TO SPEAK AT COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES FOR THE
SCHOOL FOR THE BRAILLE, I WAS MOST PLEASED AND HONORED,
/ THE MINNESOTA SCHOOL FOR THE BRAILLE HAS MADE A MAJOR
CONTRIBUTION TO THIS STATE IN HELPING TO PREPARE OUR
BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN TO LIVE MORE MEANINGFUL
AND PRODUCTIVE LIVES THROUGH THE SKILLS WHICH HAVE BEEN
DEVELOPED HERE DURING THEIR STAY.

Superintendent Svaldi

THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN PREPARING THESE
YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN FOR THE HONOR WE ARE ABOUT TO BESTOW UPON
THEM TODAY, CAN TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR EFFORTS THROUGH TODAY'S
CEREMONIES AND THROUGH THEIR FUTURE ACCOMPLISHMENTS. ^{and} THE

PARENTS OF THESE YOUNG PEOPLE CAN TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN THIS
MOMENT. IT REPRESENTS A GREAT MILESTONE NOT

ONLY IN THEIR LIVES, BUT ALSO IN YOUR OWN.

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS WE HAVE SEEN DRAMATIC
IMPROVEMENTS ~~IN THIS COUNTRY~~ IN THE KINDS OF CAREER
OPPORTUNITIES WHICH ARE AVAILABLE TO OUR BLIND AND THE
VISUALLY IMPAIRED.

↳ IN ADDITION TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENTER THE PROFESSIONS
OF LAW AND TEACHING, OPPORTUNITIES ARE OPENING
FOR COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS, AND PUNCH CARD OPERATORS. ↳ IN
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WE SEE MORE JOBS FOR THE BLIND TO
BECOME TAX INFORMATION SERVICES CONSULTANTS WITH THE I.R.S.
OR PROGRAM INFORMATION SPECIALISTS WITH THE SOCIAL SECURITY
ADMINISTRATION. ↳ THESE PEOPLE PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE
PUBLIC ABOUT WHAT KINDS OF BENEFITS OR SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE.
↳ BUT THERE IS MUCH WE HAVE LEFT TO DO IN
PROVIDING GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR BLIND.

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SEVERE VISION IMPAIRMENTS IN THIS COUNTRY. L IT IS INTERESTING
TO NOTE THAT OF THIS NUMBER, 63 PERCENT ARE 65 YEARS OF AGE
OR OLDER, WITH 25 PERCENT IN THE 45 TO 64 YEARS OF AGE RANGE,
8 PERCENT IN THE 25 TO 44 YEAR RANGE, AND ONLY 4 PERCENT OF
OUR VISUALLY HANDICAPPED BELOW THE AGE OF 25 YEARS.

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PRIMARY IMPACT ON OUR ELDERLY L BUT THEY ALSO TELL US THAT
MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY IS HELPING TO MAKE GREAT
STRIDES IN IMPROVING THE SIGHT OF OUR
PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY OUR YOUNG.

THE CHALLENGE WHICH YOU YOUNG PEOPLE FACE TODAY IS
TO BECOME ACTIVE, INDEPENDENT, CONTRIBUTING
MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY. USE TO THE FULLEST THE SKILLS
WHICH YOU DEVELOPED AT THE SCHOOL FOR THE BRAILLE.

I WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THAT THE SCHOOL HAS AN ACTIVE
SCOUTING PROGRAM, AND THAT MANY OF YOU HAVE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED

Camping trips: your choices has performed at nursing Home
THE LESSONS IN CITIZENSHIP THAT YOU GAIN FROM SUCH A PROGRAM

CAN BE PRICELESS. YOU ARE TO BE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE THOSE LESSONS
WITH YOU AND USE THEM ALL YOUR LIVES.

I HAVE NOTED WITH INTEREST THE FUTURE PLANS

OF THESE SIX YOUNG PEOPLE. THERE ARE FEW

GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL TODAY, WHO HAVE

SUCH DEFINITE PLANS FOR THEIR FUTURES. I COMMEND YOU, YOUR

PARENTS, AND THE STAFF AND COUNSELORS IN YOUR

PREPARATION FOR THE FUTURE. *America needs you.*
and new opportunities are
opening for you and others,
in Educ, business, government,
social service, community
development and many
other areas.



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