

REMARKS OF VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY AT
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI AIRPORT
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1968

VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you, thank you very much.
The first thing I want to do -- thank you, thank you very much.
I want to thank Bob first of all.

(Shouts of Humphrey)

That's the name, folks. And I want you to get everybody to remember it on November 5.

(Applause)

Dear friends, this is a very wonderful reception. And I want you to know that I am extremely grateful.

I want to thank first of all, if I may, the color guard that has been so patient and waited for me. I did not get the chance to salute them and to thank them as I passed by, but I will surely do so.

I want to thank my good friend, Leonore Sullivan, Congressman Mel Price, who met me as I got off this plane; representatives of St. Louis County; and this great student coalition that is here today.

(Applause)

I want to tell you what we are out to do. We are out to do just a few basic things in this country.

The first thing that we are going to do is to see that this country is not turned backward by the calls to hate, to division and separatism which is represented by the third party candidate.

(Applause)

We are not going to let the Bombsy Twins --and I repeat -- the Bombsy Twins --George Wallace and General LeMay -- to determine the course of this country.

(Applause)

The next thing that we are not going to do --we are not going to let someone become President of the United States who may be called upon to stand and meet with the leaders of great nations in this world, someone who may be called upon to discuss and debate American policy for the survival of this nation --we are not going to let somebody become President who may be called upon to do that who does not have the willingness to stand up and debate on the same platform with Hubert Humphrey.

(Applause)

This American Presidency is not for sale. It is not going to go to the man that can put on the biggest parade, that has the biggest advertising budget. It is not going to go to the man that can evade the issues.

We are not going to sell the Presidency to George the Loud or Dick the Silent.

(Applause)

That was a Democratic pilot just taking off there -- he just wanted to cheer us on.

I want to ask my friends that are here today -- young, whatever age -- from universities and colleges, from the high schools, the labor movement, from business and the professions, the veterans organizations --I want you to think with me for just a moment what we have in this country and what we can do with it.

We have the chance of a lifetime. We have the chance to make this experiment of our democracy a living fact. We have a chance to bring more people into the benefits of this country and into the decision-making processes of this country than ever before.

We have the chance to make democracy a fact and not just a hope. And we are not going to let that chance go down the river because some people appeal to passion and hate, and because others

appeal to nothing.

We are going to take our chance, just as I have said that you must be willing to take risks for a peace -- you must be willing to take risks to get peace in Vietnam, you must be willing to take risks to get unity in this country.

And, -y friends, we are going to have to take some risks in order to win this election.

(Applause)

And I want to call upon the students that are here particularly to make it their business between now and November 5 to contact every household, to get people to understand that this election is not being fought out because one man won't fight -- one man remains silent. The Republican nominee takes a stand on no issue. The other man talks only of one or two matters which are in the most glowing generalities.

I think that our country is better than that. I think that it is the duty of men who seek to be President to stand up and discuss race relations, arms control, civil rights, education, fiscal policy, Vietnam -- a hundred and one things -- the problems of our cities, the concerns of our young people. And I say that until that takes place the American people will be cheated.

I don't take the people for granted. I think they are entitled to the best that I have and better. And I am going to try to give them my best. But I do not think that the Republican nominee is doing that at all.

(Applause)

He is trying to become President by acting like a President, playing President, before he gets to the White House.

I want to remind him of something. Long before some of you remember, back in 1948, there was a man from New York -- just like this man from New York. He thought he was going to be President. He was so sure that he had the headlines written in the Chicago Tribune before the election was over. And he was playing President so long that by the time the election came, the people voted for Mr. Truman, because they wanted a change.

My dear friends, Richard Milhouse Nixon -- hold it just a moment -- Richard Milhouse Nixon has taken for granted that the people are going to give him this election by default. I have news for him. We are going to fight him down to the last minute.

(Applause)

And we are not going to let him get by.

He goes into the South, he sniffs magnolia blossoms with Strom Thurmond. (Laughter) He comes into the North and he says he is sort of for civil rights. One day he says he is for the arms control treaty to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, but then he says not now, take it easy, go slow.

This kind of man that gets saddle sore trying to ride the issues, both sides of the issues, is not the man we are going to let get into the White House.

(Applause)

Now, I want to be your President, and I'll tell you why.

I want to be your President so that we can work for peace in this world.

I want to be your President so that young people can look upon the White House not just as a historical monument, not as a place that is protected by a black metal picket fence, but that you can look upon the White House as your house, as a welcome house.

I want to be a President where young people can come in and be understood and where they will be listened to, not where there will always be agreement, but where your voice will be welcomed, where your ideas will be sought, and where your service will be as

I want to be a President so the workingman of this country can know that he will have a job, and that his family can have a decent living, and his children can have an education.

And I want to be President so that those that are our senior citizens will know that they have had a lifelong friend who believes that there is a right to health and to healing and to medical care, under medicare, and under social security.

I want to be the President of all the people, and I want your help. And you can give me your help.

(Applause)

Thank you very much.

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