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VICE PRESIDENT TO SEEK RESTRUCTURING OF U. S.
EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 10 -- Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey tonight called for a restructuring of the American educational system to provide full opportunity for ghetto youngsters.

In a four minute television talk on NBC at 10:55 EDT, the Vice President spoke feelingly of the problems of the slums and of urban America and the need for remedial action.

The televised statement was drawn from film taken at an informal staff meeting at which the Vice President told key aides of his purposes and beliefs in this campaign.

"I am a born educator. That's the only reason I want to be President," Vice President Humphrey said. I want to be able to help lift the quality of life in this country." And not just for you -- you're doing all right -- but for the people who never had a break. And that means a whole restructuring of our educational system."

The text of the Vice President's televised remarks follows:

STAFF MEETING

This is a living people, a living constitution, "We the people do establish and order," not did. But the living constitution, the living nation, the living republic, the preciousness of life, and not just life for survival, but life that is meaningful, life that is enriched -- everything emanates from that. Our hatred of war, our abhorrence of violence, our love of music, art culture, everything -- education -- it all comes from that central principle. The greatest gift that you have is life and the second greatest gift is health.

And so we're going to talk about the life of our people, the life of this nation, the life of this world. How we preserve this life, how we enrich this life, how we make it meaningful, how we make it better.

We've got about five or six million people in America that are walking dead. They've lost their reason to live. They're frustrated, bitter, unemployed, unwanted, living in filth and degradation and all they've got going for them is a blood stream runnin', and a heart beating, and breath.

The agony of disease, the agony of fear, or worry, of despair, of not being wanted, of prejudice, of bigotry, of hatred, that's the worst way to kill a man, because it just lingers on and on and on and you just live in misery.

So we're trying to be healers. That's what I meant about healing. To heal these wounds, to awaken this spirit that is lethargic now, that appears to have just a wee little spark of life -- to awaken it, to offer hope and health, to offer hope and education.

(more)

I am going to be, if I am President, the nation's educator. I am a born educator. That's the only reason I want to be President. I want to be able to help lift the quality of life in this country. And not just for you, you're doing all right -- but for the people who never had a break. And that means a whole restructuring of our educational system.

Now we've got to figure out what's happened here to our educational system because if all we're going to do is plow in more money into the same system, what we're going to do is at best modify some of its worst abuses.

Let's assume that I got elected President of the United States and that I got reelected. Where would we be in 1976? That's our 200th anniversary -- I'd like to put some bench marks up here. The year 2000 is too far for some of you old folks around here. For us younger crowd, it isn't too far for me. I expect to be around.

Where do you think our educational system is going to be? I'll tell you if it isn't any better than it is now, there isn't any hope for those kids in the ghettos. We're just beginning to make the breakthroughs. It's just enough to give some people a sense of restlessness, some others a sense of hope, and others a sense of despair. And that's what it all boils down to.

I continuously hear that the Vice President has not really spoken out on the cities. I've talked about an urban development bank; I've talked about the most commonplace problems that happen in our slums

-- The place that has the least protection that needs the most,

-- That has the oldest schools that needs the newest,

-- That has the poorest teachers that needs the best,

-- That gets the garbage collected less often that needs it collected more often,

-- That has the oldest fire equipment and needs the newest,

(more)

-- That has the worst streets and needs the best,

-- That has the fewest parks and needs the most.

Now, that's the picture of slum America and I know it like the back of my hand. I've been all over this country. There's no candidate that's ever run for public office that's been in urban America as much as the man you're looking at. And if I don't know this, then I do not love my mother or know my children.

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