

*Sp. File - May 2  
East Lansing  
Mich*

FREEDOM AND SECURITY

(Abstract of remarks by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, D., Minn.,  
at Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan, Monday night,  
May 2, 1955)

Fear and hysteria are "danger signs of weakness" that must be avoided in democracy's battle for survival of freedom, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) warned tonight in an address at Michigan State College in East Lansing, Michigan.

Fear can block our effectiveness in international relations, and undermine the basic principles of democracy in our domestic policies, he declared.

"It is time we showed more faith and confidence in the democracy we profess," Senator Humphrey declared.

"Let us be less fearful. We must quit acting as though we are constantly afraid. We are afraid that some Russians will come here and destroy our society, or that if Russian editors come in without fingerprinting something will go wrong. Of what are we afraid? If we know what we are after, if we know what we believe in, if we know what our assets are, if we are willing to lead and not to follow, we have nothing to fear.

"Democracy can and must learn to survive without dependence upon a malignant network of informers and secret police, and have enough faith in its own strength and inspiration to prove to the world we are for something good, not just against something evil.

"Our greatest weapon in the battle for freedom is our own history and tradition. Let's keep alive the magnetic spark of our own revolution, as offering greater hope to the world than any Communist manifestoes. Let's turn the spotlight of the world upon our own Declaration of Independence and the inspiring lines of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address -- government of the people, by the people, and for the people -- instead of retreating in constant fear from Communist doctrine and dogma as though we were afraid of comparison.

"What do people want more than anything else in this world?

"They do not want to be told, 'If you do not behave, we are going to use atom bombs on you.' That has been the line of many petty political leaders.

"That is not what people want to be hearing. If we have the bombs, we do not need to talk about them. The enemy knows we have them, and so do our friends.

"Instead, we should be talking about equal rights, proclaiming our Declaration of Independence, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, which are God-given rights that no Communist can ever take away from us.

"If we believe this -- and we should believe it, because it is our faith -- and after we announce it, we should interpret

it in terms of action; in terms of health and education, programs of working with free labor and free management, training people how to run industry, run unions, run credit unions, teaching them how to bring water to the dry and thirsty land, how to reclaim the swamps, how to reclaim the soil, and how to plant the crops.

"Let's show the world we are for a better life, and have a better way of achieving it -- instead of retreating behind a wall of fear."

"We are not being ourselves when we are afraid, and we are not being ourselves when we ape the Communists.

"We are not being ourselves when we talk as if we are the god of war.

"We are the children of peace.

"We have dedicated our resources, energies, and talents since the beginning of this Republic to the good life, to raise the standard of living, to improve the lot of the common folk, to raising a new standard around which men can rally.

"It is not enough to do it at home; we have got to do it abroad.



# Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



[www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org)