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AIRPORT SPEECH, SALINA, KANSAS

*July 26, 1968*

1           MAYOR YOST: We have looked forward to this day  
2 with great anticipation. Seldom do we have a distinguished  
3 visitor such as you in our city and as mayor, I am proud  
4 to present to you a proclamation designating you as an  
5 honorary citizen of Salina, and with it, I would like to  
6 present you with a key to the City of Salina and we want  
7 to welcome you and extend to you the hospitality of our  
8 community and wish you the best of everything while you  
9 are in our city. (Applause).

10           VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you, thank you.

11           MAYOR YOST: As a representative of our city, I  
12 have just presented our most distinguished visitor an  
13 honorary citizen title to our city and I presented him  
14 with our official key, and at this time I am honored  
15 and it is a privilege to introduce to you a fellow  
16 Salinan, Mr. Hubert H. Humphrey, the Vice-President of  
17 the United States. (Applause).

18           VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you, thank you.  
19 Thank you very much, Mr. Mayor. I have never known that  
20 one could get citizenship so quickly as you are able to  
21 bestow it here, but I have been told by Governor Docking  
22 that in Kansas anything is possible and in Kansas they do  
23 things in a big way and in Salina, Kansas, they do it in  
24 the best way. (Applause.) So, Mayor Yost, Mrs. Humphrey  
25 and myself wish to extend our thanks to you for your

1 courtesy, for your presence here today, for your warm  
2 welcome, warm in every sense, warm in terms of the tem-  
3 perature. I noticed the temperature report that was  
4 given to us. It said, "On your arrival, Mr. Vice-  
5 President, the temperature will be approximately 83.  
6 On your departure, it will be approximately 88." Which  
7 means that I bring you five degrees of hot air according  
8 to the readings that I have. Mr. Mayor, you have given  
9 me a title of honorary citizen of Salina, Kansas; you  
10 have given me a key to your city. I am going to consult  
11 with the members of your official body to see whether  
12 these gifts give me any special privileges and whether or  
13 not this permits one to exceed the speed limit or do  
14 other things that other citizens would like to do but are  
15 unable to do and, if so, my good friend, Mr. Mayor, I  
16 shall give you the assurance that I will try to set a  
17 good example of law observance and respect for the laws  
18 of your community despite any special privileges that  
19 might be included herein.

20 Governor Docking is one of the great governors of  
21 the fifty states of this land. It has been the privilege  
22 of Muriel Humphrey and myself to know Governor Docking  
23 and his wife Meredith and his very fine mother, Mrs.  
24 Virginia Docking, and the former governor, the father of  
25 Bob, and I want you good friends in Kansas to know how

1 highly honored the Humphreys are for this gift of friend-  
2 ship which has been bestowed upon us by this your first  
3 family. We hope during our all too brief visit in  
4 Salina, Kansas, that we will be able to convey to you a  
5 kind of fellowship and friendship which is genuine and  
6 sincere. We hope to be able to do here, as the editor of  
7 your paper, the Journal, indicated, not only to be with  
8 you but to listen to you, to listen to your concerns, to  
9 open our minds and our hearts to the worries and the con-  
10 cerns of the people, as well as to hear the great faith  
11 and confidence that the people of this great mid-America  
12 have in this nation. I am proud to be a Midwesterner and  
13 I believe there is a special quality in this part of  
14 America which stands this nation well and it is that  
15 quality of unbounded faith in the achievements of this  
16 nation and in the capacity of this country to do what  
17 needs to be done, whatever may be the problem or whatever  
18 may be the challenge. I am one of the optimists of  
19 America and I want to solicit more of them. I believe  
20 there is a great silent majority in this country that  
21 loves this nation with a deep dedication, that wants to  
22 see it do what is right, that is willing to remedy the  
23 inequities, that is unafraid of any challenge anywhere,  
24 and I hope to be at least in part the spokesman for that  
25 great silent majority in America and arouse them into

1 action to do what this country needs to have done and to  
2 do it peacefully, to do it orderly and to do it promptly.  
3 I believe we can do it and I look forward now to coming  
4 amongst you and shaking hands and seeing you, and by the  
5 way, I want to compliment you on those signs, even that  
6 one that I see over here. It reads, "Well, it's too bad  
7 it's not going someplace", but (applause) the other signs  
8 look to me that they have a great future and I want to  
9 come over and shake hands with their standard bearers.  
10 Thank you very much. Mr. Yost.

11 MAYOR YOST: At this time I have the pleasure of  
12 introducing the Marshal of Dodge City who has a presenta-  
13 tion to make. Marshal Raymond House.

14 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Mr. Marshal, you come up  
15 here, this is what I've been waiting for.

16 MARSHAL HOUSE: Mr. Vice-President, in these days  
17 law enforcement is after all the help that we can get and  
18 we are prepared to go to the highest places after it. We  
19 would like, sir, to add to the terrific weight you already  
20 bear an additional responsibility, if you will please  
21 accept this warrant appointing you Deputy Marshal of  
22 Dodge City.

23 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: This is great.

24 MARSHAL HOUSE: Now, Mr. Vice-President, your badge  
25 of office.

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VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Yes, sir.

MARSHAL HOUSE: And Saturday night at the Long Branch Saloon, sir, if we need help, we'll call you.

VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you, sir. May I first of all thank you, Mr. Marshal, Mr. House, for this certificate that makes me the Honorary Deputy Marshal of Dodge City. I guess my name is changed now from Hubert to Festus and it sure is good to meet you, Matt Dillon. I always knew you were a good looking man, I am one of your fans. I sort of open up the West and save the honor of the ladies of the community, fight the bad men, with the good struggle every week when the show comes on, and what a joy it is now at long last to have the evidence that I have been telling the men of the press and the television and radio that I am from Dodge City and I am the Deputy Sheriff. And may I suggest that you all watch out what you're up to. Thank you very much. (Applause.)



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