

REMARKS OF FRANCES HUMPHREY HOWARD
ACCEPTING THE
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY HUMANITARIAN AWARD

IN MEMORY OF
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
NATIONAL URBAN COALITION

Washington, D.C.

January 31, 1978

It is a pleasure for me to accept the newly inaugurated Hubert H. Humphrey Humanitarian Award of the National Urban Coalition on behalf of my brother Hubert. I know that he would have been delighted to receive this honor from so many friends who worked with him over the years to come to grips with the severe problems that confront our cities and our nation.

Hubert always thought very highly of the Urban Coalition. To him it represented the kind of creative, progressive, broad based organization with the potential for great influence and improvement in America's cities.

As many of you know, Hubert loved our cities. As the Mayor of Minneapolis he knew the problems of the cities intimately, but he also knew their greatness. He loved New York, Chicago, Atlanta, all of our big cities and the smaller ones, too. I think he saw in our cities the opportunity for people to compete on the basis of their ability; to specialize in work, in government, or in the arts, where their interests and talents could be most fully expressed; and to enjoy the tremendous diversity that our cities have to offer.

To Hubert the decay and decline of our cities was a source of personal anguish, and he considered it shameful for our nation. He had dreams for our cities. He saw them as the great, bustling, egalitarian and progressive showplaces of the most blessed nation in history. Much of his work in the Senate was designed to reverse the sad process of decay that was all too evident to him in our great urban areas.

He challenged Americans to rebuild our cities. He talked for years of a "Marshall Plan" for America's cities. To meet his dream, he knew that we must prevent our cities from becoming the refuge of the elderly, the poor and the discriminated against. He understood that our cities must become attractive to live in for a broad cross section of our people. And he knew that our cities would have to be made attractive places for commerce and industry once again.

Hubert knew our cities and he loved them and the people who lived in them. He knew that they could be improved and he tried to help make them better. Now he is gone, but the vision and the program he provided us remain. Somehow, together, we must continue the work which he began and gave a lifetime to. Now is an excellent time for all of us to ask "What can I do?" And be willing to commit ourselves to the honest answer to that question.

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~~What~~ What a great program of
good works

I know how sad you are
tonight that Hubert

I know you understand how difficult
it is

I know how much you miss
that good friend that happy
warrior -

We are all very sad that Hubert
can not be here

We are glad that he cared
so deep about people & truly
He had enough love to go
around

Mr. Holman - Distinguished ^{guest} ~~guest~~ ^{W.}
Ma Bunting - ^{W.}
-1- W.

You all
love
Hubert

^{Honor}
IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO ACCEPT THE NEWLY INAUGURATED ^{at two}
^{way}
^{8/24}

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY HUMANITARIAN AWARD OF THE NATIONAL URBAN

COALITION ON BEHALF OF MY BROTHER HUBERT. I KNOW THAT HE

WOULD HAVE BEEN DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE THIS HONOR FROM SO MANY

FRIENDS WHO WORKED WITH HIM OVER THE YEARS TO COME TO GRIPS

WITH THE SEVERE PROBLEMS THAT CONFRONT OUR CITIES AND OUR

NATION.

HUBERT ALWAYS THOUGHT VERY HIGHLY OF THE URBAN COALITION.

TO HIM IT REPRESENTED THE KIND OF CREATIVE, PROGRESSIVE, BROAD

BASED ORGANIZATION WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR GREAT INFLUENCE AND

IMPROVEMENT IN AMERICA'S CITIES.

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, HUBERT LOVED OUR CITIES.

AS THE MAYOR OF MINNEAPOLIS HE KNEW THE PROBLEMS OF THE CITIES INTIMATELY, BUT HE ALSO KNEW THEIR GREATNESS. HE LOVED NEW YORK, CHICAGO, ATLANTA, ALL OF OUR BIG CITIES AND THE SMALLER ONES, TOO. I THINK HE SAW IN OUR CITIES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO COMPETE ON THE BASIS OF THEIR ABILITY; TO SPECIALIZE IN WORK, IN GOVERNMENT, OR IN THE ARTS, WHERE THEIR INTERESTS AND TALENTS COULD BE MOST FULLY EXPRESSED; AND TO ENJOY THE TREMENDOUS DIVERSITY THAT OUR CITIES HAVE TO OFFER.

TO HUBERT THE DECAY AND DECLINE OF OUR CITIES WAS A SOURCE OF PERSONAL ANGUISH, AND HE CONSIDERED IT SHAMEFUL FOR OUR NATION. HE HAD DREAMS FOR OUR CITIES. HE SAW THEM AS THE GREAT, BUSTLING, EGALITARIAN AND PROGRESSIVE SHOWPLACES OF THE MOST BLESSED NATION IN HISTORY.

MUCH OF HIS WORK IN THE SENATE WAS DESIGNED TO REVERSE THE
SAD PROCESS OF DECAY THAT WAS ALL TOO EVIDENT TO HIM IN OUR
GREAT URBAN AREAS.

HE CHALLENGED AMERICANS TO REBUILD OUR CITIES. HE TALKED
FOR YEARS OF A "MARSHALL PLAN" FOR AMERICA'S CITIES. TO MEET
HIS DREAM, HE KNEW THAT WE MUST PREVENT OUR CITIES FROM BECOMING
THE REFUGE OF THE ELDERLY, THE POOR AND THE DISCRIMINATED
AGAINST. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT OUR CITIES MUST BECOME ATTRACTIVE
TO LIVE IN FOR A BROAD CROSS SECTION OF OUR PEOPLE. AND HE
KNEW THAT OUR CITIES WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE ATTRACTIVE PLACES
FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ONCE AGAIN.

HUBERT KNEW OUR CITIES AND HE LOVED THEM AND THE PEOPLE
WHO LIVED IN THEM. HE KNEW THAT THEY COULD BE IMPROVED AND HE
TRIED TO HELP MAKE THEM BETTER.

NOW HE IS GONE, BUT THE VISION AND THE PROGRAM HE PROVIDED
US REMAIN. SOMEHOW, TOGETHER, WE MUST CONTINUE THE WORK WHICH
HE BEGAN AND GAVE A LIFETIME TO. NOW IS AN EXCELLENT TIME
FOR ALL OF US TO ASK "WHAT CAN I DO?" AND BE WILLING TO COMMIT
OURSELVES TO THE HONEST ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION.

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