

TRANSCRIPT OF REMARKS BY  
THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
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HONORING TWA "SEE THE USA" PRESS TOUR  
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VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you very much. And to my friend, Mr. John Black, of the U. S. Travel Service ... and to the officers who are with us today from the Trans World Airlines ...TWA... and I'm glad that they're Vice Presidents because this makes me feel much more at home. (LAUGHTER) Vice Presidents Gordon Gilmore and Tom Taylor and Dick Tribbe and all of the other many friends of the United States that are with us today - members of our press and the departments of government and our good visitors and friends from Europe and from Israel. We are just delighted to have you here.

A year ago I was privileged to address a group similar to this as they returned from a tour of the United States. I have a feeling that the Trans World Airlines and the State Department felt before our visitors left that they needed someone to sort of - as we say "pump them up" - give them some extra-energy just before they departed. And so it was my privilege to undertake that responsibility and hopefully to fulfill it.

Now I have the opportunity of greeting you as you come to the United States and you start your tour of our great country.

The President of the United States appointed me some time ago as Chairman of his Cabinet Committee entitled "The President's Cabinet Committee on Travel." Now the purpose of this Committee was to entice delightful people like yourselves to the United States and I am going to report to the President that I am solely responsible for your presence here tonight.

(LAUGHTER)

Many of you may not understand fully the Constitutional system in the United States, the relationship of the President and the Vice President to one another and the relationship of the Vice President to the United States, a very very delicate relationship, I should tell you. So that whenever I can claim credit for any constructive development, I hardly wait a moment to rush to the White House to do so! Therefore, when I leave here this evening, you may know where I shall travel. (LAUGHTER)

One of the sacrifices that everyone of our friends must make when they visit our shores is to listen to speeches. Americans are addicted to speeches but you're fortunate today that you don't have to have a speech AND a lunch, (LAUGHTER) because some of the lunches are almost as bad as the speeches. This evening all you have to do is listen to a few remarks (which undoubtedly will develop into a speech).

I'm very pleased that you are going to spend two weeks with us and that the United States Travel Service, TWA and the Bonanza Airlines have joined together to make this possible. I want to say a word about Bonanza because TWA is so well represented here tonight and I'm sure Bonanza is too and I just haven't got around to seeing all of them.

But that airline, one of our domestic airlines, is out in the Western part of our land and in the Southwest in particular, in the great states of New Mexico and Arizona and Nevada and that area and the Rocky Mountains and the Desert Country ... and you're going to see some beautiful country when you go there. It's very different from here. This area of America is verdant, it's covered with trees and shrubbery and foilage of all kinds, but in the West of our great land there are the mountains - beautiful mountains - the deep canyons and valleys and rivers and the desert. I'm one that likes the desert very very much. I was in Phoenix, Arizona, in the Southwestern part of the United States - right next to our Sister Republic of Mexico - spending a few days there and I enjoyed it so much; it's warm and dry and it's high and the air is clear; there's no smog, you can see for a hundred miles ... and it is literally the truth.

Two weeks ago, in fact, just two weeks ago this past weekend, I was in Colorado Springs, Colorado, a Western state in the Rocky Mountains, where our United States Air Force Academy is located. And on that day I visited the Academy - located at an elevation of 7000 feet above sea level - you could see over one hundred miles, perfectly clear skies and the air is clear and crisp, no industrial smog, no heavy air, just wonderful invigorating climate.

So I want to share with you my thoughts about that part of America.

Now I know where you're going to go and I want to comment on these places. Once again I wish to say to my friends of TWA, of the United States Travel Service and the State Department and Bonanza Airlines ... that the State of Minnesota IS in the United States of America! (LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE) I must say however that the sponsors of your tour have been very objective and impartial - they have excluded both Texas and Minnesota. (LAUGHTER) If you should hear next year that TWA is no longer in operation why ... (LAUGHTER) no more will be said.

I know that tomorrow you will journey to Cape Kennedy, our great Space Center. It is my privilege as an officer of

this Government to be Chairman of our Space Council. This is the structure that coordinates all of the space activities of our Government. If you have not visited Cape Kennedy, you will find it truly inspiring and, in fact, you will find it almost overwhelming. You will have a very fine tour and discussion of the facilities at Cape Kennedy and you will never again, at least in the immediate future, see anything quite like it. The developments there in terms of the structures that we have constructed for our space flights are really phenomenal, well, they're "out of this world" ... and I guess that's the best way to put it. Or, at least, they help get you out of this world.

And from there you will go to a beautiful city that is our Riviera, may I say to our French and Italian friends ... Miami and Miami Beach ... very lovely, very beautiful, and a fine wonderful city. We're very proud of Miami because it brings together people of all the different races and creeds and cultures and religions in our country. We have many people of Latin American extraction, particularly from Cuba, but from many other parts of Latin America ... we have many of our fellow Americans, our Negro Americans ... we have many people of the Jewish community, many people of the Protestant and Catholic

community ... all the different races and religions... and they live together very peacefully, in fact, very prosperously, I might add, too! (LAUGHTER) You will enjoy it, I know, very much.

And then I gather you will journey to St. Louis. Now I'm a sort of travel director in the United States and I've traveled a great deal in our country and St. Louis, Missouri is the gateway to the opening of the West in our country a hundred years ago. St. Louis was the opening of the covered wagon tours. Whenever you see the Western films of the cowboy days in America - and you in Europe do see them now just as we do and we sympathize with you on occasion just as you can sympathize with us ... (LAUGHTER) ... but they're a part of the American legend and a part of America's background and culture.

St. Louis was the gateway where the brave and the pioneering people forged to the West across the deserts and the mountains to the Pacific. And a magnificent arch has been constructed there that will really symbolize the gateway to the new part of America, from the Eastern Seaboard in and across the Mississippi to the West.

You'll go to Detroit, a great industrial city, the

automotive capital of the world, and a very fine, modern city, extremely fine city.

And to San Francisco that is unique in its own right with its magnificent Bay, the San Francisco Bay, the Golden Gate Bridge, the hills of that city on which the beautiful homes have been constructed... and I want to say if you want a good meal, some good food that you'll remember in America, there's only one other place outside of Minneapolis, Minnesota that I can recommend (LAUGHTER) ... and that's San Francisco. It's truly a city with character, it's a magnificent, beautiful city, and we're very proud of it.

And then you'll go to another city that has a character of its own because it's so massive in its extent, Los Angeles, California ... with our movie industry, our great electronics industry, our aircraft industry, our space facilities, and a very lovely city as well.

Now I notice that after you leave Los Angeles there's some hope that you'll have a little money left and, by the way, I want to get on that subject for a moment. We hope... we want you to know that we want you here not only because of WHO you are and WHAT you are but in case you haven't heard, could you

just leave a little money with us! (LAUGHTER) The President reminds us always of the balance-of-payments problem and whenever I see a friend of mine, he's going to your country. And I always have to explain to the government that this is a trip that is necessary - and I'm glad to know that you're here with us now.

And you're going to go to Las Vegas and I want to say that if you come out of there with any money you're better even than I thought you were! (LAUGHTER) But it's an attractive city and you'll enjoy it very, very much.

And to the Grand Canyon, which is one of the wonders of the world, beautiful, magnificent Grand Canyon ... it's awesome, it's inspiring, to see the Grand Canyon. And for those of you who feel that you've over-eaten or had a few refreshments beyond which was your normal diet, you just take a walk UP the Grand Canyon (not down)... I tried both ... you can get down, but come UP...

And to Kansas City, one of our great Midwestern cities, on the Missouri River... a very, very fine river... and please go to Independence, Missouri ... and if the Trans World Airlines and the U. S. Travel Service and Bonanza haven't

arranged for you to go to Independence, Missouri - you just cancel them out right then and there and get your own bus and go over to see Mr. Truman, our beloved former President of the United States, and see the Truman Library. You'll all want to see it because so much of your own country, so much of the history of your own countries, is to be found there in the Truman Library.

And then you'll come back to one of our villages - known as New York City. There is no other place like New York - just as I suppose you can all say about your own country - there is always one city that stands out that's more than the nation itself. Well, New York is much MORE than America. Every time I go there it's a new experience for me and I've been there thousands of times, but I always like to go. I can't say that I can always confront that traffic that they have there, but for you from Rome and Paris and London, it won't be too much, you've been used to it. New York you will love.

May I make a suggestion? Go to the Modern Art Museum - you'll like it very much. It's one of the finest. I know you'll visit the United Nations (and you should) - and I trust you will take time to do some of the things that we

ordinary tourists do: Go down to the Battery and get on one of those old boats and just go across to Liberty Island and Staten Island and just see how the rest of us live. I want to let you in on a secret - everybody in America is not rich - most of us are like the Vice President. And there are even more that are perhaps a little less fortunate than he is.

This is a country of good people, friendly people, you'll find them very friendly, and I hope you'll find them hospitable and courteous. I think you will.

And may I say that when you return I hope that you can say that you found a nation that was interested in people and not things. We have many wonderful things in America, many wonderful material goods... we have wealth in many areas, but we also have some poverty; we have beauty and we're trying to do more about it, but occasionally you will find something that is not so beautiful. You'll find it very much like home - folks that you've lived with.

But I hope that you'll find above all a people that you can describe in your columns and your press and your media, a people that are friendly and hospitable and a people that

are enquiring in mind, that they are seeking to learn from you ... and people that open their doors to you and open their hearts to you. I think you'll find that.

When we travel in your countries we always find your people delightful and we trust that when you're here you'll have the same experience. And, if you do, you might suggest to those who like to learn more about the world in which they live that we welcome them here and we'll go out of our way to make a journey of your fellow citizens from your respective countries an enjoyable experience in this land that you now visit.

Thank you very much. (APPLAUSE)

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