

This is the signal that the President uses over in the White House when we have the little receptions for members of Congress and other distinguished American citizens, so when I applauded it was not to encourage you to applaud me, it was merely to get your attention for the brief ceremonies that we're going to have here today.

First of all, Mrs. Humphrey and I want you to know how happy we are to be able to host this little coffee reception. But I thought that before I go one second longer that I should greet you in my native language of Spanish: Saludos! Bienvenidos! Amigos!

Now that we've established a rapport and we feel that "sense simpatica," as we've spoken of it before, I'm sure that we can proceed here for just a moment or two and some happy and yet some serious reflection. This is a wonderful and remarkable occasion because we have here today the representatives of our Latin American neighbors, our friends in Central and South America. We have the representatives, of course, of the Organization of American States and we have Senators and Congressmen and members of the staffs of the Committees, the A.I.D. Mission Directors of our Foreign Aid Program in the Latin American countries and we also have, of course, members of the Pan-American Coffee Bureau,

--more--

and we have a few of us members of the Executive Branch of the Government, too. I'm never quite sure whether I include myself in or out of the Executive Branch as a presiding officer of the Senate. My colleagues hesitate to treat me like a colleague but though they do not always give me the kind of treatment they give an executive. So I gather that what I should say is that I would like to continue a very happy and friendly relationship with all branches of the Government, and also may I say with our friends that are here from, our neighbors to the South, this is a most happy occasion for me. There is no need of me going into any address for you. Most of you were present when I had the high honor of speaking on the 75th Anniversary of the Organization of American States. In fact, it was such a remarkably good day, they first let me make a speech inside. Now my friends in the Senate will be mindful of what I am about to say and knowing that I get so little opportunity to speak now, they let me make a speech in the hall, the great hall of the House of the Americas and then afterwards my good friend, the Ambassador from the Argentine said come outside, Mr. Vice President, we will plant a fig tree as a symbol of peace and understanding and you can make another speech. So how can I do anything but be happy with my neighbors and associates from the Latin American countries. We have much to be happy about and much to be concerned about these days. First of all, the relationships between our respective countries, I think, are on ever firmer ground. It's better because we are speaking more plainly to one another. We are saying what's on our hearts and in our minds. And we are treating each other as equals and as partners and not just as, oh, diplomats, in the more formal sense of the word. I think this is all to the good. The Alliance for Progress is making progress, the hemispheric solidarity is solid, the mutual defenses are strong, and the economies of our respective countries are improving. And I want you to take back to your countrymen this thought. That the United States of America does not, has never felt that it lived alone. We are not an island. We are part of the world and a part of

the great hemisphere which we occupy some of the terrain and some of the area. We are, in other words, like a family around the table, of a common accomodity, common sense of ideals, and common purposes. So we want to work with you and to be with you in the fullest sense of the word for economic progress not only for ourselves but for you.

April 22 has been proclaimed as coffee day throughout the United States and I am proud to say that as a citizen of the State of Minnesota that we have one of the big festivals of our state known as the Cafe Festival. The Scandinavian people have a very close relationship with the Latin Americans. They consume more coffee per man, per women, per day than almost any other group of people. And in Minnesota you really don't amount to very much unless you take on anywhere from 8 to 12 cups a day. That is sort of a minimum. Now I can recall when I was Mayor of Minneapolis that I entered several coffee-drinking contests with the other Mayors of cities and I thought I was pretty good at it but I came in a very, very poor fourth, fifth or sixth. Truly, though, coffee is not only a commodity, it is the elixir of fellowship. It brings people together. How many times have I said as a politician, a man in public office running for office when we have some difficulties or we want to make some plans, we say come on, let's sit down and have a cup of coffee. Let's talk it over, over a cup of coffee. And I think that when people learn that when you can talk it over, talk out your problems over a cup of coffee it saves you an awful lot of grief and trouble in the days ahead. There is an old saying, a distinguished eighteen-century poet in sage Alexander Pope. You may remember him. I believe he was also the one that said "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing." I should have remembered that earlier. Alexander Pope wrote that coffee makes the politician wise. Well I'm sure that this accounts in some measure for its popularity here on Capitol Hill. I've never, I must say that per square foot of floor space, cubic foot of air space, there's more coffee consumed within these hallowed walls than almost any place that I can think of.

Congressmen love their coffee and Senators love it double. Because Senators talk longer than Congressmen. Now I'd like to mention just a note in reference to some of the legislation before us. I want to mention at this time the progress of the bill, which vitally affects the success of the Alliance for Progress. You all know how important it is to the economies of our Latin American neighbors that there be a stable and fair price for coffee and might I add that every producer of raw materials feels this way. Producers of the feed grains, the cereals, the oils, the minerals are very deeply concerned about stable prices and our Latin American neighbors cannot expect to plan for social and economic growth at home and make their real contribution to the strength of this hemisphere when coffee prices are permitted to wildly fluctuate at home and abroad. This is to no one's advantage. And to everyone's disadvantage. So I am pleased to report that legislation to carry out the American obligations under the International Coffee Agreement as you know past the Senate February 1, I believe, of this year, and this week the House of Representatives, the House Ways and Means Committee, have reported out this bill and cleared it for final action in the House we hope by not later than the first of May. I, therefore, can report to you that I am fully confident that at long last the International Coffee Agreement which was subscribed to by this country in 1962 will become law in the United States before the Spring is over, before too many robins have flown out to the midwest to find their homes in those gentle climates. So dear friends and neighbors, enjoy this hour that we have together. My best to you. Thank you. Marvelous. Coffee is the definition of the Great Society.

EDITED TRANSCRIPT

Remarks of the Vice President

Pan American Coffee Day

April 22, 1965

Mrs. Humphrey and I want you to know how happy we are to be able to host this little coffee reception. And before I go one second longer, I want to greet you in my native tongue of Spanish: Saludos! Bienvenidos, amigos!

Now that we've established rapport and we feel that "sense simpatica", I'm sure that we can proceed for just a moment or two with some happy and yet serious reflection. This is a wonderful and remarkable occasion because we have here today the representatives of our Latin American neighbors, our friends in Central and South America. We have the representatives of the Organization of American States and we have Senators and Congressmen and members of the staffs of the Committees, the A.I.D. Mission Directors of our foreign aid program in the Latin American countries, and members of the Pan American Coffee Bureau.

May I say to our friends and neighbors from the South, this is a most happy occasion for me. There is no need of my making a long speech for you. Most of you were present when I had the high honor of speaking on the 75th anniversary of the ~~SPANISH AMERICAN~~ Pan American Union. They let me make a speech in the hall, the great hall of the House of the

Americas, and then afterwards, my good friend, the Ambassador from the Argentine Republic, said, "Come outside, Mr. Vice President, we will plant a fig tree as a symbol of peace and understanding and you can make another speech." So how can I be anything but happy with my neighbors and associates from the Latin American countries.

We have much to be happy about and much to be concerned about these days. First of all, the relationships between our respective countries, I think, are on ever firmer ground. They are better because we are speaking more plainly to one another. We are saying what's on our hearts and in our minds. And we are treating each other as equals and as partners and not just as diplomats, in the more formal sense of the word. I think this is all to the good.

The Alliance for Progress is making progress, hemispheric solidarity is solid, mutual defenses are strong, and the economies of our respective countries are improving. And I want you to take back to your countrymen this thought. The United States of America does not feel and has never felt that it lived alone. We are not an island. We are part of the world and a part of a great hemisphere, where we occupy some of the terrain. We are, in other words, like a family around the table, with a common sense of ideals and common purposes. We want to work with you and to be with you in the fullest sense

of the word, for economic progress not only for ourselves but for you.

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Coffee is not only a commodity, it is the elixir of fellowship. It brings people together. How many times, as a politician, a man in public office, when we have some difficulties or want to make some plans, have I said: "Come on, let's sit down and have a cup of coffee. Let's talk it over, over a cup of coffee." I think that when people learn that you can talk it over, talk out your problems over a cup of coffee, an awful lot of grief and trouble will be saved in the days ahead.

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I believe he was also the one who said "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing." Alexander Pope wrote that "coffee...makes the politician wise." I'm sure that this accounts in some measure for its popularity here on Capitol Hill. I must say that per square foot of floor space and cubic foot of air space, there is more coffee consumed within these hallowed walls than almost any place I can think of. Congressmen love their coffee and Senators love it double, because Senators talk longer than Congressmen.

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