

REMARKS BY
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
at Reception honoring National Finalists
in White House Fellowship Competition

June 28, 1965

The Blair House

Mr. Rockefeller, distinguished members of the
Commission on White House Fellows, National Finalists,
and friends:

First, let me congratulate each of you upon your
selection as a National Finalist in the White House
Fellowship competition for 1965-66. This designation
itself is indeed a high honor--I understand that over
3100 applications were received and 225 candidates received
regional interviews. And so you have already demonstrated

your capacity for survival in the most demanding circumstances. This is a trait likely to pay special dividends for anyone active in the principal industry of Washington, D.C. --politics.

I also understand that just a ~~few moments ago~~ ^{two hours ago} the Commission ~~announced~~ ^{revealed} its final selection ~~of the fifteen~~ ^{to the candidates.} ~~White House Fellows and the fifteen alternates.~~ To the successful candidates I extend a special word of congratulations--we look forward with great anticipation to your joining us this September in the exhilarating job of making democracy work.

Those three words--"making democracy work"--sum up quite accurately the nature of our responsibilities here in Washington--throughout the country--and around the globe. And I know of no more challenging, important, and exciting task in the entire world.

I doubt whether anyone has improved upon the words of Alexander Hamilton in the opening number of the Federalist Papers. He wrote:

"...It seems to have been reserved to the people of this country, by their conduct and example, to decide the important question, whether societies of men are really capable or not of establishing good government from reflection and choice, or whether they are forever destined to depend for their political constitutions on accident and force..."

This was the great challenge confronting our Founding Fathers when they convened that hot summer of 1787 in Philadelphia to attempt the task of saving the Thirteen Colonies from dissolution and chaos. And we know the results of their labors.

And we also know--as our Founding Fathers knew--that Hamilton's question is never answered with finality

and
it is
today

or absolute assurance. Americans today have reserved for them--in terms just as challenging as those which confronted the delegates to the Constitutional Convention--the unique task of demonstrating to a doubting world that men still possess the wit and wisdom to govern themselves.

The White House Fellowship program was established to seek out the finest young talent available in America to participate in and contribute to--at the highest councils of Federal Government--this exhilarating experiment in self-government.

We believe you will learn much from your year's assignment in Washington. But we also expect to profit greatly from our labors together in the coming months. We recognize fully the wealth of training, talent, commitment, and ability each White House fellow will bring to his or her assignment. And I can assure you of one

thing: this talent and ability will be used in
challenging and exciting ways.

In short, rest well this summer--you'll need large
reservoirs of energy this fall.

We are also confident that each White House Fellow will exhibit in his assignment what John Adams described as the spirit of public happiness. It was this spirit, said Adams, that possessed the American colonists and won the revolution even before it was fought--a spirit which is reflected in delight in participation in public discussion and public action. It is a sense of joy in citizenship, in self-government, in self-control, in self-discipline, and in dedication.

Each of you, I am sure, already possesses this spirit in abundance. And each of you will lighten our burdens--and brighten our days--during your tour of duty with us.

My best wishes to each of you.



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