



news release

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BUILD BRIDGES OF UNDERSTANDING AT HOME AND ABROAD, VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY URGES

Wilmington, Del., September 12 -- Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey today urged Americans to "build new bridges . . . of understanding and cooperation" among ourselves and between nations.

The very fact that there is greater tension today among the superpowers of the world "tells us that we must work unceasingly to reduce "that tension;" the Vice President said.

"For if nations shall finally be unable to build bridges between each other in Year 23 of the Nuclear Age, I cannot hold much hope for the future either of ourselves or of the human family," Vice President Humphrey said.

He urged:

- * Efforts to "turn back the international arms race."
- * Support for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty now before the Senate for ratification.
- * Strengthening of the United Nations and other international institutions for peace.
- * "Fortitude to see through a long, demanding negotiation in Paris which may finally bring peace to Southeast Asia."

Similarly, Americans must counter those who would divide the nation, the Vice President said.

"We have a choice now in America. It is whether or not we shall continue as a nation of bridge builders, or whether we shall fall back into all the old antagonisms and suspicions that divide one human being from another," he said.

The Vice President's statement was made at the dedication of the new span of the Delaware Memorial Bridge. His text is attached.

. . .more

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
BRIDGE DEDICATION
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE
SEPTEMBER 12, 1968

Today, we dedicate this second span of the Delaware Memorial Bridge to the memory of those Americans from Delaware and New Jersey who gave their lives for us.

How shall we be worthy of them?

We must build new bridges -- not just bridges of concrete and steel, but of tolerance, understanding and cooperation.

We must build these bridges among our own people and to the outside world.

In recent days the whole concept of bridge building -- the idea that previously hostile societies and peoples should increase contact and communication -- has been brought into question.

The issue has indeed been raised in this presidential campaign.

We have a choice now in America.

It is whether or not we shall continue as a nation of bridge builders, or whether we shall fall back into all the old antagonism and suspicions that divide one human being from another.

* * *

Yes, there is greater tension today among the superpowers of the world than there was a month or a year ago. But the very fact of that tension tells us that we must work unceasingly to reduce it.

We must have the courage to turn back the international arms race.

We must have the determination to support the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty now awaiting ratification in the United States Senate.

We must have the patience to strengthen the United Nations and international institutions for peace.

We must have the fortitude to see through a long, demanding negotiation in Paris which may finally bring peace to Southeast Asia.

For if nations shall finally be unable to build bridges between each other in Year 23 of the Nuclear Age, I cannot hold much hope for the future either of ourselves or of the human family.

* * *

Here at home the need for bridges has never been greater.

We see our nation beset by those who would divide us black from white . . . rich from poor . . . young from old . . . North from South . . . city from suburb.

. . . more

And we must ask ourselves: is this the kind of America we want?

What this country will be like in the year 2000 for us . . .for our children . . .and our grandchildren, will be determined by the choices that we make in the coming weeks.

With the pace of technology, with the onset of new patterns of living that will last for generations, we must make these choices soon, or lose the chance perhaps forever.

What we have done here, in building this bridge between states, we must do elsewhere, in re-building our cities:

...By purging them of blight;

...By transforming neighborhoods into communities where families may live in safety . . .in comfort . . .in security;

...By ridding them of the dulling pall of noise . . .of smoke . . .of crime . . .congestion . . .and decay.

And we can purge this nation of more than the blight of noise and smoke, crime, congestion and decay.

We can purge from within our hearts the misunderstanding and hate that are far more destructive to our nation than any physical blight.

I believe we, as a people, are willing to make that commitment.

I believe we shall be able to do it.

I believe the American people will turn away from the temptation of inwardness and isolation.

I believe that we can, in our time, become known as a nation of bridge builders -- builders of understanding, of hope and purpose and faith.

Carl Sandburg said it:

"I see America, not in the setting sun of a black night of despair ahead of us. I see America in the crimson light of a rising sun fresh from the burning, creative hand of God. I see great days ahead, great days possible to men and women of will and vision. . ."

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SPEECH OF
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
TO
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE
DEDICATION OF DELAWARE MEMORIAL BRIDGE
TWIN SPAN
SEPTEMBER 12, 1968

(INTRODUCTION BY THE HONORABLE CHARLES L. TERRY, JR.,
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE)

GOVERNOR TERRY: Mr. Vice President,
Your Excellency of the Church, Governor Hughes,
Governor Carvell, other distinguished guests, ladies,
and gentlemen:

When I remember back to 1951 and
the opening of the Delaware Memorial Bridge at the
time, I am reminded of the passage of seventeen years
which have gone by ever so swiftly.

Governor Carvell, who is with us
on this platform, was then the Chief Executive of
Delaware and stood on a platform similar to this on
which we stand today.

With him at that time was
Governor Driscoll of New Jersey, who, unfortunately,
cannot be with us today.

The first bridge culminated out
of a series of Legislative entanglements, permit
problems, financial problems, and, to some extent,
construction problems. Indeed, we were and are
proud of the first single crossing of the Delaware
River between our two sister states.

And today our pride increases.

We have before us two strong links in a communication and transportation network between our two states. The Twin Span not only serves us locally but also stretches its influence on traffic to New York and New England to Wilmington to the nation's Capital and on to the south and west.

When the first bridge was completed, the two thousand, one hundred and fifty-foot span made it the sixth largest suspension bridge in the world, a mighty effort, indeed. Now, the passage of time and effort has served this purpose: Now we have the fourteenth longest suspension structure but the longest continuous suspension span in the world.

Naturally, a project of this magnitude has involved the hard work and talented contribution of many individuals. We here in Delaware certainly want to acknowledge the outstanding effort of J. H. Thomas McConner, the first chairman of this operation, who is with us today. We also want to give specific remembrance to those whose guidance and wisdom was meaningful beyond acknowledgement.

who cannot be with us today because of death.

We are indeed in debt to many for the completion of this great project. It will mean safety of travel, we are sure, to millions of Americans.

We take pride in the prowess of the engineering performance, and certainly the citizens of our two states should be particularly proud that we stand here today in the presence of these two spans, thinking of how they are the largest of their type in the world and of how they are certain to become among the most traveled bridges ever completed by man.

Now, it is my real pleasure to present to you a most delightful and charming lady, one who has visited Delaware often and aided us greatly in the solution of problems concerning our handicapped citizens, Mrs. Hubert H. Humphrey.

(Applause.)

GOVERNOR TERRY: Of course, there is left for me to present to you our guest of honor -- and he is a very busy man, as we all know, today

traveling throughout our country -- and he has set aside this day to pay to us, the people of Delaware and New Jersey, a state visit to dedicate for us the Twin Bridges.

He has become a dear friend to Delaware and a warm personal friend of mine.

The Vice President of the United States.

(Applause)

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY:

Thank you very much, Governor Terry.

Mr. Chairman, Governor Terry and Governor Hughes, the Reverend Clergy, distinguished guests, and my fellow Americans:

Just a few minutes ago, Governor Terry, just prior to your addressing us, I noticed someone out there in the audience who had a sign that said, "Horatio at the Bridge."

And now I know why I was invited.

(Laughter)

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY:

Hubert Horatio Humphrey.

I do not

suppose there is any other candidate for public office who has the credentials at bridge dedications that I have.

Truthfully, I feel highly honored to be permitted at these ceremonies.

I come to you today as a friend, fellow Americans, and as your Vice President.

As has been said, today we dedicate this second span and here rededicate the first span of the Delaware Memorial Bridge, and we dedicate it to the highest of purposes and to the finest of men, to the memories of those Americans from Delaware and from New Jersey who have given their lives in war since World War II and in subsequent conflicts, giving their lives not for conquest, not for delusion, not for our national wealth, but, rather, in our national security and even may I say for the peace and the security and the safety of millions of others who do not inhabit this land.

Never has there been a nation so generous with its resources, with its people, and

with its most precious possession, its young men and women, as this nation.

This great bridge today is more than concrete and steel. It represents a living memorial to those who have gone to their eternal reward. Let us keep that in mind, even as we hear the hum of traffic which represents the life of a busy nation.

Interstate cooperation is evident here today, and I want to pause to speak with you just a moment as a student of government to note with you how we in this system of ours are able to adjust our institutions of government to the needs of the people.

Our Constitution is a living document and not an historical article. That Constitution made it possible for the fifty states of this great Federal Union to work together in harmony with the central or Federal Government for one purpose and one purpose only -- the well-being of the American people.

We are, in fact, engineers in

human relations as well as engineers in the more orthodox sense of that term, engineers in the sense of government -- adjustable, flexible, innovative, and creative.

I say this because, as has been noted from this platform today, a bi-state Delaware River and Bay Authority was created by two states -- Delaware and New Jersey -- and then ratified by the Congress of the United States to make it possible for this Authority to finance this great undertaking and to do it out of revenue bonds instead of out of the public treasury.

My fellow Americans, this tells me something -- and I hope it tells you the same thing -- that whatever we need to do and whatever we want to do, we can do it if we just make up our minds to get the job done.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY:

So to those who are always preaching premature funeral sermons for our Republic and our society, let me say this is a living society, a growing nation,

an useful people, and I, for one, am one who believes that the better days are yet to be lived. Indeed, that is my philosophy.

But, now, in memory of those for whom this bridge is being dedicated, how shall we be worthy of them?

Only by concrete and steel?

Hardly enough.

We must build new bridges, but not just bridges of concrete and steel but, rather, human bridges of tolerance and of understanding and of cooperation. We must build these bridges among our own people right here in our own blessed land, and we must build these bridges to the outside world because, my dear friends, there is but this one world for us. This is our world, our neighborhood, and if we isolate ourselves from our neighbors, we are the losers, and we are in the more danger.

In recent days the whole concept of bridge building, bridge building between nations, the idea that previously hostile societies and peoples should increase their contacts and communicate, has

been brought into serious question. At least it is being questioned very seriously by many people whose view of history has been of the moment rather than in the long perspective of history.

The aggression of the Soviet Union into Czechoslovakia has, in a very real sense, shocked the entire civilized world, and it has reminded us, once again, of the danger and of the seriousness of the times in which we are living. It has brought us into a new realization that peace and freedom are under constant attack by the forces of totalitarianism -- sometimes under attack by insidious circumstances, sometimes perhaps under attack by subversives, and then sometimes in naked aggression.

We have seen it in Czechoslovakia, and we have seen it and we pay a terrible price for it in Southeast Asia.

And as we face this increased tension, it is quite obvious, it seems to me, that we must maintain the vitality and the cohesion of the great alliance known as NATO so that no nation may be tempted to take an unnecessary risk of

misreading our will.

We must continue to try to make that alliance not only a military serial of development but might I suggest a better instrument and tool, for economic and social and political engagement and action in Europe and throughout the world.

Our strength is our protection. Peace does not come to the timid or the weak. It comes to those who are strong in mind and body and spirit and in the substance of our economy.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY:

Yes, my fellow Americans, at a time when emotion, preaching militancy, chanting, clatter, and noise seems to preoccupy much of our attention and time, may I respectfully suggest that reason and restraint are called for.

May I respectfully suggest that meditation and careful thought are more essential now than ever before.

The problems that beset our

country and the grave difficulties that beset this troubled world will not be settled in the streets or on the battlefields; they will be settled in the conference, in negotiation, among the nations and in the great institutions of international understanding.

Now, if ever, we should reason with one another and do it in confidence.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY:

This is a time when friends must stand together. This is a time when Americans must stand together, forgetting our petty differences and understanding that this nation of ours offers such promises not only to ourselves but to all of God's children.

Never was there a time in which we are more needed than now, and never was there a time when we needed each other more than now.

So listen not to those voices that divide us; listen not to the haters and those who would destroy this sense of community and brotherhood that we need; listen not to those who, once again, would return to the past and suggest that the answers

to the problems that are now confronting us should be found in self-destruction.

This is a time, however, that we must serve notice on our adversaries that there is far more to be gained from peaceful engagements in work and relaxation of tensions than from the reversion to the Cold War.

We have two choices to make. That is what I am trying to say to you.

We have a choice to make now in America. It is whether or not we shall continue now as a nation of nation builders, of bridge builders, or whether we shall fall back into all the old bad habits, the old antagonisms, the doubts and the suspensions, the failure and the despair, that divide human beings from one another.

I would hope that, in memory of those for whom this span is dedicated, that we would have come to the understanding that violence in any form is not the answer to the problems of mankind.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY:

Yes, I recognize -- and we must understand -- that, for the moment, there is greater tension among the super powers of the world than there was a month or a year ago.

But the very fact of that tension tells us that we must work unceasingly to reduce it -- ever vigilant, ever prudent, ever watchful -- but also ever probing, ever reaching out, to find ways to heal the wounds, to find reconciliation.

First, I believe that we must have the courage to try, out of all of the gifts of our intellect and spirit, to turn back the national arms race. I remind this fine audience that the super powers and, indeed, a few others, have now, at this moment, the capacity of total destruction, total annihilation, of all of God's creation. We will either halt the arms race, or it may very well halt humanity.

One erratic act, one unreasoned decision, one emotional outburst on the part of an unstable person in a position of leadership today can

unleash on this world a holocaust of catastrophe and disaster that the human mind is unable to comprehend.

Make no mistake about it, my fellow Americans, the world is not short of destructive power. The world is short today of healing, of reconciliation, of love, and of peace.

We must have the determination, therefore, we here in America, to try to halt the spread of these nuclear weapons. We have more than we need, and others have more than they need. The Soviet Union and the United States stand today like super giants, for within their hands is unlimited power of total destruction.

We have come to an agreement after months and years of negotiation to try to stop the spread of the nuclear weapons technology, to see to it that no more of these weapons go around this world in other hands -- it is dangerous enough now as it is -- to see that these weapons do not find their way into Asia or Southeast Asia and the Middle East, where violence is rife, where emotion, all too often, rules, rather than reason.

I say that we must have the determination, then, to support the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, as it is called in its technical terms, now awaiting ratification in the United States Senate.

To delay in the building of the Cathedral of Peace is not a contribution to the Cathedral of Peace. There need be no delay. Eighty nations have ratified the treaty. It is our child; it was our dream; it was our proposal. And for the strongest nation on the face of the earth, equipped as no other with an arsenal of power, that we should halt, that we should delay, in setting into place this great building block of peace in the Cathedral of Peace I say is to deny our greatness and to, in a very serious way, prove that we are unworthy of trust.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY:

So I call upon the Senate of the United States and I call upon the leaders and spokesmen of all political parties to lead and to follow us in this all-important

endeavor, which does not restrict our national security, but, rather, enhances it, which does not jeopardize the peace of the world, but, rather, protects it. It is in our national interest.

And, then, we must have the patience to strengthen the United Nations. The United Nations is not a perfect instrument, but it is the best that we have been able to create in this post-war world for bringing about a better spirit among the nations and peoples and peace. And we must strengthen its peace-keeping machinery and all international institutions of security and peace, and we must have the fortitude to see through a long and demanding negotiation at Paris, which may finally bring peace to Southeast Asia and Vietnam.

For if nations shall finally be unable to build these bridges of respect and cooperation between each other in this year 23 of the nuclear age, we cannot hold much hope for the future either of ourselves or the rest of the human family.

Now, here at home the need for

the building of bridges of human understanding has never been greater. We see today our nation beset by those who would divide us -- black from white, rich from poor, city from countryside, innercity from the suburb, young from old, and even North from South.

There are voices being raised in this land today, heated voices of hatred, and very definitely they call us to destruction, not to build. They call us to battle, not to tolerance.

And we must ask ourselves: Is this the kind of America that we want -- divided, torn by conflict, filled with doubt and suspicion and fear?

I think not.

I still believe that most Americans, oh, yes, that an overwhelming preponderant majority of Americans, still believe in the American dream of one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY:

What will this country be like in the year 2000? In

that year, most Americans who are alive today will still be alive. What will it be like for them, for our children, and our grandchildren?

What it will be like will be determined by the decisions and the choices that we make now. The decisions of today chart the course of tomorrow. With the pace of science and technology, with the onset of new patterns of living that will last for generations, we must make those choices soon and now or lose the chance, perhaps forever.

We must make the choice to keep this economy of ours still growing so that the social dividends of better living can come to more and more Americans.

We must make the choice now to see to it that every child, regardless of race or religion or background or circumstances, shall have the best education that modern teaching and modern schools can provide.

We must make the choice now as to whether we are going to live as a family of Americans in friendship and respect or whether we are going to

live as an armed camp of enemies, filled with apprehension and animosity.

I think we know what choice we have to make. I think we know that the source of strength of this nation is in its people. I think we know that in our unity is our strength. I think we know that there is more that binds us together than tears us apart. I think we know that we need an America of one spirit, and I think we have the capacity to create it.

Yes, as evidenced by what we have done here in building this bridge between states, we must do elsewhere in our social and economic and political fabric.

We must do it in the rebuilding of our cities, where most of our people are living and where a hundred million more Americans in the next twenty-five years will seek to find a home.

We must apply the engineering and technology and, indeed, the planning and the financing that is so evident in this great engineering feat to our cities. The city of man was made for man,

and the city of man ought to have the environment in which the spirit of man can be enriched and loved rather than degraded and beaten to the ground. Cities must become living institutions rather than dying monuments to the excellence of the human spirit.

We must rebuild our cities by purging them of blight and slurrings of the character. Any country that can create an environment in a space capsule to put a man on the moon can create an environment in a city to help put a man on his feet.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY:

And we must rebuild our cities by transforming the neighborhoods into living communities where men, women, and children can live in safety and not in fear and live in comfort and live in security. We must rebuild our cities by ridding them of the dulling pall of noise, of smoke, of crime, of congestion, and decay.

And it can be done.

If it is not done, then America has had its most glorious hour and it is on the way

down to defeat.

But if it is done, which I know it can be done, then the future offers greater promise than any nation or any civilization has ever known.

And I believe we can purge this nation of more than the blight and the noise and the smoke and the crime and the congestion and the decay; I believe that we can purge from within our hearts the misunderstanding and hate of which I have spoken, which are far more destructive to our nation than any physical blight.

I believe that we, as a people, must be and are willing to make that commitment. I believe that the American people will turn away from the temptation of inwardness, selfishness, and isolation.

I believe that we can, in our time, become known as a nation of bridge builders, of human engineers, building bridges of understanding, of hope, of purpose, and of faith because, fellow Americans, we are nation builders, we are understanding

builders, we are the future, even as we build for today.

That famous American poet who understood so well the spirit of our nation, Carl Sandburg, said it this way -- and he said that he envisioned our he saw, in his mind's eye and spirit, that such is the real voice of America.

Listen to those beautiful words:

"I see America, not in the setting sun of a black night of despair ahead of us. I see America in the crimson light of a rising sun, fresh from the burning, creative hand of God. I see great days ahead, great days possible, to men and women of will and vision."

What a prayer for our nation, what a testimonial of faith, and what an inspiring message from the heart of a poet who understands what America is, the last best hope of earth.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. ALEXIS I. dupont BAYARD: I am going to ask the Legislature of Delaware to pass a

resolution authorizing the flying of the flag of America, the United States, on a twenty-four-hour basis, the year around. It seems that this is a most suitable place. And if the Legislature consents, which I'm sure they will, it will be the eighth time that such an event has been authorized.

Now, at this time, I have set aside the time to thank Dick Hughes, the great Governor of the State of New Jersey, for the warmth of his friendship and for his great help and cooperation between our two states, Dick Hughes, whose vision and understanding is responsible for great civil legislation in his state, has enriched the people thereby.

And, Dick, I am sorry to see you leaving the Governorship of New Jersey, and I'm quite sure that the one and only reason for that is that you are Constitutionally prohibited from serving longer.

Mr. Vice President, it is with genuine pleasure for me that I present you with two mementoes of this occasion.

The first is truly indicative of the construction activities of this project, a hard hat embellished with the Authority's seal, colored in gold and blue colors, and inscribed on the other side with your name.

Second is a booklet containing the commemorative medallions for this event. On one is the Twin Span, and on the other is the Authority's seal. The medallion was designed by Mr. Glen Roberts, who also designed the now famous John F. Kennedy half dollar.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY:
May I put the hat on? Do you think I should put the hat on?

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY:
Governor Terry, I always catch the dickens from my wife each time I keep putting these hats on.

I have at least two members of my staff and my wife who say, "Why do you always do that?"

And my answer today is that I took orders from the Sovereign State of Delaware, the Governor of that Sovereign State, and I wanted to remain in peace and a free man.

I am very grateful. Very, very grateful.

My friends, there is a formal part of this ceremony which I've been asked to participate in.

I have been very happy to participate in the dedication ceremony for this magnificent Twin Bridge.

And as a member of the activities, it is now my extreme pleasure and privilege to dedicate the Twin Bridge officially to those veterans from the states of Delaware and New Jersey who gave their lives for our country in World War II and in subsequent military conflicts.

Ladies and gentlemen, will you please stand with me and join in the formal dedication arrangements?

Thank you very much.

Reported by:

Carolyn A. Sherwood

on the - Rev clergy
Gov Terry
Gov Hughes

"Honored at
the Bridge"

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

BRIDGE DEDICATION

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

SEPTEMBER 12, 1968

dedicate the first

Today, we dedicate this second span of the Delaware

Memorial Bridge to the memory of those Americans from

Delaware and New Jersey who gave their lives for our nation
and the cause of freedom

How shall we be worthy of them?

We must build new bridges -- not just bridges of
concrete and steel, but of tolerance, understanding and
cooperation.

We must build these bridges among our own people
and to the outside world.

(X) Interstate Cooperation - Br. State Delaware
5 River & Bay Authority - created by
2 legislatures & ratified by congress

↳ In recent days the whole concept of bridge building --
the idea that previously hostile societies and peoples should
increase contact and communication -- has been brought
serious
into question.

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The aggression of the Soviet Union into Czechoslovakia has shocked the civilized world. It has reminded us once again of the dangers and perils of our time. It has shocked us into a new realization that peace and freedom are under constant attack by the forces of Totalitarianism [sometimes by Propaganda and subversion & sometimes by naked aggression].

And it was North Vietnam who supported the Soviet action - this alone tells us a good deal about the Communist Enemy in S. E. Asia.

As we face ^{this} increased tension, we must maintain the vitality and cohesion of the NATO alliance --- so that no nation may be tempted to take an unnecessary risk and mis-read our will.

↳ We must continue to try to make that alliance not only a military shield, ^{of defense} but an active tool for economic, social and political action in Europe and throughout the world.

↳ This is a time when friends must stand together,
↳ This is a time when we must serve notice on our adversaries that there is far more to be gained from peaceful engagement and relaxation of tensions than from reversion to the cold war.

~~Copyright~~



We have a choice now in America.



It is whether or not we shall continue as a nation of
bridge builders, or whether we shall fall back into all the
old antagonisms and suspensions that divide one human being
from another.

* * *

Yes, there is greater tension today among the superpowers of the world than there was a month or a year ago. ↳ But the very fact of that tension tells us that we must work unceasingly to reduce it.

↳ We must have the courage to turn back the international arms race. *Halt the arms race, before it halts humanity.*

↳ We must have the determination to support the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty now awaiting ratification in the United States Senate. *- To prevent spread of n. weapons*

↳ We must have the patience to strengthen the United Nations and international institutions for peace.

↳ We must have the fortitude to see through a long, demanding negotiation in Paris which may finally bring peace to Southeast Asia.

For if nations ~~shall finally be~~ ^{are} unable to build bridges ^{of respect & cooperation} between each other in year 23 of the Nuclear Age, ^{we} ~~we~~ cannot hold much hope for the future either of ourselves or ^{the rest of} the human family.

Here at home the need for bridges ^{* * *} ^{fulfilling of human understanding} has never been greater.

We see our nation beset by those who would divide us -- black from white ... rich from poor ... young from old ... North from South ... city from suburb.

And we must ask ourselves: Is this the kind of America we want?

What this country will be like in the year 2000 for us ... for our children ... and our grandchildren, will be determined by the choices that we make in the coming weeks.



With the ^{boom +} pace of technology, with the onset of new patterns of living that will last for generations, we must make these choices soon, or lose the chance, perhaps

forever. - Keep our economy strong - Educate our people -

Build -
create -
Recruits

What we have done here, in building this bridge between states, we must do elsewhere, in re-building our cities: - Engineering, Technology, Planning ^{framing}.

-- by purging them of blight;

-- by transforming neighborhoods into living communities

where families may live in safety ... in comfort ... in security;

-- by ridding them of the dulling pall of noise ... of

smoke ... of crime ... congestion ... and decay.

This
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↳ And we can purge this nation of more than the blight of noise and smoke, crime, congestion and decay.

↳ We can purge from within our hearts the misunderstanding and hate that are far more destructive to our nation than any physical blight.

↳ I believe we, as a people, are willing to make that commitment.

~~I believe we shall be able to do it.~~

↳ I believe the American people will turn away from the temptation of inwardness and isolation.

↳ I believe that we can, in our time, become known as a nation of bridge builders -- ^{bridges} builders of understanding, of hope and purpose and faith.

we are nation builders. we are achievers. we are idealists - we are the future, even as we build for today.

Carl Sandburg said it:

"I see America, not in the setting sun of a black
night of despair ahead of us. I see America in the crimson
light of a rising sun fresh from the burning, creative hand
of God. I see great days ahead, great days possible to men
and women of will and vision ..."

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Delaware Memorial Bridge

PROGRAM OF
MEMORIAL BRIDGE DEDICATION
AT BRIDGE DEDICATION OF DELAWARE MEMORIAL
BRIDGE

Wilmington, Delaware
Thursday, September 12, 1966
11:50 a.m.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman, Governor Terry and Governor Hughes, the Reverend Clergy, distinguished guests, my fellow Americans, just a few moments ago, Governor Terry, just prior to your addressing us, I noticed someone out here in the audience that had a sign that said: "Horatio at the bridge".

(Laughter)

And now I know why I was invited.

(Laughter and applause)

Robert Horatio Humphrey.

I don't suppose there is any other candidate for public office that has the credentials at bridge dedications that I have with that name. But truly, I am highly honored to be included in these ceremonies, and I come to you today as a friend, a fellow citizen, and as our Vice President.

As has been said, we dedicate this second span and we rededicate the first of the Delaware Memorial Bridge, and we dedicate it to the highest of purposes and to the finest of men, to the memory of those Americans from Delaware and from New Jersey who have given their lives in war since World War II and subsequent conflict, given their lives not for conquest, not for dominion, not for our national wealth, but rather in our national security and even, may I say, in the peace and the security and the safety of millions of others who do not inhabit this land. Never has there been a nation so generous with its resources, with its people, and with its most precious possession, its young men and women, as this nation. This great bridge today is more than concrete and steel. It represents a living memorial to those who have gone to their eternal reward. And let us keep that in mind even as we hear the hum of traffic which represents the life of a busy nation. Interstate cooperation is evident here today and I want to pause with you for just a moment as a student of government to note with you how we in this system of ours are able to adjust our institutions of government to the needs of the people. Our Constitution is a living document and not a historical article. That Constitution made it possible for the 50 states of this great Federal union to work together in harmony with the central or Federal government for one purpose and one purpose only, the well being of the American people. We are in fact, engineers in human relations as well as engineers in the more orthodox sense of that term, engineers in the science of government, adjustable, flexible, innovative and creative. I say this because as has been noted from this platform today, a bi-state Delaware River and Bay Authority was created by two legislatures, Delaware and New Jersey, and then ratified by the Congress of the United States to make it important for this authority to finance this great undertaking and to do it out of revenue bonds instead of out of the public treasury.

My fellow Americans, this tells me something, and I hope it tells you the same, that whatever we need to do, and whatever we will to do, we can do if we just make up our minds to get it done.

(Applause)

So, to those who are always preaching premature funeral ceremonies for our Republic and our system, let me say this is a living society, a growing nation, a youthful people, and one who believes that the better days are yet to be lived. Indeed, this is my philosophy. But, now, in memory of those for whom this bride is dedicated, how shall we be worthy of them? Only by concrete and steel? Hardly enough. We must build new brides, but not just brides of concrete and steel, but, rather, the human brides of tolerance and of understanding and of cooperation. We must build these brides among our own people right here in our own blessed land, and we must build these brides to the outside world because, my dear friends, there is but just one world for us. This is our world, our neighborhood, and if we isolate ourselves from our neighbors, we are the loser, and we are in the more danger.

In recent days the whole concept of bride building, bride building between nations, the idea that previously hostile societies and peoples should increase contact and communication, has been brought into serious question. At least it is being questioned very seriously by many people who view history as but a moment rather in the long perspective of history.

The aggression of the Soviet Union into Czechoslovakia has in a very real sense shocked the entire civilized world and it has reminded us once again of the dangers and of the perils of the times in which we live. It has brought us into a new realization that peace and freedom are under constant attack by the forces of totalitarianism, sometimes under attack by insidious propaganda, in other places under attack by subversion and then sometimes in naked aggression. We have seen it in Czechoslovakia and we have seen it and we pay a terrible price for it in Southeast Asia, and as we face this increased tension, it is quite obvious, it seems to me, that we must maintain the vitality and the cohesion of the Grand Alliance known as NATO so that no nation may be tempted to take an unnecessary risk and misread our will. We must continue to try to make that alliance not only a military shield of defense but, might I suggest, an active instrument and tool for economic, social and political development and action in Europe and throughout the world.

Our strength is our protection and peace does not come to the timid or the weak. It comes to those who are strong in mind, in body, in spirit, and in the substance of their economy.

(Applause)

Yes, my fellow Americans, at a time when emotion, passion, militancy, chanting, clatter, and noise seem to preoccupy much of our attention and time, may I respectfully suggest that reason and restraint are called for. May I respectfully suggest that meditation and prayerful thought are more essential now than ever before. The problems that beset our country and the grave difficulties that beset this troubled world will not be settled in the streets or on the battlefields. They will be settled in the conferences, in negotiation, in the legislatures, and in the great institutions of international understanding. Now, if ever, we should reason with one another, and do it in confidence.

(Applause)

This is a time when friends must stand to either. This is a time when Americans must stand to either, forgetting our petty differences, and understanding that this nation of ours offers such promise not only to

ourselves but to all of God's children. Never was there a time in which we are more needed than now and never was there a time when we needed each other more than now. So, listen not to those voices that divide you. Listen not to the haters and those who would destroy this sense of community and brotherhood that we need, and listen not to those that once a gain would rattle the saber and suggest that the answer to the problems of mankind is to be found in his destruction. This is a time, however, when we must serve notice on our adversaries that there is far more to be gained from peacefulness and work and the relaxation of tensions than from the reversion to the cold war. We have some choices to make. That is what I am trying to say to you. We have a choice to make here now in America. It is whether or not we shall continue as a nation of nation builders, of bridge builders, or whether we shall fall back into all of the old bad habits, the old antagonisms, the doubts and the suspicions, the fear and the despair that divide one human being from another.

I would hope that in memory of those for whom this span is dedicated that we would have come to understand that violence in any form is not the answer to the problems of mankind.

(Applause)

Yes, I recognize and we must understand that for the moment there is greater tension among the super powers of the world than there was a month or a year ago, but the very fact of that tension tells us that we must work unceasingly to reduce it, ever vigilant, ever prudent, ever watchful, but also ever probing, ever reaching out to find ways to heal the wounds, to find reconciliation.

First, I believe that we must have the courage to try with all of the gifts of our intellect and spirit to turn back the international arms race. I remind this fine audience that the super powers and indeed, a few others, have now at this moment the capacity of total destruction, total annihilation, of all of God's creation. We will either halt the arms race or it may very well halt humanity. One erratic act, one unreasoned decision, one emotional outburst on the part of an unstable person in a position of leadership today can unleash on this world a holocaust of catastrophe and disaster that the human mind is unable to comprehend. Make no mistake about it, my fellow Americans, the world is not short of destructive power. The world is short today of healing, healing, of reconciliation, of love and of peace. We must have the determination, therefore, we here in America, to try to halt the spread of these nuclear weapons. We have more than we need and others have more than they need. The Soviet Union and the United States stand today like super giants, having within their hand the unlimited power of total destruction. We have come to an armistice after months and years of negotiation to try to stop the spread of nuclear weapons technology, to see to it that no more of these weapons go around this world in other hands. It is dangerous enough now as it is to see that these weapons do not find their way into Asia and Africa and the Middle East where violence is prevalent, where emotion all too often rules rather than reason.

I say that we must have the determination, then, to support the nuclear nonproliferation treaty as it is called in its technical terms, now awaiting ratification in the United States Senate. Delay in the building of the cathedral of peace is not a contribution to peace. There need be no delay. Fifty nations have ratified this treaty. It was our child, it was our dream, it was our proposal, and for the strongest nation on the face of the earth, equipped as no other with an arsenal of power, to say that we should halt --

that we should delay in setting into place this great building block of peace in the cathedral of peace. To say is to deny our readiness and in a very serious way to prove that we are unworthy of trust.

(Applause)

So, I call upon the Senate of the United States and call upon the leaders and the spokesmen of the political parties to lead and to follow through in this all-important endeavor which does not restrict our national security but, rather, enhances it, which does not jeopardize the peace of the world but, rather, protects it. It is in our national interest.

And, then, we must have the patience to sustain them the United Nations. The United Nations is not a perfect instrument but it is the best that we have been able to create in this post-war world for bringing about a better spirit among nations and people. And we must strengthen its peacekeeping machinery and all international institutions of security and peace. And, we must have the fortitude to see through a long and demanding negotiation at Paris which may finally bring peace to South East Asia and Vietnam. For if nations are unable to build these bridges of respect and cooperation between each other in this year of the nuclear age, we cannot hold much hope for the future either of our selves or the rest of the human family.

Now, here at home the need for the building of bridges of human understanding has never been greater. We see today our nation beset by those who would divide us, black from white, rich from poor, city from countryside, inner city from the suburb, young from old, and even north from south. There are voices being raised in this land today and heeded by far too many that call us to destruction, not to building, that call us to bitterness, not to tolerance, and we must ask ourselves is this the kind of an America that we want, divided, torn by conflict, filled with doubt and suspicion and fear? I think not. I still believe that most Americans, oh, yes, an overwhelming preponderant majority of Americans, still believe in the American dream, of one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

(Applause)

What will this country be like in the year 2000? In that year most Americans that are alive today will still be living. What will it be like for them, for our children and our grand children? What it will be like will be determined by the decisions and the choices that we make now.

The decisions of today chart the course of tomorrow. At the pace of science and technology, with the onset of new patterns of living that will last for generations, we must make those choices soon and we may lose the chance perhaps forever. We must make the choice to keep this economy of ours steadily growing so that the social dividends of better living come to more and more Americans. We must make the choice now to see to it that every child, regardless of race or religion or background or circumstance, shall have the best education that modern teaching and modern schools can provide. We must make the choice now as to whether we are going to live as a family of Americans in friendship and respect or whether we are going to live as an armed camp of enemies filled with apprehension and animosity.

I think we know what choice we have to make. I think we know that the readiness of this nation is in its people. I think we know that in our unity is our strength. I think we know that there is more that binds us to each other than tears us apart. I think we know that we need an America of one spirit. And I think we have the capacity to create it.

Yes, what we have done here in building this bridge between states we must do elsewhere in our social and economic and political fabric. We must

do it in the rebuilding of our cities where most of our people will live and where a hundred million more Americans in the next 25 years will seek to find a home. We must apply the engineering and the technology and indeed the planning and the financing that is so evident in this great engineering feat to our cities.

The city of man was made for man. The city of man ought to have the environment in which the spirit of man can be enriched and lifted rather than derroated and beaten to the ground. Cities must become living institutions rather than dying monuments to the failure of the human spirit. We must rebuild our cities by purging them of blight and slums and we can. Any country that can create an environment in a space capsule to put a man on the moon can create an environment in a city to help put a man on his feet.

(Applause)

And we must rebuild our cities by transforming the neighborhoods into living communities where women and children can live in safety and not in fear, and live in comfort and live in security. Build our cities by ridding them of the dulling pall of noise, of smoke, of crime, of congestion and decay, and it can be done. If it is not done, then America has had its most glorious hour and it is on its way down to defeat. But, if it is done, which I know it can be done, then the future offers greater promise than any generation or any civilization has ever known. And I believe that we can purge this nation of more than the blight of noise and smoke and slums and crime and congestion and decay. I believe that we can purge from within our hearts the misunderstandings and the hates of which I have spoken that are far more destructive to our nation than any physical blight. I believe that we as a people must be and are willing to make that commitment. I believe the American people will turn away from the temptation of inwardness, selfishness and isolation. I believe that we can in our time become known as a nation of bridge builders, of human engineers, building bridges of understanding and of hope and of progress and of faith because as Americans we are nation builders. We are achievers. We are idealists and we are the future even as we build for today.

That famous American poet who understood so well the spirit of our nation, Carl Sandburg, said in this war, and I believe that he envisioned or he saw in his mind's eye and spirit that voice is the real voice of America. Listen to his beautiful words:

"I see America not in the settling sun of a black night of despair ahead of us. I see America in the crimson lines of a rising sun, fresh from the burning creative hand of God. I see great days ahead, great days, possible to man and world of will and of vision."

That a prayer for our nation. That a testimonial of faith, and what an inspiring message from the heart of a poet who understands what America is, the last best hope of earth.

Thank you.

(Applause)

Senate.

We must have the patience to strengthen the United Nations and international institutions for peace.

We must have the fortitude to see through a long, demanding negotiation in Paris which may finally bring peace to Southeast Asia.

For if nations shall finally be able to build bridges between each other in the Year 23 of the Nuclear Age, I cannot hold much hope for the future either of ourselves or of the human family.

* * * *

Here at home the need for bridges has never been greater.

We see our nation beset by those who would divide us back from white...rich from poor...youth from old...north from south...cities from suburbs.

And we must ask ourselves: Is this the kind of America we want?

What this country will be like in the year 2000 for us...for our children...and our grandchildren, will be determined by the choices that we make in the coming weeks.

With the pace of technology, with the onset of new patterns of living that will last for generations, we must make these choices soon, or lose the chance perhaps forever.

What we have done here, in building this bridge between states, we must do elsewhere, in re-building our cities:

--by purging them of blight;

--by transforming neighborhoods into living communities where families may live in safety...in comfort...in security;

--by ridding them of the dulling pall of noise...of smoke...of crime...congestion...and decay.

And we can purge this nation of more than the blight of noise and smoke, crime conjection and decay. We can purge from within our hearts the misunderstanding and hate that ^{are} ~~is~~ far more destructive to our nation than any other physical blight.

I believe we ^{as a people} are willing to make that commitment. I believe we shall be able to do it. ~~I believe the American people will turn away from the temptation of going their own way.~~ ^{inwardness and ~~set~~ ~~isolation~~} I believe that we can, in our time, become known as a nation of bridge builders -- builders of understanding, of hope and purpose. ^{faith.}

Carl Sandburg said it:

"I see America, not in the setting sun of a black night of despair ahead of us. I see America in the crimson light of a rising sun fresh from the burning, creative hand of God. I see great days ahead, great days possible to men and women of will and vision..."

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Today, we dedicate this second span of the Delaware Memorial Bridge to the memory of those Americans who have sacrificed their lives to keep us free. . . and keep our nation strong and great. They gave their lives for us. We shall remember ^{be worthy of} them.

~~That is why~~ ^{but} we are here, today. . . to look not backward, but to a future filled with promise. . . ~~with~~ challenge. . . and a call to action.

This bridge has done more than link two states:

--it is a gateway of progress for American industry;

--a symbol of our faith in the continuing greatness of America;

--and an example of the ability of states to work together to solve their common problems. Two states -- New Jersey and Delaware -- have joined their hands across this river, and have brought new benefits. . . new prosperity. . . to all Americans.

With this kind of cooperation between our states. . . with the cooperation of the Federal Government. . . ^{of our cities} of private industry. . . there is little we Americans cannot do to rebuild, renew. . . revitalize our nation.

This bridge was begun twenty (?) years ago, by far-sighted men who could see America's coming ~~xxxx~~ industrial greatness. This second span was begun _____ years ago, by far-sighted men who could see that industrial greatness growing towards new heights.

~~But~~ we have no less a need for far-sighted men, today. For in the next w twenty years, our ~~xxx~~ nation. . . our society. . .

will change. . .develop. . .renew itself more than in any other score of years in our history.

What this country will be like in twenty years. . .for our children. . .and our grandchildren. . .will be determined by the choices that we make in the coming months and years.

> INSERT

We can rest on our successes as a people. . .or we can continue building for new generations.

We can wait to see what the future will bring. . .or we can plan for that new day in the future. . .as this bridge was planned. . .and take charge of that ~~new~~ future and our own lives in it.

What we have done here, in building a bridge, we must do ^{elsewhere,} ~~elsewhere,~~ in rebuilding our cities,

--by ~~purging~~ purging them of blight;

--by recreating neighborhoods ~~with~~ with ^{comfort,} ~~air~~ "air" and light. . . comfort;

--by ridding them of the dulling pall of noise. . . of smoke. . .of crime. . .congestion. . .and decay.

We can do these things: we have that choice.

But let me be clear; none of our future triumphs. . .in building bridges. . .rebuilding cities. . .will come easily:

They will take time. . .talents. . .hard, unremitting effort. . .and vast amounts of money.

Our unrivalled prosperity has opened new opportunities to us that no nation has ever had. But we must invest wisely; we must calculate the ~~benefits~~ benefits and dividends of this investment -- in the lives of people; and we must work every day of every year to protect the gains of our economy.

The economic health and vitality of America is the key

INSERT

With the pace of technology, with the onset of new patterns of living that will last for generations, we must make these choices ~~xxxxxx~~ soon, or lose the chance for years. . .perhaps forever.

Q

to building for the future. Without a strong economy. . .without
freedom from stagnation. . .freedom from recessions. . .this
bridge would have little meaning

--men would be reluctant to plan. . .to hope. . .to
build;

--and they would ~~not~~ not have that faith in
future greatness that is the spur ^{to} of present effort.

But with a strong economy, and the willingness to keep
it strong, we can look forward to a future that will rival
the greatness of our past;

--a future in which today will seem like dark of night,
against the dawning of a great new day.

END



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