

TRANSCRIPT

March 8, 1965

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
Speech before Junior Police and  
Citizens Corps Annual Awards  
Mayflower Hotel  
Washington, D.C.

(No prepared text).

My good friend Bellford, Mr. Lawson,  
and Ladies and Gentlemen: You proceed right  
with your dinner; there's no sense in everybody  
being off schedule (laughter) and I want you to  
enjoy this evening.

I've come here tonight just to pay my  
respects to some very wonderful fellow citizens.  
And I join with you tonight to honor three very  
distinguished Americans that have given so much  
to better human relations and have given so much  
just helping people. Mr. Joseph Oterseen(sp) Mr.  
Burke Marshall, my friend the Reverend Walter  
Fontroy. Each of these three I have known for a  
long time, and I am happy to report to you that  
each of them has been willing to put up with me  
and to let me call them friend.

Just a few moments ago when I arrived at this dinner, I was met by Sgt. Cowen and I said, "Now come on, be sure you tell me just a little bit about what's going on in there." And he said to me, "Well, you ought to know, you're sort of one of the daddies. You were with us a long, long time ago." And how well I remember, and when I look over and see my old friend Arthur Clarendon Smith, I remember when we met in the warehouse (laughter) Remember that? We did. And Mrs. Humphrey was along with me (Mr. Smith said something -- applause laughter) Yes sir. So that tonight is not exactly a new experience for me with this group, but it's a wonderful reminder of happy days in the past, and I think happier days in the future. I look down the table here to my right and your left, and I happen to note -- ~~I regret to~~ my good friend and the former governor of the State of Minnesota and now United States District Court Judge, Judge Luther Youngdahl is here with us too (Applause). I don't know of any man in my life that has had a more consuming and continuing interest in the affairs and the wellbeing of young people than this fine citizen from our state who today is one of the outstanding jurists of the United States.

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And I want not to single out just each and every one, but I would be remiss if I didn't just mention the Superintendent of Schools of the District of Columbia here, and I want to say that Dr. Carl Hansen has surely done some wonderful things for this community (applause). If you were to try to put together a list of honored and respected citizens that you should like to emulate, that would give you a standard by which you would judge your own life, how could you do better than looking at those former award recipients. Each and every one of them who have demonstrated that quality of character called unselfishness, that quality of character relating to concern over one's fellow human beings and there we've had Shaw, and my friend Mr. Smith, Mrs. Meyer, Deputy Chief Winters, Carl Hansen and Sterling Tucker, and now these three tonight.

Well, I have a particularly warm relationship with the former Assistant Attorney General, Mr. Burke Marshall. He sits here with his pretty little lady. He looks likes he's been having a nice vacation, thoroughly relaxed, and I'm going to put him right back to work just as soon as I get my hands on him tomorrow. In fact, I've already started putting him back to work. (Applause) When he left the Justice Department I went to him and said, "Now look, the President of the United States told me that no matter what it took I was

to insist that you were to stay in government service, and that is a true and factual statement. And this man insisted that he was going to have a few days off and a few weeks off, and I suppose he thinks a few years off in private life. So if he just wants to go around earning his money in private life and working for the government for nothing, that's okey for me (laughter) because we're going to use that great service, that great talent that he has. And when I think of my friends in the clergy, ~~XXXX~~ Walter Flontroy: Wlater all I can say is we put -- we were together through many difficult weeks and months last spring and summer when that Civil Rights Bill was before the Congress. And whenever I doubted and whenever I seemed to weaken, I could always to Walter. He not only had good advice, he had prayers. And his were heard. He really guided me and was a tremendous help. And all of us know Mr. Joseph Ottensteen of this community and what he has meant to so many of us.

So if you will permit me, I just want to pay my respects then to the Junior Citizens Corps. To thank you for taking care of the greatest heritage ~~of~~ this country has: the heritage of our young people. Our young people in many areas of America are in trouble and they're basically in trouble because adults didn't do right by them. Young people the world over are

pretty much the same. They are full of life and zest, full of energy and creativeness. Sometimes it lends itself to mischievousness and sometimes if we're not careful to trouble and delinquency. But if we give them a break, if we try to give them a guiding hand, if we give them love and attention, if we offer them opportunity -- most of them, believe me most of them, such a tremendous majority of them, do well and do well enough to make us proud of them.

You have in this community, through this organization, you the people right in this room, you have helped save lives. And at a time when lives are being lost, at a time when people are being treated brutally even in America, at a time when we ought to be bowing our heads in shame for our transgressions, how refreshing it is, and how good for the spirit and the soul to meet and be with people who can honestly say that "I helped a boy, I helped a young boy or a young lady walk just a little straighter, with their heads a little higher and with his or her hopes just a little better."

So if it means anything to you, and I hope it does, to have not Hubert Humphrey, but the Vice President, to come here and be with you to thank you, to thank you on behalf of this city, to thank you on behalf of this nation, to thank you on behalf of the children and

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the young people for what you have done. If that means something to you, then you have made me exceedingly happy tonight. I must now go. I regret it. But this is a very busy evening for me. When I received notice of this meeting and saw the list to be honored, the names of those to be honored, I said I will make other arrangements, I'll just have to forego some things I had planned on, and I'm going to go to that dinner for a little while. I planned on being here at 7:00, but I had a visit with a very important man in this city that lives in a big white house (laughter) and I couldn't quite be here at that particular moment. So if you'll pardon me for that little digression, and pardon me for taking out a few moments for having that friendly visit, then I'll be most grateful to you because I don't like to come to your gathering behind schedule. So, my good wishes. May God bless you in your work. Thank you. ( Applause)



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