

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.

To: Ruth Felt

From: Julie

Congressman George Grider
Weekly Radio Program "Washington Report"
WDIA, Memphis

Recorded 4/1/66
Broadcast 4/3/66

MR. GRIDER: Folks, I want you all to meet Mr. Hubert Horatio
Humphrey, the Vice President of the United States.

MR. HUMPHREY: Well, thank you very much Congressman Grider.
You do me the high honor of using my middle name.
That became somewhat public property about one
year and a half ago during the political campaign.
It is good to be back with you in your district,
and to be here with you and your wife, Ann--two
people that Mrs. Humphrey and I admire very much,
and hold in sincere affection.

MR. GRIDER: Thank you, sir. I was very much moved by the
speech you made today to the Tennessee Education
Association. I was proud that you were aware of
the progress we have made in race relations here
in Memphis, and I like the things you said about
the obligation and the duty and the need in this
country to continue to move ahead in that field,
particularly where it related to education.

MR. HUMPHREY: Well, Congressman, Memphis has been a source of
inspiration for many communities and large cities.
I think you have done maybe one of the best jobs
of any community in the nation in your race
relations, in the improvement of your educational

system, the quality of your education, and needless to say, in your economic development here. It's nothing short of miraculous. And I tried to say, George, in that talk that as you build a base of good community relations and human relations where there is a working partnership among people, and where you improve your education, you automatically get an improvement in the economy. Industries like to come to a place where they feel there is peace and where there is not social tension, and where the educational structure is up-to-date.

MR. GRIDER: You told us this too in your speech, and I noticed it in Vietnam, and I am sure you did too. Over there the last vestige of discrimination has disappeared, and we have got more able soldiers than we have ever had in the field in our life. There are no second-rate soldiers, and I've tried to point out so often here, and you touched on it today, that we need to have all first-class citizens, and the same benefits we are gaining on the battlefield in Vietnam, we will gain here in the same way.

MR. HUMPHREY: Absolutely, we have demonstrated beyond question

now that integrated military forces are better fighting troops. And, they do an amazing job. I, like yourself, George, have been there and visited our troops, and discrimination is unheard of. As a matter of fact, almost daily you see in the press where our men--white and colored--are fighting side-by-side, and I have seen some very moving pictures, and have had some moving experiences where human life is just looked upon as human life, and a man regardless of his color or his religion fights along side of his buddy, and fights to save his life. These experiences of common effort, and common endeavor, and common sacrifice that our young people are making are going to have an effect on the whole community life of the nation. There is no doubt about that. You can't ask people to die for your country and die for a cause and to take orders and carry out those orders, and fulfill duties without regard to race, color, or religion and then bring them back home and say, "Well now, you will just have to be separated, you can't work together or live

together." That's for the past, that's all over.

MR. GRIDER: And I am sure that the people coming back are going to say the same thing. Well, Mr. Vice President, it's a great honor to me and to Memphis to have you here, and we are very grateful to you.

MR. HUMPHREY: Well, I want to thank you on behalf of Mrs. Humphrey and myself for the wonderful hospitality of this fine southern community, this great American Community. I said today that coming from Minneapolis at the headwaters of the Mississippi down here into the full bloom of the Mississippi is a real joy for us, and our two cities are so much alike in many ways; both lively, progressive, modern; both on the great Mississippi water system, river system, and I think they represent the best of our country.

MR. GRIDER: This is Congressman George Grider speaking to you from Memphis.

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