

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

WASHINGTON WORKSHOP

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I have been to many of these meetings over the years. And I've always enjoyed visiting with young people.

I'm not here to tell you that you're the greatest generation of all time! That's a lot of nonsense.

But you are the generation that is here now. And that's what's important because a few years from now it is your generation that is going to be running things.

You are going to be in charge. It's just a matter of time! Many young people in their 20's are in key positions right here in the Federal Government. And still more are beginning important careers in industry, the labor movement, education and other fields.

But it is precisely because you represent the future that you have a lot of things you ought to be thinking hard about right now.

Now is the time when new policies for our future must be molded. I urge you to be informed about the issues that we must address, and to find ways to express your views and to share your concerns with other interested citizens.

Politics is the way we get things done in our system.

It is the life-blood of our representative democracy.

It is the vehicle of change, bringing forth new ideas, new concepts of government, and new leaders.

It is the means by which conflicts and competing interests of different races, religions, regions, generations and cultural life styles can be resolved peacefully.

You are our future leaders, and yes, our future politicians. You can be the vanguard in solving, through politics, the challenges we face.

But don't limit your involvement to politics. Get involved wherever you are, wherever you can have an impact. And get involved now.

The years in which your generation will play the leading role -- the formative years of our nation's third century -- may be decisive in the future of this nation.

Just take a minute to review the critical issues we are facing.

It will be up to you to insure we survive as a strong, free nation, and as a people who believe in equal opportunity and justice for all.

For too long we have been a world power with a half-world knowledge. We are going to have to improve our understanding of other nations' needs and problems very quickly.

Second, we must find a way to give each and every individual a job -- meaningful employment, not just "make-work". No section of our society should be written off. No individual should be forced to remain unproductive and not wanted in our society.

Third, we must find the ways to conserve our energy and raw materials and find new sources. But at the same time, we must do everything possible to preserve our natural resources and environment.

Fourth, we must revitalize the cities, make them again the cultural, economic and communication hubs of our civilization. We must make them safe, beautiful, renewed. Renewed not just by new construction but by new faith and support -- where a genuine sense of "neighborhood" or "community" can be established.

Finally, we can seize the opportunity now to solve the long-ignored problems of our people. We can and must wipe out the shame and despair of poverty in the United States. We can and must build more good housing, provide adequate health care services at the lowest possible cost to all our people, and guarantee everyone an opportunity to get a good education.

This is a big order. But I believe we can do all these things.

The future is now; we must start today. There must be an active commitment of every American citizen -- young and old, rich and poor, black and white, men and women.

I urge you to pledge yourselves personally to that cause in this year, the first in our nation's third century.

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