

FOR THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

PROGRAM	The Tonight Show	STATION	WRC TV NBC Network
DATE	March 25, 1968 11:30 P.M.	CITY	Washington, D.C.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY INTERVIEWED

SAMMY DAVIS, JR: Ladies and gentlemen, no introduction. I am terribly proud, and thrilled, as I think any American would be, to introduce, or to have the pleasure of introducing the Vice President of the United States, Hubert H. Humphrey. (Applause)

I know what a tremendous busy schedule you have and I know that -- for a moment, I must tell this to the audience, and because that's the kind of man you are. I've had the good fortune of knowing the Vice President and working on several programs during the past couple of years. But, at one point it was cancelled tonight. He couldn't make it but he adjusted his schedule and flew in and got in about ten minutes ago. And I cannot thank him enough. And I think for that alone, we here, at the Tonight Show, should give him a round of applause....

(Applause)

Now, I would like for you to tell the nice people what I already know about the-- the summer program that is planned for this summer, for the kids.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, Sammy, let me tell you what joy it is to be with you. Any man that wouldn't fly in to be on a program with you just doesn't have any sense of values, that's all.

(Applause)

DAVIS: Did you hear that, Johnny, wherever you are?

HUMPHREY: And when I found out that Leslie Uggams was going to be here, I just told them to put on the coal and get here just a little faster.

UGGAMS: Thank you.

HUMPHREY: Just a word about our summer program, Sammy. You know about it because you've been so helpful to us already, and I want the viewing audience to know that.

You were with us on January 29th when we had all the mayors in and the leaders of community groups across the nation, and you made a tremendous impact on our group there at the--at the State Department auditorium in Washington.

This program, we would like to kind of name it after you. I remember your autobiography: "Yes, I Can". And it's a great story about a man that made a real life for himself, namely yourself, sir. We call this program YES, Youth Employment in the Summer and Youth Education for the Summer and Youth Entertainment for the Summer. A yes program, only this time we call it Yes We Can, because we need everybody in there helping us. And it's a program designed for jobs for young people, for education, frequently makeup education -- kids that get behind in their school work, entertainment for young people, wholesome entertainment, in which you and your fellow entertainers and stars, and you Leslie, and others will all be of such help to us. And it's recreation and sports -- I understand you had Jesse Owens on the program tonight.....

DAVIS: Yes.

HUMPHREY: Well, he's a hero, you see. He's one of my heroes. He's of my kind by the way. I think he's a great -- a great American, and we want men like that to help our young people, particularly the disadvantaged.

We're trying to give these kids a wholesome summer, a constructive summer, something to do; a meaningful job where they really earn their own way and where they learn a skill or trade. We want them to have a chance to utilize these great facilities we have in schools.

You know, most of our communities have all the facilities that we really need if we'll just put them to work. And then we want them to grow healthy and strong; want them to have a good time, too.

So, we've got quite a program outlined and it's going to take place all across the nation. I'm chairman of the President's Youth Opportunity Council, by Executive Order, but we in Washington can't run this program, this has to be done by the people.

DAVIS: That's what I was going to ask, how -- how does the average citizen who's hearing us tonight, how does he get involved? What does he do?

HUMPHREY: Well, we're hopeful, Sammy, that in each of the major 50 cities, and indeed in all cities, not just the major 50, but we concentrate on the big population centers first, that -- that the mayor of the city will appoint a mayor's youth opportunity council. This is a broad cross-section of the people of private life and government officials. And that that council will organize a vast youth opportunity program in education and health and recreation and jobs.

And how does a citizen find out about it? Call up the mayor, see whether or not he has a Youth Opportunity Council. And every city is supposed to have a youth co-ordinator

tying in the business life, the church, the labor movement, the fraternal organizations, the veteran's groups, the school system and the young people's groups, so that we can find ways and means of directing this tremendous power in America called youth power. That's a wonderful....

DAVIS: That's the kind of good power....

HUMPHREY: ....it's a wonderful power for good if we can properly direct it.

DAVIS: And you intend -- if I'm not mistaken -- to deal with the -- the hardcore cases?

HUMPHREY: Yes. Well, as a matter of fact, Sammy, that's really where we'd like to put our emphasis but it's for young people all across the board, so to speak, but we -- so many of young people today that just don't have a break. You know them; I know them.

DAVIS: Yes.

HUMPHREY: And we need to see to it that they get a special chance, an extra chance. We are asking 200,000 jobs from private industry for the hard-core unemployed teenager.

Now, what do we mean by a hard-core? We mean the kid that's a school dropout or maybe that has no skill, never had a job in his life. Maybe a person that is just sort of sour with the world. But they can be brought back. You know, really, I call this a life-saving project, and that's really what it boils down to, you're saving lives.

And then what else do we do? Well, we're -- we're hopeful that we can open up swimming pools. Let me give you just one good example: Every country club has a swimming pool.

DAVIS: Hear, hear.

HUMPHREY: Now, why not let that swimming pool be used for some disadvantaged boy or girl. Bring them on in....

DAVIS: Absolutely.

UGGAMS: (Off mike, unintelligible)

HUMPHREY: Sure. The bus companies will provide free transportation frequently and you can bring children on in a couple of times a week and give them a chance for a good outing in a wholesome swimming pool. Oh, there's so many things we can do.

DAVIS: There's -- there was an incident, sir, last summer when unfortunate things were happening in Newark, the country club about 20 miles away in Jersey was bussing in kids.

And it had started long before the riot. They were bussing in kids, and during this whole conflict that we going on, they kept the kids coming in....

HUMPHREY: Yes.

DAVIS: But they were the first country club to do it, and when you said country clubs, it would be a marvelous thing all through our nation if they did it because who sits there except a couple of tired golfers and their wives, you know.

HUMPHREY: Well, I'll tell you, it adds a lot of meaning to -- to a social experience such as a country club offers if you can use it for some of the needy.

Let me tell you a story about all of the trouble last summer. Do you know that not-- I believe this is an accurate statement -- that not a single school was damaged in all of the trouble last summer and not a single youth center or neighborhood youth center was damaged. Young people look to find their schools and they look to find their youth centers as a place of hope, as a chance, a place for a chance in life.

Now, a great American poet by the name of Thomas Wolfe once said, Sammy, that the -- that the promise of America -- he wrote a poem about the promise of America and he said, everyman his chance; everyman the right to live and the right to work and to make something of himself. Now, that's what the Youth Opportunity program's about. And we're not trying to do it just through government. We want it through the private sector, we're calling upon the private business life of America. And we had over 1,000 corporate executives in Washington here about ten days ago that I visited with, working to try to find ways and means of employing these hard-core unemployed young people and older people. And we're going to get it done.

You know, this represents to me the best in our country. Many people tell us, Sammy, that America's sort of sick and it's going down the drain. I don't agree with that at all. I think there's a great real awakening in America, we're taking an interest at long last in those that have been left out, those that have been cast aside, pushed away. We're going to bring them back into this great society of ours and we're going to -- the best place to start is with the youngsters, because there's nothing like this great resource of youth. And we want to put that resource to work. And you, in your entertainment field are doing this. You know, we have a committee known as the National Entertainment Committee for Youth. And this includes stars around the nation....

DAVIS: My boss, Abe <sup>Lastfogel</sup>~~Lascobell (?)~~, I believe....

HUMPHREY: Yes indeed.

DAVIS:....is the committee chairman.

HUMPHREY: He's the committee chairman and he is just -- he's Mr. USO.

DAVIS: Yes, I know he is.

HUMPHREY: And by the way, we -- we are talking about a program -- stars for kids -- a USO for kids. In every great city in America we want a USO for kids, where the entertainers will come. And what will they do? Well, they'll talk to the community about youth opportunity, they'll got out and visit with the young people and in particularly the disadvantaged youth in their workshops for music and drama and arts and crafts. And then they'll do some entertainment. But we primarily want to get these amateurs working, too.

DAVIS: Yes, that's the most....

HUMPHREY: Kids to entertain themselves.

DAVIS: It's -- it's so amazing to me in everything you say, of course it's so true, but the response that we've received -- that I received on the coast. I mentioned it for the first time, as you know, because you sent a telegram to both Joey and myself -- Joey Bishop Show....

HUMPHREY: You do mention that here?

DAVIS: Oh, yes. Thank goodness, we don't have that kind of thing. But -- and the response was immediate. I went -- the next day I was at the studio and all of the people I was working with, Shirley MacLaine and Bob Fox and all of the people said: How can we do it, what can we do to help? Because the performers realize, as you have stated, that it is the youth. And I, traveling around the cities as I do, from week to week, it's a thrill when you see a young man smile or a young girl smile, and they're just having fun. And like, in certain areas you go, and there are no smiles, and if this program can bring a smile back, they're not old men and women before their time and they get their restake in this great country of ours, then I think it's worth everyone's effort and I'm sure that everyone will help with the summer program. I know they will. I -- I don't want to keep you because I know that there was a disadvantage, they really pressed to get you.

HUMPHREY: Oh, listen, Sammy Davis, Jr., it's wonderful to be with a man who has answered every good cause with yes. And on behalf of a grateful country, I want to thank you for what you're doing for young people. I want to thank you for your service to this nation, you've made a lot of us very, very proud. And I came here because I know you want to help, you have been helping. And we're going to make this the best summer for our young Americans that they've ever had. And we're going to work with you to help get it done.

DAVIS: Thank you very much.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Vice President.

(Applause)

DAVIS: I don't know how you feel, Leslie, but I was born at 140th Street and

Eighth Avenue and I know tonight at the bar on the corner, there's some cats saying: Look at that cat talking to the Vice President.

Oh, I'm sorry, I got to say something else: Only in America could that happen, baby.

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DAVIS: Now, you know we just had the Vice President on.

RED BUTTONS: I saw Robin backstage.

DAVIS: Robin? All right. Okay.

BUTTONS: Oh, you want me to do straight ones? Yes, I saw the Vice President.

DAVIS: Okay, let me ask you then....

RED BUTTONS: And I'm a youth, entertain me. And how about the guys in the Bronx, huh, who are looking in the candy store, now, and saying Red Buttons shook hands with the guy that shook hands with the Vice President?

DAVIS: Ladies and gentlemen, a warm welcome for a great athlete, a great American, Mr. Jesse Owens.

(Applause)

DAVIS: Jesse was just kind enough to hand me something. This said: Sammy, a thousand thanks. You're so kind an generous. I am proud to be your friend. Hubert Humphrey.

(Applause)

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DAVIS: What about the young black athletes of today, who feel that they must voice an opinion in terms of various protests, in terms of conditions that exist within our society? What do you think in terms of the boycott that's going on?

OWENS: Well, let me paraphrase it this way. You know when Buddy Greenspan(?) and I went back to Germany....

DAVIS: Yes.

OWENS: And Buddy, of course, is the director and the producer of this film, the number of things that we talked about. And when the story came out about the boycott of the

games this year, and I began to look and remember, I was standing at a window in a hotel, the Paramount Hotel here in 1936, wondering whether or not we were going to go to the games at that time, because you know at that time there was a lot of controversy in reference to the Jewish problem in Germany. And Hitler was preaching and raising Cain about aryan supremacy. And we didn't know whether or not we were going to go, in fact we didn't know that we were going to go until about two days prior to the sailing to the distant shores of Berlin, Germany.

And today, the climate of the times then, is pretty much like it is today. And I feel that is' the right of every American citizen to speak and to voice an opinion. But I also feel that it is the right of the American, and particularly those that are in college today, to think in terms of what it's going to mean to the future. We just cannot think today that we must have what we want today, there is a tomorrow.

And the President -- Vice President was talking about the youth. And the greatest commodity that America has is the young peoples of this land in which we live. And certainly those boys that are talking about the boycott today are the youngsters; they want to walk into the footsteps of these people. And if they're going to feel that they should not participate then I say to them, go to the games, hang your political and your religious beliefs on the outside. Go into the Olympic Village and live and dance and break bread with others and enjoy the company of other nations of the world. Then you begin to realize what it is, the thing we call brotherhood of man.

And when he comes back home if he's successful, whether he is or not, he's still wearing U.S.A. And when he walks back to that community, he has a different feeling because millions want to walk into his footsteps and what he can do for the betterment of his community, of his people and for this land as a whole, and certainly will work to make this a better world and a better place for mankind to live.

(Applause)

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FOR THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

PROGRAM The Tonight Show

STATION WRC TV  
NBC Network

DATE March 26, 1968

11:30 PM

CITY Washington, DC

DISCUSSION OF VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY

SAMMY DAVIS, JR: I would also like to take time out, Ed, to thank -- we got some marvelous wires, a lot of them. I only brought out a few. But we got some nice wires from people who -- and I brought them out not because they were nice to me and the people on the show, but because most of the people were saying they would be happy to join the -- the Vice President in his plans for the summer program. But we got one that I must read to you. It says: Sammy Davis, Jr., in care of Johnny Carson Show, New York City.

"Dear Sir: Even though I am -- I will not agree with you on everything, I am for our people. I would also like to join our mayor for you and the Vice President in Seattle, Washington." From Mrs. Meeks -- Mrs. Margaret Meeks.

Now, I want you to dig this one. This is a wild one. Johnny Carson, NBC. They gave it to me, Sammy Davis, right.

"Sammy Davis, Jr., you must be kidding. We swimming with Hubert Humphrey and other Negroes? That will be the day."

That's from Lubbock, Texas.

ED McMAHON, ANNOUNCER: Oh, I see. This one is for you, from a fellow that you may know.

DAVIS: Oh, Yes. Dick.

"Dear Sammy, Terrific show, top comedy, talent extraordinary, incredible job and excitement. All that was on my Friday show. Your opening show wasn't bad either. Things are going well for this week. I figure by Friday I will be finished planning my vacation. I won't be able to watch you much this week as I have a very busy schedule here at the Apollo Theatre, appearing with the Will Mastin Trio. Signed, Johnny Carson, Jr."

McMAHON: Johnny will be appearing, by the way, this -- this Saturday in Detroit, where I was born some years ago, and he'll be at the Masonic Auditorium, two shows Saturday night, the 30th of March.

I have something to tell you after this commercial, about the Vice

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McMAHON: You know, it's kind of a standard thing around here -- it's happened when you've been a guest on the show -- that if you're next up and I'm doing a commercial, you might try to get to me just a little bit....

DAVIS: Yes.

McMAHON: You know, doing a few little faces or something out there. It's the worst when it's Buddy Hackett. I can't even describe some of the things that he's done. But, Johnny's been back there and you have to try to do it without unnerving you, right?

All right, the Vice President of the United States was here and you said goodnight to him. Now, I'm up next with the Alpo dog food commercial, okay?

Now, the Vice President comes out and he ducks under the camera and here are 50 Secret Service men, his entourage, everybody, to take him out of the building. And they start going out, flowing out together, and all of a sudden, you say, "Here's Ed." So, the Vice President turns around and walks over and stands right there.

Now, there are 50 people behind him and he stood for the whole Alpo commercial, watching me. Now, Lord, how would I know that would be important to the Vice President? I didn't know he was concerned about that. And he stood through the whole thing, and he said, "Good, Ed," shook my hand and left. Now, that's nothing -- that's wild.

DAVIS: You see, that's the kind of man he is.

You know, when I went to Washington I was kind -- when they asked me to come to Washington in terms of the things he spoke about last night, I had not worn a tie, for instance, in about six months -- six or seven months. I don't wear ties anymore, I wear this kind of clothing. And now, my wardrobe's changed to this, because I started wearing it for a film that I did in London last summer called, "Salt and Pepper," with Peter.

And suddenly, I realized I was going to speak before this group of distinguished citizens, and I felt maybe this was a little too wild, you know. But I cannot now go back on all them cats that I know with my beads, you know, because that -- that would be like a turncoat, man, if they saw me, like, in a real double-breasted pinstripe, you know. So I said, somebody tell the Vice President, please, I'm going to come in a Mao jacket and no tie. And he sent back a message, and it just said, "Tell Sammy that we think there will be older people there, but they're pretty hip and they know he wears these, so swing."

McMAHON: That's comforting.

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March 27, 1968

TO: Ted

FROM: Julie

RE: SAMMY DAVIS TRANSCRIPTS OF  
MONDAY AND TUESDAY'S  
"TONIGHT" SHOWS

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