

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
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Monday, May 2, 1966

STATEMENT BY VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY ANNOUNCING
"WASHINGTON BRIEFING FOR YOUNG AMERICANS"

Tomorrow we will begin an experimental and innovative ^{creative} program to help make the Nation's Capital--and the activities of our government--come alive for thousands of visiting and local high school students. We are calling this program the Washington Briefing for Young Americans and we hope it will become a permanent ^{useful} part of every student's trip to Washington.

The Washington Briefing consists of three activities: 3

--a morning and afternoon briefing at the Departmental Auditorium where talented young ~~young~~ men and women from State and Defense Departments and from NASA will outline exciting new governmental activities based on the theme "The promise of discovery;"

--an evening musical pageant "The Stages of Freedom" on May 4 at Constitution Hall and May 12 at the Washington Monument Grounds, featuring Dr. Howard Mitchell and the Washington National Symphony and TV actor Richard Chamberlain (Dr. Kildare) as narrator;

--a special exhibit on manned space flight outside the Departmental Auditorium sponsored by The Smithsonian

McDermott + White

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Institution featuring the GT-4 capsule from which Astronaut Edward White made his historic walk in space--the first time the capsule has been displayed publicly in Washington;

↳ We have with us this morning a number of persons who will participate in, or who have helped plan, this exciting program:

--Mrs. Robert S. McNamara, who has been a charming and effective advocate for providing this type of ~~exposure~~ ^{education and instruction} to our high school students.

--Richard Chamberlain (TV's Dr. Kildare), who will narrate the morning and afternoon Washington Briefing programs on ~~the~~ ^{the} Tuesday and the evening "Stages of Freedom" program on ~~the~~ ^{the} Wednesday evening. — Gregory Peck — Next week.

--Dr. Howard Mitchell, Musical Director of the Washington National Symphony, who will present symphonic and choral selections in the "Stages of Freedom" pageant, as part of the Symphony's "Music for Young America" series.

--The ~~young~~ ^{talented} men and women from State and Defense Departments and from NASA who will describe their exciting activities for our high school visitors. These include:

James Cooper, a 31-year old Nebraskan now in the office of the Gemini program director. He helps plan all the "simulation" for the astronauts--the effort to create, here on the ground, every situation the Gemini crews could possibly face while in orbit.

Richard Halpern, 35, also with NASA. He works on the unmanned Orbiting Solar Observatory project, and is currently getting ready for the launch of their third satellite early this summer.

Terry Jorris, 26-year old Air Force Captain from Mankato, Minnesota. He was instrumental in developing a new type of space sextant which astronauts used for navigating one of the recent Gemini flights.

Harriet Isom, 29, a Mills College graduate who joined the Foreign Service in 1961 and served from 1962 to 1964 as vice consul in ^{Ko-ala} Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. After a tour in the placement office of the Department of State, she will go to the west African country of Niger as an economic officer.

Daniel Clare, 27-year old Foreign Service Officer from New Jersey who served from 1963 to 1965 with the consulate in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Behind him on the screen, as he talks, will be clips from the film, "The Unending Struggle, dealing with State Department operations in Ecuador. Clare currently helps arrange the appearances and presentations of American delegates to international conferences.

Navy Lieutenants Christopher Bent and Edward Carey. They served with the helicopter recovery team on the Gemini 6 flight. Bent is a frogman for the capsule-recovery. Carey is with the helicopter crew.

--Other persons who are assisting us in the evening "Stages of Freedom" pageant, including:

Ailene Goodman, folk singer,

Colonel Ringler of the U. S. Army 3rd Infantry,

Father Gilbert V. Hartke, Director of the Catholic University Players,

Robert McKendrix, Producer, and

Beatrice Gilkes, Director of the McKinley High School Chorus.

The Briefings project calls for identical one-hour programs, twice daily at 10 A.M. and 1:30 P.M., Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, May 3, 4 and 5 and again May 10, 11 and 12. All programs are in the Departmental Auditorium, 13th and Constitution Avenue except for the May 4 briefing, which will be in the Department of Commerce Auditorium.

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TRANSCRIPT OF WASHINGTON BRIEFING FOR
YOUNG AMERICANS AT DEPARTMENTAL AUDITORIUM,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAY 3, 1966

10 AM to 11 AM

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Opening Remarks of
Vice President:

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"Once again good morning, and welcome to our premiere showing of the Washington Briefing for Young Americans. You are involved in a first, but first of all may I have the privilege of introducing the very remarkable and charming lady that has been of such help to us in making this program possible and I particularly want to call your attention to the govnt agencies also that have joined in helping us design and prepare this program. The cabinet wives: Mrs. McNamara has more or less served as the Chairman of the Cabinet Wives in this endeavor and I would like to have Mrs. McNamara stand so we can see her. I am sure I do not need to tell you that she is the very charming lovely wife of Sec. of Defense. Mrs. Rusk, wife of the Sec. of State; Mrs. Fowler, wife of Sec. of Treasury; Mrs. Weaver, wife of the Housing and Urban Development; and Mrs. Gardner, wife of Sec. of Health, Education & Welfare. And to the NASA organization, the National Aeronautics and Space Agency and to the Department of Defense, the Department of the Interior, General Services Adm., and particularly to the National Park Service we want to extend our thanks for your cooperation in making this first showing and performance of Washington Briefings for Young Americans possible. Let me just quickly tell you a little bit about it. For a long time first as U. S. Senator and now as your Vice President, I believe that this kind of program that you are about to witness should have been available and should be available to all the students that may visit our nation's capital. You should know of course this morning that you are participating in an experiment, this has never been tried before. We hope that it is going to be all that you would expect. Might I say that we would welcome your critical commentary as to what you would like to see and hear. If you don't know whom to write, why you can drop a note to the Vice President. We will try to digest what you have to say to us. We believe that it is very important for all

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Americans, particularly our younger friends, to know what is going on in their government. It is our hope that this morning that you will get a feeling of some of the more important developments in your government program. Our narrator for this premier performance will be one of the most exciting of television personalities. . . Mr. Richard Chamberlain. (applause). You all know Mr. Richard Chamberlain as "Dr. Kildare." I hope that the next time young man that he will bring some of the nurses along, but he did not today (laugh). So let me close my part in this program for today, by once again telling you how much we appreciate your cooperation. I am confident that this is truly just the beginning and that we will be able to make this kind of a program a permanent attraction here in our capital. Now it is my privilege to present Mr. Chamberlain, your Dr. Kildare, the man who is going to tell us what we ought to know on this program. Mr. Richard Chamberlain come forth. (applause). "

Chamberlain begins narration.

(Departmental staff members talk)

(Technical)

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(con't)

(Chamberlain introduces the Vice President)

"As Vice President, it is my privilege to serve as the Chairman of the Washington Briefings for Young Americans. I hope that what you have seen and heard here today has impressed you as much as it has me, when I first heard the brilliant young members of our government talk about their absorbing work, yes, and their vision of the better America that they are striving to build. They told you alot about what will be happening in their areas of activity in space exploration and in other areas of government service which holdforth the promise of discovery. I firmly believe that this is the most exciting time in all of recorded history and you are very fortunate to be living in this spectacular age of space exploration and discovery. We are on the threshold of more sensational discovery than you could ever imagine. Nuclear propulsion systems which will carry us not only to the moon but to the planets beyond and space ports that will exist around the country to carry people into outer space on a regular basis. It is an exciting and almost unbelievable prospect.

Now another part of my job is working with the President and the leaders of the Congress in providing Congressional action in support of the space program and for many other supplemental programs. You should know that President Johnson when he was a U. S. senator from Texas, spoke out as one of the earliest advocates of a full scale space program and took the lead in organizing the full resources of our country to achieve that vital national objective. Now here is

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(Vice President's remarks continued)

an example of Congress taking the lead in an important area of federal (?) power.

Another important part of my job is serving as the presiding officer of the U. S. Senate. The only Vice Presidential responsibilities spelled out in the Constitution. I am a member of the National Security Council, the Economic Opportunity Council, but I am especially proud to be Chairman of President Johnson's Youth Opportunity Committee. At this point, I want to extend to each of you a special greeting from the President of the United States. No one in America is more concerned about providing every young American maximum opportunity to participate in this exciting age of discovery, and no one is more concerned about the government attracting and holding the talents of its most able and creative citizens, like those that you have seen and heard from today.

President Johnson has often said that the government has but one job to serve all the people faithfully and lawfully and as he attempted to demonstrate today, this service can also be an exciting and challenging life work. Now in a very sense, your government is an organized search party seeking out new knowledge and ideas and fulfilling the promise of discovery. This happens not only in space as you have seen, but in every area where there are new answers needed to old problems. And where answers are needed to problems we haven't even faced yet. Now whether it is in outer space or in the science laboratory searching for the cure of cancer, or in the Department of Housing and Urban Development, exploring new and better ways to rebuild our cities

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(Vice President's remarks continued)

and all that the War on Poverty is doing to banish this specter from our land. All these places you will encounter, daily, men and women fulfilling the promise of discovery, pushing forward the frontiers on knowledge.

Abraham Lincoln said long ago and no one has ever really improved on it, "Government of the people, By the people, and For the people." Now this is the spirit which I hope you folks today have witnessed and some of the exciting things that are underway to make life more pleasant, mature, and meaningful for you and for every American. And in just a few years you will be doing these things, exploring different planets, conquering dread diseases, serving in our diplomatic corp, protecting our land from foreign aggression, you, yes you, will be the leaders of America and the free world. And when we stop to think about it, I don't believe there is anything more important than the discovery of new knowledge and new techniques that will benefit all mankind. In the final analysis, this is the goal of the American government and the American people. Thank you so much for visiting with us today. "

(closing remarks)

" I am sure you would want to join with me in thanking Mr. Chamberlain for narrating this performance (applause). Again, a special word of thanks for all our young governmental officials that participated in this program today. (applause). I am sure that you feel as I do that the government is mighty lucky to have people of this creative ability to let's give them a good hand too.

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(Vice President's closing remarks continued)

Now, my young friends, if this performance seemed to be a little ragged on occasion and did not move along as best as you thought it ought to, just remember that this is its first time. We welcome your guidance and your suggestions because we want to make these Washington Briefings for Young Americans both brief and meaningful. We want them to be exciting to you, giving you some real incite into what your country's doing and what you think it ought to be doing. So, I repeat, any suggestions that you have, I would welcome them, as the first-nighter so to speak, on this permire performance, would you send them to us and we will try to make the program all the better. Now we are going to have another performance this afternoon, isn't that correct? At 1:30 p.m. and tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. at Constitution Hall. There will be a musical, our national symphony, with special stars and performers so just spread the word around, it is all for you. If you have like the shoe, we are delighted.

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