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REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF ADDRESS

by

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Vice President of the United States

at

DELEGATES' RECEPTION

Utah State Democratic Convention

Lafayette Ballroom

Hotel Utah

Salt Lake City, Utah

Friday,
July 26, 1968.

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1 LAFAYETTE BALLROOM, HOTEL UTAH,
2 SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

JULY 26, 1968
11:00 P.M. (MDT)

3
4 INTRODUCTION BY DR. EDWARD FIRMAGE

5 DR. FIRMAGE: We welcome here the delegates to our
6 great Democratic Convention, all of our party faithful, all
7 of our invited guests. Our State and our party tonight are
8 most honored to have as our guest one of this nation's most
9 distinguished sons and daughters.

10 At a time when our nation is faced with crises in our
11 cities it is well to remember that our honored guest was mayor
12 of a major city in this country and well acquainted with the
13 problems of our cities. At a time when we are faced with
14 seemingly intractable problems of race and public disorders it
15 is reassuring to know that this candidate for the Presidency
16 is deeply and honestly devoted to the cause of civil rights
17 and civil liberties (applause). From early times, as a lonely
18 leader of a little band of liberals in a conservative Senate,
19 to more recent fruitful days as floor whip and floor leader,
20 he has introduced more civil rights legislation in those few
21 years than had been introduced since the Civil War. Our guest
22 has led this battle for human decency.

23 At a time when the spectre of nuclear weapons hangs over
24 us all it is comforting to recognize that our visitor is in
25 large part responsible for some of the impediments to nuclear
26 disaster, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, which he

1 sponsored, and the Nuclear Test Ban Agreement. At a time
2 which history may recall as a crossroads in our relations with
3 the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe it is essential that our
4 foreign relations be directed by one with the vision of our
5 guest, who is able to perceive this possibility of accord,
6 lest, untested, this possibility for real understanding
7 passes by forever.

8 Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my honor to present a man
9 on whose staff I had the privilege of working during 1965 and
10 1966 and now support with all my heart and all my head as
11 the next President of the United States, Hubert Humphrey
12 (applause):

13
14 MR. HUMPHREY: Thank you very much. Thank you very
15 much. Ed Firmage, thank you for the very flattering
16 introduction. Our dear and beloved late friend, Adlai
17 Stevenson, used to say that flattery is all right if you
18 don't inhale it, and I was breathing very deeply up here all
19 the time that he was speaking, but I'm very honored by his
20 friendship; by his support. He's one of your fine distinguished
21 citizens. As he mentioned to you, he was the White House
22 Fellow, which is a high honor based upon academic achievement
23 as well as character and ability, and he was my White House
24 Fellow, one of 10 in the nation's capitol, and now I have him
25 as one of my most devoted friends and supporters. What a rare
26 privilege it is.

1 I'm very happy to see on this platform with me tonight
2 officers of your party: your distinguished United States
3 Senator Ted Moss. I've already had a chance to say hello to
4 your Chairman Sandack and to your vice-chairwoman, Norma
5 Thomas; to your national committeewoman, Jean Westwood; and I
6 visited earlier this evening with Cal Rollins who had to go
7 home to get some rest, and I hope my friend, Ed Firmage, will
8 do so, too. He's been down with -- well, I had the flu and
9 he's one upmanship -- he got pneumonia so seems to me we ought
10 to let him go any time he wants to so I am going to be good
11 to him and not keep him here very long. Today I missed the
12 opportunity of seeing your great Governor but I'm looking
13 forward to that privilege tomorrow. I know that Governor
14 Cal Rampton has spoken to your Convention and I want you to
15 know how honored I am and how very fortunate I believe myself
16 to be, and know myself to be, when I have had the privilege
17 of his support and his friendship. This is a truly gifted man.
18 He is the Democratic governor of the west and a great governor
19 (applause). Just to show you how kind and considerate he is,
20 he sent his very best personal representative to the airport
21 to meet us when Mrs. Humphrey and I and our group arrived
22 today. He sent Mrs. Rampton, and I want to thank him for that
23 thought (applause).

24 By the way, while I'm speaking of Missus -- I've
25 forgotten this a couple times and I don't want to be locked
26 out of the room tonight -- I'd like to have you meet my Muriel,

1 Mrs. Humphrey. Will you stand up, Mrs. Humphrey (applause).

2 I think I should tell you that in Washington time --

3 What is it now, Ted; about 1:10?

4 SENATOR MOSS: 1:10.

5 MR. HUMPHREY: -- we've been perking pretty good
6 since 6:30 a.m. If you have any more meetings in town, let me
7 know. I've got a couple left in me. Muriel said to me a
8 little earlier up in the room, "Don't you think maybe I ought
9 to get a little rest?" and I said, "After the first Tuesday
10 following the first Monday in November. November, Muriel,
11 then you can rest!" (applause).

12 On this platform is one of your favorite sons and one
13 of your great public servants. I can speak of him with open
14 heart and -- sincere heart and open mind because I have known
15 him ever since he came to the United States Senate. In fact,
16 I knew him before he came because I was out here when he was
17 campaigning to come to the Senate and I know what a battle he
18 had and I know what a hard -- it was a three-way race on that
19 occasion as I recall. And then I watched his amazing run for
20 re-election and he swept all before him, and when I come to
21 Utah I have people say to me -- well, I talk about their
22 senator and they say, "Oh, yes," they say, "Ted Moss works for
23 Utah." And does he work for Utah! He works for all of you in
24 Utah (applause). And his wonderful wife works for you, too.
25 Say, why don't you stand up, Phyllis? I'm doing all the
26 introductions here tonight (applause). In case you haven't met

1 your senator, will the senator please stand up and be
2 recognized (applause).

3 And you can sure tell we have a group of Democrats in
4 here tonight. It's simply wonderful you have that spirit
5 that this party is known for. We were in Kansas this after-
6 noon, in Salina, Kansas, and we had a wonderful, wonderful
7 meeting there -- several meetings, as a matter of fact.
8 Governor Robert Dachtine is the Governor in Kansas and he is
9 a Democrat. Oh, it's nice to go to places where you have
10 Democratic governors! We just feel better, that's all, and
11 the people look better and the people are better! I think we
12 ought to share this with the rest of the nation (applause).
13 And it was hot. Was it hot! Well, it's a little warm here,
14 I gather, too, but, you know, when we were coming in, why,
15 the pilot sent back a little note and said, "The temperature
16 will be 83 when you arrive --" I guess it was: "...going to
17 be 85 when you arrive and by the time you leave, Mr. Vice
18 President, it will be 90." Five percent more hot air. I
19 guess that's what he was talking about. Frankly, I gave more
20 than that; it went up seven points instead of five. But we
21 had a great time. There were thousands of people there: young
22 people, people of every walk of life, in an open meeting out
23 in front of the community building, the Court House. It was
24 a -- just a good typical American meeting, a town meeting, where
25 we could have people of different persuasions, people that did
26 not all agree on candidates, I'm sure, or on platform. I think

1 there were a few Republicans there. As a matter of fact, the
2 mayor was a Republican and he was very kind. He even gave me
3 an honorary citizenship and a key to the city but it gave me
4 no privileges, which, of course, upset me somewhat.

5 Now, I had something else happen to me while I was
6 there and I want you to know about it. I prize this. This
7 was given me by the Marshal of Dodge City -- that's Matt
8 Dillon's town, you know -- my marshal badge for Dodge City.
9 I'm the Festus of the Democratic Party now (applause and
10 laughter). I can hardly wait to wear that when I go over to
11 the White House. I may tell the President, "It's time for
12 you to move." (Applause and laughter). Of course, I won't
13 tell you what he'll tell me, but --

14 Friends you have come here for what they said was a
15 reception but I gather it looks a little jampacked for just
16 mingling and it's a receptive, sociable, happy time so I'm
17 going to take just a moment or two because tomorrow I'm going
18 to give you the whole load, just unload it on you, and I hope
19 you'll tell all your Republican friends to get in the storm
20 cellars because it's really going to be rough. We are going
21 to have to talk to them a little bit about this country and
22 our party and we are going to talk very seriously about the
23 concerns of this country. I have a theme for you and I'd like
24 to have you ponder it very carefully. I have two for you, in
25 fact. It is attributed to Churchill. I'm not sure if it was
26 really his phrase or not, but no man was a greater debator in

1 Parliament than Winston Churchill, with his wit, his sarcasm,
2 and also his profundity, so let's at least for these purposes
3 tonight say that it was Churchill because the phrase sounds
4 Churchillian. He said, "Those who use the present to stand in
5 judgment of the past lose the future." Think well on it. You
6 can spend all of your time either recalling the past for your
7 glory or standing in judgment of yesterday or the day before
8 or the year before or five years before and you can use your
9 energy and your capacity and all of your vitality in doing that
10 and there'll be nothing left for tomorrow. You cannot relive
11 one minute of yesterday. It's gone. And you cannot relive
12 one minute of the day before or year before. It, too, is gone.
13 The only moment that is precious is this moment, this very
14 fleeting moment, which God Almighty has granted us. And what
15 are we going to do with it? Well, we can at least learn some
16 lessons from the yesterdays, and out of the yesterdays we
17 ought to glean the lessons, good and bad, of mistakes that
18 we've made, not just to recite them but to profit from them;
19 the achievements that we've made, not merely for self-
20 glorification but to build on those achievements. Remember
21 that American life is continuous. The life of this nation we
22 continue to build on the foundations that have been set before
23 and we build on and on. The cause of a liberal, of a progressive,
24 is to build a better America, not to destroy one but to build
25 one. A liberal is a tolerant man, not an intolerant one. He
26 is not a dogmatist or a doctrinaire person, he is a reasonable man.

1 The words, "reason," "responsibility," "restraint," "tolerance,"
2 and "understanding" should characterize the liberal; not
3 "dogmatist," "doctrinaire," or "demagogue" or "dogmatic."
4 These words have no place in the jargon of liberal democracy.
5 So, I want to spend my time, Ladies and Gentlemen -- I want to
6 spend my time, that time which I'm granted on this earth as
7 citizen, parent and husband; man or public servant, I want to
8 spend that time in doing what I can now, learning from the
9 yesterdays, but, above all, learning for only one purpose: to
10 chart the tomorrows! to be able to do something about tomorrow
11 (applause)!

12 And then there's this phrase of that great political
13 philosopher of the Nineteenth Century in Britian -- in
14 England, John Stuart Mill. I used to be a professor of
15 political science so I have to draw on some of that stuff I
16 used to teach my young friends. I always feel I owe every
17 student I ever had, after being in Congress for 16 years and
18 four years as Vice President, I think I owe every one of them
19 a refund because what I taught out of that book and what
20 happens there doesn't have much relationship, but at least it
21 was a good exercise in theory. John Stuart Mill, philosopher,
22 political scientist, political science teacher - these words:
23 "Let a man have nothing to do for his country and he shall have
24 no love for it." Those words were stated in the mid-nineteenth
25 century. They are more applicable today than when they were
26 said because in this America there are all too many people in

1 the areas of rural poverty, in the slums of -- festering slums
2 of your cities, among many of our minority groups that have
3 nothing to do for their country through no fault of their own,
4 and yet, you ask them to have love for it. I want to be
5 President of this country so that every American, without
6 regard to his ethnic origins, his race, his creed, his religion,
7 or from whatever country he may come or how he spells his
8 name, that every single person that calls himself American can
9 have something to do for this country, and he'll love it!

10 (Applause.)

11 You and I are well aware that these are very different
12 days, so different, and if nothing had happened politically,
13 they would be different, surely by the sheer impact of
14 technology and science itself. It doesn't take anything
15 politically to have the migration of the rural people to the
16 cities. The mechanization of cotton itself changed the whole
17 economy of the South and the poor who had education, if at
18 all, in what they call separate but equal which was separate
19 only and unequal, migrated from the plantations, from the
20 tenement farms into the tenement districts, into the nation's
21 big cities like foreigners in a strange land, knowing no one,
22 unaccustomed to urban life, totally unacquainted with
23 industrial life, and they've been left there. How do you
24 expect them to have love for their country?

25 I have a mission in my life, and that is to promote a
26 great and abiding faith in this land of ours. I happen to think

1 this is a great country and I don't think I prove myself to be
2 either liberal or intellectual by downgrading what this country
3 is and what it stands for and what it can be (applause), but
4 every family, every person, every business, every institution,
5 every land has what we call epochs or eras. We are at an end
6 of an era. We are entering a new one and we must think anew.
7 We must have new answers because there are new problems.
8 There's a different world that we live in; the Communist
9 monolith is no more; the so-called "rural America" has become
10 urbanized; the race relations are entirely different; the
11 impact of science and technology has all made it different.
12 There are in America today powerful forces of ferment that
13 must be recognized. And there is change. There will be change
14 no matter what we do. The questions is: what will we do with
15 the change? how will we direct it? And that's where we come
16 in.

17 I leave you with this thought tonight: My fellow
18 Democrats, we've been the governing party of this nation and
19 we have done many good things and we are not going to win a
20 national election by pretending that we've done nothing because
21 we deceive ourselves and deceive the nation if we so say it.
22 Many great things have happened. There are more young people
23 in school today because of what your Government has done than
24 ever before. There are little children in Head Start. There
25 are young men and women in the Job Corps, and I saw some of them
26 here at the airport. There are young men and women in Vista

1 to try and help the needy. There is consumer legislation to
2 protect the consumer. There is Medicare for the elderly to
3 give them decent hospital and medical care for the first time
4 in their lives so they don't have to act like relief clients.
5 There's been many things that have happened: Project Upward
6 Bound, work studies, student loans and scholarships. There
7 are one and one-half million students today on loans and
8 scholarships. Five years ago there were none. We've done some
9 things but not enough. A restlessness --(applause). I want
10 to caution you that when you seek to do more -- which is
11 right what we have done -- in many instances it is but an
12 experiment; it is but the beginning; it is the alpha, not the
13 omega; it is the start. And that is what democracy really is,
14 a series of starts, but when we seek to make our case before
15 the American people, don't sell your party short, don't sell
16 your record short, don't sell your country short.

17 My fellow Democrats, there's a great silent majority
18 in this country that loves this nation that is becoming weary
19 of having its people tell us that it is sick. There is a
20 great majority in this country that knows that many things
21 have been done. Some of them think too much has been done. I
22 do not, and I ask you to help me appeal to that great body of
23 good will that is to be found in America. That essential
24 goodness is here that we can call up, that we can inspire, that
25 we can mobilize and we can do what we need to do and we can
26 do it soon (applause).

1 I hear that we have none other than the Chief
2 Executive, the Governor, and his wife -- Cal Rampton. Cal,
3 come here.

4 Calvin Rampton (applause). Well, Cal, you came in
5 just about the time when I was going to give the benediction
6 but I wouldn't want to cut the meeting short and he may have
7 something to say.

8 I'm going to just leave you with this: Listen, let's
9 plan our lives in this party so that, whatever our differences,
10 when we are through with these conventions and when we are
11 through with that national convention we can stand together
12 and join together. We have a tough fight on our hands this
13 Fall. If you don't believe so, you check the voting record of
14 the opposition in the Congress and you'll see why many things
15 weren't done that could have been done and should have been
16 done and you will see what you will get from here on out.

17 I do not claim that Democrats are the epitomy of
18 perfection. You're not going to get a chance to vote for God
19 or the Devil in this election. You're going to get a chance
20 to vote for two human beings, or three human beings, or
21 four -- I don't know how many there'll be -- and they're all
22 going to be mortal, none of them infallible, all of them
23 fallible, all of them with records, all of them with weaknesses,
24 hopefully, some of them with assets. I would suggest to my
25 fellow Democrats that you gird yourselves for the toughest fight
26 of your life, and if you do, if you're ready to fight, if

1 you're ready to fight and carry the battle to the opposition,
2 if you're ready to fight cleanly; if you're ready to fight
3 for human rights; if you're ready to fight to rebuild our
4 cities; if you're ready to fight to bring people into this
5 democracy, into the decision-making processes; if you're ready
6 to fight to put America on the course of controlling these
7 weapons of mass destruction; if you're ready to fight to help
8 America and help the world to reconcile its differences and to
9 heal and to bind up the wounds; if you're ready to do that,
10 I'd like to be your candidate and I'm going to ask you for
11 your help. Thank you. (Applause.)

12

13 DR. FIRMAGE: My friends, before you leave there are
14 several on the stand who were not introduced due to my own
15 negligence: We have Norma Thomas, our vice-chairwoman of our
16 party; Jean Westwood, our new national committeewoman; we have
17 Wally Sandack, our great party chairman; the Governor's son,
18 Vince; and, of course, the Governor and Lucy Beth Rampton.
19 We welcome them all here. We understand there are this many
20 more in the lobby. We thank you all for coming.

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