

NOTES BY VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
BEFORE THE NATIONAL INVENTORS COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C., JANUARY 21, 1966

I am very pleased to have the honor of greeting the members of the newly reorganized National Inventors Council.

I understand that this is the first time that an incumbent in my position has met with the Council. My visit with you today -- however brief -- does demonstrate that, at the highest echelons of our United States Government -- on behalf of the President -- there is a deep and continuing interest in your success in fostering creativity in inventions.

The National Inventors Council was started in 1940. As a U.S. Senator, I came in contact with it daily during my service. My goal then -- like the Council's -- was to foster the flow of inventions which might prove valuable to national defense.

Now, I am pleased to note your broadened mission -- to encourage the finest national climate for the inventive process, including dealing with broad problems faced by so many inventors.

This nation needs inventive genius more than ever before in our history. We need it for our safety and for the security of the Free World. We need it for the growth of our civilian economy -- for the development of new and better goods and services, so as to satisfy needs, generate jobs. We need it for our Space program -- a fact with which I am particularly familiar as Chairman of the National Aeronautics and Space Council. We need genius, too, in medical engineering -- for detection, diagnosis, therapy of disease. And we need genius in many other realms.

The history of science and technology demonstrates what a single inventive genius or a single creative team can do. He or it can literally alter the course of history -- as to industry, agriculture, or, yes, warfare.

In this room are many men -- whose works truly have demonstrated genius. I salute your achievements.

Gentlemen. We need more Americans like you. We can't insert a "WANT-AD" -- "WANTED MORE GENIUSES." Nature and nurture -- heredity and environment -- work in ways we do not fully understand in developing great minds. But we do know that there must be better and easier ways to identify superior talent -- stimulate it, inspire it, from limitations.

You have been studying questions like this. I particularly want to commend your initiative in setting up the National Conference on Creative Engineering Education last Fall.

I am hopeful that, out of your work, our rate of inventions, especially significant inventions -- can be increased and accelerated.

May I add that I hope our nation will foster more inventiveness by talented women -- not just men. We should provide educational stimulus for young ladies studying science and engineering, so that they can achieve their highest potential, too.

Let us look at the national scene and discover whatever obstacles lie in the way -- whether they be restrictive laws or any other factor. And let us seek to overcome these obstacles.

Your Government is grateful for your taking time out from your busy professional and business careers to share with us your experience and your ideas.

Let us go forward for a still more inventive America.



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