



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

FOR RELEASE:

FRIDAY AM'S
MAY 31, 1968

REMARKS
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES
GETTYSBURG NATIONAL CEMETERY
GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
MAY 30, 1968

The true presiding spirit here today is the spirit of youth.

Years alone are not a true measure of youth -- for a person or a country. We are as old as our despairs, and as young as our hopes -- as old as our fears, and as young as our faith -- as old as the doubts we harbor, and as young as the ideals we sustain.

The young, though, are the particular constituents and the custodians of youth.

They ask on Memorial Day -- and have the right to ask, in the name of their members we honor here:

What in the meaning of Man or the sense of civilization ever requires or even warrants the pitting of youth against youth in a trial by mortal human combat of the controversies between nations?

What are nations except for their youth?

What blindness hides the suicidal fact of the arbitrament of war?

We try to answer:

That war is thrust upon us...that we act not in conquest or in hate, but for freedom and for peace.

That our reverence for life sometimes requires us to stand against those who would deny others the right to live -- even at the risk of death.

That we have built a nation from this sacrifice...a good nation...a young nation...and thus we honor what we have taken.

That a mother...a father...knows most cruelly of all when a young man dies.

Yet the answering has none of the authority of the question, none of the finality of the sacrifice.

The answer must stand on the bitter experience of the ages that whenever people have rested on the strength of their ideals alone they have fallen before those others who exert the unprincipled force of their arms.

The answer stands, too, and its integrity is tested, by the absolute priority that is given the unrelenting pursuit of a better answer.

Youth asks then, further -- not only the Why of war -- but, if it is the decree of history and the default of centuries... whether it is right that it be invoked by fathers when it must be fought by sons denied any part in the calling of it.

We do not help the young to hold their youth by withholding responsibility from them.

We rely from necessity upon youth's bravery. We will rely from wisdom upon its closer inheritance of the beliefs we were born with.

The promise of peace lies in the constant testing of the reasons for war against youth's unquenchable faith...its hope and good heart...its hate of war...its fierce insistence that war does not need to be, and that peace has to be.

There is the hope that peace will eventually emerge -- perhaps now sooner than we think -- as the alley of history's sobering experience and youth's unconquerable spirit.

And our rededication to the principle of peace will speak most eloquently of our love of life.

These are in truth, as Lincoln put them, our profferings and our purposes:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds;

to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan -- to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations."

May youth make our words its deed.

#

Mayor Weaver
Mayor Monaghan
Amb + Mrs Rice
Congressman George
Goodling

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES

GETTYSBURG NATIONAL CEMETERY

GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

MAY 30, 1968

↳ The true presiding spirit here today is the spirit of youth.

↳ Years alone are not a true measure of youth -- for a person or a country. We are as old as our despairs, and as young as our hopes -- as old as our fears, and as young as our faith -- as old as ^{our} the doubts ~~we~~ harbor, and as young as ^{our} the ideals ~~we~~ sustain.

But ^{it is the who} the young, ~~though~~, are the particular constituents and the custodians of youth.

↳ They ask on Memorial Day -- and have the right to ask,
in the name of their members ^{whom} we honor here:

What in the meaning of Man or the sense of civilization
ever requires or ~~even~~ warrants the pitting of youth against youth
in a trial by mortal ~~combat~~ ^{over} ~~the~~ controversies between nations?

↳ What are nations except for their youth?

What blindness ^{justifies} ~~is~~ the suicidal fact of ~~the~~ ^{war} ~~unjustified~~ ~~of~~

~~at?~~

We try to answer:

That war is thrust upon us ... that we act not in conquest or
in hate, but for freedom and for peace.

That our reverence for life sometimes requires us to stand
against those who would deny others the right to live -- ~~even at the~~
~~risk of death.~~

That we have built a nation from this sacrifice ... a good nation ... a young nation ... and thus we honor what ~~we have~~
~~taken~~ *been given*

~~That a mother ... a father ... knows most cruelly of all~~
~~when a young man dies.~~

↳ Yet the answering has none of the authority of the question,
none of the finality of the sacrifice.

The answer must stand on the bitter experience of the ages —
that whenever people have rested on the strength of their ideals
alone they have fallen before those others who exert the unprincipled
force of their arms.

↳ The answer stands, too, and its integrity is tested, by the
absolute priority that is given the unrelenting pursuit of a better

answer. *based on* ~~law~~ ~~reason~~ *not violence*
reason not passion
Peace not war

and Youth asks ~~the question~~ -- not only the Why of war -- but, if it is the decree of history and the default of centuries ... whether it is right that it be invoked by fathers when it must be fought by sons denied any part in the calling of it.

↳ We do not help the young to hold their youth by withholding responsibility from them.

↳ We rely from necessity upon youth's bravery. We will rely from wisdom upon its closer inheritance of the beliefs ~~we were born~~ ~~we were born~~ *we were born to.*

↳ The promise of peace lies in the constant testing of the reasons for war against youth's unquenchable faith ... its hope and good heart ... its hate of war ... its fierce insistence that war does not need to be, and that peace has to be.

and There is the hope that peace will ~~eventually~~ emerge -- ~~perhaps~~
now sooner than we think -- as the alloy of history's sobering
experience and youth's unconquerable spirit.

↳ And our rededication to the principle of peace will speak most
eloquently of our love of life - ~~to~~

↳ These are in truth, as Lincoln put them, our ~~hopes~~ ^{hopes} and
our purposes: *in our own nation as in the world!*

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness
in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to
finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care
for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his
orphan -- to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting
peace among ourselves, and with all nations."

May youth make our words its deed.

#

TRANSCRIPT OF A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDINGS
HELD AT GETTYSBURG NATIONAL CEMETERY,
GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

MAY 30, 1968

COLONEL SCHRIVER: We are privileged and honored in having present today one of our most illustrious public servants; a man who is dedicated in serving his people in his Congressional District in the Congress of the United States. For the purpose of introducing our speaker of the day may I present to you our Congressman from the 19th Congressional District of Pennsylvania - the Honorable George A. Goodling - Congressman Goodling -

CONGRESSMAN GOODLING: Ladies and Gentlemen - it is a high honor and a distinct pleasure for me to present the Vice President of the United States - (applause).

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Congressman Goodling and Colonel Schriver; Mayor Weaver and Mayor Monahan, Ambassador Rice and Mrs. Rice, the distinguished guests here on the platform and my fellow Americans:

The true presiding spirit here today is the spirit of youth.

Years alone are not a true measure of youth - for a person or for a country. We are in fact as old as our despairs, and as young as our hopes - as old as our fears, and as young as our faith - as old as our doubts, and as young as our ideals.

But it is the young who are the particular constituents and the custodians of youth.

They ask on this Memorial Day - and they have the right to ask, in the name of their members whom we honor here:

What in the meaning of man or the sense of civilization ever requires or even warrants the pitting of youth against youth in a trial by mortal combat over controversies between peoples or nations?

What are nations except for their youth?

What blindness justifies the suicidal fact of war?

And we try to answer:

We try to answer that war is thrust upon us - that we act not in conquest or in hate, but for freedom and for peace.

We try to answer that our reverence for life sometimes requires us to stand against those who would deny others the right to live -

And we try to answer that we have built a nation from this sacrifice - a good nation - a young nation - and thus we honor what has been given.

Yet the answering has none of the authority of the question, and none of the finality of the sacrifice.

The answer must stand then on the bitter experience of the ages that whenever people have rested on the strength of their ideals alone they have fallen before those others who exert the unprincipled force of their arms.

The answer stands too, and its integrity is tested, by the absolute priority that is given the unrelenting pursuit of a better answer. A better answer based on law not violence; reason not passion and peace not war, and youth - yes - youth asks not only the why of war - but, if it is the decree of history and the default of centuries - whether it is right that it be invoked by fathers when it must be fought by sons denied any part in the calling of it.

Now we do not help the young to hold their youth by withholding

responsibility from them.

We rely from necessity upon youth's bravery. We will rely from wisdom upon its closer inheritance of the beliefs that we were born to.

The promise of peace lies in the constant testing of the reasons for war against youth's unquenchable faith - its hope and good heart - its hate of war - its fierce insistence that war does not need to be, and that peace has to be.

And then there is the hope that peace will emerge - as the alloy of history's sobering experience and youth's unconquerable spirit.

And our rededication today as in the days ahead to the principle of peace will speak most eloquently of our love of life.

These are in truth, as Lincoln put them, our hopes and our purposes in our own nation as in the world:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the Nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan - to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and a lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations."

May youth, in its wisdom, in its bravery, make our words its deed.

COLONEL SCHRIVER: Mr. Vice President on behalf of the citizens of this community, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and of our Nation, may we say "thank you" for that most informative and inspirational message

especially fitting as we are guarding our Nation's principles and doctrines in all parts of the world as well as here on American soil. We appreciate your taking your time from your busy schedule to honor us with your presence.

May 31, 1968

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct transcript of the notes recorded by me of the foregoing portion of the services conducted at the Gettysburg National Cemetery, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, May 30, 1968, and that the same is transcribed to the best of my skill and ability.



Anna Belle Little, Court Reporter

~~Gettysburg - 1863~~
DRAFT

This is a time to talk of youth.

Years alone are not a true measure of youth - for a person or a country. But, rightly so, the young are the constituents and custodians of youth.

Young people know today that in time of war men under twenty do most of the fighting.

Young men know when a young man dies.

They ask "Where have all the soldiers gone?"

And they know many have gone to graveyards.

They ask "When will they ever learn?"

And they have the right to ask - in the name of those we honor today.

For we have taken away their youth - and built a nation from it.

It is a good nation.

And a young nation. Thus, we honor what we have taken.

Gettysburg. -2

To keep our country young, the qualities of youth should have more meaning to every American.

We do not serve youth by denying older citizens new opportunity for education and service.

Or by allowing the poor to lose their youth in cynicism and despair.

We do not help the young - and most Americans are under twenty-eight - to hold their youth by withholding responsibility from them.

In our search for world peace, we must also keep our country young. For it is only with the bravery and hope and good heart of youth that we will ever learn to hate war enough to bring it to an end.

(By my count, this has one less word than Lincoln used. *h m*)

1 your feet on the ground, and your eyes to the stars, and it's
2 the role of leadership, of moving this country forward, day
3 in and day out.

4 How I remember those words of Franklin Roosevelt, "The
5 only limits for the realization of our tomorrow are our
6 doubts of today. Let us move forward with a strong and
7 active faith," said this man, as he sat in a wheelchair,
8 but he understood that you needed to move forward.

9 Somebody once said, and I remembered it, I can't
10 remember the exact quotation, "Youth is not a time of life,
11 it's an attitude of mind."

12 What we're talking about here is spirit. You're as old
13 as your doubts, and as young as your hopes. You're as old
14 as your fears and as young as your confidence. You're as old
15 as your despair, and as young as your ideals.

16 And what we need to do in America today is to get ahold
17 of that sense of confidence, that sense of idealism, again,
18 that has permeated the American scene from its beginning, to
19 realize that this nation is what Abraham Lincoln said it was,
20 "The last best hope of earth," and what I'm going to talk
21 to the American people about is the politics of hope, the
22 politics of hope -- (applause) -- the politics of the new
23 democracy, the new democracy in which more and more people
24 participate, in which people of every ethnic group have a
25 chance for their say, in which the poor, for the first time,

Gettysburg - M.M.

This is a time to talk of youth.

and the spirit of youth is our nation. of young people

Years alone are not a true measure of youth - for a person or a country. *Youth is measured in courage, in faith, in the ability to* But, ~~rightly so~~, the young are the *master great dreams*

constituents and custodians of youth, *and rightly so.*

We are painfully aware
Young people know today that in time of war men

under twenty do most of the fighting.

~~Young men know when a young man dies.~~

Young people

~~They ask "Where have all the soldiers gone?"~~

And they know many have gone to graveyards.

They ask "When will they ever learn?"

And they have the right to ask - in the name of those

we honor today.

and its sacrifice of ~~it~~ though generations

For it is from their youth that our nation has been built
~~For we have taken away their youth - and built a nation~~

~~from it.~~

It is a good nation.

And a young nation, *what* ~~Thus, we honor what we have taken.~~ *it has*

To keep our country young, the ^{aspirations} ~~qualities~~ of youth should ^{must} have more meaning to every American.

We do not serve youth ^{the fathers of our nation} by denying older citizens new opportunity for education and service,

Or by allowing the poor to lose their youth in cynicism and despair.

We do not help the young - and most Americans are under twenty-eight - to hold their youth by withholding responsibility from them.

In our search for world peace, we must also keep our

country young. For it is only with the bravery and hope and high resolve

~~good heart~~ of youth that we ^{-- the will to try anew --} will ever learn ^{shall} ~~to hate war~~ enough to bring it to an end. ^{find the road} ~~And that is truly the greatest~~

~~unfathomable work which has been done in world~~
~~devotion today.~~ By my count, this has one less word than Lincoln used.

away for war

all people we



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