

FRIDAY PM'S  
MAY 24, 1968OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

---

REMARKS  
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY  
DOLAND HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES  
DOLAND, SOUTH DAKOTA  
MAY 24, 1968

I think here today of Thomas Wolfe's novel: You Can't Go Home Again.

This is partly right...but only partly.

Coming home again -- to the Doland our Class of 1929 knew -- wouldn't be possible. That's true.

It wouldn't be something anybody would want to do, either.

Wheat was selling then for 25¢ a bushel...if you had any to sell...but you didn't.

Windstorms blew the seed away in the dust...dust that settled two inches deep on everything in town...so that the streetlights had to be on all day.

That dust got all the way inside you...into your mouth and throat and lungs...and then into your thoughts and your hopes. I remember that it didn't seem worth holding your head up...or standing up straight...or thinking any further ahead than the next few minutes.

No, you couldn't -- and wouldn't -- go back to that.

Thomas Wolfe wanted, of course, to go back to things exactly as they were because it was his character that he never found either himself or the future. He was...all his life... yesterday's child. So even "going home" was denied him. You can't go back to yesterday.

This is what I want to say to you today: That you...and I... graduates...parents...all of us...are tomorrow's children. Not yesterday's. Not even today's. Tomorrow's!

This isn't "Commencement" moralizing. It is the central truth this country faces today...and presents its hardest problems.

For the order of these times is change. Not just the kind of change that has always gone on. Change, rather, that will mean...in your own lifetimes...greater differences than most of all you have studied as "history."

Forty years or so from now, one of you will be standing here. London, then, will be an hour away by ballistic transport. Death from cancer will be as rare then as death from the plague is now.

Weather will be controlled, at least on a regional scale. The world's deserts will have been brought to bloom with desalinated water.

I don't suppose algebra will yet be taken in tablet form -- like aspirin -- but those experiments will be underway.

These technological and scientific advances will be in themselves, however, the least of it.

War will be done -- partly because the price of war became planetary incineration.

Poverty will be gone -- because the inhuman absurdity of it in a land of limitless plenty became obvious.

Racial prejudice and discrimination will be then only a scar on America's history.

The world will have become "too dangerous for anything except the truth, and too small for anything except brotherhood."

That's tomorrow.

Yet even today these prospects are coming within range... coming into focus...so that they appear clearly.

As dangers?

Or as magnificent opportunities?

That depends on whether we recognize that we are children of tomorrow...that the past is our legacy...but that it is in no sense the measure of our present capacity or future potential.

I went last week to talk with the poor people camped in "Resurrection City"...beside the Lincoln Memorial in Washington.

Those people know...and testify...that they are there... that they are poor...only because a nation's habit of neglect has become a reality. For nothing...nothing!...stands in the way today of our eliminating poverty in this country...except our decision as a nation to do it.

We have the resources...the know how...the money. It costs us more as a nation today to permit poverty to continue...more in terms of welfare payments, unemployment insurance, the price of disease and of crime traceable to poverty...than it would cost to put to work every person willing and able to work.

There is poverty in this country today only because we do not yet fully sense the change that has taken place. Poverty is now an inhuman anachronism.

We recognize, as tomorrow's children, that the future's promise is...as a minimum...freedom from want.

As of poverty, so too of ignorance...or of incomplete education.

I don't mean just illiteracy. I mean, too, the incompetence that is likely to be the lifetime sentence of most of those who drop out of school before they have finished their basic education.

I mean, too, the loss that any of you in this Class of '68 will suffer if you want to go to college but are denied that opportunity because you can't afford it.

Some of you will make that choice deliberately...and sometimes correctly. If you know yourself well...and are convinced that college is not for you...feel proud of your decision. But be sure of it.

If, though, there are any here who want to go on and who are qualified for it...but haven't the means...then this is a fault, an inexcusable fault, of today's society.

For this nation has now ample means to provide every young American all the education he...or she...can put to good use. If we waste it instead on things we don't need, you are entitled to protest. And in this respect, every American father and mother is parent to every American boy or girl.

I want you in this Class of '68...Doland High School...to do this for me:

If there are any among you who have worked hard here in High School...who have done well enough by our own standards to feel that you can make it in college...but who feel you can't afford to go on: write me a letter.

I cannot promise you the help you may ask. It may turn out that nothing can be done under any of the government programs that have been set up...or that there are other difficulties. But we will find out.

I want to know...not from tables of statistics...but personally... whether...or how seriously...we are letting young Americans down today.

I want to know this especially at a time when part of what going on to college...or not going on...means is a difference in a young man's being drafted. That should not depend on his parent's financial status.

What I find out about this problem among the members of this Class will be a first hand lesson for me in whether we are... here again...failing to realize our new capacity in America to do whatever we decide to do.

We recognize, as tomorrow's children, that the future's promise is...as a minimum...the freedom to learn.

\* \* \* \* \*

So...I have come home.

Not to things as they were.

Not to things at all.

To people...to love...and to hope...changed only in their growth.

Goodbye, and good luck.

# # # #

Commencement Program

48 graduates  
15 in 1929

Processional

MR. JAMES KREGER Conducting the Symphonic School Band

Invocation

THE REVEREND JOHN R. CECIL, Doland and Frankfort Methodist Church

Salutatorian

ALMA LAKE

Alma Lake (Loves this school)

Band Selection

"Sursum Corda" (Composer Edward Elgar)  
Symphonic Band

The record of Doland

The man of La Mancha

Valedictorian

LADONNA WIPF

La Donna Wipf

The impossible Dream

Presentation of G. W. Cook

WILLIAM McLEOD, Superintendent of the Doland Public School

Commencement Address

THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, Vice President of the United States

Presentation of the Class of 1928

DONALD MENDEL, Principal of the Doland High School

Presentation of Diplomas

DONALD DITTMAN, Vice President of the School Board

Dedication

JOE MENDEL, President of the School Board

Benediction

THE REVEREND CECIL

Recessional

Symphonic Band

It is all  
So much  
Better

Amazing record

# Class Of 1968

Albrecht, Jeffrey John  
Bau, Rita Lorraine  
Becker, Ann Jean  
Becker, James Vincent  
Boik, Rita Ann  
Cartner, Kent Allen  
Cluts, Gregory Lowe  
Cluts, Valerie Kay  
Coats, Linda Jane  
Erickson, Jodie Sue  
Fey, Sidney Bayne  
Fortin, Robert Gene  
Gabert, Mark Douglas  
Gereaux, Robert Wayne  
Gross, Eileen Ruth  
Hahn, Darrel Wade  
Hansen, Candyce LaVerne  
Hansen, Linda Jean  
Harvey, Douglas Allan  
Hill, Eugene Edward  
Hofer, Cherrie B.  
Hofer, Gary Lee  
Kayl, Clenten Patrick Jr.  
LaBrie, Shiela Marie

Labrie, Ramona Mary  
Lake, Alma Jean  
Lerew, Bruce Grant  
Lobitz, Roger Alan  
Luxton, Gary Allen  
Mason, Jerry Lee  
Mason, Terry Allen  
Rahm, Cheryl Rose  
Rahm, Deanna Kay  
Rahm, Richard Merlyn  
Rasmussen, Gail Robert  
Rasmussen, Jeannie K.  
Remily, Harvey J.  
Schellenberg, Timothy M.  
Sheldon, Robert S.  
Thompson, Debra Dorothy  
Thompson, Roxanna Lee  
Troske, Heidi Joanne  
Tschetter, Janelle Kaye  
Vogel, Scott Joseph  
Wilson, Dan Richard  
Wipf, Janelle Kathy  
Wipf, LaDonna Darlene  
Wurz, Mary Jo

## Class Motto

"One Goal Reached and Many Beyond"

## Class Colors

Royal Blue and Gold

## Class Flower

Yellow Rose

Head Melvin McNickle - <sup>Tankin Airforce. 0340</sup>  
Head Maxine McNickle - <sup>1929</sup>

- ✓ Senator Mc Govern
- ✓ Supt M C Leod
- ✓ Guy Cook
- ✓ Jimm ✓ Mrs Leather
- ✓ Jarriet Humphrey
- ✓ Mayor Hofer

Rev Cecil

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

DOLAND HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

DOLAND, SOUTH DAKOTA

MAY 24, 1968

"members of the class of 1929"

Kent Cartner - Student President

La Donna Wigg - Valedictorian

NOT IN RELEASE

You suggest, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ that this is another case of "Home town boy makes good." It has always seemed to me that ought to be turned around. The bigger truth is that "A good home town makes a boy."

I see here today so many reminders of this truth ...

(Salutations)

Yes, It's a great country -- somebody said to me the other day -- where any boy can grow up to be Vice President ... It's just a chance he has to take.

Bob Hope "My Advice to you graduates who are  
about to go out into the world -  
- 2 -  
Don't go!"

RELEASE STARTS

I THINK HERE TODAY OF THOMAS WOLFE'S NOVEL:  
"YOU CAN'T GO HOME AGAIN."

THIS IS PARTLY RIGHT ... BUT ONLY PARTLY.

COMING HOME AGAIN -- TO THE DOLAND OUR CLASS  
OF 1929 KNEW -- WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE. THAT'S TRUE!

and IT WOULDN'T BE SOMETHING ANYBODY WOULD WANT

TO DO, EITHER. The Banks had closed their Doors.  
The Stock Market had Crashed.

A FEW YEARS LATER, WHEAT WAS SELLING FOR 25¢  
A BUSHEL ... ~~IF YOU HAD ANY TO SELL ... BUT YOU DIDN'T.~~

WINDSTORMS BLEW THE SEED AWAY IN THE DUST ...  
DUST THAT SETTLED TWO INCHES DEEP ON EVERYTHING IN  
TOWN ... SO THAT THE STREETLIGHTS HAD TO BE ON ALL DAY.

THAT DUST GOT ALL THE WAY INSIDE YOU ... EVEN  
INTO YOUR THOUGHTS AND YOUR HOPES.

No, YOU COULDN'T -- AND WOULDN'T -- GO BACK TO THAT.

↳ BUT THOSE WERE ALSO TIMES THAT BRED MEN -- HERE *and in*  
IN THE BIGGER CITIES ... IN THE NATION -- MEN WITH  
ENOUGH WILL AND DETERMINATION TO SAY:

"THAT'S WRONG -- AND WE ARE GOING TO CHANGE IT."

↳ AND WE CAME OUT OF THOSE YEARS KNOWING WE HAD  
TO BE HEADING SOMEWHERE NEW, THEN ... NOW... AND FOR  
THE FUTURE.

↳ THERE WAS NO CYNICAL WITHDRAWAL. THERE WAS NO  
FATALISTIC FEELING THAT THE FUTURE WOULD BE CANCELLED.

NOW "THAT TOMORROW IS HERE ... EXCITING ...  
CHALLENGING ... FULL OF CRISIS ... AND JUST AS FILLED  
WITH PROMISE.

THE CHINESE USED TO CURSE AN ENEMY WITH THE WISH:  
"MAY YOU LIVE IN INTERESTING TIMES."

ISN'T THAT STRANGE TO OUR EARS? FOR AMERICANS,  
IT'S NOT A CURSE. IT'S A PRAYER.

-4-  
your generation

THIS IS A GENERATION IN WHICH MOST AMERICANS

CAN PUT ASIDE THE DREAM OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND RAISE  
THEIR SIGHTS TO SOCIAL OPPORTUNITY. - a new Day

THIS IS WHAT I WANT TO SAY TO YOU TODAY: THAT

YOU ... AND I ... GRADUATES ... PARENTS ... ALL OF US ...  
ARE TOMORROW'S CHILDREN, NOT YESTERDAY'S, NOT EVEN  
TODAY'S, TOMORROW'S!

and THIS ISN'T "COMMENCEMENT" MORALIZING. IT IS  
THE CENTRAL TRUTH of our time ~~THE CENTRAL TRUTH THIS COUNTRY FACES TODAY~~ ~~IT~~ ~~AND PRESENTS~~  
~~ITS HARDEST PROBLEMS.~~

FOR THE ORDER OF THESE TIMES IS CHANGE. NOT  
JUST THE KIND OF CHANGE THAT HAS ALWAYS GONE ON. But dramatic  
CHANGE, RATHER, THAT WILL MEAN ... IN YOUR OWN LIFETIMES ...  
GREATER DIFFERENCES THAN ~~ALL~~ ALL YOU HAVE STUDIED  
AS "HISTORY."

! Aldous Huxley "I've peered into the future - It won't work!"

The Future - <sup>Ampley</sup> "Peered into it, it won't work"

- 5 -

↳ FORTY YEARS OR SO FROM NOW, ONE OF YOU  
WILL BE STANDING HERE.

↳ LONDON, THEN, WILL BE AN HOUR AWAY BY  
BALLISTIC TRANSPORT.

*Man will have a base on  
the moon - interplanetary*

↳ WHEN ONE OF YOU STANDS HERE SOMEDAY, FAMILY  
INCOMES WILL BE TWICE WHAT THEY ARE TODAY.

*I raised  
be the  
new  
adventures*

↳ THE WORK WEEK WILL BE SHORTER AND VACATIONS LONGER.

↳ DEATH FROM CANCER WILL BE AS RARE THEN AS DEATH  
FROM THE PLAGUE IS NOW.

↳ WEATHER WILL BE CONTROLLED, AT LEAST ON  
A REGIONAL SCALE.

*The communication*

↳ THE WORLD'S DESERTS WILL HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO  
BLOOM WITH DESALINATED WATER.

I DON'T SUPPOSE ALGEBRA WILL YET BE TAKEN IN  
TABLET FORM -- LIKE ASPIRIN -- BUT THOSE EXPERIMENTS  
WILL BE UNDERWAY.

*The communication satellite will  
Tie the world together*

↳ THESE TECHNOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES WILL BE IN THEMSELVES, HOWEVER, THE LEAST OF IT.

↳ WAR WILL BE DONE -- PARTLY BECAUSE THE PRICE OF WAR BECAME PLANETARY INCINERATION.

↳ <sup>in America</sup> POVERTY WILL BE GONE -- BECAUSE THE INHUMAN ABSURDITY OF IT IN A LAND OF LIMITLESS PLENTY BECAME OBVIOUS.

↳ RACIAL PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION WILL BE THEN ONLY A SCAR ON AMERICA'S HISTORY.

↳ IDEOLOGY WILL BE ON THE WAY OUT AS A SOURCE OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT. MARXISM WILL BE IN ITS FINAL STAGES OF SENILITY AS A MOTIVATING FORCE IN HUMAN AFFAIRS. WE CAN SEE CLEARLY EVEN TODAY, THAT TIME IS ON THE SIDE OF SELF-DETERMINATION, AND AGAINST TOTALITARIANISM.

↳ THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE,  
ALONG WITH THE OTHER DEVELOPED NATIONS OF THE WORLD  
WILL HOPEFULLY BE PARTNERS, WORKING TOGETHER TO  
IMPROVE A SHRINKING PART OF THE WORLD WHICH THEN  
REMAINS UNDERDEVELOPED.

↳ THE WORLD WILL HAVE BECOME "TOO DANGEROUS  
FOR ANYTHING EXCEPT THE TRUTH, AND TOO SMALL FOR  
ANYTHING EXCEPT BROTHERHOOD."

↳ THAT'S TOMORROW!

*Exciting, yes, and Revolutionary!*

NOW I RUN DOWN THIS LIST OF PROSPECTS FOR YOUR  
TIMES -- SOME CERTAIN, SOME FEASIBLE, AND ALL  
HOPEFUL -- AND I CAN'T HELP ASKING, "WHAT WILL YOU DO  
WITH IT ALL?"

↳ IT WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER WE RECOGNIZE THAT  
WE ARE CHILDREN OF TOMORROW ... THAT THE PAST IS OUR  
LEGACY ... ~~IT IS~~ IT IS IN NO SENSE THE MEASURE OF  
OUR PRESENT CAPACITY OR FUTURE POTENTIAL.

*We must seize this moment & move on!*

∠ WE CAN, FOR INSTANCE, ELIMINATE POVERTY IN  
AMERICA.

WE HAVE THE RESOURCES ... THE KNOW HOW ...  
THE MONEY. ∠ IT COSTS US MORE AS A NATION ~~TO~~ TO PERMIT  
POVERTY TO CONTINUE ... MORE IN TERMS OF WELFARE  
PAYMENTS, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, THE PRICE OF DISEASE  
AND OF CRIME TRACEABLE TO POVERTY ... THAN IT WOULD  
COST TO PUT TO WORK EVERY PERSON WILLING AND ABLE TO WORK.

There is poverty in this country today only because we do not yet fully sense the change that has taken place. Poverty is now an inhuman anachronism.

↳ We recognize, as tomorrow's children, that the future's promise is ... as a minimum ... freedom from want.

As of poverty, so too of ignorance ... or of incomplete education.

↳ I don't mean just illiteracy. I mean, too, the incompetence that is likely to be the lifetime sentence of most of those who drop out of school before they have finished their basic education.

I mean, too, the loss that any of you in this Class of '68 will suffer if you want to go on to college but are denied that opportunity because you can't afford it.

Some of you will make that choice deliberately ... and sometimes correctly. If you know yourself well ... and are convinced that college is not for you ... feel proud of your decision. But be sure of it.

If, though, there are any here who want to go on and who are qualified for it ... but haven't the means ... then this is a fault, an inexcusable fault, of today's society.

For this nation has now ample means to provide every young American all the education he ... or she ... can put to good use. ~~If we waste it instead on things we don't need, you are entitled to protest. And in this respect, every American father and mother is parent to every American boy or girl.~~

I want you in this Class of '68 ... Doland High School ... to do this for me:

~~W. H. G. Wells.~~  
Because Civilization is a race  
between Education & Catastrophe

↳ IF THERE ARE ANY AMONG YOU WHO HAVE WORKED HARD  
HERE IN HIGH SCHOOL ... WHO HAVE DONE WELL ENOUGH  
BY YOUR OWN STANDARDS TO FEEL THAT YOU CAN MAKE IT IN  
COLLEGE ... BUT WHO FEEL YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO GO ON:  
WRITE ME A LETTER.

↳ I CANNOT PROMISE YOU THE HELP YOU MAY ASK, ↳ IT MAY  
TURN OUT THAT NOTHING CAN BE DONE UNDER ANY OF THE  
GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS THAT HAVE BEEN SET UP ... OR THAT THERE  
ARE OTHER DIFFICULTIES, BUT WE WILL FIND OUT.

↳ I WANT TO KNOW ... NOT FROM TABLES OF STATISTICS ...  
BUT PERSONALLY ... WHETHER ... OR HOW SERIOUSLY ...  
WE ARE LETTING YOUNG AMERICANS DOWN TODAY.

↳ I WANT TO KNOW THIS ESPECIALLY AT A TIME WHEN PART  
OF WHAT GOING ON TO COLLEGE ... OR NOT GOING ON ... MEANS  
IS A DIFFERENCE IN A YOUNG PERSON'S WHOLE LIFETIME, and THAT  
SHOULD NOT DEPEND ON HIS PARENT'S FINANCIAL STATUS.

↳ IT SHOULD DEPEND ON HIS HUMAN POTENTIAL.

~~What I find out about this problem among the members of this Class will be a first hand lesson for me in whether we are ... here again ... failing to realize our new capacity in America to do whatever we decide to do.~~

↳ We recognize, as tomorrow's children, that the future's promise is ... as a minimum ... the freedom to learn.

↳ In the worst of times, we must do the best of things.

↳ So ... I have come home.

Not to things as they were.

↳ Not to things at all.

But To people ... to love ... and to hope ... changed only in their growth.

Goodbye, and good luck.

#

#

Remarks of Vice President Hubert Humphrey  
Doland High School Commencement Exercises  
Doland, South Dakota  
May 24, 1968

Thank you very much my dear and good friends and my Superintendent, Guy W. Cook. Thank you for your introduction. I was frightened to death when you got up here, as to what you would tell this audience about me. Guy Cook is the kind of a friend you can rely on, he has great qualities of imagination which will cover up the truth, and I want to thank him. Superintendent McLeod, my friend Senator McGovern, my sister-in-law, who is here with me, Mrs. Ralph Humphrey, (Harriet Humphrey), how nice to have you here Harriet, since Muriel could not be with us today, due to the fact that she is recovering from surgery, and to the members here of 1968, to Mayor Hofer, to the members of the School Board, and my friends of the Class of 1929, and that other Class of 1928, and all the other classes that are here. I wondered why Bob Johnson met me at Watertown last night and now I see it was because he wanted to come home for the class reunion. I thought he was coming out to see me. I hope that the people who have gathered here today, visitors from outside the State of South Dakota, will understand why I love this town so much. Reverend Cecil, as I heard you with your prayer, I couldn't help but think of the many days that I spent over there in the Methodist Church in which Guy Cook referred, and how many times I've told people of my old friend Julian Hart, whom we hoped to have with us on this occasion, my close boyhood friend. The son of a druggist, the son of a Methodist Minister, got into more trouble around this town, trouble which we deny, trouble which is a matter of record, and trouble which Guy Cook has forgotten, thank goodness. What a happy occasion.

I was privileged today to be met by a wonderful reception committee, by old friends, by Kent Cartner, the President of the Student Council, and

by the way, he looked like a very very fine young man. I think he has a great political future. I shall talk to him about his affiliation a little later, or possibly Senator McGovern has done that already. And how wonderful it was to hear these two talented and charming and lovely young ladies that represent the best in this school. The Valedictorian, LaDonna Wipf and the Salutatorian Alma Lake. I must say that both of you are gifted speakers. Whatever young man is able to get the hand of either one of you, he better be articulate, or he is going to lose every argument. In fact, I don't think he's got a chance. But, if ever I've heard anyone tell the story of Doland High School, of Doland School, this great independent school district, I heard it today from these two lovely young ladies, and I must say that the record of Doland in the year 1968 is one that makes me stand in awe and great pride. I have been bragging about this school all over America; and I'm sorry that every member of my family isn't here today. My boys and daughter have been brought up to hear about the wonders of Doland. In fact, every time my youngest son meets someone from Doland, he keeps probing them to find out if all that I've said is true. The fact is I haven't told the truth. I didn't tell enough about what is going on here. I underestimated it; and I hope that everyone that has traveled with me on our journey here to South Dakota will sense what I have sensed here today. What a remarkable country. What a remarkable community. What a remarkable people. Families that can have young people like we've seen in Watertown and Clark and Doland, as we've seen them here today, are great families; and this graduating Class of 48 seniors is testimonial to the unique and remarkable qualities of the people of this area. I, for one, take new hope out of what I sense here and see here. I said to your neighbors in Clark, South Dakota that I didn't feel that despair or fear was the way to

describe the future of America. When you see the young people that we have today, you can't help but know that there is a better day coming; and I want to talk to you a little bit about that. Now, Guy Cook would have you believe the message that Hubert Humphrey is a home town boy makes good. Well, I want to turn that around, because I think there is a bigger truth, and that bigger truth is that a good home town makes boy; and that's what this town needs. It's helped alot of us. It has given us the intellectual, spiritual, and social nourishment that we need to become enlightened, civilized human beings; and this school has made such a distinct contribution. I couldn't help but think as I sit here of two of my young friends one that's at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma and one that's in Washington, that has honored this school by their records of service to their country. Melvin and Marvin McNickel, both generals in the United States Air Force, both heroes in their own right; and I think you would be interested to know, some of you, particularly the Class of 1929, 1930, '31, because I believe it was in 1932 that they graduated from this high school. I think you'd be interested to know that I had the privilege of pinning on the second star of General Marvin McNickel in my office, the Vice President's Office in Washington D. C.; and I told then, the Secretary of Defense, I said, "you don't know how lucky you are, Bob MacNamara, to have a general like this, he's the best, he comes from Doland, South Dakota." And the other day somebody said to me, well, it's common talk, you know they always say it's a great county, it's a great county, why it's a country where any boy can grow up to be Vice President. It's just one of those chances he has to take you know; and it is a great country. George McGovern stole my story from Bob Hope. George I'll never forgive you for that. That's about the only thing I have against you. Bob Hope is a very good friend

of mine, and I have a copyright on that story, and George has violated the public law, but maybe I can fill in with some other references. One of the great authors of the 1930's was Thomas Wolfe and he wrote a novel entitled, "You Can't Go Home Again." Some of you have undoubtedly read it. Well that's partly right, but it's only partly right. Coming home again to Doland, to the Doland that our Class of 1929 knew, it wouldn't be possible to do that, because you can't relive the yesterdays, and frankly I don't think it's something that we would really want to do, because things weren't so good that year. The banks had both closed in this town by 1927, and they were not open in 1929; and only a few years later, well in the same period of time of that year, it was the stock market crash, the beginnings of the depression. A few years later, wheat was selling for \$.25 a bushel, that is, if you had any. Wind-storms blew the seed away in the dust; and dust that literally settled an inch, two inches thick over everything; and even the street lights had to be on all day. There are people here in this audience that remember those pathetic days, but that dust got all the way inside of you, it affected your life, it affected your thoughts, and in a very real way it affected your hopes. The truth is, you can't come home again, that is, to the way it was; and can I say most respectfully, I'm glad, because I wanted it better; and when I see this Class of 1968, I know that my hope has come--has been realized, that my prayer has been fulfilled. It is better. These young people are much better. They speak better, they look better, they are better. They're better educated, they are healthier, they know more about the world in which they live, than the Class of 1929, or I believe any class that preceded them. But despite all of the difficulties of the time that I speak, the time of our youth, those were also times that bred men here and in the bigger cities in our

nation, men with will, and men with determination. I believe that we were literally toughened, toughened in the fires of adversity; and we had enough will and determination to speak up, to say some things were wrong, and that we were going to change it; and we've been busy. As Senator McGovern said, not merely in dissent and protest, but in reform and changing things for the better. We came out of those years knowing that we had to be heading somewhere, somewhere different, somewhere new, now and for the future. There wasn't any of this cynical withdrawal that some people seem to indulge in these days. There was no fatalistic feeling that the future could be cancelled, or that it would be cancelled. In fact, if there is any one quality that South Dakotans have, it is an abiding faith in the future. So now that tomorrow, that future that I speak of, it's here. In fact, it's here, exciting and challenging, full of crisis, and yet it's just as full of hope and of promise as it is of difficulty. The Chinese used to curse their enemy with a wish that read like this: "May you live in interesting times." Well, can you imagine that being said to an American? Can you imagine that falling on American ears? Because for Americans, that's not a curse, it's a prayer. We do live in exciting times, and we live in interesting times. This is a generation, your generation, in which most Americans can put aside what was once our dream, the dream of social security, and raise their sights to the dream of social opportunity; and how much better it is to be a generation that looks to the future with adventure, with promise, with hope, and adventure if you please, in social opportunity. People who will be social inventors, rather than just settling for the promise or the hope of security. What we have, in other words, is what we know it to be. Everyday a new day; and this is what I want to say to this class today, and indeed to all of us, to graduates and parents, all of

us are tomorrow's children. Not yesterday's, not even today's, tomorrow's children; and this isn't any commencement moralizing. You get a lot of that in these commencement addresses. It's the central truth of our times. The order of the day. It's change, sometimes for the good, sometimes not; but not just the kind of change that has always gone on, but a much more vital and dramatic change. Change that will mean in your lifetime, greater differences than all the changes put together, in all of the history that you have studied. Now when Senator McGovern told you of what Bob Hope had to say to the graduates, he did leave me with at least one line that I can use from an old cynic, Aldus Huxley of the mid nineteenth century. Huxley said, "I have peered into the future and it won't work." Well, this class doesn't feel that way. Their lives thus far is testimony to their confidence in the future; and let me tell you a little bit about their future.

You know I'm privileged to be Chairman of the Space Council of your Government. Chairman on the Council of Oceanography. I tell my friends in the Congress that they apparently didn't think very much of the Vice President. Whatever they gave me to handle, whatever new responsibilities I had, were rather peculiar. They were either out of this world in space, or in the bottom of the ocean, in oceanography; but it gives you an insight into what's happening in the world. Listen to this. Forty years from now, whoever will be standing here, and one of you will be, you will be but an hour away from London by ballistic transport. The world will be as close to you as Watertown, South Dakota, and indeed even closer. Man will have already, so to speak, occupied the moon and will have a base of operations on that far away place. Interplanetary travel will be the new dimension of communication; and when one of you stands here some day, family incomes will be twice, twice what they are

today, at a minimum. The work week will be far shorter and vacations longer. Of course it will put the problem to you of what to do with your spare time. Death from cancer will be as rare then as death from the plague is now, thank God. Weather can and will be controlled, at least on a regional scale. The world's deserts will have been brought to bloom with desalinated water; and I don't suppose algebra will yet be taken in tablet form like the aspirin, but those experiments I predict will be underway; and my, how lucky that will be for the children 40 years hence. The communications satellite, which today brings you the Olympics from Grenoble, France will be a commonplace system of communication, tying this world into one small globe. One total communication enterprise, bringing the world together. Now these are just a few of the technological and scientific advances that will be ours between now and the year 2000, but they in themselves will be the least of the important changes. War, yes I really believe war will be done. It will be obsolete. Partly because the price of war will become planetary incineration. Man will either learn to control his passion, or be consumed by them. Poverty, the poverty that we speak of in America today, can and will be gone. Because the inhuman absurdity, and indeed because of the inhuman absurdity of it in our land of limitless plenty, that absurdity becomes obvious. Racial prejudice and discrimination will then only be a scar on America's history; and ideology which today torments so many, will be on the way out as a source of international conflict; and Marxism, yes communism, will be in it's final stages of senility as a motivating force in human affairs. We can see even clearly today that time, precious time, is on the side of freedom, and self determination; and against dictatorship and totalitarianism. This is a glimpse of the future that these young men and women will have as theirs, if they but will it. If

they do what Alma Lake said to us today as she recited those precious and moving words of "The Man From La Mancha", dreaming the impossible dream. May I say Alma, that's my favorite line; and it is the one message to me that has moved me all of my life. Because I believe America is the record of doing the impossible; and I thank God that I was born and raised in this part of America, where it was a bit difficult, where it did not come easy, where you were kept busy. Where you found that the purpose of your country, the purpose of your economy is not just wealth and power, but the character of the people that it produces. That's the true test of a civilization. Yes, I see the time that the impossible dream will become not only a possible dream, but a reality. When the American people, believe it or not, and the western people, along with other developed nations of the world, will hopefully be partners, working together to improve a shrinking part of the world which then remains underdeveloped. In fact, the world will have become too dangerous for anything except the truth and too small for anything except brotherhood. The verities of our lives will become the fact of our existence. That's the tomorrow that I see. Exciting, demanding, challenging and revolutionary. Now I've run down this list of prospects for your time, some are certain, some feasible, and all hopeful; and I can't help asking, what will you do with it all? Because there was one great philosopher that said, "Don't tell me of your wealth and your size and your grandeur". The question is what will you do with all these things? What will we do with science and technology? What will we do with this blessing of education? What will we do with the know how and the technology and the resources we have? We now know that we have the capacity to do whatever needs to be done. The question is, do we have the will, the purpose, the moral purpose? Well, I think it will depend on whether we recognize

that we are, and I repeat are, children of tomorrow. That the past is but our legacy; and it is in no sense the measure of our present capacity or our future potential. I say to these young people they must seize this moment, seize it and use it. Time is neutral. It is only helpful to those who know what to do with it. We can for example, in your lifetime, eliminate the curse of humanity, poverty. We have the resources, we have the know how. It costs us much more now as a nation, to permit poverty to continue. More in terms of welfare payments, unemployment insurance. The price of disease and of time traceable to poverty. It costs much more right today, than it would to put to work every person willing and able to work; and we're going to need social invention from these young minds to make the break throughs, to get us to understand that nothing is as costly as idleness. Nothing is as evil as not being needed or wanted. Some how we must find that answer; and we must recognize as tomorrow's children, that the future's promise is as a minimum. Freedom from want in a world of plenty; and as so with poverty, so too of ignorance, for an incomplete education, and I don't just mean illiteracy. I mean the incompetence that is likely to be a life time sentence to most of those who drop out of school in these days, before they have finished their basic education. This is a new day. Education is as essential as the breathe and life itself. We cannot judge the tomorrows on the habits of the past. I mean the loss that any of you in this Class of 1968 will suffer. If you really want to go on to college, but are denied the opportunity because you can't afford it. Now some of you may make that choice deliberately, that is, of not wanting to go on to college and maybe you'll make the right choice, that is, if you know yourself well; and if you do make that choice, be proud of it. But be sure, be sure that you are doing what you want to do. If though,

there are any here who want to go on and who are qualified to go on, and who have the burning desire to go on, but haven't the means, then this is a fault, an inexcusable fault of today's society. We cannot afford the waste of the human intellect. We cannot afford the waste of the human spirit. We cannot afford the waste of one boy or girl untrained, that want to be trained. So I want you in this Class of 1968 of Doland High School to do this for me. I want you, after you have taken a good look at what you have done here in this school, you've worked hard. If you feel you can't afford to go on to college, even though you want to so much, please write to me and tell me. Tell me of your plans and your hopes, tell me of your desire and your dreams. I can't promise you that I can give immediate help. It may even turn out that nothing can be done under the Government programs or under private or company scholarships. It may be that there are difficulties we cannot surmount, but at least we ought to know and we ought to try. We ought to find out. I want to know, not from the books and other charts and the tables or the statistics, but I want to know personally whether, or how seriously we are letting young Americans down today. This, the richest country on the face of the earth, has no excuse, none whatsoever, for denying a deserving young man or woman every chance. I want to know this especially at a time when part of what going on to college or not going on, means is a difference in a young person's whole lifetime; and I submit that should not depend on the parents, on the parents financial status. Whether a person goes on to college or not should depend on his or her human potential. America needs the best from everyone, not just from a few. We recognize then, as tomorrow's children, that the future's promise, as a minimum, must be the freedom to learn, the freedom to learn from the fullest of one's capacity. An education from the pre-school

age to college, if the student, the young man or woman so desires it. Let me say that the proudest moment of Doland is it's education commitment. This area, not a great metropolitan area, not a great rich area, not noted for it's industry or it's financial circles, this area has done something that few others have ever done. It has invested generously in education; and today this school stands as a monument to educational investment. From this school have literally gone hundreds to enrich this land by their labor, and by their achievements and by their hopes and dedication. I have said to many people, that Doland, South Dakota represents the best that is in America, and I think it does, because the best that is in America is in it's people. That's it's real wealth, that's it's real treasure; and the best that is in America being in it's people, requires that the people have the best of education. H. G. Welles once said, "Civilization is a race between education and catastrophe." Doland is helping win that race. This little community, not a Harvard, not even as Berkley, not a great university center, not a great banking center; but this little community has possibly done more per capita in terms of it's resources, to win that race for civilization to prevent catastrophe. In the the worst of times yes, we must do the best of things; and if these are the worst of times, then we must do the best of things. If they are not the worst of times it's because we've been doing the best of things. The important thing is to be a doer, to be a builder. To have the strength that comes from confidence, the strength that comes from hope, the strength that comes from ideals, and the strength that comes from measured optimism; and I sense here in this great audience today, as I do in this graduating class, that kind of strength which America needs. Never forget it. Lincoln was a prophet. He was a man of tomorrow. He said that this America of ours was the last best

hope of earth, and I think it is; but each generation must prove it. There is no way that we can live on history. So my fellow South Dakotans, my fellow Americans, my fellow Dolandites, I've come home, and I'm proud to be home, proud of this school, proud of it's amazing record, not just of one year, but of generations. Things are not as they were, for this we are grateful. But I didn't come home to things, because things are not what are important. I've come home to people. To love and to hope and to people changed only in their maturity and in their growth; and I salute this graduating class for the inspiration that they give to all of us, by their very presence, by their spectacular achievements, and above all, by their confidence in themselves, in their country and in their God.

Goodbye, and good luck. Thank you.



We had hard times in ~~xxx~~ those days - and I ~~xxxxx~~ <sup>speak</sup> of them - ~~xxxxxx~~ not because the Class of 1968 needs to hear of it one more time - but because the Class of 1929 ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ can be proud that ~~xxxxxx~~ <sup>this new</sup> generation has more exciting things to ~~xxxx~~ care about.

There were days I remember as clearly as this morning's breakfast. No one who lived them will ever forget them,

These ~~xxx~~ were the days when ~~what~~ sold for 25 cents a bushel.

Those were the days~~xxxx~~ when wind storms left two inches of dust on everything in this town and streetlights had to be turned on at midday.

Those were the days when it seemed men would ~~xxxx~~ never stand up straight again, or that anything lay ahead by ~~xxxx~~ desperation and grief.

Those were the times that bred men ~~who~~ <sup>^</sup> here, or in the bigger cities, or in the nation or at international confrontations - ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ <sup>men with enough will and</sup> derermination to say

"That"s wrong - and we are going to change it."

It did not breed ~~x~~ men of Brahmin sophistication - bored and above it all. We were people who lived it.

And we came out of it knowing we had to be heading somewhere new, then... now...and for the future.

There was no cynical ~~withdxxxxx~~ withdrawal. There was no alien fatalism. There ~~was~~ no ~~fatalistic conviction~~ <sup>fatalistic feeling that</sup> ~~that~~ ~~xxxx~~ due to a lack of faith, tomorrow



We'll be able to reach to the remote corners of the world on our television telephones, as easily as we phone each other at home today.

Housewives will be able to prepare and cook meals in a few minutes.

Weather will be controlled, at least on a regional scale.

Desalinated water will make the desert bloom.

~~The~~ The two thirds of the world which now goes hungry will be reduced to ~~one-eighth~~ one-eighth and the ~~fight~~ fight for ~~unconditional~~ unconditional ~~victory~~ victory over malnutrition will be near at hand...and this despite the fact that the population of the world will be half-again as large as it is today.

Most important: Ideology will be ~~on~~ on the way out as a source of international conflict. Marxism will be in its final stages of senility as a motivating force in human affairs. *We can see today* ~~I believe it is clear~~ even ~~now~~, that time is on the side of self-determination, and against totalitarianism.

Instead I see the ~~United States~~ American people and the Russian People as possibly cooperating partners -- working together in the shirking part of the world which then remains underdeveloped.

Now I run down this list ~~for~~ for your times - some foreseeable, some feasible, and all hopeful - and I can just see that question forming *in your mind*

*Who, Me?*

Well - on that one I'm not quite so certain.

If there is a single conclusion I can offer it would be that <sup>we</sup> you are not, ~~as~~ as elders, quite the same that we were when we were younger.

*Not you - but who you will be.*  
Growing older and growing up are not synonymous.

And the "interesting times" ahead for you will ~~not~~ not be very ~~easy~~ easy ones in which to grow up.

Liesure time - and there will be ~~so~~ much of it - is not necessarily growing times.

Crowded cities - and there will be more of them - are not necessarily conducive to ~~growing up~~ *maturing*.

~~Properous~~ Properous times - and there will be more of them ~~not~~ - are not necessarily times of ~~activity~~ *understanding*.

- with all your promise -  
With all ~~your~~ your comforts/- will you evade the scornful jest of Puck:

"Oh Brave New World, that hath such people ~~in~~ in it?"

The answer, of course, will be your ~~business~~ responsibility. But each generation help to set the stage for the next, knowing we shall not be the players. ~~the~~

So I have dedicated my own thinking in recent months - as I plan to do in the years ahead - to the matter of the individual, and how ~~is~~ he is going to



6  
cope with his complex world.

Recently I called the coming years A Time for Man.

I think we need that time. ~~x&x~~ I ~~think~~ think this new generation must have it: Time to get a godd grip on the new dimension of things..the system... and prepare to wr&stle it down to the scale of human understanding.

The challange of your time will not be to survive - as it has been for your parents -

The challange of your time ~~wilxx&x~~ will not be to emerge as the mightest nation on earth - ~~axx~~ for in that we are here.

The challange of your time will not be to encounter a first ~~x~~ feelings of smallness and f&tility in the Age of Mass - for this has been encountered and labelled and the Danger Signs are up and clearly marked.

The challange of your time, rather, will be to meet this new age with all the promise you can command and emerge as people - ~~x&x&x~~ whole, integral, a ~~self&x&x&x~~ self-reliant.

It has been for ~~us~~ ~~to~~ ~~look~~ ~~back~~ ~~in~~ ~~anger~~ others to look back in anger.

It will be for you to ~~look~~ ~~back~~ ~~in~~ ~~anger~~ move ahead with courage.

In the words of a ~~popular~~ popular song - ~~Max~~ There'll be no hard feelin's if you never look back - if you want to see for yourself, for a ~~change~~

changes.

Perhaps then you will share my feelings as I visit with you - and I admit it is indeed a sentimental visit..

Perhaps you will share with me, a <sup>weakness</sup> ~~weakness~~ for where <sup>we've</sup> ~~you've~~ come from...

And a compelling sense of excitement for where ~~we're~~ ~~going~~ heading.

\* \* \* \* \*



# Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



[www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org)