

Remarks by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
at Huntington, West Virginia Airport
September 26, 1964

Senator Humphrey. Thank you, very much. Thank you, very much Governor Smith, because that is what it is going to be. I am singularly honored to be back in West Virginia again and back in one of my favorite communities, this great community of Huntington, West Virginia, which was so grand and good to me back in 1960. You know we sort of had a birthday party back about that time, some of you may recall it. We were out at Camden Park. I don't know at any time I had more fun before the roof fell in on me. (Laughter) It was a birthday party then and now I will tell you, you forgot to give me a present in 1960, so in 1964 I want you to make it a big present by electing as President of the United States, Lyndon Johnson. (Applause) And, when you do that, you know, you get me, too, so that will make it nice.

May I just take a moment to express some thanks. First, I want to express my thanks to your City Council here and your community government in Huntington because a key was presented to me. If one of my good staff men will give me the key, Robert, thank you, I want to show it to you, because this is quite interesting. It is a beautiful key, a beautiful key to your city and it is a big key from a big heart, and it is the heart of West Virginia, a heart that I love very, very much. (Applause) There is a lot of difference between this gold key and gold water. This has got some solid substance to it. To John Burke, I want to express a special note of thanks, and then I surely want to say thank you to Bob McDonough for the work he has done here, and to Sam Harshbarger and to others of the Committee, particularly Michael Prestera, and to the community leaders from the neighboring communities.

This is the tri-State Airport, so we are really today having an opportunity to communicate to the great State of Ohio, the great State of Kentucky, and the great State of West Virginia. And I can't think of a more, a happier set of circumstances than to have that Trinity, that great Trinity, here in the Ohio River Valley that represents such a great future for America, such tremendous potentiality, for three marvelous States of this great Federal Union of ours, the United States of America, and I want to come here to talk to you just a little bit about these States.

By the way shortly you are going to have a visitation, I understand, it is sort of a play on words, it represents a conflict of interest, and it surely represents what you would

call, a contrast in meanings. They tell me that there is a GOP truth squad coming in. The last time they told you anything like that was when they admitted in 1936 that they had had the licking of their life. That was the last full complete utterance of truth from the GOP. By the way, you know what GOP stands for now. It used to stand for the Grand Old Party and it is a grand old party, a party of many distinguished people, but every since that fracas out at the Cow Palace at San Francisco, a large number of the members of the grand old party have decided to join up with the Democrats and help elect Lyndon B. Johnson for the President of the United States. (Applause) GOP has a new meaning now. The meaning is "Goldwater, Our Problem."

Now, dear friends, this Airport will be visited by a flying machine, that will bring with it a number of members of Congress, and a couple of Senators, and they are going to come to West Virginia to tell you something, but when they get here I want you to ask them what they did for West Virginia. This crowd that is coming here represents the first major attack, the first major act of aggression, upon this great Ohio River Valley, that area of Appalachia, this area of promise for America. Yes, they have got a truth squad coming and I just examined the record. Every last one of them has voted against everything that the people of this area want and need. That is the kind of help they are going to give you. So, I think maybe what they wanted me to do was to tell the truth on them. Well, I will. It is going to be hard to take but I guess we ought to tell them.

Number one, they are opposed to the Appalachia Program. Number two, they are opposed to the War on Poverty. Number three, they voted against every aid to education. Number four, they all weasel on social security. They have a record of no, no, no, a thousand times no when it comes to the people of this great Ohio River Area, and when it comes to the people of West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio. So, remind them of it when they come. (Applause)

Now, I should tell you so you will be perfectly clear on it, that distinguished standard bearer of the Goldwater faction of the Goldwater party, he did not really vote against Appalachia, he just denounced it. He was silent as to his reported attitude in the United States Senate.

I come here today to say a word of support, not only for this wonderful man that is your candidate for governor, a gentleman that I have known for years, he and his lovely wife and family surely are a credit to this great State of West

Virginia, I, also, come here to bring my greetings to your present Governor, Governor Barron and to the Administration of the State but I want to say a word about this fine Congressman from this district. Ken Heckler. Every time I see Ken Heckler he has a crowd of college students around him. I guess he will never get over being the teacher but he teaches us well, he has taught the Congress of the United States in the House of Representatives to have some interest in the welfare of the people of this great region. I know of no man that has been more steadfast, more true, more responsible, I know of no man that has been more steadfast in support of the programs that mean so much to this growing area of this great State. (Applause) I sure do wish to wish him well and I am delighted to see my friends, my young friends, from that great University, Marshall University right here. Some of you young folks may remember when we paid a visit to your university. It was a very happy day and, by the way, I see once again that we have occasionally a few of our friends from the opposition to join us and we are delighted. May I say that there is no better place in the world for a person to confess his political sin and transgression than out under this beautiful sun that is with us here in West Virginia. (Applause) I just suggest to these wayward souls that they put down those sins that have led them astray and that they walk forth in the bright sunlight of this beautiful day and join the ranks of progressive democracy and help back Lyndon Johnson. (Applause)

By the way, if you trade in two Goldwater buttons, you get one LBJ.

Now, let us talk just a little bit about what we want to do. In 1960 I traveled widely in this State, and I grew to love every bit of it, and it is a fact that Mrs. Humphrey and I have had a very sincere sentimental attitude and feeling about the people of West Virginia, and this great and beautiful State. I know of no area of America that has more potentiality, more great possibilities for a bright and a shining future than this wonderful area that we call part of Appalachia but this great Ohio River Area. What a beautiful and magnificent place.

As we flew over these lands, and looked out our plane window, I could not help but remark to Hulett Smith how lovely, how blessed is this land, how kind the Good Lord has been because the resources are here, and the people are here, and I sensed as I traveled these roads in this State four years ago and as my then opponent, and later on my dear and good friend, as President Kennedy then a candidate in the prime race traveled these same roads, we both came to one conclusion, that this is the land of promise, that this is the land of the future, and

can I say to you now in all sincerity, can I say to you from the very depths of my heart there wasn't a week that went by, not a month or a year, that President Kennedy did not think of this State, and of the assurances that he had given to you, and in that (Applause) and in those thoughts he had a friend who shared those thoughts with him.

I sat at the conference table in the White House many an hour with the late and beloved President. I sat there with members of your congressional delegation, with your governor and I know that not a day went by, not a month or a year, that President Kennedy did not say "We must do something to help the people of West Virginia, to help the people of Eastern Kentucky, to help the people, if you please, of the Ohio River Valley to live a better life, to have better opportunities." And we did things together, together. (Applause) And, the then Vice President of the United States was there, too. Every Tuesday morning we would sit at the breakfast table together and plan and look ahead, not back, but looking ahead and sitting directly across from the late and beloved President in those days would be Lyndon Johnson, then Vice President, making his contributions to the plans and the programs, and after those one thousand eventful and dramatic days of John Kennedy's leadership, and after that terrible tragedy at Dallas, the mantle of freedom, the baton of leadership, was taken up by Lyndon Johnson, and Lyndon Johnson, like the man that he followed, or the man that preceded him, has kept the faith with the people of this area. He has been your friend and he will continue to be your friend. (Applause)

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a fact, and let the truth squad, let the truth squad try to refute this, the Republican Party and the Republican leadership never lifted a finger for this area, not once in your distress. (Applause) And, what is more, they have not learned. They are like the old French kings, they never learn anything and they never forget anything.

The new leader of the Republican Party, new only because he is different from the last one, no new ideas, a man who seeks to guide this country by looking through a rear view mirror, what has this man made as a promise to you? What has his Party promised to you? Well, number one, he flew across the nation from the West Coast to the East Coast to cast his vote not for you, but against you; to cast his vote against the Economic Opportunity Act for America, against President Johnson's War on Poverty. This man wages his own war, this reserve general. His war is against progress, not against poverty. His war is against opportunity, not for the people, and I hope that the people of this area will never forget it.

Every program that has meant something to you from housing to agriculture, from rural electrification to manpower training, every program that would have helped you, all of them, Appalachia, Economic Opportunity, Housing, name it, the leader of the Goldwater Faction of the Republican Party has said, no, no, no to the people of this area. (Applause.)

Let me say to you, what do we say to you? We say we want to move ahead, and we have done it. I just checked a few facts and it will take just a minute. Public Works Projects in this State, 248 of them, \$41,328,000 of a program sponsored by President Kennedy and President Johnson providing 52,500 jobs. Where was the Senator from Arizona? Voting "No."

Area Redevelopments which has brought new industries, rehabilitated old industries, 98 projects in this State, bringing you in Federal assistance \$39 million and 4,500 jobs. Where was the Senator from Arizona? Voting "No." Voting "No." And, it is true of one program after another.

Now, what then does the future offer? Well, you are making your future and that is what we want to talk about. We are not content with the accomplishments of today, even though unemployment has been reduced, even though West Virginia is better off, even though we are doing bigger things all the time, even though our national prosperity is unprecedented. Is this all we ask? Is this all we plan? No. This is a base from whence we will move forward. It is a launching platform to even greater gains and greater goals. We will not be content until every boy and girl that wants an education can have it. We will not be content until every person that is capable of work and wants work can have it, and we will not be content until America is even a more beautiful and a more just and a more wonderful country than it is. I want to say to the students that are here, above all, we are just beginning to live, and the Democratic Party and what it represents says "Yes" to tomorrow. We embrace it, we are not afraid of it. We look to the future as the great period of opportunity, as the opportunity to do a better job than we have ever done before. (Applause)

So, if you want a future, if you believe in the tomorrows, if you believe that tomorrows can have more justice, if you believe that the tomorrows can present more opportunity for all of us, if you believe that the tomorrows can give us a world at peace, and they can, if you believe this, then join with those who work for the tomorrows, not those who recite the transgressions of the past.

I have told every college audience, every young people I have mentioned, that I have talked to, that it is all right to study ancient history, but don't vote it. (Applause)

Now, my friends, as I leave you because we have other things to do, we are going on over into your neighboring State of Kentucky for a big meeting, I would not want to leave you without telling you just a word about your two Senators who have helped us so much in the Congress, and these men, Jennings Randolph and Bob Byrd have represented you well, and I know my friend Bob Byrd is up for re-election this year. Bob Byrd is a friend of the President, the President is a friend of Bob Byrd, and I ask that you re-elect him. (Noise of airplane)

I thought that might have been that plane of truth, but those folks aren't going to come in while I am here as they may find out somebody really tells the truth on them.

My friends, it has been a really great reception. You see those little planes over there, we are going to take those, fly out over into Prestonburg, we are going to talk to thousands of people in your neighboring State. We are going to stay close enough to the ground as to get a vision of this good earth, and high enough to have vision and to see new horizons.

Thank you, very much.

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Press Conference of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
Huntington, West Virginia
September 26, 1964

Senator Humphrey. Well, we are very happy to see so many good folks from the great State of West Virginia, Kentucky and other areas. So, why don't we proceed. We have here with us the next governor of West Virginia, and any questions that I can't answer, why I know he can. So, we will take off.

Question. Senator, I have one. Mr. Smith was with President Johnson in Morgantown, last week, he is here with you here today. Can we expect the same spirit of cooperation in the next four years for West Virginia that we had during the past three and a half years under the Kennedy-Johnson Administration?

Senator Humphrey. Absolutely, and if it can be improved it will be, but I assure you that the same spirit will prevail and the same desire of cooperation will prevail, and the results will come about. We are looking forward to Governor, to Mr. Smith's election as Governor. He is a personal friend of the President and of mine, and he will have all possible cooperation.

Question. What --

Question. Any comments, Mr. Smith, from your side?

Mr. Smith. I am delighted because I have known Senator Humphrey and President Johnson for so many years, to be able to continue the teamwork that we have had that has meant so much to West Virginia. I think it is obvious that this type of cooperative efforts have brought about many major improvements and looking towards a brighter future for our State in all activities, economic, social fields, and really lead toward the great society to which we are all so dedicated.

Question. Senator, on the handling of nuclear weapons, is there any arrangement in case something happens to the President that these field commanders can use nuclear weapons?

Senator Humphrey. Well, sir, the matter of military strategy and the employment of our military forces in the most unusual of conditions which, apparently is what you refer to, is not something that I discuss publicly, and I don't think it is anything that ought to be discussed publicly, unless we wish to just telephone the Kremlin and tell them what our plans

are, and I am not about ready to do so.

Question. This seems to be quite a campaign issue.

Senator Humphrey. The issue is not that at all.

Question. Of course.

Senator Humphrey. Whether or not the man in the White House has the temperament and the background and the experience as well as the judgment to properly control the great nuclear power which is ours, and to use it for the best interests of our national security.

Question. Has the President discussed any arrangements with you in the event of his incapacitation or indicated any general understanding with you as to what you as Vice President would do?

Senator Humphrey. I am not Vice President yet, sir, and the President of the United States would be violating every rule of security if he were to do that.

Question. He has indicated some jobs you would take over if elected?

Senator Humphrey. When I am elected Vice President then he will confide with me in terms of the law of this country of the information that I should have. Until then, we would not only -- he not only hasn't but he shouldn't.

Question. Senator, there has been considerable Republican and Farm State opposition to the crop land grazing provisions in both the Poverty Bill and the Appalachia Bill, and up to this stage it's been knocked out of the Appalachia Bill on grounds that we already are producing too much beef. Do you think that this, the grazing provision, should go back into the Appalachia Bill?

Senator Humphrey. Well, there has been some opposition that has been expressed, but I don't think it is of major proportions, and I see no reason that limited grazing provisions could not be included in the Appalachia Bill without any injury at all to the agricultural economy.

Question. Senator, there were published reports this morning that you planned to slow down the pace of your campaign, is that so?

Senator Humphrey. You don't really believe that, do you? (Laughter) I want to set that rumor at rest. That is about the only rest we are going to get, too, I might add. (Laughter) I did this to make some of my friends that are traveling with me feel a little more at ease because most good health is partly attitude, you see. I noticed several reporters brighten up right away after that.

Question. Last night in Flint your colleague in the Senate, Mr. Curtis of Nebraska, said that a Democratic Party was a War Party. He said there had been no war in Viet Nam until the New Frontier came along. How about that?

Senator Humphrey. Well, that just shows that Mr. Curtis hasn't been either reading the papers or doing his homework because the simple truth is that the commitments of this country and our Government to Viet Nam were made in 1954. Additional commitments were made in 1959. The Viet Cong, and the Viet Minh of the North were most active in 1959, and 1960, when they saw that South Viet Nam's economy was progressing and that their economy was faltering and in fact drying up. What we are doing in Viet Nam is what ought to be done if we wish to resist Communist aggression.

These Goldwaterite Republicans are really, well they are contradictory, they are paradoxical. I don't know how better I can describe them. On the one hand they want to make a terrific rhetorical effort against Communism but whenever there is any paying to be done to check it, whenever there is any resistance that has to be made that might call for some sacrifice, then they brand it as war or as reckless. Now, you cannot face up to the Communist menace unless you are willing to pay some of the prices that you have to pay. And I don't believe that the statements of the Senator from Nebraska have much merit, have much sense and they have no historical accuracy.

Question. Do the Democrats have a truth squad following Mr. Goldwater?

Senator Humphrey. Well, we have more faith in the American people. I think the American people can detect truth from fiction. You know there used to be a program called Truth and Consequences. Well, when you get the truth on these Republicans, the people realize the consequences. (Laughter) I don't think we will need any squad to go around and further expose them.

Question. Senator, Senator Goldwater was in West Virginia

last week. During his speech in Charleston he talked about the training of youth under the Anti-Poverty Program --

Senator Humphrey. Yes.

Question. -- costing \$10,000 per person.

Senator Humphrey. Yes.

Question. Do you have any comment on that. I want to go on one, a little bit further: Mr. Shriver said a couple of days later that it was less than \$5,000.

Senator Humphrey. That is correct. It was estimated in the Congress around \$4,800, as I recall. That was the argument that was then made by the Republican from Vermont, Mr. Prouty, who was on the committee, and he then thought that was too much. But, let me tell you what it costs to have one juvenile delinquent, an estimated cost of \$25,000, just in terms of the social costs to a community, on the basis of number of social programs we have to have and detention homes and what have you.

We are much more interested in building good lives than in reformatories, and the youth program is designed to help rebuild the life of young people rather than trying to extend the penitentiary and penal system or leaving young people to rot on the street corners. We will stake our case on this program very well.

Question. Also, in his Charleston talk, Senator Goldwater suggested a marshaling of the resources of private industry to take care of youth unemployment. Would you comment on that possibility?

Senator Humphrey. Well, of course, we depend upon private industry for the great bulk of our employment, and this Administration has done more to encourage private industry than any Administration in the history of this country. This is why men like Mr. Ford, for example, are supporting this Administration. This is why there are large and important business executives headed up by a man like Mr. John Loeb, one of the great financiers of this country, supporting Lyndon B. Johnson; this administration has encouraged business, and that has made for jobs and it has made for profits.

However, industry does not hire people who have no training for work, and many of our young people today regretably

and there is a rising number of them, are without any work experience and without any work training. The real problem facing this country is youth unemployment. There is a rising tide of young people between the ages of 16 and 20.

Question. Senator Humphrey, many of the critics of this proposed Appalachian Anti-Poverty Program say it discriminates against the poor and jobless in other parts of the country. What do you think about that?

Senator Humphrey. I think that is a very phoney argument. Because other parts of the country do have other programs, and what is more if other parts of the country need a similar program, they can be designed. It is like saying that you ought to be against the VA because you did not get a program similar to it some place else. What's good for Appalachia is good for America, and what's good for America is good for Appalachia, and one of the great qualities of America is that we have believed that by being helpful to anyone section of the country we are helpful to all of the country. The same argument has been used like when you help the farmer that the city man has to pay for it. But when you don't help the farmer the city man doesn't have a job.

Question. Senator, in Wellsburg, West Virginia, they had the first Mountain Area where they solved the unemployment problem by bringing in industry, plastics. Do you think if you get the people trained in the Mountain Areas you could persuade the American industry to locate plants there?

Senator Humphrey. Mr. Kenworthy, I am sure that this already happening. The Appalachia Program includes, first of all, a very large road building program to get transportation into the area, to unlock these areas, because communication is the key to any type of industrial growth or development. It included also training. It included the improvement of natural resources, of water sheds, the cutover areas of the mountain sides. It included loans to new industry in the area. There isn't any doubt but what industrial development is needed, and it will come. Along with it will come a great program of tourism. Now in the State that I am privileged to represent, the third largest business in the State is recreation and tourism, in Northern Minnesota, and I might add, that there are one hundred million people on the Atlantic Seaboard in close proximity to these potentially beautiful areas of recreation. This could become as you might say the Little Alps of the Eastern part of America, and I think it has that potentiality and can be developed.

Question. Senator, to go back to the question about how much secret information you have access to, do you have no more access to secret than any other senator?

Senator Humphrey. That is correct, sir. That is correct. And Mr. Goldwater can have access to it as a presidential nominee to all of the information from our government. He has been so advised but he has decided not to take it because it is easier to be a little bit irresponsible if you haven't had responsible information presented to you.

Question. Can I ask one more question: Any significance to Senator Byrd not being with you, Senator Byrd of West Virginia?

Senator Humphrey. Not a bit, I was with him on a trip recently into West Virginia.

Question. Eastern Panhandle, Martinsburg.

Senator Humphrey. Martinsburg, none whatsoever, just as there is no significance that sometimes, like Senator McNamara could not be with me in Michigan yesterday.

Mr. Smith. Senator, here is a telegram just received from Senator Byrd that says, "Please express my good wishes to Senator Humphrey and all candidates present. Regret I cannot attend because of commitment to address Democratic Rally in Pendleton County at 2 P.M. With best wishes for a Democratic victory in November. Robert C. Byrd."

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