

REMARKS OF VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY  
ROBERT F. KENNEDY SCHOOL  
COMPTON, CALIFORNIA  
THURSDAY, October 24, 1968

VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you very much, my very good and dear friend, Mr. Kenneth O'Donnell.

I think that you good people know that I have been just blessed with a wonderful introduction by a very dear and close friend.

Mr. Wilson, members of the Compton City Board of Education; Mr. Ericson, the Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Gibbons, principal of the Robert F. Kennedy School; and others who have gathered here -- Assemblyman Porter, my friend Doris Davis -- I trust she is here -- and Senator Dynally who joined me as we came here tonight -- ladies and gentlemen.

I am so happy that it was possible in a schedule that has been a busy one to come here on this occasion.

I know that Mrs. Robert Kennedy had been invited to come here. Mrs. Humphrey and I have visited with Mrs. Kennedy in the last week or so, and as you know, she is indisposed and unable to be with you.

Senator Edward Kennedy - Ted Kennedy, as we call him affectionately likewise has many responsibilities, and he could not be here.

So you have no idea the special joy that is mine tonight to be able to be a substitute and to be able to fit into this program, and to speak some words of praise for a great family, and some words of commendation to this city, to this community and this school board for this magnificent elementary school.

The architecture is something to behold.

I read about this school, and I must say that every person in this community must feel a sense of great pride in what you have created here. And I cannot help but feel a little sense of pride in the fact that the government of the United States, your government, has also shared in the meaning of this school.

I have been informed that this school has received some \$637,000 under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. And in understandable, tangible terms, this has meant a new library, it has meant many good books, it has meant two resource teachers, a new librarian, a nurse's aide.

In addition, it has received assistance under the Unruh-Miller Act, a state program which has provided special reading teachers. Senator Dynally was telling me the wonderful things that are going on here in what we can call compensatory education. And I know the work of the State Senator and others to make this educational program a reality.

What greater honor is there that you can pay to anyone -- what greater memorial than to erect a school in his honor, to erect a great institution of learning, and to name it after one whose life was dedicated to the process of learning.

One warm day last May, when Robert F. Kennedy was campaigning here in California, he stopped at a school along the way and, as you know, the children swarmed around him. They were reaching up, screaming and trying to touch him. And after he calmed them down for a moment, he made a very brief speech. And in it he said, in his way of light humor, and yet of love and affection -- "I'm in favor of lowering the voting age to eight".

(Laughter)

Well, he was indeed much loved, and is much loved by young people. And Robert Kennedy would not want this dedication tonight to be a solemn occasion. He would be the last person that would want us to sit here, stand here, with tears in our eyes, or with any false, pompous note.

He was a man of action, and he was a man of great strength. And he would have wanted us to act tonight as if he were here with us in body, as well as in spirit.

Now, I know the despair that you felt last June when he died. Many of us felt that same despair. He himself felt that same pain and that same despair before, just as many of us had felt it, when the late, beloved President John Kennedy was taken from us.

I was with Kenny O'Donnell on that day as the President's body was returned to Washington. And I think I shall never forget the anguish, the pain, that all of us shared.

But all of this pain and all of this despair was a large part of the meaning of his life, that he overcame despair. He knew how to take trouble in stride.

And we should remember here tonight Robert Kennedy loved children - and by the way he loved dogs, too - and he had more of both than anybody that I hardly ever had a chance to know.

Let me say a word about children.

One night in 1964, when I was campaigning with him in New York, when he was running for the Senate, we went to Harlem. And the young people again surrounded his car, as they always did, and once again he asked them to be quiet, and he made them a serious speech. And here is what he said to those young people. He said -- Please, please, I plead with you, please don't drop out of school. You are going to need your education and America is going to need you.

There is a great message.

And I look up here and see these wonderful young -- young people. And I know the message of Robert Kennedy tonight fits them.

Please don't drop out of school. You are going to need your education. And America is going to need you.

If there ever was a time that we should learn the lesson of needing each other, it is now. If there ever was a time that we should rebuke those who preach doctrines of despair and hatred, it is now.

You see, Robert Kennedy sensed that the revolution of today is a revolution of the young. He knew that the restlessness that we sense today is the restlessness of youth. He knew that the great thing about young people is that they speak out, and that the demand of us, their elders -- in fact they demand of us an answer -- what kind of a world is this that you have made for us. And then he would answer them. And he would say these words -- and I heard them many times.

"Not good enough".

And I ask your help in making it better.

You see, he was willing to acknowledge that we had difficulties that seemed almost beyond us. And yet he knew that we could make it better. And I think that is the story of America. People who understand that there are many difficulties, but people who have great faith in that we can make it better. And the people here trusted him to do it, as millions did across this land.

Let me make another observation about Senator Robert Kennedy. You should remember him as a man who cared, and cared in the depths of his being about the poor and the needy, about the black in Watts, or anyplace else, and the whites in Appalachia, or anyplace else. And he cared about the Mexican-American farm worker.

Some of us feel that we should pick up that torch, and with the same sincerity, care, care about everyone. But particularly to care and to have compassion for those who want a chance, who are in need.

But we should remember him, too, as a fighter. I can tell you that I remember him as a fighter. He was President Kennedy's campaign

manager in West Virginia in 1960 when I was a competitor to John Kennedy in that Democratic primary. And by the way, Kenny O'Donnell was around, too. We remember. But we also remember that after that struggle, we worked together to get this country moving. We worked together to build this country.

And we should remember Robert Kennedy's great sense of loyalty, his loyalty to his country, which was first; his loyalty to his family, and his personal loyalties. And I can tell you about that, too.

I know, as of course others know, that he worked very closely with his distinguished brother, the President, and he worked to get such great achievements as the nuclear test ban treaty, in which I had a short -- a hand myself. And that treaty was one of the proudest accomplishments of the Kennedy Administration.

And he worked for federal aid to education. He worked for children.

We should remember him as being not only a fighter, but being brave. He knew the hazards of last spring. He knew the poison that was in the air. He knew the dangers that were in America.

He had seen five years ago what hate could do when his brother was slain. He knew that hate was abroad again in our land. And yet he dared to defy it. He was unafraid. He went to the people. And he paid the ultimate cost. And we learned, at least I hope -- I hope we have learned that hate is a killer, and that hate can only poison our society and degrade our people.

This is why we must rebuke those voices of hate. This is why we must turn away from those who preach fear and despair and doubt and suspicion. This is why those of us who are privileged to be spokesmen must talk constantly of building this one America that we pledged ourselves to tonight in that pledge of allegiance. And I hope all we adults here heard how clearly and beautifully the children spoke it. And I hope that if there is anyone here that has any doubt that this ought to be one America, one nation under God and indivisible, with liberty and justice for all, that that person has -- well, has repented for whatever evil thought he might have had.

Robert Kennedy knew that this had to be one nation. For all the pain and for all the hurt that we have all had, we must take heart. And there has been plenty of pain, plenty of hurt that has made this political year a very difficult one. But we must go on. We cannot stop. We cannot turn back.

Robert Kennedy spoke not only for the young; he spoke for the disadvantaged, and he spoke for mankind. And that is why it is right to dedicate a school in his honor.

Sometime last spring he closed his speeches by quoting George Bernard Shaw, who wrote these words -- and you have heard him, you heard Mr. Kennedy say them so often.

"Some people see things as they are and ask why. I dream things that never were and ask why not".

Isn't that a beautiful thought? It should inspire us as to what can be. To dream things that never were and ask why not.

Because the truth is that in this country of ours, we can realize any dream that we have. America is a land of the dream yet unfulfilled. America is the land of unfinished business. And each of us, in our own way, in our own generation, must dream our dreams, try to make them come true, and must build our part of America, to carry on with that work.

So it is so fitting that we dedicate to his memory tonight this school.

And I can tell you it is the finest honor that I have had here in California -- just at the last minute, so to speak, to share in this dedication. To dedicate a school, to dedicate something to education,

to remember what Thomas Jefferson said -- we cannot be both free and ignorant -- we must be people of learning, to learn and to earn, to be free. And here we are changing protest into progress. Here we are learning and earning. And here we are building an American community.

So in the name of this man for whom you dedicate this school I ask you, particularly as students, and as parents and teachers, honor this school. Never let its name be smirched. Attend this school. Learn, train yourself. Learn everything you can. Make the most of your life. And help your country live up to Robert Kennedy's name.

This would be the message, I am sure, that Robert Kennedy would have brought to you, but not in his name, but in his spirit. We want to lift our heads a little higher, stand with a little more pride, do a little more for ourselves and thereby doing more for our country. It is in this way that we realize our potentiality.

And I want to thank the little ones that are here tonight. How wonderful it is to see them.

Politics is hard business. And once in a while we get a great deal of lift and inspiration from just looking on the faces of little children -- because there is something about them that makes you have a great faith in the future.

It was said once that God's testimonial to his faith in the future is the birth of a child. And if that is the case, then let's make sure that these children that are here tonight shall live in a better America, an America of neighbors, an America of friends -- not an America of enemies and of strangers -- but in an America that we can love and of which we can be proud.

Thank you very much.

(Applause)

May I just for a moment have your attention.

I have here a eulogy in memory of the late Senator Robert Francis Kennedy that was delivered by his brother, Senator Edward Mr. Kennedy, at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York, Saturday, June 8, 1968. And this Eulogy has been framed and it is well protected. And I want to present it to Mr. Wilson, to the Chairman of the Board, and ask that it be conspicuously displayed, may I say, so that all can see the wonderful words and remember this great occasion.

And I present it to you, sir.

(Applause)

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For the Vice President

FACTS ON ROBERT F. KENNEDY SCHOOL

Prepared by Humphrey Advance Staff

ROBERT F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OPENED ITS DOORS  
FEBRUARY 28, 1968.

*\$TITLE I  
637,000*

DURING THIS CALENDAR YEAR, THE SCHOOL HAS  
RECEIVED \$637,000 UNDER TITLE I OF THE

ELEMENATARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT.

IN TANGIBLE TERMS THIS HAS MEANT A NEW

LIBRARY AND BOOKS, 2 RESOURCE TEACHERS,

A NEW LIBRARIAN, NURSE'S AID, :

IN ADDITION THEY HAVE RECEIVED ASSISTANCE

UNDER THE UNRUH-MILLER ACT, A STATE

PROGRAM WHICH HAS PROVIDED 3 SPECIAL

READING TEACHERS.

THE STUDENTS HAVE GOOD LUNCHESES DUE TO

THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM.

*School  
lunch.*

*Voc. Ed.*

Doors Davis  
Sen Dymally

Ken O'Donnell  
~~Jess Unruh~~  
~~Fred Patton~~  
Rafael Johnson

REMARKS  
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
DEDICATION OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY SCHOOL  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
OCTOBER 24, 1968

St. Kennedy  
Ted Kennedy

One warm day last May when Robert F. Kennedy was campaigning here in California, he stopped at a school, and the children swarmed around him, screaming and reaching out to touch him ... and he made a very brief speech. He said, "I am in favor of lowering the voting age to eight."

Robert Kennedy would not want this dedication today to be a solemn occasion, or a pompous one.

I know the despair you felt last June when he died. We all felt it. He himself had felt it before.

But it was a large part of the meaning of his life that he overcame despair.

↳ We should remember that he loved children -- and he loved dogs too -- and he had more of both than anybody I ever knew. ]

Children: One night in 1964 when I was campaigning with him in New York, trying to help him win his Senate seat, ~~we~~ went to Harlem; and young people surrounded him as they always did; and that time he made a serious speech ... He said to those kids: "Please -- I plead with you -- please don't drop out of school. You're going to need your education. And America is going to need you."

↳ Robert Kennedy sensed that the revolution of today is a revolution of the young. He knew that the great thing about young people is that they speak out, they demand of us, their elders: What kind of world is this that you have made for us? )

↳ He answered them: "Not good enough -- and I ask your help in making it better."

↳ They trusted him to do it.

↳ We should remember him as a man who cared, and cared to the depths of his being, about the poor ... about the black in Watts ... about the whites in Appalachia ... about the Mexican-American farm worker.

↳ We should remember him as a fighter. ↳ I can tell you I remember him as a fighter -- he was President Kennedy's campaign manager in West Virginia in 1960, when I was running against Jack Kennedy in the Democratic primary.

↳ And we should remember his loyalty, <sup>his loyalty to country</sup> his family loyalty and personal loyalty. ↳ I can tell you about that too - he worked with President Kennedy and to get the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty that was one of the proudest accomplishment of the Kennedy Administration.

↳ We should remember Robert Kennedy as brave. He knew the hazards last spring - the dangers in America.

↳ He had seen five years ago what hate can do.

↳ He knew that hate was abroad again in our land.

But he defied it. He was unafraid.

↳ He paid the ultimate cost. And we learned -- at least

I hope we learned -- that hate can only poison our society and our people.

↳ For all the pain, for all the hurt, we must take heart, we must go on ... for Robert Kennedy spoke not only for the young and the disadvantaged, he spoke for man kind.

X } Sometimes last spring he closed his speeches by quoting George Bernard Shaw, who wrote: "Some people see things as they are and ask why. I dream things that never were and ask why not." }

↳ It is fitting that what we dedicate to his memory today is a school. Learn - Education!

↳ In his name, pledge with you: Honor this school, attend this school, learn everything you can, make the most of your life, and help your country live up to Robert Kennedy's dream.

Retype

done

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
DEDICATION OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY ~~HIGH~~ SCHOOL  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
OCTOBER 24, 1968

One warm day last May when Robert F. Kennedy was campaigning here in California, he stopped at a school, and the children swarmed around him, screaming and reaching out to touch him ... and he made a very brief speech. He said, "I am in favor of lowering the voting age to eight."

Robert Kennedy would not want this dedication today to be a solemn occasion, or a pompous one.

I know the despair you felt last June when he died. We all felt it. He himself had felt it before.

But it was a large part of the meaning of his life that he overcame despair. ~~And how should we remember him?~~

~~We should remember that he was a gay and funny man.~~

We should remember that he loved children -- and he loved dogs too -- and he had more of both than anybody I ever knew.

Children: One night in 1964 when I was campaigning with him in New York, trying to help him win his Senate seat, he went to Harlem; and young people surrounded him as they always did; and that time he made a serious speech ... He said to those kids: "Please -- I plead with you -- please don't drop out of school. You're going to need your education. And America is going to need you."

Robert Kennedy sensed that the revolution of today is a revolution of the young. He knew that the great thing about young people is that they speak out, they demand of us, their elders: What kind of world is this that you have made for us?

He answered them: "Not <sup>good enough</sup> ~~very good~~ -- and I ask your help in making it better." They trusted him to do it.

~~He spoke directly to them and he spoke for them --  
because he believed in them. And loved them.~~

We should remember him as a man who cared, and  
cared to the depths of his being, about the poor ... about the black  
in Watts ... about the whites in Appalachia ... about the Mexican-  
*farm worker*.  
~~Americans in the valley where the grapes of wrath are grown.~~

~~They knew he cared. They knew it in their bones, as  
he knew in his. They loved him.~~

We should remember him as a fighter. I can tell you  
I remember him as a fighter -- he was *President* ~~Jack~~ Kennedy's campaign  
manager in West Virginia in 1960, when I was running against  
Jack Kennedy in the Democratic primary.

And we should remember his loyalty, his family loyalty  
and personal loyalty. I can tell you about that too -- he worked with  
*and I*  
President Kennedy to get the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty that was the  
proudest accomplishment of the ~~shining~~ *→* Kennedy *3* administration.  
~~And I am proud that I was part of that effort. And his brother Ted  
is carrying on in the Senate today.~~

We should remember Robert Kennedy as brave. He knew the hazards last spring. ~~He had seen five years ago what hate can do. He knew that hate was abroad in our land. But he defied it. For he had two great purposes.~~

~~He wanted to end the war in Vietnam.~~

~~He wanted to bring our people together in peace.~~

~~He was determined to accomplish those great works whatever the cost.~~

He paid the ultimate cost. And we learned -- at least I hope we learned -- ~~what hate can do.~~

~~But we learned something else.~~

~~We learned that a gun can kill a man but not an idea -- or an ideal.~~

~~Robert Kennedy shot an arrow into the sun last spring. And we can still see its plume today, pointing the way to peace.~~

~~I hope~~

again  
↑

can only poison our  
society and our  
people.

For all the pain, for all the hurt, we must take heart, we must go on . . . for Robert Kennedy spoke not only for the young and the disadvantaged, he spoke for man.

Sometimes last spring he closed his speeches by quoting George Bernard Shaw, who wrote: "Some people see things as they are and ask why. I dream things that never were and ask why not."

It is fitting that what we dedicate to his memory today is a school.

In his name, I plead with you: Honor this school, attend this school, learn everything you can, make the most of your life, and help your country live up to Robert Kennedy's dream.

# # #

Dedication of RFK High School

Los Angeles

Thursday

Draft 1 (JBM)

~~One on warm day last May here in California Robert F.  
Kennedy stopped at a school and the children~~

(Robert F. Kennedy)

One warm day last May when he was campaigning here in  
California, ~~Robert F. Kennedy~~ <sup>he</sup> stopped at a school, and the children  
swarmed around him, screaming and ~~touching him~~ reaching out to  
touch him... and he made a very brief speech. He said, "I am in  
favor of lowering the voting age to 8."

~~He~~

~~He would not~~

Robert Kennedy would not want this ~~to be a solemn~~ dedication today to be a solemn occasion, or a pompous one.

~~He was~~

~~in~~

I know the despair you felt last June when he died. We all felt it. He himself had felt it before.

But it was a large part of the meaning of his life that he overcame despair. And how should we remember him?

We should remember that he was a gay and funny man. ~~He~~

~~never took himself seriously, too seriously.~~ ~~He~~

We should remember that he loved children and ~~dogs~~ *and he loved dogs too* ---and

he had more of both than anybody I ever knew.

~~Robert Kennedy understood and felt in his bones the reasons why young people feel the way they do today~~

Once when I was campaigning with him in New York, in 1964, we traveled

~~Once when I was campaigning~~

to children;

One night in 1964 when I was campaigning with him in New York, ~~him~~ trying to help him win his Senate seat, ~~we~~ <sup>he</sup> went to Harlem; and young people surrounded him as they always did;

and that time he made a serious speech... He said, "Please --- to those kids;

I plead with you---please don't drop out of school. You're going to need your education. And America is going to need you."

2 Ammm insert 3

Robert Kennedy sensed that the revolution of today is a revolution of the young. He ~~soon~~ knew that the great thing about young people is that they speak out, ~~they bring us up short,~~ they *their elders!* demand ~~of us~~ of us. What kind of world is this that you have made for us?

He answered them: Not very good----and I ask your help in making it better. " They trusted him to do it.

He spoke directly to them and he spoke for them---because he believed in them. And loved them.

We should remember him as a man who cared, and cared  
to the ~~bottom of my~~ depths of his being, about the poor... about  
~~the black... about the Mexican-Americans... about the whi~~

the black in Watts... about the whites in Appalachia... about the  
Mexican-Americans in the valley where the grapes of wrath are  
grown.

They knew he cared. They knew it in their bones, as he knew  
in his. They loved him.

~~When I look back on my life~~

We should remember him as a fighter. I can tell you I remember him as a fighter---he ~~was James~~ was Jack Kennedy's campaign manager in West Virginia in 1960, when I was running against Jack Kennedy in the Democratic primary.

And we should remember ~~his loyalty and personal loyalty~~ his loyalty, his family loyalty and personal loyalty.

I can tell you about that too---~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> worked ~~with him and~~ with President Kennedy to get the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty that

was the proudest accomplishment of the shining Kennedy administration. *And*

*I am proud that I was part of that effort +*  
And his brother Ted ~~is~~ is carrying on his ~~fight to pay~~ in the

Senate today ~~to get another treaty ratified to stop the spread of~~

~~nuclear weapons.~~

*Robert Kennedy*  
We should remember ~~him~~ as brave. He knew the hazards

last spring. He had seen ~~that~~ five years ago what hate can do.

that hate  
He knew ~~it~~ was abroad again in our land. ~~in~~ But he *defied it* ⊕

~~persevered.~~ For he had two great purposes.

He wanted to end the war in Viet Nam.

He wanted to bring our people together in peace.

He was determined to ~~do~~ accomplish those great works whatever the cost.

He paid the ultimate cost, ~~with his precious life.~~ And we learned

----at least I hope we learned---what hate can do.

But we learned something else.

We learned that a gun can kill a man but not an ~~idea~~

~~idea~~

idea---or an ideal.

~~to say to young people~~

Robert Kennedy shot an arrow into the sun last spring. And

we can see its plume aflame today, pointing the way to peace

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For all the pain, for all the hurt, we must take heart, we must

go on...for Robert Kennedy spoke not only for the young and ~~this~~

the disadvantaged, he spoke for man.

~~Henry Sometimes last spring he closed his speeches by saying:~~

~~Sometimes last spring he closed his speeches by quoting Albert Camus: ~~Camus wrote,~~ "We know that there are suffering children. There have always been suffering children. But perhaps if you and I do what we can to help them, they will suffer less. Help us."~~

Sometimes last spring he closed his speeches by quoting George Bernard Shaw, who wrote: "Some people see things as they are and ask why. I dream things that never <sup>are</sup> ~~were~~ and ask why not."

It is fitting that what we dedicate to his memory today is a school.

~~On my Alt and many~~

In his name, I plead with you: Honor this school, attend this school, learn everything you can, make the most of you life ~~that you~~ <sup>live up to</sup> ~~and~~ and help ~~make~~ <sup>reach</sup> your country ~~what~~ <sup>'s</sup> Robert Kennedy ~~dreamed~~.



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