

From the Office of
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America's youth must face the future with faith instead of fear, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D.-Minn.) declared last night in a commencement address at Goodhue High School at Goodhue, Minnesota.

"I don't think youth is easy to frighten," Senator Humphrey said. "Even challenges that have brought despair and discouragement to others before you, I'm sure, aren't going to be too great to dampen the enthusiasm of the youth of today, or weaken its determination to participate in bringing order out of chaos in the world..."

"Your generation has grown up knowing little else than economic or military troubles, in a world of jittery unrest. Most of you were born as we struggled out of the depths of depression, and you have spent your formative years under the shadows cast by war and threat of war.

"The shadows still exist. Your challenge is to carry forward the light of truth and progress that will drive such shadows away. To do it, you need the faith of your forefathers in the basic concepts of American democracy — the principles of human justice and the dignity of all mankind."

We've survived challenges to democracy before, Senator Humphrey reminded the graduates.

"For nearly four decades, we have lived in an atmosphere of one crisis after another. Each has challenged democracy's ability to cope with changing domestic and international conditions, called for great personal sacrifices, and taxed the faith and unity of the American people," he declared.

"World War I, the great economic depression of the '30's, World War II, and now the era of the Cold War and nearly three years of a shooting war in Korea have hardly given the American people a breathing spell for what we would like to regard as 'normal' conditions.

"Yet through it all, our faith in democracy has been justified.

"We have met each challenge squarely and forcefully as it confronted us, and have not wavered from our great heritage of American principles of freedom and justice.

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"We have not only survived these acid tests without collapse or even weakening of our democratic system of government; we have grown stronger. We have progressed materially and spiritually. We have matured as a nation. We have assumed new stature of world leadership. We have accepted the heavy responsibilities that come with leadership.

"We have proven the tremendous strength of American intelligence, American technological 'know how', and America's moral fiber based on the Christian foundations of human justice and respect for the dignity of man".

Senator Humphrey said our history proved "we have solid grounds for faith, rather than fear, in facing the still greater challenges ahead."

Faith has always had to be fanned and kept alive "against prophets of doom and criers of fear," he warned.

"Each generation has had its share of peddlers of gloom and despair, sadly wagging their heads as they predicted youth was going to the dogs. Yet each generation of youth, rejecting fear for a more positive course founded on faith, has added new chapters of progress to which our nation now points with pride."

Youth is faced today, Senator Humphrey warned, "perhaps with a greater era of fear than we have previously known: fear of the ability of our people to wisely govern themselves, fear of academic freedom, fear of free exchange of thought and ideas, fear of exploring away from the paths of strict conformity, without which no human progress could have been made."

"Youth's greatest challenge," Senator Humphrey added, "is to wipe out this smokescreen of fear, with a determined renewal of faith in their fellow man, faith in themselves, faith in democracy.

"For when fear replaces faith, suspicion, distrust, and hysteria replace confidence, mutual understanding, and sound wisdom in guidance of our nation's affairs".

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Goodhue newspaper

Goodhue radio

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