



FRIDAY PM'S

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY
MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR PRIME MINISTER HAROLD HOLT
WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL
DECEMBER 22, 1967

Last Sunday the world lost a great world leader, and America lost a dear friend - Harold Holt.

We come here today to honor his memory and to take new inspiration from his life.

Harold Holt was a politician in the finest sense. He was first of all an idealist, unshakably devoted to peace.

He was a leader committed to progress. He was a statesman dedicated to freedom for Australia and for all the countries of the world.

At the same time he was a realist, a master political strategist who knew how to bring reality ever closer to his ideals.

Courage - wisdom, human insight and broad experience: all these qualities were strikingly evident as Harold Holt battled to secure liberty and justice for his countrymen and people everywhere.

Harold Holt was essentially and always a man of action, of exuberant force and energy. In his personal life he was an active athlete and sportsman. In his public life he never tolerated inadequate solutions or the easy way out. In a speech just three months ago, he said:

"What is easily won is seldom worthwhile. Usually the greatest rewards are those that flow from the honest industry of a nation and its people. Without our readiness to roll up our sleeves and get on with the job we can never prosper nor grow strong."

That is the authentic voice of Harold Holt.

That is how he lived.

Indeed his was a life of rare promise and abundant fulfillment: student body president, captain of the cricket team, winner of prizes in literature and public speaking. He was elected to Parliament at 27.

At 32 he became one of the youngest senior ministers in Australian history and, in the tense year of 1940, he was appointed head of a new Department controlling manpower for the armed forces and industry.

The fifteen brilliant years that followed were studded with accomplishments. He became well-known in Washington for his competence in international finance. As Treasurer of Australia in the late fifties, he was described as "one of the most zealous watchdogs of the public purse in the Western world."



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Then, when Sir Robert Menzies announced his retirement in January 1966, Mr. Holt was elected leader of the Liberal Party and named Prime Minister. In the general election the following November -- after less than a year in office -- he led his party to the greatest majority ever achieved in the annals of Australian parliamentary history.

He was taken from us barely a year after this triumph, with his brightest promise still unfulfilled.

We shall remember him, too, for his warm human qualities.

Harold Holt was a connoisseur of the brighter side of life in his public and private affairs. He liked to be with people, and had the native Australian gifts of ready speech and warm laughter. Americans, too, value these gifts, and those of us who knew him will always treasure the memory of his fellowship.

His roots were deep in Australia's past. He was profoundly imbued with her history, which has so much in common with our own -- the pioneering of broad open spaces, the raw glamour of the Gold Rush, the hard task of hammering out a federal union from proud states spread over a vast continent.

Finally, he had a pioneer's brave and sensitive vision of the future. When he began his career of public service 32 years ago, Australia still was an agricultural country "riding on the sheep's back." He helped his nation grow into the powerful industrial country it is today.

And through his personal conviction...through the essence of his expansive personality...through his impact on public policy he brought to the Australian people the full realization that a Democratic nation can't live in isolation. He understood that the sacrifice of Democracy anywhere could only diminish the liberty which is the most cherished possession of free men.

A true world figure, possessed of a world vision, he rightly saw Australia's destiny not as insular, but reaching outward in all directions toward her Pacific neighbors -- of which we are one.

All of these things brought him very close to us. And because he was so close, his loss is hard to bear.

The President, I know, feels that loss very deeply -- as the loss of a good and trusted friend. All of us today share the grief of the Australian people, and our hearts go out to Mrs. Holt and her family in their bereavement.

Yet we should take courage, because he has not left us entirely. His spirit still lives in the indomitable hearts of the Australian people. His spirit lives, too, in the ideals and goals for which he labored with all his great skill and devotion, in the work he had too little time to finish and has left for us to finish for him.

Yes, wherever there is work to be done or a challenge to be met in the cause of peace or freedom or progress, Harold Holt's spirit is there. We can almost hear him say, "Let us roll up our sleeves and get on with the job."

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HOLT MEMORIAL SERVICES

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AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

CANBERRA
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8 DEC
1967
ACT. AUST.



The Hon. Hubert H. Humphrey and Mrs. Humphrey,

Chevy Chase,

MARYLAND.

U.S.A.





Sophie

Christopher

*With every good wish
for Christmas
and the New Year.*

from

the Right Hon. Harold Holt, Prime Minister of Australia

and Mrs. Holt

*Prime Minister's Lodge
Canberra*

December, 1967



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