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Mr Skutt

Mr Brown

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THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

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STATEMENT PREPARED FOR DELIVERY
BY HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS CEREMONY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 18, 1966

I want to express my heartfelt congratulations to the National Conference of Christians and Jews. The reports you have brought today are deeply gratifying, I know, to President Johnson -- Honorary Chairman of Brotherhood Week, to our nation's clergymen of all faiths and to every citizen of good will.

For more than three decades, NCCJ has been one of America's most effective arms in reducing prejudice. Your unique variety of educational methods and year-round programming at the grass-roots have been tremendously fruitful in combatting bigotry.

Annual Brotherhood Week has become as American an institution as the Fourth of July. It has evolved into a 52 week a year program which assures fullest meaning to American unity.

NCCJ's constructive activities are so varied that it is difficult to single out one or several for special commendation. You have, however, achieved so much in promoting inter-racial understanding that it does bear special mention. Your pioneering National Institute on Police-Community Relations is outstanding.

Every further step forward which you help our country to take -- in inter-religious and inter-racial harmony -- strengthens America -- both at home and abroad.

Overseas, we know that International Communism tries to exploit any news of racial discord in the United States. From Viet Nam to Africa to Latin America, Communism tries to defame and ridicule our country. It seeks to fan ill-will among other races against us.

Helping to banish intolerance from our land, NCCJ effectively deprives the Communists of grist for their propaganda mills. Above all, NCCJ helps keep our country true to our own highest ideals. More power to NCCJ -- every day of the year -- in your inspiring work with young people and adults, laymen, clergymen, teachers and others. My thanks and best wishes to you, Mr. Skutt, to Dr. Brown and Mr. Hays.

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DRAFT OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY'S RESPONSE
BEFORE THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

I thank the National Conference of Christians and Jews for this honor. And it is a special pleasure for me to receive your Brotherhood Award in the company of Donald Cook, one of America's great business statesmen.

I feel, however, that tonight I should observe the Biblical injunction to give rather than to receive and present a brotherhood award to you --- as representatives of the great religious denominations of America.

It is time we recognized explicitly the great work for human brotherhood being performed every day by the rabbis, priests, ministers of this country -- and by many of their laymen. But it is also time to challenge you to do even better.

This organization is dedicated to tolerance and understanding -- but not to the tolerance and understanding which prevails when no one cares very much -- the tolerance and understanding described by the historian Gibbon when he wrote:

"The various modes of worship which prevailed in the Roman Empire were all considered by the people as

equally true; by the philosopher as equally false; and by the magistrate as equally useful."

Throughout history, magistrates and theologians have had a mutual interest in the sin and evil of the world. As Mayor of Minneapolis I spent much of my time "restraining evildoers" -- to use Martin Luther's terms -- a function which, on occasion, also falls to religion.

But those who truly believe -- and those who act on their beliefs -- are also ^{from time to time} bound to be troublesome to ~~the~~ magistrates and others -- to dissent and to speak out where, in their opinion, the shortcomings of law and practice violate the higher commandments of conscience and morality.

One of America's great strengths has been the willingness to encourage and protect this dissent -- to listen and to learn from those willing to risk unpopularity in order to express their vision of the truth.

The past decade has seen a new awareness that religious faith is barren unless it leads to action -- especially on such moral issues as civil rights, the war-on-poverty, and peace.

I cherish the words from 2nd James which illustrate this point so vividly:

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"Suppose a brother or sister is in rags with not enough food for the day, and one of you says, ' Good luck to you, keep yourselves warm and have plenty to eat,' but does nothing to supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So with faith; if it does not lead to action it is in itself a lifeless thing."

A great and growing number of religious leaders *and laymen* have given stirring witness that their faith is anything but lifeless.

They joined in the March on Washington three years ago.

They marched, less comfortably and far more dangerously, from Selma to Montgomery and now through Mississippi.

They have been at work in remote and downtrodden areas of the South.

They have braved the degradation and potential violence of our Northern slums.

They are the stuff of which saints and martyrs are made. They have borne the heat of the day and the perils of the night. They have given their all -- and in some cases their lives -- for the real brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God.

They have truly understood that "the way you treat people is the way you treat God."

Yes, the time has long passed when it could be said - as it once was - that the American people are never more segregated than at 11 o'clock on Sunday morning.

The entry of the churches and synagogues into this struggle for human rights has made a tremendous difference. I tremble to think where we would be today without this massive injection of activated faith.

But let us also be frank about our shortcomings. Let us in all honesty say that some local churches still close their doors to many of their brethren -- and many more do not speak and act on issues of racial justice which arise in their communities.

It is sometimes difficult to accept unpopularity and abuse. Not everyone will like what you say and do. There will be criticism. There will be slander. There may even be violence. Too many people still prefer their own ways to God's. As the Yiddish proverb puts it:

"If God lived on earth, people would break his windows."

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This evening I wish to salute you in the same spirit in which I accept this Brotherhood Award -- not in recognition of what has been done but what remains to be done -- not as a mark of something completed, but of the need to redouble our dedication to achieving the goal of human brotherhood -- yes, even the goal of "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

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Donald C. Cook

Distinguished business leader and government servant, advisor to Presidents, and war-time Special Counsel to the House Committee on Naval Affairs, Donald C. Cook is a man who has dedicated his life to the betterment of the American community.

Born in Escanaba, Michigan on April 14, 1909, Mr. Cook received a bachelor's degree in economics in 1932 from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in business administration from that same university three years later. In 1939, he received the degree of juris doctor from George Washington University in 1939 and in 1940 received a master of laws degree from the same school. Mr. Cook also is a certified public accountant.

Mr. Cook was a member of the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission from 1935 to 1945. He was also special counsel to the House Committee on Naval Affairs during the war years of 1943 to 1945. From 1945 to 1947, he continued in government service and in 1947, practiced law privately.

He returned to government service in 1949 when he was appointed a commissioner of the SEC by President Truman. He was elected its chairman in 1952.

Mr. Cook joined the American Electric Power Corporation, New York City, in 1953 as vice president and assistant to the president and was elected executive vice president in 1954. In 1960, he was elected a member of the Board of Directors of the parent company, American Electric Power Company, Inc., and a member of its executive committee. In 1961, he became the president and chief executive officer.

He is associated with various universities and educational institutions as advisor and trustee; holds the 1965 Herbert H. Lehman Medal of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; is advisor to the Office of Economic Opportunity; this year received the C. Walter Nichols Award from New York University Business School, and holds two honorary degrees from the University of Michigan and Pikeville College in Kentucky.

Yet, it is not only for those many achievements, but more for his deep devotion to the moral and spiritual values of our Judeo-Christian tradition and for his unselfish service to the welfare and development of his country that Mr. Donald C. Cook is being honored.

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Hubert H. Humphrey

Statesman, humanitarian and eloquent spokesman for human rights, Hubert Horatio Humphrey throughout his career has probably been best known for his vigorous and uncompromising championing of the American ideal of "*one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*"

Born in Wallace, South Dakota on May 27, 1911, Mr. Humphrey received a degree from the Denver College of Pharmacy in 1933 and then went on to get his bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in 1939 and his master's degree from Louisiana State University in 1940.

He was elected Mayor of Minneapolis in 1945 and was re-elected in 1947. He was elected to the United States Senate from the State of Minnesota in 1948 and re-elected in 1954 and 1960. He was elected Senate Majority Whip in 1961. In August of 1964, he was nominated as the Democratic candidate for Vice President of the United States, and was elected to that office in November of the same year.

He is Chairman of the National Aeronautics and Space Council, Chairman of the Peace Corps Advisory Council, Honorary Chairman of the National Advisory Council of Economic Opportunity, Chairman of the Special Cabinet Task Force on "Travel USA", member of the National Security Council, member of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institute and Chairman of the Cabinet Task Force on Youth Opportunity. At the request of President Johnson, Vice President Humphrey has helped coordinate and implement the Federal government's responsibilities in the area of Civil Rights and the War on Poverty.

From the beginning of his political career at the municipal level, and on to the time he emerged as a national political figure when, as still Mayor of Minneapolis and only a candidate for the U.S. Senate, he successfully waged and won a floor victory at the Democratic National Convention in 1948 forcing his party to accept its strongest Civil Rights platform in history, and on down to his present role as Vice President of the United States, he has distinguished himself as a fearless and courageous public servant, dedicated above all to the furtherance of the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.



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