

December 22nd, 1963

Baltimore, Maryland

"Man of the Year" Dinner honoring
Abraham Krieger

Speech by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey --

(Opening remarks): Thank you very much. Thank you very much. Thank you very much -- judge. If I can get "special" from an honored judge I see no reason to be worried about the firing squad. But I must say that when I'm on the platform with one of my colleagues from the Senate and a very good one and a distinguished one and a personal friend, I have to be on good behavior, so firing squad or not, I shall attempt to stay within the bounds of the limits set down in this program. I want you to know, however, this has no relationship to reality. This was somebody's dream that has long since gone in terms of time schedule, so I will, I will try to keep that pace.

Let me first pay respects to the distinguished Rabbi of this congregation, Rabbi Goldman and then let me pay my respects to this fine Mayor of your city of Baltimore, a gentleman that I have been with on many occasions. We've debated together -- not against each other -- but together. We had a little different point of view on a couple of questions, but but most of them somewhat like, and then I surely want to express my congratulations tonight and my commendation, if it means anything to Senator Brewster for a remarkable, brilliant, moving and rich presentation. I'm sure you agree with me.

Mr. Meyerhoff is well known for his many great works and Mr. Hoffberger gave us a fine introduction. Dan, you ought to have that one typed up and save that, but Carol's with you tonight and you don't have to worry. I know when Mrs. Humphrey's isn't along with me, I always try to get my introducer, if he says anything real nice about me, to write it out and I take it home and I say "You see -- you've misjudged me -- see what these other people say. And her response is somewhat what you might expect. She says, "They don't know you as well as I do".

I'm very honored to be here with Mr. Krieger, this evening. I am not privileged to be a personal friend of this fine, outstanding citizen and it would be a great privilege.

When we come to this holiday season, one thinks of gifts and happiness and what greater gift is there than the friendship of a good person, of a fine person and Mr. Krieger is a gentleman who has given of himself, to his community, to his state, to his nation, to his people, to his faith. A philanthropist, generous in his giving, a civic leader, but always modest, always humble. And those are wonderful qualities. I can't think of anyone who ought to be honored more than this gentleman and I am delighted that, tonight, he receives this citation as the man of the year, because he's the man of this year and I gather from what I've heard from some of my friends in this audience tonight that he's been the man of many, many years in this great community.

Our friend from the Consulate of Israel and the Embassy was quoting to us some very rich and beautiful words this evening and I believe you were quoting from Barbara Ward or Lady Jackson and the House of Burgess in Virginia those immortal words of our heritage, this universality of the democratic faith and how appropriate it all seemed for this evening because we're talking about freedom tonight and we're talking about some of the eternal verities of freedom and we're talking about those who have committed their lives to freedom and we heard tonight from Senator Brewster of one who gave his life for freedom.

When one thinks of the State of ~~ISRAEL~~ Israel, one thinks of youth with maturity, an old people, but a young people; an old race, they say, but a young state; above all hope -- Israel characterizes hope. Hope for its own and hope for others and when I think of President Kennedy, I have always associated with his memory and his name -- hope. Hope for millions and his passing, his death, was such a blow to the young. Yes, indeed, to the youth of the world. I've had the good fortune to survey the reports that have come into our government from all over the world. Dan, just yesterday, I placed in the Congressional Record -- I guess it was yesterday -- ~~XXXXX~~ I've sort of lost track of time in the Congress. It's become somewhat confused, but, it was somewhere around Saturday morning's -- one of the early hours. I placed in the Congressional Record the review of the press and the radio and the commentary as well as the notes that have been left at our embassies in Latin America relating to John Kennedy and running throughout all of those notes and all of that commentary was the sorrow, the grief of young people. He touched their hearts and to arouse the young, to appeal to the youth and the youthful

spirit is the noblest of all things. And I think that in the State of Israel that ~~what~~ what it's done, more than anything else is to appeal to this sense of youthful vitality, this sense of a mission, of the future, the promise of a better day. So we're here on a very appropriate occasion as we at least officially end this period of mourning -- it'll never ~~really~~ really end -- and as we enter upon these ~~new~~ new days of carrying out and carrying on our responsibilities.

I don't quite know why I was invited because you have such good proponents of this cause in your own midst -- I mentioned your Mayor and your Senator and there are others here. It's sort of like carrying coals to New Castle, I guess. Everyone here could give a better speech on the subject matter than Senator Humphrey and I say that in all truth. I'm a bit weary from a long session of the Congress and from some rather difficult days, these last forty-eight hours and a very busy day today. I had planned on this being a day of leisure and I had planned my calendar to be with friends and to attend memorial services and to go to a baptism and a christening and oh!, I was having a big day and I found out that everything was just fine, except there were a couple of days in which they forgot to schedule any time for sleep and for rest. So that if my vitality isn't up to the standards of a good Bonds for Israel meeting, you'll forgive me. However, I should warn you, I generally get a little better as I go along.

If you've been reading your local newspapers you know that we've had a tremendous battle in the Congress over foreign aid and, in a sense, this is topical for this evening because the purpose of this meeting is ~~not~~ not essentially foreign aid but it is development aid and I think that we can find, tonight, why we're in trouble nationally in our Congress on this controversial and yet vital subject called foreign aid and what we might do to improve it. Really, what has happened in the world is that we've hit the hard spots now, the easy tasks have been preformed and accomplished. Western Europe has been revitalized and it was difficult, to be sure, but not really not an impossible task. I say it was ~~difficult~~ difficult because it had been devastated by the madness of Hitler and the tragedy of war. Not only were the properties destroyed, but human values were destroyed, and I would like to remind this audience that when a nation is rehabilitated it takes more than just the reconstruction of the buildings and the repaving of the highways, the deepening of the ports. There needs to be the rehabilitation of the soul and the spirit ~~as~~ as well because the poison of hate the venom of hate and of intolerance but it is made a national cause leaves a body politics sick for decades. This, of course, is one of the things that we must guard against in America, and when we think of our fallen President and we think of these days in which voices of hate and bitterness have claimed the headlines, I would warn my fellow Americans to beware lest we destroy ourselves spiritually, morally and politically. I am not worried at all that America will ever be destroyed from the outside. We are too rich, too powerful, too big, but we have come close, may I say, far too close to weakening ourselves and bordering upon that danger point of destroying ourselves through indulgence in bigotry, racial prejudice, intolerance and the evil of hate. Foreign aid today goes to countries that have just come into being, like in the great continent of Africa, in old countries in Asia, where poverty and disease and backwardness were the norm of the day. Foreign aid today goes into that social structure of the rich and the poor, the oligarchies and the autarchs of Latin America. What I am saying is that the problems before us are tremendous physically, financially and morally. I've been in the Argentine, for example, and it's a rich country - it's like Iowa - its soil rich and fertile, its people strong, but corrupted by Peronism - dictatorship. The Dominican Republic, its resources very good its land as fertile as any place in the world, but its people sick to the ~~soul~~ soul from Trujillo and dictatorship. So you see that what we are now finding in the Congress is a welling up of frustration over foreign aid, and the truth is that we haven't really analyzed what the ~~problem~~ problem is that we seek to meet, or what is the disease or difficulty that we seek to cure, and I want to again warn my fellow Americans that while patience is required, it is more than ~~that~~ that is needed. Persevering patience determination, the unwillingness to retreat, in other words the insistence to move

ahead and to stay with it. We are today confronted in these areas that I speak of with political instability. So even though you may pour in billions of government and private finance, the political structure is so unstable, so feeble, so weak, so prone to violent change that the aid well administered on our part, hopefully received on their part seems to produce very little results. Secondly the lack of management skills, human resources. We are confronted all over the world today with mass ignorance, not only illiteracy but ignorance, backwardness, superstition, fear, frustration and as we pour out our wealth and send out our technicians we find these problems literally overwhelming us like a massive army. Thirdly, we find no ~~plans~~ plans because it takes skilled men and women, professionally trained people that understand economics, social structure, political organization, economic organization to make plans. Now I mention this to you for one reason - you're citizens, you're interested in your Congress, your government. This government has had a commitment since 1945 to help other people help themselves. We, as a government and we, as a people, have given away over one hundred billions of dollars I say "given away" that's not quite true, we have ~~shared~~ shared over one hundred billions of dollars in a massive ~~effort~~ effort to help other people life themselves from the quagmire and the filth and despondency of the world in which they live, and in some areas we see boulevards of achievement, the sunshine is there. In others we see dirty alleys of mismanagement and a constant smog and fog and darkness. And the Congress of the United States reacts because it's a human instrumentality and it strikes out, not at the problem, but at the symbol. One of the great needs in America today is a better understanding of the problems that we seek to solve and not only an understanding of the remedy that we ~~seek~~ seek to use. I wish that there were as many people in Congress and in the public in private life that would stand up and analyze the world in which we live as those that stand up ~~and~~ and criticize the administrators of programs. How easy it is to condemn the communist and to assail the President. How easy it is to condemn the backwardness of other people and then to assail our own inadequacies. But how difficult it is to understand the grip that can be on people, the ~~hold~~ hold that can be on people of centuries of habit, bad habits, and how can we break that hold. Well, I think we ~~have~~ have some hope. I use that word early. I have spoken all over America on this type of program. I started in my home city of Minneapolis, Minnesota and as a United States Senator I have no right to encourage any fellow American to make any investment any place in the world unless I really believe sincerely, deeply, that it is in our national interest. I took one oath when I came ~~to~~ to Congress as did Senator Brewster to uphold the constitution of the United States. I didn't take an oath to remake the world. I have some feelings, my personal feelings, about the kind of a world in which we live, but when I vote in the Congress of the United States and vote public monies for public purposes, I have but one rationale, I can have but one reason that it is in the interests of the United States of America. To provide for the common defense and to promote the general welfare. My fellow Americans those are the only two mandates in the constitution - to provide for the common defense and to promote ~~the~~ the general welfare. So when I voted for military funds ~~or~~ or when I voted for disarmament funds, when I voted for foreign aid funds or when I voted for accelerated public works at home, I have done so because I believed that it provided for the common defense and it promoted the general welfare. And when I come you tonight and encourage you as fellow Americans to invest in an area many hundreds and thousands away, even though that area of the world may be close to you spiritually, emotionally, in many ways that are intangible, I have no right to do that unless I believe that it's in our interests -- and I surely do. I must say that what this world needs today are -- what it needs more than anything else -- is a demonstration that you can take the deserts and make them bloom. That you can have an area that is surrounded by hostile forces and preserve domestic peace and tranquility and provide for the common defense. We must have demonstrations that you can take people from every corner of the earth, people that look different, are different

people that are backward, people that are sick and you can give them new life. Enrich them, enrich their lives and develop the great human resources that are there. We need demonstrations to show that you can take a land that is nothing but rock and have forests grow in a generation. We need a demonstration that you can develop viable, progressive economy, political institutions that are free, a parliamentary structure of government, build an army to protect your frontiers and your borders, participate in the halls of the United Nations and do all of it under the most adverse of circumstances. And if I had control of the Voice of America what I would like to tell the world is not that America is rich and powerful, because everybody knows it. But I would like to say that when certain basic, fundamental principals are followed, when there is emphasis placed upon people, the development of the capacities of people, when there is a love of the land, and when there is a willingness to sacrifice, and when there is a love of freedom and a moral code by which one lives, that when you have these things even the littlest of countries, even the tiniest and smallest of sovereign nations can become great and can have a position of honor in the family of nations. And my fellow Americans, if the state of Israel never did anything else, if it made no other contribution to the world in which we live other than the ~~fact~~ fact that it is a living entity, the fact that it is a free society, the fact that it is a political jurisdiction that is alive in which the homeless have found a home, and the sick have been healed, and the poverty stricken have seen the opportunity of a better life, if Israel had only done all of this she is worthy of our confidence and trust and our faith and our investment for time yet unknown. That's why I'm here tonight. So as we look at our problems here at the domestic level and in our Congress, my fellow Americans, we find that foreign aid does work. Does it ever. This government of which ~~you~~ you're a part because it's we, the people, that makes up this government. This government extended for years foreign aid, foreign economic assistance, technical assistance to the state of Israel. Even now it extends right from my own part of America, Minnesota, food under Public Law 480. Some economic assistance, minor, but we have proven that foreign aid can work where you have the will to make it work, where political stability at least is one of the requirements and one of the demands of those in public office, where human resources are upgraded and skills are developed, where plans are made and followed. Why, I went into the area of Galilee. I am very familiar with the water conservation plans of the State of Israel. As a matter of fact, they are a model for every arid area of the world. The State of Israel has the finest water control and conservation system ever developed at any time in human history and it's being followed in dozens of countries because water in these vast areas of the desert is life itself. And while some nations criticize and threaten and condemn, Israel harnesses the waters of the Jordan and of the Sea of Galilee and the ~~rain~~ rain that God Almighty puts on her plains and uses that water again and again to irrigate her lands and reclaim the ~~Negiv~~, and none of this would be possible, my fellow Americans were it not for Bonds for Israel--not a bit of it.

And when I think of what's been done with education -- oh! What great things. Mrs. Humphrey and I were there two years ago and we went all through the great Hadassah Hospital, Hebrew University -- had to rebuild the whole University because the old University is over on the Jordanian side. I've seen the schools, I've been in the schools and whenever you find a people and a nation that is willing to invest in education you find power, you find wealth and you find achievement. We in America could learn something from this. So there is good reason that we're here tonight. We have a new partner in the world. We do not stand alone. And is it good to have a partner that can share its part of the burden. A few years ago we were giving the aid from our government, and tonight in Latin America, Israel is sending aid to help us with the alliance for progress. What kind of aid? Brainpower, know-how, technical assistance, teaching young agriculturists pointing the way for modern agriculture and how much more effective it is even than what we can do because we're

suspect - we're the Gringo, we're the Yankee of the north, the colossus ~~of the north~~ of the north - we're big, we're rich, and I've heard them say it. They say, "Aw, you ~~don't~~ don't understand us, you people have money, you have everything. We're backward, we're poor, we have nothing." But when a teacher, or a director or a technician from Israel comes to Bolivia or to Columbia or to Ecuador or someplace else they can't say "Oh, you're rich, you're big, you're powerful, you're a colossus". All they can say is, "How did you do it?" And there is the teacher. Israel is, in a sense, the new rabbi for the undernourished and the underdeveloped and the needy. So let me just then leave you with this final ~~thought~~ thought: Anybody nowadays can do what you're supposed to do, that doesn't take much sense or much accomplishment or even much skill. I refuse to settle any longer when people say to me, "Well, I'll do my best." because if that's all he's ~~going~~ going to do he's going to fail. Because most everybody thinks they're doing their best. You ever noticed these astronauts? When they take off and you hear the ~~report~~ reports they never say, "O.K." Everybody says O.K. You can ~~ride~~ ride a motorbike and say O.K. But the astronaut says, "A.O.K." It's got to be better than O.K. When I saw that young man in his open sport shirt sitting in his office, anything but luxurious, I might add, in Jerusalem a few years ago - this young ~~fellow~~ fellow ~~by the name of~~ by the name of Ben Gurion - I went up to have a talk with him, and he had a map on the back of the wall and it was sort of out of focus because there was the Negv ~~and~~ and you know the Negv looks like an arrow. If you come from my part of the country it looks like one of those - go out in the old Indian hunting grounds you find a little chipped arrow and there is the Negv, it's just like the point of the arrow - and I was complimenting Mr. Ben Gurion, then the ~~Prime Minister~~ Prime Minister, ~~upon~~ upon the great things that I'd seen along the seacoast, and I'd been to Tel Aviv and Haifa and so on, ~~Oh~~ "Oh," he said, "Yes", he said, "That's the, that is the relatively easy part of our assignment." He said, "I want you to take a look at that map, Senator." And I looked at it. My goodness, the Negv looked ~~awfully~~ awfully big. ~~One thing about those Israelis, they do enlarge - you know when they blow up the map you think it's as big as the world. And there it was - they had that Negv out there and it looked so big it made Texas have an inferiority complex. I reminded him of that, by the way, I said, "Never show that map to a Texan, you'll undoubtedly have a sense of hostility here immediately." But he went up there like a school teacher, he had a little stick there, a pointer, and he was showing me the different settlements, he was showing me where he would go for his rest. And then he said, "Senator, we're going to develop the Negv." And I said, "Why, Mr. Prime Minister" - I'd been there into the Negv and ~~man~~ man! Was it hot! It's as hot as that place they talk about that we're going to go - some of us - and I said, "You just" - said, "Well, Mr. Prime Minister" I said, "That's impossible." He said, "I know it, and that's why we're going to do it." And that's exactly what he told me. "I know it, and that's why we're going to do it." And the very next year - that was in April of 1957 - the next year there was a big plan announced for the development of the Negv. And I was back there in 1961 and this wasn't just false advertising - the Negv is being developed. The waters are being brought to the Negv, the fields are fertile and just as surely as the climate changed on the plains of Galilee, and just as surely as the climate has changed on the hills of Judea by the planting of the trees and the terracing of the lands, the Negv will become habitable and the Negv will yield its fruits to the growing agricultural production of the State of Israel for exports will yield and give up of its minerals for the growing economy of the State of Israel. Don't tell me about minerals. I'm an old expert on Israeli minerals. I went down to Elat ~~down~~, down to those copper mines of Solomon. Now I've always had a great respect for Solomon. I've read about him and I know what a wise man he was, but why ~~in the name of~~ in the name of common sense he wanted to be down there in that hot place called Elat - those copper mines, that really bothered me, but I want you to know that I'm a full participant because I was there while they were putting~~

up the fabricating plants, and just to show you how interested I was, the truck that we were in or the bus that we were in that was showing us around, broke down and I can claim credit for having shoved an Israeli bus halfway around the copper mines of King Solomon. A wonderful experience. Tonight we have a great opportunity. Many people in this ~~part~~ part of America are proud of the fact that this area helped build a nation. Our founding fathers of this republic all along this seacoast they built a nation, and some of us have had a chance to make some contributions to that nation. Each generation builds something. If I were to ask you tonight only to invest just to make money, I suppose what I really ought to do is go on uptown and get the best ~~see~~ stockbroker you've got and I sit down and bring him in and let you hear how to make money. But you're not here because you want to invest only to get rich because you can't take it with you anyhow. And most ~~of~~ of us that are ~~here~~ here tonight are not in a stage of abject poverty. There is a great element of success in this auditorium. But we have a great opportunity, we have an opportunity tonight to invest in a land of hope, to invest and help build a nation, to invest and help a people, help other nations, and as I sit down I hope that these words of mine will have given you encouragement to do what you planned on doing anyhow. But if that's the only thing that you're going to do then I can't think of any greater failure in my life; and I hope that those of you who are here tonight that came here with the purpose of investing ~~in~~ in the State of Israel and the Israel bonds will by now ~~it~~ have made up your mind that your judgment was faulty that you should have been willing to invest much more and that you were lacking in faith; because what is needed tonight is the same demonstration of faith here in America for the future of that little country which has our commitment to its security, to its independence and its freedom backed by the forces of the United States of America and that you're going to now up your faith quotient and back it up by the kind of participation that only Mayor McKeldin can get from an audience like this. Thank you.



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