

"THE JOEY BISHOP SHOW"

(ABC Television Show)

with

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Vine Street Theatre, 1313 North Vine Street

Hollywood, California

Monday, July 29, 1968, 6:30 p.m.

REPORTED BY Robert H. Clark, CSR

OUR FILE NO. 16075-E

CLARK, SNYDER & MARTIN
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTERS
1636 WEST EIGHTH ST., SUITE 201
LOS ANGELES 17, CALIFORNIA

DUNKIRK 8-1476

1 (After introductions.)

2 JOEY BISHOP: Mr. Vice-President, outside of a little
3 rain, the smog over the weekend, and a little booing, how
4 do you like California?

5 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: It's nice.

6 JOEY BISHOP: I must tell you the truth, I heard over
7 the radio, "Vice-President Hubert Humphrey receives boos."
8 I thought they brought you liquor.

9 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, they were rather
10 spirited, but it wasn't in bottles.

11 JOEY BISHOP: The policy -- I don't know what it's like
12 in the White House, but here, the host gets the laughs.

13 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: That is the way it is in the
14 White House.

15 (Applause.)

16 JOEY BISHOP: I sure hope you get elected because --

17 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: No, Joey. I am used to
18 playing second place, and I am willing to stay with you just
19 in that relationship. That is, if Regis will let me.

20 By the way, I am glad to see you here, Regis.

21 REGIS PHILBIN: I am one of your fans. I know what
22 you go through.

23 (Applause.)

24 JOEY BISHOP: I didn't know you made that little amount
25 of money. I guess it is kind of tough, isn't it? I found
26 out something today that really shocked me. I found out

1 that no Vice-President ever was elected to the presidency
2 except through either the death or the assassination of a
3 President.

4 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Would you cut that out of the
5 tape here?

6 You are right. That is true. But I wish we
7 hadn't said it, Joey. It is a fact. Well, I wouldn't
8 conceal it, but I just wouldn't be too articulate, but you
9 are right.

10 JOEY BISHOP: May I also say I come up with what I
11 thought was a rather astute analogy. I figured it out.
12 The Vice-President, if he is running for the presidency,
13 because he is part of an administration, he cannot go out
14 and kind of -- and you must forgive me -- he cannot knock
15 the administration like other presidential candidates can.
16 So I feel there is a certain amount of strength that is lost
17 when you are running, and hope to become the President, if
18 you are the Vice-President.

19 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, Joey, it is a fact that
20 when you are the Vice-President in an administration you
21 have a responsibility to that administration. You are a
22 member of a team, and you just don't go out and knock the
23 team.

24 Every team makes a mistake now and then, but you
25 leave it to the opposition to discover that, rather than
26 to project it yourself.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

However, I find there are always some assets in being the Vice-President. You have a knowledge of government, which I think is worthwhile with some people. It is a pretty big country, and it is a pretty tough job to be President. It is about the toughest you can get, and if you have some inside information as to the workings of that high office, which you do get as Vice-President, I think it is helpful. Then, too, there are many rewards to being Vice-President that are not often portrayed, Joey, rewards of knowing great people, interesting people, seeing your country, being a part of the development of your country.

To be sure, you can get out and swing as easily and sometimes as freely on some issues as if you were a senator, governor, citizen, lawyer, businessman that seeks office, but that is the price that you pay, particularly in the field of foreign policy, Joey.

I have talked to some of my friends, Regis. I serve on the National Security Council. I am a member of the President's Cabinet, and when the Vice-President speaks even in the campaign, he has to be careful, because he may have his words interpreted as if they were the words of the administration, even though they may be just his own private views, and every man has his private views, in the confines of the executive branch of the government, or just as a citizen; but you can't always speak just privately. You have to constantly keep in mind that you are a public

1 official and you are a part of the administration, and that
2 your words, while they may not be taken seriously in the
3 United States, they may be taken very seriously in Moscow,
4 Hanoi, Peking, London or Paris or some place else, because
5 it may be interpreted by those people as if it was a plant,
6 so to speak, a probe by the President, using the Vice-
7 President to make a particular probe on a particular issue.
8 That is why it gets a little complicated.

9 JOEY BISHOP: I imagine it must be very frustrating,
10 isn't it?

11 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Yes, there are times when it
12 is frustrating. I think then we have to understand that this
13 office of Vice-President has very little constitutional
14 background except that you are there in case you are needed,
15 if anything happens to the President. You are the presiding
16 officer of the Senate under the Constitution. Other than
17 that, you have no powers, but by precedent, and by statute,
18 and by experience, tradition, certain activities have grown
19 up with the Vice-Presidents.

20 I am, for example, Chairman of the Youth Opportunity
21 Council that works with all of our young people throughout
22 the country, particularly the deprived young people.

23 JOEY BISHOP: I don't know whether you saw it or not,
24 but we have the film clip on Charlton Heston.

25 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: That is right.

26 JOEY BISHOP: That is the YES program.

1 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: That is right, the YES
2 program, which is Youth Employment Service, or Youth
3 Employment Opportunities. These are some of the programs
4 that we work with.

5 I chair the space program with all of the
6 astronauts' activities; I am a Chairman of the program on
7 marine science, oceanography; I am the Chairman of the Peace
8 Corps program, which I think is one of our finest programs,
9 where we send out talented young men and women overseas
10 where there are needy people in needy countries. These are
11 some of the responsibilities that I have.

12 The Vice-President has responsibility, but very
13 little authority. Now, when you add that up, you can see
14 some of its awkwardness, some of its complexities. But
15 despite all that, a lot of people seem to want to become
16 Vice-President. I have never seen a job so downgraded that
17 so many people want, Joey.

18 JOEY BISHOP: I hope you will forgive me, Mr. Vice-
19 President, but I am in charge of commercials.

20 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I was about to give one for
21 myself.

22 (Laughter and applause.)

23 JOEY BISHOP: Now, I am a victim of protocol. I don't
24 know whether your commercial precedes this one. I think in
25 all fairness, knowing you rather personally, you will afford
26 me the opportunity of doing my commercial first, and then

1 we'll be listening for your commercial.

2 (Commercial.)

3 JOEY BISHOP: Mr. Vice-President, you were about to
4 embark on your commercial.

5 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, Joey, first I want to
6 get my commercial in for California. You asked me earlier
7 what I thought about California. Well, I love it. I think
8 it is the most exciting part of America. It really is a
9 wonderful place. Everything happens out here, and some of
10 it has happened to me. I like most everything that has
11 happened, because after all, in politics, if you get 50
12 percent plus one, you consider it a victory, and I have had
13 better than that in California: smog, boos, weather,
14 Particularly it is good to be here on your show.

15 JOEY BISHOP: Thank you.

16 When Mr. Nixon was on our show last week, he said
17 he thinks -- I hope I am quoting -- that it will be a close
18 contest between two men who have been Vice-Presidents. How
19 do you feel about that?

20 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I think that is right. I
21 really do. I believe this election here will be a toss-up.
22 I don't think you can really make a safe prediction, except
23 that I would like to make one that is rather subjective.
24 I don't say it is totally objective. I think that my party
25 can win, the Democratic party, and if I am the nominee, I
26 hope I can carry that banner on to victory; but I never

1 underestimate the opposition. Mr. Nixon is a very talented
2 man. He is a hard campaigner. He is an experienced man,
3 and I think that we will have quite a show, quite a tussle.

4 By the way, I noticed a sign out here on a dressing
5 room. It said, "The Next President." Was that left over?

6 JOEY BISHOP: So that you don't get too carried away,
7 we also had it up for Pierre Salinger. It may have been
8 left up. I don't know, myself. You know, that is the way
9 of the crew, you know, trying to stay down the middle.

10 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: You make me feel good. I
11 will tell you, I came in here feeling real good. I don't
12 know what is going to happen from here on out. That is my
13 commercial.

14 JOEY BISHOP: Dressing room 8 is my dressing room, but
15 I am willing to settle for President.

16 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: You are?

17 JOEY BISHOP: Yes.

18 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: That is what I have been
19 saying.

20 JOEY BISHOP: I don't want to say I read your book, but
21 I glanced through it. I didn't read it thoroughly. There
22 was one particular part in there -- I hope I can find it --
23 where your dad --

24 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Yes.

25 JOEY BISHOP: I have never, of course, met him, but he
26 must have had a great sense of humor.

1 With your permission, I should like to read this
2 one little paragraph. It says:

3 "It was after Sunday's services at the Methodist
4 Church. There was a large circle of friends and family at
5 the Humphrey home to sample cinnamon rolls and talk about
6 everything, particularly politics."

7 Your mother occasionally voted Republican?

8 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Yes. She was unreliable.

9 JOEY BISHOP: Well, that was going to be the punch
10 line.

11 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, it is good all over.

12 JOEY BISHOP: I should demand a caucus; but that is
13 what the end of it was, anyway.

14 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: What did it say?

15 JOEY BISHOP: Well, it says -- if it is so funny, you
16 should have it committed to memory -- it says that your
17 father, Hubert Humphrey, Sr., because she had sometimes voted
18 Republican, said, "Now, you treat your mother with respect.
19 Don't argue with her," and then he smilingly said, "Sometimes
20 she is politically unreliable."

21 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: That is true.

22 Joey, forgive me. It was my mother. I just
23 remembered. My father used to tell me many times, "You know,
24 I just never know how your mother is going to vote." He
25 said, "It is very discouraging." He was county chairman
26 and local Democratic spokesman, and Mother always had a few

1 doubts about the Democratic candidates.

2 I can remember one time I went home after my
3 father passed away, and I had given a very partisan speech,
4 which I used to do about every two years, in my old home town.
5 They all came; whether they liked it or not, it was sort of
6 a night out.

7 JOEY BISHOP: A lot of cinnamon rolls.

8 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: And I made quite an attack,
9 and this was when President Eisenhower was in the White House,
10 and Mother liked President Eisenhower, and I pointed out
11 what was really a fact, that there was a real large federal
12 deficit, and I pointed out the amount, something like ten
13 or eleven million dollars. It was a recession year of 1958,
14 and when I got home, Mother had some of her lady friends in
15 the living room, and she had already gotten the coffeepot
16 on, and cookies and cakes, and she called me out in the
17 kitchen and she said, "I am ashamed of you."

18 And I said, "Mother, why do you talk like that?"

19 And she said, "The way you talked, your father
20 would never have tolerated what you said tonight."

21 And I said, "Why is that?"

22 And she said, "The way you talked about Mr.
23 Eisenhower."

24 And I said, "Well, but I didn't say anything untrue
25 about the President."

26 She said, "You said he said he had a deficit. You

1 know Republicans don't have deficits."

2 Now, what do you think about that?

3 JOEY BISHOP: I think your mother made good sense.

4 With your permission, Mr. Vice-President, we will
5 visit the audience, and I do pride myself on the intelligence
6 of my audience.

7 We will be right back.

8 (Commercial.)

9 JOEY BISHOP: Mr. Vice-President, we are back on the
10 air.

11 (The following questions were asked by members
12 of the studio audience.)

13 QUESTION: Mr. Vice-President, do you think we will
14 have England in the Common Market?

15 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, I hope so. It is very
16 desirable. Our country has long favored that policy of
17 England becoming a part of the European Common Market, in
18 fact, what we call the Outer Seven, which are associated
19 with and becoming a part of the Inner Six, which is the
20 Common Market. We think that would be sound policy; but
21 we are not in charge of England, and we are not in charge of
22 Western Europe. We just give it encouragement. I think it
23 would be good for all of Europe.

24 A VOICE: Thank you very much.

25 JOEY BISHOP: Where are you from?

26 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: Glasgow, Scotland.

1 JOEY BISHOP: Time for one more question.

2 QUESTION: Mr. Vice-President, do you plan on doing
3 anything about mental health?

4 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Yes. As a matter of fact,
5 we hopt that mental health and mental retardation -- that
6 is something Mrs. Humphrey and I have a very keen interest
7 in.

8 I don't know whether one of my friends from home
9 is here tonight or not, but Mrs. Josephs, who is my co-
10 chairman of my national campaign, is the president -- well,
11 is very active in the Mental Health Association, and I
12 believe is to be one of the officers, if not the president,
13 or president-elect of National Mental Health Association.
14 So we are pretty interested in it.

15 A VOICE: Yes. They need a lot of help.

16 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: You bet.

17 A VOICE: Joey Bishop, could I sing a song?

18 JOEY BISHOP: I would say on any other night, perhaps.
19 I hope you understand.

20 A VOICE: All right, then.

21 JOEY BISHOP: We have to break away, but we will have
22 an entire segment when we come back. We will be right back
23 after this word from your local station, with a word from
24 the Vice-President.

25 (Commercial.)

26 QUESTION: I have heard several versions, and I would

1 like to know if it is true if you recommend an open
2 convention.

3 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Yes. What I did today was
4 to make an announcement that I wanted every delegate that
5 came to the Democratic National Convention to please vote as
6 an individual, to feel perfectly free to cast their vote as
7 they wished. Now, the reason for that is, some delegations
8 in some states have what we call the unit rule where, let
9 us say, you have 40 delegates and let us say that 35 of them
10 are for myself, 5 for somebody else. I would get all 40
11 under the unit rule.

12 I have said to those states, "Release those
13 delegates. Let each one vote individually." If I still get
14 my 35, well and good. If somebody else gets 5, well and
15 good. This way we have what we call an open convention.
16 We don't have anybody that can bind other delegations. The
17 delegation can vote for whoever they want to. They are not
18 under any kind of compulsion or under any kind of rule or
19 majority rule within the delegation.

20 JOEY BISHOP: What about your lovely wife, your handsome
21 son, and your gorgeous daughter-in-law?

22 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: They are all here.

23 JOEY BISHOP: Mrs. Humphrey? Bob Humphrey, Donna
24 Humphrey?

25 (Applause.)

26 (A question was asked from the audience about

1 what, if any, action the United States might take
2 in regard to world Communism, especially Czecho-
3 slovakia.)

4 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: The situation in Czecho-
5 slovakia is so sensitive right now that -- this goes back
6 to Joey was asking me a while ago as to my position as Vice-
7 President, and not just a citizen, and not as a candidate.
8 I must be very, very careful about whatever I say, or that
9 any of us in government might say about this situation.

10 Let me point out one thing. Behind -- what we once
11 called the Iron Curtain is no longer an Iron Curtain. If
12 there is any curtain, it has been eroded, punctured, it has
13 been rusted through. In fact, I think it has become very
14 much an open curtain. There is a movement of emancipa-
15 tion and liberalization going on all over the world, as we
16 see it in the United States, where people are wanting to be
17 themselves, where they want their own identity, and I think
18 there is quite a story here. It is quite a blessing, the
19 desire for people to be free. It is an amazing thing. It
20 is like a plant that will break through the rock to come
21 into sunlight, under the most difficult conditions. Human-
22 kind has that same kind of energy, that same kind of thrust,
23 and I think that is what you really see.

24 (Applause.)

25 QUESTION: Mr. Humphrey, what are your views on giving
26 the vote to 18-year-olds?

1 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I am for it. May I say, as
2 long as you inquire, that this will require a constitutional
3 amendment. This is one thing, I believe, that our young
4 people in coming months could do a great deal about by
5 asking candidates whether or not they will support in the
6 Congress a constitutional resolution for the 18-year-old
7 vote, because that resolution, once passed by both Houses
8 of Congress, must have the ratification of the states before
9 it becomes a part of the Constitution. I think this is a
10 mighty good political project for this election year, 1968.
11 I have supported the 18-year-old vote ever since I went to
12 Congress in 1949. I think it is deserved. Young men age 18
13 give their lives for their country, and most of them by that
14 time are high school graduates. This generation of young
15 Americans is the best educated generation that we have ever
16 had. If they take on great responsibilities, I think they
17 ought to have something to say about the decisions of their
18 country. That is what the vote is about.

19 QUESTION: Mr. Vice-President Humphrey, how do you feel
20 about the abolishment of the electoral college?

21 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I think the time is coming
22 when we ought to elect our Presidents by popular vote.

23 (Applause.)

24 QUESTION: Since the election of many of these local
25 delegates -- do you feel that we should have a national
26 primary with national regulations for each party?

1 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: If we are going to have
2 primaries that are meaningful, young lady, it should be a
3 national primary with national standards, because what we
4 have now involves one third or one fourth of the states,
5 our state primaries. Every one of them differ. Some of
6 them, when you win in a primary, that means the delegates
7 really belong to you. You can win a primary in another state
8 and never get a delegate. It is what you call a popularity
9 contest. You can win a primary in another state and it is
10 what we call preference. They sort of lean your way.

11 Well, that kind of primary gives you a good deal
12 of newspaper coverage and gives you sort of impetus as a
13 candidate, and gives you some publicity and some strength,
14 but it doesn't have very much effect ultimately on the
15 decision that is made at the convention, or in the selection
16 of a presidential candidate. Therefore, I believe, if you
17 are going to have primaries, No. 1, there should be national
18 standards for national offices. Secondly, it would be better
19 to have a national primary under very detailed rules and
20 regulations so that we will know exactly what we are doing.

21 (Applause.)

22 QUESTION: Mr. Vice-President, as you know, there has
23 been much distress in the minority community throughout the
24 various summers. I was wondering if you might give us some
25 information as to the various programs initiated to alleviate
26 the joblessness in our minority community.

1 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Yes. We have had a good deal
2 of unrest in America, just as there has been throughout the
3 world.

4 By the way, this gives me a moment to say that
5 this unrest, or this restlessness that you see in America,
6 is not peculiar to the United States. All over the world
7 young people have this sense of restlessness. It is true
8 behind the Iron Curtain. It is true in countries like the
9 Scandinavian countries. It was obviously true in France
10 recently. It is true in Britain, Rome, all over the world.

11 Now, what are we trying to do here at home? Well,
12 let me say, first of all, what we are trying to do is not
13 enough. I think the very first thing that we need to under-
14 stand in the United States, the day of racial discrimination,
15 racial bigotry, racial segregation, that day is over. Some
16 people may not know it, but it is over. And we have got to
17 start to practice our so-called legal civil rights rather
18 than have them on the statute books.

19 And I have called on our young people in particular
20 to set an example for our elders, to accept people for what
21 they are, to try to indulge in gains in social service, to
22 help those who are deprived and are needy, and to go into
23 the inner city, into the ghettos, to work in the hospitals,
24 to work in remedial education, to work on the playgrounds,
25 to give the kids there that haven't had a break -- to give
26 them a little extra break.

1 We have to top-grade our education in these areas.
2 Many of the young people in America today from poor families,
3 white or black, are the victims of educational inequality
4 and it isn't good enough to give them equality. You have to
5 give them a little extra dose. It is sort of like the
6 person that has been a victim of starvation. It is not
7 enough to give them a normal diet. First of all, you have
8 to give them the extra things that they need in order to use
9 a normal diet -- extra minerals, extra vitamins, extra
10 chemicals, extra kinds of eating, and then that person is
11 ready to live under a normal diet.

12 Now, what have we been doing? Manpower training
13 programs, youth opportunity programs last summer, we were
14 able to find jobs for a million four hundred fifty thousand
15 needy young Americans between the ages of 16 and 21.

16 We have vast recreation programs under way now.
17 We have remedial educational programs. We have many of these
18 things, work-study programs, Project Headstart for the
19 youngsters of preschool age; but with all of it, my dear
20 friend, there is so much more to do.

21 What we have done thus far has proved that some
22 things will work. I will just end up on this note: Most
23 everybody wants to earn his or her way. People don't want
24 to be relief clients or supplicants. They want to live in
25 self-respect and dignity. The best thing that you can do
26 in the war on poverty is to give the fellow a job, a man a

1 job, a person a job; let people have a piece of the action,
2 so to speak. Let them own a piece of property. In the
3 black community, let them be entrepreneurs. Let them have
4 their bank, their department store that they can run. There
5 isn't any reason why some people should just be employees.
6 Other people are owners as well as being employees. When we
7 get this kind of an America, we will have much less restless-
8 ness, and people are going to feel they have a country that
9 belongs to them.

10 QUESTION: Recently in South Vietnam the runner-up last
11 year's election was jailed because he said something that
12 the Saigon government said was demoralizing to the war
13 effort. How do you feel about that?

14 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I have had that question
15 asked before. I really don't know what the evidence is
16 there, quite frankly, and I don't think it is good for any
17 of us to stand in judgment until we really know what
18 evidence the country or government might have on the
19 particular citizen. This is a citizen of South Vietnam.
20 I venture to say in this audience, if we polled it, very
21 few people would know who the gentleman was, because we are
22 not quite that familiar with all the details.

23 I happen to believe that one of the requirements
24 of a representative government is due process of law, and I
25 would hope that this gentleman, Mr. Dzu, would get some
26 process of law. I am not sure that he will, but I hope he

1 shall. I don't know what the evidence is, and I don't want
2 to stand in judgment.

3 JOEY BISHOP: I want to thank you, first of all, for
4 having given up a dinner date and spending time with us.
5 But I must ask you, how does a presidential candidate do it?
6 It must be awfully strenuous on a campaign, with three
7 television shows that you have had, and I believe you were
8 in Watts this morning.

9 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Yes.

10 JOEY BISHOP: What do you do for relaxation?

11 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, Joey, I like to live as
12 normal a life as possible. When I get a chance, we go out
13 to our home in Waverly, Minnesota. We have a lovely lake
14 home. I like to swim, and boat, and I like to hike. I like
15 baseball. I watch the baseball games on television when I
16 can't get to them, and when I can't get to them, I watch
17 them on television. That is one of my favorite sports. It
18 is a great sport. I like football. I am a spectator for
19 sports, as well as sort of a junior league participant. I
20 just get a big kick out of just unwinding, so to speak, with
21 my family and friends.

22 JOEY BISHOP: I understand from mutual friends that you
23 are quite a dancer.

24 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Oh, I like to swing a bit.

25 JOEY BISHOP: Now, I must say, and you must forgive me,
26 in our age bracket, swinging can very well be a fox trot or

1 a waltz.

2 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I am way beyond that. I have
3 come a long ways beyond that.

4 JOEY BISHOP: Can you prove that?

5 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: In my own sort of inimitable
6 style. It doesn't always fit the pattern, but I get a big
7 bounce out of it.

8 JOEY BISHOP: Do you like these things the kids are
9 doing?

10 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I love it. In fact, I love
11 all kinds of music, everything from classical to jazz, to
12 what the kids are playing now, to what they respond to. I
13 really do. I get a lift out of it, and enjoy it. Our whole
14 family enjoys it. Mrs. Humphrey, Muriel, plays the piano,
15 and plays it pretty well. The kids love to dance, and
16 bring all the gang out to the house and let me tell you, my
17 wife will say, "Hubert, don't look any more," when some of
18 those younger numbers come through, but I really enjoy it.

19 JOEY BISHOP: Mr. Vice-President, before you leave, I
20 would like to take a minute of your time and ask you some-
21 thing.

22 Now, I have kind of a campaign here. It seems
23 for the past few years that we have been preaching love.
24 You see kids walking around and you see two fingers indi-
25 cating love. I have kind of inaugurated a new policy,
26 maybe a new philosophy, and I have always felt that we always

1 had to start with kindness. First, if I am out on the high-
2 way and it is raining and I have a flat tire, don't go by
3 and say, "I love you," and keep going. Be a little kind and
4 stop and help me with my flat tire. And if you don't want to
5 love me afterwards, that is fine, too.

6 Now, don't you think that there is an absence of
7 kindness in our country today?

8 I read in your book, for example, when someone has
9 a child in labor, or someone was ill, that everybody pitched
10 in. And I said on this particular show one night, "We all
11 know what is going on, but somehow we don't seem to care
12 enough to help." But yet this one paragraph in your book
13 gave me to believe that in your particular neighborhood the
14 people care enough, if after they have heard that someone is
15 not well, they care enough.

16 Do you find that kind of disappearing?

17 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I think the visible evidence
18 of it is somewhat less, Joey. I believe that people are
19 caught in everything so big today that they are not quite
20 sure just who are their friends, and with whom they should
21 identify. I think this is part of what the restlessness in
22 America is about today. I think this is particularly true
23 with young people. They feel that the government is big,
24 too big, and the system is too big, and the university is
25 really too big, and too commercial.

26 Let's talk person to person. They want, as they

1 put it, a dialogue, individual to individual; but there is
2 a basic goodness with the American people. If I didn't
3 believe it, I would get out of politics in five minutes. I
4 know there is a basic sense of decency in the American
5 people, and there is a sense of kindness, and we have to
6 find ways to tap it, and every day there are these little
7 acts of kindness. But I agree with you, it isn't good
8 enough to put up a symbol of love, so to speak, but fail to
9 act with a deed of kindness, and there is one thing, if I
10 can give my commercial on this program, the poison that
11 kills is the poison of hate, and if we can somehow rid our-
12 selves of the toxin of hate, the better off we will be. I
13 think this country is going to be able to take care of any
14 problem that confronts it. You just consume yourself and
15 all of your energies with bitterness and hate. If you can
16 find ways for expressing that same energy with compassion,
17 we are going to overcome any problem that we have.

18 Your program, I want to compliment you. You are
19 constantly preaching in the most unpreaching manner the
20 concept of human brotherhood. You make people feel good.

21 JOEY BISHOP: Mr. Vice-President, I thank you very much.
22

23 * * * * *
24
25
26

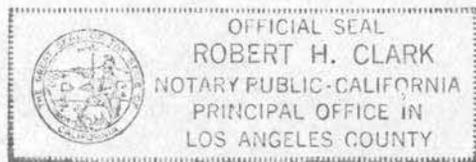
STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) SS.

I, Robert H. Clark, CSR, a Notary Public in and for the State of California, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing, consisting of 23 pages, is a full, true and correct transcript of proceedings taken before me at the time and place therein set forth, and was taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction.

WITNESS my hand and seal this 7th day of August, 1968.

Robert H. Clark
Notary Public in and for the County of Los Angeles, State of California



FOR UNITED DEMOCRATS FOR HUMPHREY

PROGRAM The Joey Bishop Show

STATION WMAL TV
ABC Network

DATE July 30, 1968 11:30 PM

CITY Washington, DC

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY INTERVIEWED

BISHOP: Ladies and gentlemen, will you welcome now the Vice President of the United States, Vice President Hubert Humphrey.

(Applause)

BISHOP: I just want to say....

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: How do you like that, Joey?

BISHOP: I'm glad I have you on the show because I finally got to see what a standing ovation looks like.

(Laughter)

HUMPHREY: Joey, you don't mind if I give this pin to a prince do you.

BISHOP: No, not at all.

HUMPHREY: Many a prince wants to become a king. I know.

(Laughter & Applause)

REGIS PHILBIN: We have something in common, haven't we?

HUMPHREY: Yes, we have. How're we going to get rid of these fellows.

(Laughter)

PHILBIN: You think it's going to take me eight years?

BISHOP: Mister Vice President, outside of a little rain and the smog over the weekend, a little booing, how do you like California?

HUMPHREY: Thanks. I love it.

BISHOP: I was really confused, I must tell you the truth. I heard it over the radio -- Vice President Humphrey receives boos. I thought they brought you liquor.

(Laughter)

HUMPHREY: Well, it was rather spirited, but it wasn't in bottles.

(Laughter & Applause)

BISHOP: I don't know how to explain this. It's the policy -- I don't know what it's like in the White House, but here the host gets the laughs.

(Laughter)

HUMPHREY: That's the way it is in the White House too, Joey.

(Laughter)

BISHOP: I sure hope you get elected because tonight I have the feeling if we do this kind of a show together, I'll be out.

HUMPHREY: Now, Joey, I'm used to playing second place and I'm willing to stay with you just in that relationship. That is, if Regis will let me. By the way, I'm glad to see you here, Regis. I'm one of your fans.

(Laughter)

PHILBIN: Are you?

HUMPHREY: You bet I am. I'm one of your fans. I know what you go through.

(Laughter)

BISHOP: I didn't know you received that little amount of money.

(Laughter)

BISHOP: Well, I guess it is kind of tough. I found out something today that really, really shocked me. I have found out that no Vice President ever was elected to the Presidency except through either the death or assassination of a President.

HUMPHREY: Would you cut that out of the tape here. I mean I (Laughter). You're right. It's true, but I wish you hadn't of said it, Joey.

BISHOP: Well, it is a fact, is it not?

HUMPHREY: Yes, it is a fact. Yes, it is.

BISHOP: Shall I conceal facts?

HUMPHREY: Well, I wouldn't conceal them. I just wouldn't be too articulate about them.

(Laughter)

No, but you're right.

BISHOP: May I also say I came up with what I thought was a rather astute analogy. I figured it out. The Vice President of the United States, if he's running for the Presidency, because he is part of an Administration, he cannot go out and kind of -- and you must forgive me -- he cannot knock the Administration like other Presidential candidates can, and so I think there's a certain amount of strength that is lost when you are running to become the President if you are the Vice President.

HUMPHREY: Well, Joey, it's a fact that when you are the Vice President in an Administration you have a responsibility to that Administration. You are -- well, you're a member of the team, and you just don't go out and knock the team. Every team makes a mistake now and then, but you leave it to the opposition to discover that rather than to be projecting it yourself.

However, I find there's also some assets in being Vice President. You have a knowledge of government, which is, I think, worthwhile.

And the people -- it's a pretty big country and it's a pretty tough job to be President -- about the toughest you can get -- and if you have some inside information as to the workings of that high office, which you do get as Vice President, I think it's helpful.

Then too, there are many rewards to being Vice President that are not often portrayed,

Joey, the rewards of knowing great people, interesting people, seeing your country, being a part of the development of your country.

To be sure, you can't get out and swing as easily and sometimes as freely on some issues as if you were a senator or a governor or a citizen, lawyer, businessman that seeks office, but that's just the price that you pay, particularly in the field of foreign policy, Joey.

I've talked to some of my friends about this, Regis. I serve on the National Security Council. I'm a member of the President's Cabinet, and when the Vice President speaks, even in a campaign, he has to be careful because he may be -- he may have his words interpreted as if they are the words of the Administration, even though they may be just his own private views. And every man has his private views in the confines of the Executive Branch of the government or as a citizen. But you can't always speak just privately.

You have to constantly keep in mind that you are a public official, and that you are a part of the Administration, that your words, while they may not be taken seriously here in the United States, they may be taken very seriously in Moscow or in Hanoi or in Peking or in London or in Paris or some place else because it may be interpreted by those people as if it was a plant, so to speak, you know, a probe by the President, using the Vice President to make a particular probe on a particular issue. That's why it gets a little complicated.

BISHOP: I imagine it must be very frustrating also, is it not?

HUMPHREY: Yes, there are times that it's frustrating.

I think the thing that we have to understand, that this office of Vice President has very little Constitutional background to it except that you're there in case you're needed if anything happens to the President. You're the presiding officer of the senate under the Constitution. Other than that, you have no powers.

But by precedent and by statute and by experience and tradition, certain activities have grown up with the Vice Presidency. I, for example, am chairman of the Youth Opportunity Council that works with all of our young people throughout the country, particularly the deprived young people.

BISHOP: I don't know whether you saw; we had the film clip on with Charlton Heston.

HUMPHREY: Yes.

BISHOP: That's the YES Program, is it not?

HUMPHREY: That's right. The Yes Program is Youth Employment Service.

BISHOP: That's right.

HUMPHREY: Youth employment opportunities. These are some of the programs that we work with. I chair the space program, all of the astronaut activities. I'm chairman of the program on the marine sciences. We call it oceanography. I am the chairman of the Peace Corps program.

That's, I think, one of our finest programs, where we send our talented young men and women overseas to be of help to needy countries and needy people. These are some of the responsibilities you have.

The Vice Presidential office is filled with responsibility, very little authority.

Now, when you add that up, you see some of its awkwardness, some of its complexity. But despite all of that, a lot of people seem to want to be Vice President. I've never seen a job that so many people downgraded that so many people wanted, Joey.

(Laughter)

BISHOP: I hope you'll forgive me, Mr. Vice President, but I am in charge of commercials.

(Laughter)

HUMPHREY: I was about to give one for myself here.

(Laughter and applause)

BISHOP: Now I'm a victim of protocol. I don't know whether your commercial precedes this one. I think in all fairness, knowing you rather personally, you will afford me the opportunity of doing my commercial first....

HUMPHREY: Yes, sir.

BISHOP: ...and then we'll be listening for your commercial. Another thing, Mr. Vice President, it's not necessary to keep asking if it's right. I'm the host.

(laughter) * * *

BISHOP: Now, Mr. Vice President, you were about to embark on a commercial, and I think it only fair to give you equal time, so say whatever you like.

HUMPHREY: Well, Joey, first I just wanted to get my commercial in for California. You asked me earlier what I thought about California. I love it. I think it's the most exciting part of America. It really is a wonderful place. Everything happens out here, and some of it's happened to me. And I like most everything that's happened.

It's after all, in politics, if you get 50 percent plus one, you consider it a victory, and I've had better than that in California -- smog, boos, weather, whatever it is, it's all been good. Particularly, it's good to be here on your show.

BISHOP: Thank you.

(Applause)

BISHOP: When Mr. Nixon was on our show last week, he said he thinks -- I hope I'm quoting him correctly -- it would be a close contest between two men who have been Vice President. Now, how do you feel about that?

HUMPHREY: I think that's right. I really do. I believe that this election year will be a toss up.

I don't think you can really make safe predictions, except I'd like to make one that's rather subjective. I don't say it's totally objective. I think that my party can win -- the Democratic Party -- and if I'm the nominee, I would hope that I can carry that banner on to victory. But I never underestimate the opposition.

Nixon is a very talented man. He's a hard campaigner. He's an experienced man, and I think that we'll have quite a show of it and quite a tussle.

By the way, I noticed a sign out here on the dressing rooms that bothered me. On dressing room eight it said the next President. Was that left over?

(Laughter and applause)

BISHOP: So that you won't get too carried away, we also had that up for Pierre Salinger.

(Laughter)

BISHOP: I guess it may have been left. I don't know. It's the way of a crew, you know, trying to stay down the middle.

HUMPHREY: You made me feel good. I'll tell you, I came in here feeling real good. I don't know what's going to happen from here on out, but....

BISHOP: I don't know how to tell you this, sir, but....

HUMPHREY: That's my commercial.

BISHOP: Is it?

HUMPHREY: Yes.

BISHOP: Dressing room eight is my dressing room.

(Laughter)

HUMPHREY: But you want to be king.

BISHOP: Yes, but I'm willing to settle for President.

HUMPHREY: Oh, you are? That's what I've been saying.

(Laughter and applause)

BISHOP: I want to say I read your book. I glanced through it. I didn't read it thoroughly. There was one particular part in this -- I hope I can find it. Your dad....

HUMPHREY: Yes.

BISHOP: I never, of course, have never met him, but he must have had a great sense of humor.

With your permission I should like to read just this one little paragraph on it, and it said, "After Sunday services at the Methodist church there would always be a large circle and friends at the Humphrey home to sample the cinnamon rolls and talk about everything, particularly politics. Mrs. Humphrey, your mother, occasionally voted Republican."

HUMPHREY: Yes. She was unreliable.

(Laughter)

BISHOP: Yes, well that was going to be the end of the

HUMPHREY: No, wait a minute now. Don't....

BISHOP: Well, that's the punch line.

HUMPHREY: Well, let's do it all over.

(Laughter)

BISHOP: No. No, sir. I should demand a caucus. That's what the end of it was anyhow.

HUMPHREY: What does it say?

BISHOP: Well, it said. It's funny you ask me what it said. You've got it committed to memory. It says that your father, Hubert Humphrey, Senior, would tell his children, because he had sometimes voted Republican, now, treat your mother with respect, don't you argue with her and don't ever speak harshly to her because she is my sweetheart. Then he smilingly added, remember some times she's politically unreliable.

HUMPHREY: Yes, that's true.

BISHOP: Which was my big laugh.

(Laughter and applause)

HUMPHREY: Joey, forgive me, it was my mother and I Just remember she used to --- my father used to tell me many times, he said, you know, I just never know how your mother is going to vote. He said it's very discouraging.

He was county chairman and he was the local Democratic spokesman and mother always had a few doubts about the Democratic candidate.

And I can remember one time when I went home after my father had passed away, and I had given a very partisan speech, which I used to do about every two years in the old home town. They all came; everybody came whether they liked it or not. It was just sort of a night out, and....

BISHOP: A lot of cinnamon rolls.

HUMPHREY: And I made it quite an attack. And this was when President Eisenhower was in the White House, and mother liked President Eisenhower. I pointed out what was really the fact that there'd been a very large federal deficit, and I pointed out the amount of it. It was something like 10 to 11 billions of dollars. It was in the recession year of 1958.

And when I got home, mother had some of her lady friends in the living room, and she'd already gotten a coffee pot on and there was cookies and cake and so on, and she called me out in the kitchen, and she said, "I'm just ashamed of you." And I said, "Well mother why do you talk like that?" She said, "Well, the way you talked, your father would never have tolerated what you said tonight." And I said, "Why's that?" And she said, "Well the way you talked about Mr. Eisenhower." And I said, "Well, but I didn't say anything untrue about President Eisenhower." She said, "You said he had a deficit." She said, "Now, you know Republicans don't have deficits. It's Democrats that have deficits."

(Laughter)

HUMPHREY: Now, what do you think about that?

BISHOP: I think that mother made good cinnamon rolls. (Laughter)

We'll do this, and then with your permission, Mr. Vice President, we'll go visit with the audience, and I'm sure there are many serious questions that the audience would like to ask of you, and I do pride myself on the intelligence of my audience, aren't you?

We'll be right back after this word from your local station.

* * *

BISHOP: Mister Vice President, we're back on the air.

HUMPHREY: Yes, sir.

(Laughter)

BISHOP: Yes, sir.

MAN: Mister Vice President, do you think that America will ever have England into the Common Market?

HUMPHREY: Well, I hope so. I believe that it's very desirable.

As you know, our country has long favored that policy of England becoming a part of the European Common Market. In fact, what we call the Outer Seven, which are associated with Britain, EFTA, becoming a part of the Inner Six, which is the Common Market. We think that would be sound policy, but we're not in charge of England and we're not in charge of Western Europe. We just give it encouragement. I think it would be good for all of us.

MAN: Thank you very much, sir.

BISHOP: Where are you from, may I ask.

MAN: I'm from Glasgow, Scotland. I'm in the British Army.

HUMPHREY: Well, hooray.

BISHOP: I thought you were from the Bronx.

(Laughter)

BISHOP: We have time for one more question. Yes ma'am.

WOMAN: Mister Vice President, do you plan on doing anything about mental health?

HUMPHREY: Yes, as a matter of fact, both in the field of mental health and mental retardation, Mrs. Humphrey and I have a very keen interest.

I don't know whether one of my friends from home is here tonight or not, but Mrs. Joseph, who is my co-chairman of my national campaign, is the president-to-be--well, is very active in the Mental Health Association -- I believe is to be one of the leading officers, if not the president or the president-elect of the National Mental Health Association, so we're pretty interested in it.

WOMAN: Yes, they need a lot of help.

HUMPHREY: You bet.

WOMAN: And Joey Bishop, could I sing a song?

BISHOP: I would say on any other night, perhaps.

WOMAN: Okay.

BISHOP: I hope you understand.

WOMAN: All right.

BISHOP: Alright? Because it could be perhaps, you know....

(Laughter and applause)

BISHOP: We have to break away, and then we'll have an entire segment when we come back. We'll be right back, after this word from your local station, with the Vice President.

* * *

BISHOP: Mister Vice President, we're back on the air. We have a young lady here who would like to ask you a question.

WOMAN: Yes. I have heard several versions over the radio today that you have released your delegates, and I'd like to know if this is true, and if so, why?

HUMPHREY: Yes, the -- what I did today was to make an announcement that I wanted every delegate that came to the Democratic National Convention to be -- to vote as an individual delegate and to feel perfectly free to cast their vote as they wish.

Now, the reason for that is that in some delegations in some states, we have what we call the unit rule where let's say that you have 40 delegates and let's say 35 of them are for myself and five for somebody else, I would get all 40 under the unit rule.

I have said to those states, release those delegates, let each one vote individually, and if I still get my 35, well and good. If somebody else gets five, well and good.

This way we have what we call an open convention. We don't have anybody that can bind other delegations. The delegates can vote as they want to. They are not under any kind of compulsion or any kind of rule of majority rule within the delegation.

(Applause)

BISHOP: I would never forgive myself if I did not acknowledge in the audience the presence of your lovely wife, your handsome son, and your gorgeous daughter-in-law.

HUMPHREY: They're all here, just like you described them.

BISHOP: I was wondering if they'd be kind enough to take a bow. Mrs. Humphrey. Bobby Humphrey and Donna Humphrey. Take a bow.

(Applause)

BISHOP: Yes, sir.

MAN: Mister Vice President, as you think about the events in Czechoslovakia since January of this year, does this give you any idea of a way or of a course of action you might take as you think about the United States or the Free World and Communism? As you watch a Communist country struggling on its own without having to be fought for or defended, does this -- how does this influence your thinking on the subject?

HUMPHREY: First I must say to you that the situation in Czechoslovakia is so sensitive right now that -- this goes back to what Joey was asking me a while ago.

In my position as Vice President and not just as citizen or not as candidate, we must be very, very careful about whatever we -- whatever any of us in government may say about this situation. I can only point out one thing, that behind what we once called the Iron Curtain is no longer an iron curtain. If there is any curtain, it has been eorded; it's been punctured; it has been rusted through. In fact, I think it's becoming very much an open curtain.

And there is a movement of emancipation and liberalization going on all over the world, just as we see it right here in the United States, where people are wanting to be themselves, where they want their own identity. And I think it's got quite a -- quite a story here, quite a lesson.

The desire for people to be free, it's an amazing thing. It's like a plant that will break through the rock to come into sunlight under the most difficult conditions. Humankind has that same kind of energy, that same kind of thrust. I think that's what you're really seeing.

(Applause)

JS -
see this
&
return to
Terry

BISHOP: Yes, sir.

MAN: Mister Humphrey, what are your views on giving the vote to 18 year olds?

HUMPHREY: I am for it. I believe it's very good.

(Applause)

HUMPHREY: May I say that it will require, as you know, a Constitutional amendment. And this is one thing that I believe that our young people in the coming months could do a great deal about, asking candidates for Congress whether or not they will support in the Congress a Constitutional resolution for an 18 year old vote, because that resolution, once passed by both houses of the Congress, must then go to the states for ratification to become a part of the Constitution, and I think this is a mighty good political project for this election year of 1968.

I have supported the 18 year old vote ever since I went to Congress in 1949. I think it's deserved. Young men at age 18 give their lives for their country. Most of them by that time are high school graduates. This generation of young Americans is the best educated generation we've ever had. They've had to take on great responsibilities. I think they ought to have something to say about the decisions of their country. That's what the vote's about.

(Applause)

BISHOP: This gentleman here.

MAN: Vice President Humphrey, how do you feel about the abolishment of the Electoral College?

HUMPHREY: I think the time is coming when we ought to elect our Presidents by popular vote. I believe that's really what we ought to have.

(Applause)

BISHOP: This young lady back there. Yes ma'am?

WOMAN: Since the election of many of the local delegates is rather confusing, do you feel that we should have a national primary with national regulations for each party?

HUMPHREY: If we're going to have primaries that are meaningful, young lady, it should be a national primary with national standards because what you have now in about

one-third to one-fourth of the states are state primaries, every one of them different. Some of them when you win in a primary, that means the delegates really belong to you. You can win a primary in another state and never get a delegate. It's just what they call a popularity contest. You can win a primary in another state and it's what we call preference. They sort of lean your way.

Well, that kind of primary law gives a good deal of newspaper coverage. It gives you a sort of an impetus as a candidate. It gives you some publicity and some strength, but it doesn't have very much effect ultimately upon the decision that's made at the convention or in the selection of a Presidential candidate.

Therefore, I believe that if you're going to have primaries, number one, there should be national standards from national officers; secondly, it would be better to have a national primary under very detailed rules and regulations so that we know exactly what we're doing.

WOMAN: Thank you.

(Applause)

MAN: Mister Vice President, as you know there's been much distress in the minority community throughout the various summers. I was wondering if you might give us some information as to the various programs that are being initiated to alleviate some of the joblessness that's found in the minority community.

HUMPHREY: Yes. We've had a good deal of unrest in America, just as there has been throughout the world.

And by the way, this gives me a moment to say that this unrest or this restlessness that you see in America is not peculiar to the United States. All over the world, young people have this sense of restlessness. It's true behind the Iron Curtain. It's true in countries like the Scandinavian countries. It was obviously true in France recently, as we noted. It's been true in Britain, in Rome, all over the world.

Now, what are we trying to do here at home? Well, let me say first of all what we're trying to do is not enough. I think the very first thing that we need to understand in the United States is the day of racial discrimination, or racial bogotry, of racial segregation, that that day is over. Some people may not know it, but it's over.

Now, we've got to start to practice our so-called legal civil rights, rather than

just have them on the statute books. And I have called upon our young people in particular to set an example for their elders, to accept people for what they are, to try to engage in social service to help those who are deprived and who are needy, to go into the ghettos and the inner cities, to work in the hospitals, to work in remedial education, to work in the playgrounds, to give the kids that haven't had a break, to give them a little extra break.

We've got to upgrade the quality of our education in these areas. Many of the young people in America today that are from poor families -- white or black -- are the victims of educational inequality, and it isn't good enough just to give them equality. You have to give them a little extra dose.

It's sort of like a person that's been a victim of starvation. It isn't good enough just to give them a normal diet. You first of all have got to give them the extra things that they need to get them up where they can use a normal diet.

Now, what have we been doing? -- manpower training programs, youth opportunity program. Last summer we were able to find jobs for 1,450,000 needy young people in America between the ages of 16 and 21. We have vast recreation programs underway now. We have remedial educational programs. We have many of these things -- project Upward Bound, the work study programs. We have the Project Head Start for the youngsters, the pre-school age.

But with all of it, my dear friend, may I say there's so much more to do. What we've done thus far is to prove that some things will work.

I'll just end up on this note. Most everybody wants to earn his or her own way. People do not want to be relief clients or supplicants. They want to live in self-respect and dignity.

The best thing that you can do in a war on poverty is to give a fellow a job, a meaningful job, a person a job. Let people have a piece of the action, so to speak. Let them own a piece of property. In the black community, let them be entrepreneurs. Let them have their bank, a department store that they can own, that they can run. There isn't any reason that some people should just be employees. Other people are owners as well as being employees. And when we get this kind of an America, we're going to have much less restlessness, much less. And people are going to feel they have a country that belongs to them.

(Applause)

BISHOP: We have time for just one more question. Yes, sir?

MAN: Recently in South Vietnam, the runner-up in last year's election was jailed because he said things that the Saigon government considered demoralizing to the war effort. How do you feel about that?

HUMPHREY: Well, I've had that question asked before. I really do not know what the evidence is there, quite frankly. And I don't think it's good for any of us to stand in judgment until we really know what evidence a country or a government might have on another particular citizen. This is a citizen of South Vietnam.

I venture to say that in this audience that if we polled it very few people would know who the gentleman was because we're not quite that familiar with all of the details.

I happen to believe that one of the requirements of a representative government is due process of law, and I would hope this gentleman, Mr. Dzu, will get some due process of law. I'm not sure that he will, but I hope that he shall, but I don't know what the evidence is and I don't want to stand in judgment.

(Applause)

BISHOP: That's all the time we have in this segment. I must do this...

* * *

BISHOP: Mister Vice President, I know that Mrs. Humphrey and your son and daughter-in-law are hungry. I'm not going to detain you. I thank you, first of all, for having given up your dinner date to spend some time with us.

But I must ask you, how does a Presidential candidate relax? Now, that must be awfully strenuous, campaigning. There were I think three television shows that you've done. You were down, I believe, in the Watts area this morning.

HUMPHREY: Yes, sir.

BISHOP: What do you do for relaxation?

HUMPHREY: Well, Joey, I like to live as normal a life as possible. When I get a chance, we go out to our home in Waverley, Minnesota where we have a lovely lake home. I like to boat; I like to swim; I like to hike; I like baseball.

I like -- you know I watch the baseball games on television when I can't go to them, and I try to get to one once in a while. That's one of my favorite sports. I think it's a great sport. I like football.

I'm a spectator for sports as well as a sort of a junior league participant. I just get a big kick out of unwinding, so to speak, with my family and with my friends.

BISHOP: You're also, I understand -- and this is from my underground spy system -- quite a dancer.

HUMPHREY: Oh, I do like to swing a bit. As a matter of fact, I like it very, very much.

(Applause)

BISHOP: Now, I must say that -- and you must forgive me -- in our age bracket, swinging can very well be a fox trot or a waltz.

HUMPHREY: Oh, I'm way beyond that. I've come a long ways since then.

BISHOP: The frug and all that?

HUMPHREY: Well, in a sort of my own inimitable style. It doesn't always fit the pattern, but I get a big bounce of it, and I mean a bounce.

(Laughter)

BISHOP: Do you like the music that the kids are....

HUMPHREY: Oh, I love it. In fact, I love all kinds of music. Everything from classical music to jazz to what the kids are playing now and what they respond to. I really do. I get a real good lift out of it and enjoy it. Our whole family does, as a matter of fact.

Mrs. Humphrey, Muriel, plays the piano and plays it pretty well, and our kids dance and they bring all the gang out to the house, and let me tell you, once in a while my wife'll say, now that's enough. You don't need to look anymore. Just come on inside. That is when some of those younger numbers come out there. But I really enjoy it.

BISHOP: Mister Vice President, before you leave I would like to take another minute of your time and ask you something.

Now, I've had a kind of a campaign here. It seems like for the past few years we have been preaching, you know, love. You see kids walking around extending two fingers indicating love. And I've kind of inaugurated a new policy -- maybe not a new philosophy, but a new policy -- and I've always felt that we have to start with kindness first. I said -- as an example, I said if I'm out on the highway and it's raining and I've got a flat tire, don't go by and say I love you and just keep going, you know. Be a little kind and stop and help me with my flat tire and then if you don't want to love me afterwards, that's fine too.

HUMPHREY: Right.

BISHOP: Now, don't you think there is an absence of kindness in our country today? I read in your book, for example, when someone had a child in your neighborhood, everyone celebrated. When someone was ill, everybody pitched in.

And I said on this particular show one night, I said we all know what's going on, but somehow we don't seem to care enough to want to help, and yet this one paragraph in your book gave to believe that in your particular neighborhood, as in my particular neighborhood in South Philadelphia, people cared enough. If they heard someone was not well, they cared enough. Do you find it kind of disappearing?

HUMPHREY: I think the visible evidence of it is somewhat less, Joey. I believe people are caught up in everything that's so big today, that they're not quite sure of just who are their friends and with whom they should identify. I think this is part of what the restlessness in America is about today.

I think this is particularly true with young people. They feel that the government's big -- too big, the system is too big, too impersonal.

The university is really very big and too impersonal, and they're really trying some way or another to remind us that here I am. Let's talk person to person. They want, as they put it, a dialogue individual to individual.

But there's a basic goodness in the American people, Joey. If I didn't believe that I'd get out of politics in five minutes. I know that there is a basic sense of compassion and decency and goodness in the American people and that's kindness. We just have to find ways to tap that. And every day there is some of us that see these little acts of kindness.

But I tend to agree with you, that it isn't good enough just to put up the symbol of love, so to speak, but to act the deeds of kindness, and the one thing that I would say, if I can give my commercial on this program, is that the poison that kills is the poison of hate.

And if we can somehow rid ourselves of this toxin of hate, of bitterness, I think this country is going to be able to take care of any problem that confronts it. You just consume yourself and all your energy with bitterness and hate, and if you find ways to express that same energy with compassion and kindness and understanding and patience, we're going to overcome any problem that we have, Joey.

And your program -- I want to compliment you. You're constantly preaching in the most unpreaching manner, in the most entertaining and, I think, in the most refreshing manner, the concept of human brotherhood. You make people feel good.

(Applause)

BISHOP: Mister Vice President, thank you ver, very much. Would you say good night to Mrs. Humphrey and your son and daughter, will you?

PHILBIN: Good luck to you. It's been nice meeting you.

(Applause)



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