

Remarks By Vice President Humphrey  
Opening of Citizens for Humphrey Hqs  
Biltmore Hotel, New York, May 23, 1968

Klein

Fifty years ago there was a saying abroad in the world that every man had two countries---his own and France.

But in American politics, there is another saying---that every liberal has two home states---his own and the Empire State of New York.

So I am deeply proud and moved to come to New York, where I share with millions of my fellow citizens--Democrats, Republicans and Independents---a love of good government, a total commitment to social justice, and a passion for peace with honor in Vietnam and all over the world. For these are the substance of the daily remaking of ~~the~~ our society ~~and our~~ ~~future~~ in the continuing American Revolution.

When I set foot in New York, I feel a surge of new strength. For this is not only Fun City; it is a great city. It is the State which gave to the nation and the world the heroic leadership of the Al Smiths, the Franklin Roosevelts, the Robert F. Wagners, the Harrimans and the Lehmans...and I am touched and honored that Mrs. Herbert Lehman should stand with me as co-chairman of this fine citizens group standing all about us.

Let me tell you why a man from Minnesota feels so close to New York.

There are people today who say that I am an old New Dealer. And I am proud to be called an old New Dealer. For the New Deal was nothing less than a total transformation of the institutions and process of American life--for the people. To be a New Dealer means that you believe, what you have today can be made better tomorrow. And so I am one of you.

Some people say that Hubert Humphrey is an optimist, as if that were a charge against me. But optimism means hope. And

hope means a tough & faith in our ability to solve the massive problems we face in our cities and in the world. And optimism means that we have not lost our way, but that we are searching for a better way. And so I admit to a tough optimism, for I believe that is the American way.

~~And~~ <sup>And</sup> let me say that the first optimistic and hopeful order of business of my administration, should you elect me President, will be ~~peace~~ <sup>PEACE</sup> in Vietnam; ~~peace~~ in our streets; and peace in the troubled minds and hearts of America's young and adult generations. ~~And~~ <sup>It</sup> will not be a peace based on surrender. It will not be a peace based on suppression of freedom or thought or dissent. It will not be a peace based on forgetting America's problems. It will be a peace based on the success of workable, liberal, just programs to guarantee every American ~~and~~ <sup>A</sup> full and deserved stake in our society.

Some people say that Vice President Humphrey is the radical he was 20 years ago when he fought, almost alone, for equality, dignity and status for every man. And I answer that to be restless, to dissent, to protest in the knowledge that there is something better for millions of Americans than poverty, ignorance, isolation, <sup>Cholesterol,</sup> disease and discrimination----- is to be a radical. And I stand ready to be judged one.

And there are others who say that Hubert Humphrey hasn't changed at all in 20 years. And I answer, yes: I was a liberal in the dark days of 1948; a liberal in the empty days of 1958; and a liberal in the challenging days of 1968. And I have not changed my spots. I have not changed my commitments. I have not changed my record of fighting for social justice and the New Democracy we all seek.

But there are those who say ~~I~~ <sup>am</sup> sentimental. And I ~~do~~ believe in the hearts of men. I believe in a political and ethical ecumenical movement which brings together Black and White, rich and poor, protestant, Catholic and Jew. I believe that it is far better to base a society on trust between men, than <sup>ON</sup> ~~ON~~ fear and suspicion, ~~between men~~. ~~And~~ I believe, with Franklin Roosevelt, that government <sup>is</sup>

meant to serve men, and not be some alien power over them. I admit to sentiment, for without it life would be harsh and cruel and dull.

And finally--as if I did not have enough faults---there are those who accuse Hubert Humphrey of being for national unity. But I believe in unity of national purpose, not ~~in~~ uniformity of opinion. I believe in a unity of the best minds and the finest spirits working toward solutions of the age-old problems of ill-will, ill-health, ill-housing, and lost hope. I believe in a unity which prizes the energy of youth and respects the dignity of age. I believe in a unity of the intellectual scholar ~~and~~ <sup>with</sup> the worker whose ~~max~~ brain and brawn made this nation great. I believe in a unity of the states and the Congress in a drive toward fulfilling the timetable of needs this nation wants fulfilled.

No man seeks the Presidency to stand still while problems cry out for solutions.

No man seeks the Presidency to preserve the status quo.

No man seeks the Presidency to ~~assure~~ temporize and drift while nations confront each other with threats or subversion or wars.

My fellow citizens, I sought the highest office in this land because I believed that a <sup>23 year</sup> record of liberalism can do the job.

I sought the office of Presidency because I believed ~~that~~ America has given me the maturity and the wise judgment needed for difficult and hard decisions.

I sought the Presidency not for honor, and not for power, but to use it---for the people.

I sought the Presidency to give back to America what it, in its majesty and bounty, has given to me.

And with your hand...and your heart...and the ~~prayers~~ prayers of your spirit... <sup>We</sup> I shall achieve it....

###

Vice President's Remarks

New York City -- May 23, 1968

Opening of United Democrats for Humphrey Headquarters

⊗ Mrs Lehman  
⊗ Bus Meyers  
Empire State } Bill Shea  
                  } Geo Becker

---

⊗ All-Democr  
Rally

---

N.Y. Citizens  
for Humphrey

---

Committee!

(see other side)

Scenario - 3

- Frank O'Connor  
- Mayor Wagner  
- Mrs. Humrich

Mrs. O'Connor  
Patron  
- Mrs. Wagner  
H-11  
Lawrence  
Social Justice

To N.Y.

Sen Kennedy  
to S. Dak -  
Humphrey  
Huron S. Dak.

12:10 p. m.

On your arrival at Humphrey Headquarters, a large crowd will be gathered on the sidewalk and adjacent street to welcome you. Mrs. Herbert (Edith) Lehman will greet you as you leave your car; proceed directly to the platform with Mrs. Lehman, George Backer and Bill Shea.

12:20 p. m.

Mrs. Lehman will give a brief introduction followed by your remarks formally opening the New York State Citizens for Humphrey Headquarters.

12:35 p. m.

Accompanied by Mrs. Lehman, George Backer and Bill Shea, proceed to the entrance where you will cut the ribbon and proceed inside.

(+) Bob Wagner  
ambassador!

Joel Berson has suggested that, before entering, you turn to the gathering and extend an invitation to them to follow you into the store front.

Al Smith

A photographer will be on hand to take pictures.

Life Schutzy &  
Pursuit of  
Happiness

12:50 p. m.

There is only a brief time allotted for the visit and photos with the campaign workers in order to permit you time to return to the Waldorf Astoria and freshen up prior to your luncheon with George Ball and guests.

Depart from the Biltmore Hotel and proceed to the Waldorf-Astoria. The press will remain at the Biltmore and will not join you again until that evening. Arrangements have been made to take care of their needs for the afternoon (press room, food, drink, the works).

Adams

1:00 p. m.

Arrive at the Waldorf, proceed to 42-H to freshen up before you have lunch with George Ball.

- Steady of Humors  
- Steady of confidence  
" " Faith  
" " Ideals  
" "  
" "

1:15 p. m.

Proceed from the Andreas suite to 42-C. John Rielly has made the arrangements for this luncheon in Bill Benton's suite. The luncheon will last for approximately two hours.

I cannot lead from  
Dignity, Doubt, fear!

SPEECH

BY

VICE-PRESIDENT

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Waldorf Astoria Hotel  
Park Avenue & 48th Street  
New York, New York  
May 23, 1968  
11:30 A.M.

Herbert Kroll,  
Reporter

Sansom Reporting, Inc.  
5 Beekman Street  
New York, New York  
Be. 3-3381.

## APPEARANCES:

VICE-PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

HON. ROBERT F. WAGNER

FRANK D. O'CONNOR

MAE GUROVICH

MRS. GUREVICH: It truly gives me a great deal of pleasure to welcome all of you distinguished Democrats, Delegates and Alternates. We thank you very much for coming.

Now, we Democrats assembled in this room, this very morning, are here because we are convinced that Hubert H. Humphrey in the White House would provide the leadership of reason and responsibility for the security and future of the American people.

(Applause.)

As part of insuring this leadership for New York State, we have two men, who by their own demonstration of their public service, leave no doubt that they will lead us to victory in Chicago.

(Applause.)

It is now my privilege and pleasure to introduce to you a man who all of his adult life served the people of New York City, first as an Assemblyman, then as a Building Commissioner, and then moved on to Manhattan Borough President, and for twelve years devoted his capabilities, judgment and knowledge to the smooth running of the greatest city in the world.

Presently he is Chairman of the National

All-American Council.

I am pleased to present Mayor Robert F. Wagner.

(Standing ovation.)

MAYOR WAGNER: Thank you very much.

Mae, and Vice-President Humphrey, and my good dear friends, Frank O'Connor, and Mrs. O'Connor, and my wife, and my fellow Democrats:

I know we are here to listen primarily and be inspired by the presence of our great candidate Hubert Humphrey, and as I have said on many occasions, I am very, very proud as a New Yorker and as an American to support him for our nomination.

I have known him now well over twenty years, and I was one of those in 1948 at the Convention who cheered him on when he made his great fight for civil rights in this country; and that marked the beginning of bringing the full benefits, or many of the benefits of democracy to our fellow Americans.

He was a great Mayor of an important city.

He knows the problems of the cities.

He was a great United States Senator for some sixteen years, and of course, a distinguished and brilliant Vice-President of the United States, who knows better than anybody else, except, perhaps,

the President himself, of the grave responsibilities and the work that must go into solving the problems in the years ahead.

I know that all of us will do everything we can to help you campaign for Delegates to the Convention, because I am sure that a group such as is represented here, we have the finest part of our Democratic Party in New York State, and we will do our share to make sure that the nomination goes to Hubert Humphrey, and in that way make a contribution, not so much to ourselves, not so much to the Democratic Party, but for the future of this country and the kind of a country we want to hand down to our children.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

MRS. GUREVICH: Now, that other great man -- it is, again, my distinguished privilege and pleasure to introduce the great American, a man who most of his adult life served the people of New York City very, very well as State Senator, and then was known to New Yorkers as the Fighting District Attorney, a man whose outstanding work in that office caused the good people of Queens County to return him to

that office three times; presently he is the New York City Council President, Frank D. O'Connor.

(Standing ovation.)

MR. O'CONNOR: It is my privilege, Mr. Vice-President, and Mr. Ambassador -- and I predict he will make one of the greatest ambassadors this country has ever had --

(Applause.)

(Continuing) -- Mrs. Ambassador, Boss O'Connor -- I forgot, we are not allowed to use the word "boss" any longer, but she is still my boss --

(Laughter.)

(Continuing) -- and fellow Democrats:

When Mae Gurevich was making those very laudatory remarks about the two great men that will lead this ticket in August, I began to applaud, and the Ambassador caught my eye and said "No, no; not now. Don't applaud."

Bob, I was applauding for you.

We are going to lead this ticket to a great victory at the convention, and to a great victory in November.

(Applause.)

I think you can all feel it in the air and in

the spirit that motivates all of you to come all over here from every part of New York State to be here with this great candidate, Hubert Humphrey, the next President of the United States.

(Applause.)

A few years ago in another campaign, in another day, as he was running for office, he traveled around the country in an airplane, with a sign emplaced upon the side with the slogan "The Happy Warrior"; that slogan was given to another Democrat in the State, Al Smith.

But how truthfully it applies to Vice-President Humphrey, "The Happy Warrior." He is happy in his concern for the people, happy in his concern for education and housing, happy to bear the banner of the Democratic Party in every progressive and liberal step he has taken through all of the twenty-five years that he has been in office.

(Applause.)

How fitting and proper, and how historic it is that at this time, when America has its problems and is pressed so hard, that this man is going to heal and bind up, and to lead in unity a great nation to a great victory in November.

(Applause.)

On a show just a few weeks ago, when I made these remarks, I said we had three great candidates, none of which I will say a word against, because we don't believe in fighting Democrats. We believe in fighting Republicans.

I said "This is the man that can unite. This is the man that can bring together"-- then the question was asked "Is this not an indication of a bland candidate?"

I said "All one has to do is look back through the record and the words of that ever happy warrior. Let's look at the record."

I was with him as a Delegate to that historic Convention of 1948 when this man made a tremendous fight and led the country at a time when it wasn't popular for civil rights for all of the citizens of America, and this was a mark of a great man then.

I remarked about his great leadership in the Job Corps, the Peace Corps, and for peace, and housing.

I said this is an indication of a tremendous creative original thinker.

America is only now catching up to Hubert

Humphrey.

(Applause.)

I have talked too long already.

I want to say that I am delighted to share the Co-Chairmanship with a great American, Bob Wagner.

(Applause.)

I am delighted at this turnout here today, and to each and every one of you who have no small inconvenience to come here from all over the State, I am very grateful and appreciative, and I am so happy and so proud to join hands with you in leading this tremendous crusade that will result in victory on behalf of our great candidate, Hubert Humphrey, the next President of the United States of America.

(Applause.)

MRS. GUREVICH: During my lifetime in politics and philanthropic and civic work, I have been fortunate to meet with and work with some great men and women. Today I have been given a very unusual privilege.

I have known Mr. Humphrey for many years -- and I don't think you remember -- at the first Convention for the United Nations in Minneapolis -- that was many years ago -- I was a young girl -- I attended

that Convention, and Mr. Humphrey, you were the young Mayor.

I never told you this before, and I heard you then and I was thrilled, and I am still being thrilled by your eloquence and your statesmanship, and so when I was told this morning -- about 9:00 o'clock -- that I was given the privilege to introduce this great man, for the first time I began to tremble, and it comes from the very depths of my being, what a privilege it is for me to introduce the next President of these United States, Mr. Hubert H. Humphrey.

(Standing ovation.)

VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Mae.

I didn't know we were going to be standing or sitting on a Republican platform.

(Applause.)

It's easy to fall off the edge of one of these any time.

Mae, you have already given me my thrill, when you gave me that wonderful introduction that said that you were just trembling at the thought of introducing me.

I haven't had any woman tremble over me for several years.

I want you to know that this is all worth it, if nothing else happens from here on out.

(Applause and laughter.)

Secondly, I want to tell all of our friends here from the twenty-five districts that are represented at this gathering this morning, that it's good for you to applaud when the television is free, such as you have here today, but when we start buying it, make it just loud for a brief spurt.

(Laughter.)

I am so happy that Mary O'Connor and Barbara Wagner both can be with us this morning. These are two of my very favorite ladies, and they know this privately, and I just might as well say so publicly.

I am very regretful that Mrs. Murphy, my Muriel, cannot be with us this morning.

As I was explaining to Barbara on the way down from their suite to this room, it will not be long before Muriel will be back with us.

She's had a little surgery. She is going out to Minnesota where she will be with the grandchildren for a short period.

As she tells her daughter, for a short period, then the daughter can come and pick them up when they get restless out there in the sunshine.

She will be back helping me in this effort towards the nomination very soon.

(Applause.)

Maybe an explanation for this morning would be helpful.

When I came in through the doorway here some of our friends in the media were asking me all those good tough questions. I like these fellows. They really sort of make you wake up. You may come down a little sleepy or a little weary, but when you meet our friends from radio, press and television, they ask you those questions, and you have to start getting awake right away.

One of the questions that was asked of me was "How does it seem to come to the state of another aspirant of the presidency?"

The only thing I can say is, I hope you will ask him how it seems to go into the Humphrey Drug Store in South Dakota.

After all, I want to return the favor.

(Laughter.)

The only difference is, my sister-in-law gave him a box of candy.

I said "Now, Harriet, you didn't need to do that. This is one customer that could afford to pay."

(Laughter.)

I come here as a fellow Democrat. I come here as a friend of Senators. I come here as a friend of the Democratic Party.

I want to make it quite clear I do not intend to build Hubert Humphrey up by tearing other people down. I have no intention of doing that.

(Applause.)

I jotted down a note or two here, and let me just take a few minutes of your very busy day -- we have a very busy day ourselves.

I think that you know that things are already developing under this new administration. After all, we have appointed our first Ambassador, Bob Wagner over here (indicating).

(Applause.)

Bob, I was so well pleased and concerned both at the same time to read in the press what I already knew was going to happen, that you were going to be tendered and offered the opportunity to serve your

Nation once again in a very important post in a part of the world where America needs the very finest of representation.

I want to make it quite clear from this podium that there is no important service today that a man can offer his country, than to serve in the Diplomatic Corps, to serve to help this Nation of ours and other nations of the world, to help us find a road to peace, to help us find a greater degree of security, and to help us find a way to bind up the wounds, not merely at home, but amongst the nations of the world.

I am very pleased that the President has seen fit to indicate, as I read today, that Mayor Wagner, my friend, Bob Wagner, will be called for greater service to his country.

Bob, I want to salute you.

(Applause.)

I don't know when we ought to let you go, that's all.

(Laughter.)

MAYOR WAGNER: I will stay as long as you want me to.

VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Bob said he will

stay as long as we want him. I hope he will bear with me when we talk about this.

I like this man. He knows that. I am very honored by his presence, honored by his Co-Chairmanship.

I like this man that is over here; everybody knows him. I like Frank O'Connor for his service to this State and this Nation; his service to this City.

I like Bob Wagner and Frank O'Connor because they serve their nation. They have served their State. They serve their City, and they have served their party well and faithfully, and honorably; that's the kind of people we want. That's the kind of people that we have trying to advance the cause of my candidacy here in this State and in this Nation.

I want to thank both of them.

Now, my friends, I just want to say a word or two about what we hope to do.

I want each and every one of you to carry your fight to the people in this State.

I am honored by your willingness to speak up for me.

I am honored by your willingness to say that

you would be pledged to me if you are successful in your effort to become a Delegate in this first of this type election in your State.

I do not operate under any illusions. I know that this is not my home State. This is not my home ground, but I know that it is yours, and I know that I am privileged to have in this room today some of the most effective forthright liberal, constructive leaders of the Democratic Party; and I want to wish you well, and I encourage you to work harder than you have worked in your lives -- not just for me -- but for what we stand for in this country; what this party stands for, and what you personally stand for.

Let me make it clear, I do not believe that any Democrat is going to win the general election in November by running his party down in June or May or July or August or September.

(Applause.)

I want to remind you, as I reminded others throughout this country, that as we seek to find the man that will be the nominee of our party in this Convention in Chicago in August, that we must keep in mind that that nominee will have to run in a sense on the record of the Democratic Party, not for just two

or three or four years, but for a long expansive time.

This party of ours has been the governing party of this Nation in most of the periods since 1932, with the exception of an eight-year period, during the Presidency of President Eisenhower.

We have had the responsibility. We have developed the programs of social justice in this country, the programs of social progress.

We have developed the policies at home and abroad which have made this country what it is.

Every country in the world today is going through great changes, and when I hear people level charges at the President or at members of Congress about the fact that things are not as we would like them in this country, I would remind them how they are in other countries.

We do not control what goes on in Britain or the Soviet Union or China or France or Italy or the Middle East, and yet all over the world there is ferment and there is change. There is a spirit of restlessness.

The difference is that we in this country have the means, have the resources to do something about this spirit of ferment and change and restlessness,

and to direct these inevitable energies towards constructive purposes, and that is why you have elections.

We seek to regress our grievances through the Democratic process. We do not seek them through dictatorship or riots or violence or lawlessness.

We seek the regress of any grievances that may exist in our society through the processes of petition, election, and government by the consent of government.

I come to you today as one who has been a faithful member of the Democratic Party all of my life.

I come to you as one who has faithfully served -- at least to the best of my knowledge -- I don't say brilliantly, but I say faithfully and loyally -- served the administrations of Harry S. Truman, the Administration of John F. Kennedy, and the Administration of Lyndon Johnson, and I am proud of all three of those presidents.

(Applause.)

Might I just cite for the record that I stood with Harry S. Truman when others left him, and I am proud today that he is the Honorary Chairman of the

United Democrats for Humphrey, and he is a contribution to this Nation.

(Applause.)

When the primary contests of 1960 were over, I am happy to tell you that I stood alongside of John F. Kennedy in the general election, coming even to this State, even as I stood for re-election to the United States Senate in Minnesota, and I think you might be interested to know that the only two states -- the only two states outside of the Eastern Seaboard and the Alleghany section, from that section of America clear to the West Coast that went for John F. Kennedy in 1960 were the States of Missouri and the State of Minnesota, and then when you get to the Far West, the State of Nevada. You could say that the elections were in this part of the country and certain states of the South.

Hubert Humphrey fought in the primaries in 1960 as an opponent of John F. Kennedy.

Hubert Humphrey led his State to victory for John F. Kennedy in 1960.

(Applause.)

May I say I was very proud to serve as his Majority Whip in the United States Senate.

I was proud of that friendship, and I want to say nothing or do nothing -- say nothing or do nothing -- that will detract from that illustrious record of that truly distinguished and creative and brilliant man.

I was very proud to have that chance of service to him, and then came the day that I had the opportunity to be the Vice-President.

Ladies and gentlemen; I have tried to be the kind of a Vice-President that you would expect, a loyal, faithful man. I have served the President.

(Applause.)

I have served my President and our country with loyalty; that is the least that you can expect of one, that is the least.

(Applause.)

We have made tremendous social gains in this country. I am not unaware of our problems.

I was presented here today by Mayor Wagner as one who has been a Mayor of the fifteenth largest city in this Nation.

Over the past three and a half years I have served as the President's liason with all of the mayors of this Nation.

I have had over forty meetings with those mayors and local government officials.

I believe that I am knowledgeable about what we call the "urban crisis."

I have traveled in all of the fifty states of this Republic as your Vice-President.

I have been in 600 of the cities and towns of this Nation as your Vice-President.

I have been in the penthouses -- yes -- of Park Avenue, and in the slums of Huff in Cleveland.

I have been with the poorest of the poor and the richest of the rich, and I have been with those who are the militant and those who regrettably are the apathetic.

I believe that I have sensed what is happening in this Nation, and I say to you that during these past years -- since 1961 -- that your Presidents and your Party is responsible for the leadership of this Country.

Two presidents have pioneered and experimented in trying to find ways and means to bring more and more of our fellow Americans into the benefit of this great society of ours; bringing more and more of our people into the privileges of American Citizenship;

bringing more and more people under the responsibility of our American Citizenship.

John Adams once said "that the spirit of public happiness is a joy in American Citizenship."

I have a joy in being a citizen of this country at this great time in history when this country is required to do so much, and when it has the privilege of doing so much; when it has the opportunity to set new standards of human behavior; when it has the opportunity to lead towards greater social justice at home and greater justice and security abroad. This is what this period of human history is about.

I am very proud to be a part of the Nation today that knows in the days ahead it must exercise restraint and self-discipline; that it must, also, have a sense of dedication and commitment, not merely by Government, but by the citizens of this land.

I know people are looking for new answers.

My dear friends, I would not be worthy of your trust and your confidence if I came to you and told you that I am a miracle political medicine man, because I am not.

The problems that we are faced with are not subject to instant solution, but they do call for

total dedication of one's ability, capacity, and the total dedication of a whole nation, an entire nation, these United States of America, these United people of America, and if I am privileged to serve as your President, and as your candidate first, and then as your President, what I will seek to do is not to make America of one mind, but of one spirit dedicated to the benefit of all of the people in this Nation for a better life.

(Applause.)

I note that as of late that some folks have had a little political fun in speaking of my general temperament; that they say I am a little too happy.

You know that they used to say -- I hope you won't misinterpret me -- but they used to say of Lincoln that he told too many funny stories. Well, I am no Lincoln. I am just Hubert Humphrey.

I am a concerned American, not just a concerned Democrat.

I am concerned about this country of ours; about its young people.

I am concerned about those that have been left out, pushed out many times, the needy.

I am concerned about the long-term vitality

of our economic and social system, but I want to say this: that you will not make it better by leading from fear and despair and from doubt, that's no way to lead a great country.

What we need to have is to lead from the strength of confidence and faith and idealism and confidence -- if you please -- from the power of optimism, and that's what I have, and that's the way I intend to be.

(Applause.)

Thank you.

There is no country on the face of this earth that has what we have to do with, no nation on the face of this earth that is so blessed with the resources and talent, with the technology and scientific know-how, with such an amazing, vibrant, vital, social, political, economic system as ours.

Of course, we are asked to do almost the impossible; that is the story of America; always doing what other people said couldn't be done.

This Nation does not belong to the doubters. It belongs to the believers.

This Nation doesn't belong to those who despair. It belongs to those who have faith.

This Nation doesn't belong to those that have a sense of bitterness. It belongs to those who have a sense of brotherhood and affection, and that is the way we are going to lead, and we are going to talk.

I will say to you that if the founding fathers of this Country could speak of America as a land in which they would have the blessings of life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness, if they could say that as they fought for our freedom, what makes you think that we can't talk in the same terms in this year of 1968 in the terms of a better life for our people; in terms of liberty -- not just for you and me -- but liberty with freedom and responsibility for every American Citizen.

What makes you think that if they can talk about the pursuit of happiness, even as they were literally dying for the rights of this country to live, we can't talk about the spirit of happiness and the pursuit of happiness in the year of 1968.

(Applause.)

Don't sell yourselves short.

Don't sell your State short.

Don't sell your Party short.

Don't sell your President short.

Don't sell short the effort that we are making in Paris to find a just and honorable and genuine peace, and don't sell short America. I have no intention of doing so.

(Standing ovation.)

c0e

SPEECH

BY

VICE-PRESIDENT

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Vanderbilt Avenue and  
East 43rd Street  
New York, New York  
May 23, 1968  
12:15 P.M.

Harvey B. Kramer  
Reporter

Sansom Reporting, Inc.  
5 Beekman Street  
New York, New York  
Be. 3-3381

Thank you very much, Mrs. Lehman.

Mrs. Lehman, Mr. Backer, Mr. Shea, and our lovely Bess Myerson, my fellow-Americans:

First of all, may I say that this is the only meeting in which we have had every Democratic candidate fully represented.

(Laughter)

And I want to welcome all of the sign-carriers today. I want to say to you that after that Democratic Convention in Chicago, whoever gets that nomination, let's all be back here carrying the right sign at the right time.

(Applause)

Mrs. Lehman, you have honored me today by your introduction. I need not tell the citizens of the Empire State, the great State of New York, and City of New York, what a rare honor and high privilege it is to have your words of support and commendation. You, in your own person, in your own amazing record of service, in your own great life with a very great, distinguished former Governor and former Senator of this State, you represent the highest ideals, the finest ideals of what our nation is all about and what this great promise of America is all about.

I count it a rare privilege to have been included in that select circle of friends of the late beloved Herbert Lehman and now to be the friend of and have the support of this lovely and charming and distinguished lady, Edith Lehman, who has presented me to you today.

Thank you, Edith, so much.

(Applause)

I want to thank the citizens gathered here for their willingness to support our effort in the Citizens for Humphrey here in New York State and New York City.

I was asked a while ago by some of our good friends of television and radio and press. They said, "Mr. Vice-President, how does it seem to come into the state of another aspirant for the nomination on the Democratic ticket for President? How does it seem to come into the state of someone else who seeks to be the nominee?"

And I said, "It seems just great. I have been here so many times, I almost thought about running for Senate myself."

(Laughter and applause)

And then I say in all candor that, after all,

this is just a return visit. A distinguished Senator from this State was just out to my home town. He went on into Humphrey's Drug Store and he said hello to my sister-in-law. He was going to buy a box of candy. And she got so flustered and so excited, she gave it to him.

(Laughter)

And I wrote her a letter and said, "You didn't have to do that. He could afford to pay."

(Laughter)

But we come here in good spirit and good friendship. I do not intend to spend my time in this important period of the pre-convention activities running down other people in order to build myself up.

(Applause)

I happen to think the other men are good men as well.

(Applause)

Nor do I intend to sell our country short in order to make myself a little taller.

There is such a thing as too much ambition when it gets to be ambition at the expense of other people, at the expense of your country, at the expense

of your compatriots, and above all at the expense of your sense of ideals and purpose.

So I do not come here today to ask you to vote against someone. I ask you today to help us; I ask you to help me in this effort to become the nominee of the Democratic Party.

(Applause)

I am not unaware of the difficulties that face anyone that seeks this nomination and, indeed, the election, the general election this fall.

I do not discount the ability of our opposition, nor do I discount the difficulties that our nation faces. But I need not tell an audience of intelligent Americans that our country faces many problems. You know them. You know the problems of your own city, your own state and your own country.

But I might add that the problems of our country are not unique to ourselves. All around this world there are difficulties, massive difficulties.

The question is not what are the problems; the question is, what are the solutions?

The question is not, what are the difficulties; the question is, what are the opportunities?

The question before us is what kind of

leadership are we going to have to surmount these difficulties and these problems, and I will just put it to you simply.

I do not believe that you can meet the difficulties of this last third of the 20th Century by concentrating your attention upon all of our faults and all of our limitations. I don't believe that you can win an election nor can you help a country when you speak from weakness, the weakness of despair, the weakness of doubt, and the weakness of fear.

I happen to believe that the voice of the beloved Franklin Delano Roosevelt still rings in this nation when he reminded us years ago that "All we have to fear is fear itself."

(Applause)

And I call upon this country and the citizens of this country to move away from this poison of fear, fear of each other, fear of the world in which we live, fear of the problems of our cities, fear of our neighbors.

I call upon the people of this country to stand in the spirit of this nation, which is a nation that we describe as one nation under God, indivisible, and with liberty and justice for all.

Not merely a slogan but a national commitment. Not merely a phrase to be learned by your children but a philosophy by which adults should live.

And as one who aspires to this high office and senses somewhat its burdens and responsibilities, as one who served faithfully the beloved John F. Kennedy's administration, as one who served loyally and faithfully the President of the United States these last three and a half years, I call upon you to remember what we have been saying to the people of this land.

John Kennedy said, "Let us begin."

Lyndon Johnson said, "Let us continue."

And Hubert Humphrey says, "Let us move forward."

(Applause)

And we can.

(Applause)

And we shall move forward not in doubt, not in despair, not in weakness, not in fear. But we shall move forward from the strength that comes from a faith in ourselves and what this nation stands for. We shall move forward from the strength that comes from confidence, confidence that is borne out by our

history, the confidence to do what needs to be done when it needs to be done. And we shall move forward from the strength that comes from the ideals that have moved this people for better than two hundred years.

The ideals, if you please, that are not old-fashioned. The ideals of life, a better life for our people. The ideals of liberty, not just for some but for everybody. Freedom not just for a few, but freedom for every man and woman in this land.

And we shall move forward from the strength of our forefathers who had the courage to say in the most difficult time of our nation "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Ladies and gentlemen, if it was good enough for a Thomas Jefferson in 1776, I think it is good enough for a Hubert Humphrey or for anybody else in 1968.

(Applause)

So I come here to you today proud of the opportunity to serve this land, proud of the citizenship that is mine and is yours, proud that we can redress the grievances of this nation in the democratic process, proud that we can look ahead to a far better

day than we have ever had, to a future worthy of us.

I do not come with pessimism about the future. I come with the strength of optimism about our future, based on the performance of our past and based on the promise of tomorrow and the children of tomorrow.

Now I ask you to come on in and visit us in our center.

Thank you very very much.

(Applause)

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