

Closing Remarks of Vice President Humphrey

1st Hour of Telethon, Los Angeles, California

November 4, 1968

Vice President Humphrey: Thank you, thank you. As the campaign now closes, may I first say a word of thanks. In the immediate sense I want to thank my talented and thoughtful friends whose efforts made it possible to do a program like this tonight, and then in the larger sense may I thank you all. May I thank the people of this vast country who have taken the time to listen to me and to Senator Ed Muskie, not just tonight but throughout the long days and the weeks of this campaign, and we have known difficult days in this campaign. Sometimes early in the game our voices were literally not heard and other voices were drowning us out, but we kept after it, trying to talk sense and trying to get things straight and as the days passed, well, our fellow Americans did begin to listen. Yes, you listened. We talked about issues and you said yes we are concerned about the issues. We talked about the difficult days ahead and you said tell us the truth tell us the truth about jobs and education, about medical care and pollution and population and human rights and nuclear war and Vietnam. Yes, you said tell us the truth, and we shall do what must be done.

Well, the strength of America is no greater than the peoples strength and no greater than the inner courage and confidence that we demonstrate in doing the difficult work of our democracy. And proud though we may be of what has gone before, and we are, proud though we may be as Democrats of the traditions of our party, we shall not be true to party or country if we do not create tomorrow our own proud history. Yes, making our own history.

Now, many people fear for our America, but not I. I do not fear for our country or for our democracy or for our future. This campaign has shown me once again the basic goodness, the fundamental toughness and hardheaded hope that are at the root of the American character. Far from being fearful about America, I say that governing this great productive percolator of a land or, for that matter, just being America in these challenging times is one of the great human adventures of all history. My friends, no matter who you vote for tomorrow, I want you to vote, and I want you to know that fervently though I hope that I may win tomorrow and become the President of the United States, I regard the Humphrey-Muskie campaign as it stands right now tonight, win or lose, as the most gratifying political achievement of my career for on a broad thoughtful national level, we have spoken courageously and have responded, you have responded courageously. We believed in the beginning that we were setting out upon the right path but it has been only with your help and your attention and your consideration and your trust that we have been able to come this far. Tomorrow, of course, we hope to take another big step on the same constructive human path.

Thank you, thank you, and God Bless you and goodnight.

Beverly Hilton Hotel

November 4, 1968

Vice President Humphrey: I would like it clear, first of all, that what I am about to say I am speaking for myself, I am speaking as a candidate, I am not speaking for the Government of the United States nor am I speaking in my capacity as a member of the Security Council. This is my statement.

The President's decision to stop all bombing of North Vietnam has as its purpose prompt and productive negotiations that will lead to an end of the war.

Now, that decision was taken after many weeks of careful discussions, diplomacy, and preparation, in which the various parties to the conflict were fully consulted and came to mutual agreement.

The American people have the right to expect that the Government of South Vietnam will cooperate fully in this effort. Its country has been ravaged by war for more than 20 years. The people of South Vietnam have suffered endless pain and tragedy. If ever a people needed a just peace, it is the people of South Vietnam.

The United States has been a faithful ally. We have kept our commitments. We have never faltered nor violated our word.

The integrity of our word and the proof of our honor are to be found in the lives of 30,000 young Americans and the wounds of many thousands more.

We have kept our word as an ally. We have every right to expect the Government of South Vietnam to similarly keep its word.

The new Paris talks will begin on Wednesday -- talks agreed to by the Government of South Vietnam, and we will be there.

I trust that the Government of South Vietnam will send its representatives to these discussions on Wednesday -- overcoming any hesitation in carrying out its prior agreement.

If the Saigon government fails to participate in these discussions in the near future, then I, for one, would favor making it clear, making it clear to that government, that we intend to proceed in the negotiations in any case.

The foreign policy of the United States -- and the fate of young Americans in Vietnam -- should and will be determined by the President of the United States and not by any foreign government. That policy, and those young Americans, should not be placed at the mercy of domestic political considerations in another country.

I support the President in his efforts to move the Paris negotiations forward rapidly to an honorable settlement -- with the participation of all those governments which honestly seek such a settlement.

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STATEMENT
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
NOVEMBER 4, 1968

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Draft #1/jbm

[Delivered by
Telephone from
Los Angeles]

NOTES

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 3, 1968

Mr. Mayor, ... Mr. Cranston, etc., ... and
Muriel, my dear

Every time I come to this beautiful city on the
Bay, I wonder why anyone lives anywhere else --- except
Waverly, Minnesota.

I keep telling this to Muriel.

And that's why I brought her here tonight --- to
show her San Francisco.

At least, that's one reason.

There's another --- politics.

This is a great night in San Francisco.

And Tuesday will be a great day across America.

This campaign has been uphill ... but we're going to win on Tuesday ... with the help of all of you.

You here in San Francisco have been very kind to me in my many other visits --- and I am deeply grateful.

You were very kind to Adlai Stevenson when he talked sense to you in 1952.

You were kind to California in 1962 when you exported Richard Nixon to New York.

You were very kind to Harry Truman in 1948. --- but I didn't ~~come out here~~ tonight to talk to you about 1948 ... about tonight ... and tomorrow ... and all the great tomorrows of the years ahead.

They're going to be the best years of your lives --- and we can make it so.

Exactly eleven weeks from tomorrow, when the balloons have collapsed and the confetti is gone, next January 20, two men will stand on the steps of the Capitol in Washington and take their solemn oaths as President and Vice President of the United States --- one to lead this nation, the other to stand ready to lead it.

Under those men's leadership, this country will take a new direction --- and so will the world.

They will chart a course for all mankind.

I want to chart that course --- and tonight I want to give you a preview.

First, when I am President, I will do everything within my power to heal the wounds and end the divisions among our people ... the divisions between black and white ... between rich and poor ... between young and old.

I will do everything within my power to help our people learn together and work together, and live together ... to be one nation, indivisible, not two.

I will bring into the mainstream of our affluent society more than 20 million Americans who are out of ~~teardrops~~, out of work, out of school, and out of hope.

I will enforce the laws --- and I will safeguard liberty and uphold justice, too.

I will labor to create a society where dissent is heard, the poor are helped --- and the young are proud once more to be Americans.

Second, I will strive, by my every word and deed, to earn the people's trust.

Your next President needs wisdom ... compassion ... strength.

But above all, he needs the trust of the American people.

And I will earn that trust --- as I have tried to earn it in this campaign ---

-- by speaking directly to the people;

-- and by always taking the people into my confidence and telling them the truth.

This I will do when I am President.

Third, I will make peace in Vietnam.

The President has taken a wise and courageous step toward that peace. We have stopped the bombing in the North. And all Americans who love peace support that step.

Next Wednesday, the Paris talks will resume. We hope that now they can succeed. The United States will be there next Wednesday to make them succeed --- and we will be there with or without the representatives of the Saigon government.

I call upon all candidates in this election not to interfere with those negotiations ... either by direct statement of their own, or by innuendo of their staff.

Far more is at stake than this election. Peace is at stake. An end to the killing is at stake.

An honorable peace ... an end to the killing ... an end to the devastation of a nation and the destruction of a civilization ... that is what I want. It is what the American people want. And we will get it.

Fourth, I will labor night and day to end the suicidal escalation of the nuclear armaments race.

Here, the American people have a clear-cut choice.

Mr. Nixon has said he favors building an ever-escalating military establishment and increasing the influence of the military over our foreign policy and our national life.

I disagree --- and I said so --- and now I am glad to see he is back-tracking.

My own position is clear. I worked with President Kennedy to get the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty --- which Mr. Nixon once called "catastrophic nonsense" --- and the world is a safer place today.

This fall I urged the Senate to ratify the treaty to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. But Mr. Nixon stood silent --- and the treaty is dead for this year.

When I am President I will press for ratification of that treaty. I will continue to keep America the strongest nation on earth. But I will also explore every possibility that can halt the suicidal nuclear arms race --- before the nuclear arms race halts mankind.

Finally, I want to return to the great work of Democratic liberalism.

I want to continue to maintain prosperity and economic growth that means jobs for the workingman ... profits for the businessman ... and tax revenues to improve the schools ... health ... housing ... the environment we live in ... the quality of American life.

I want to make sure that every child, whether he is black or white, whether his parents speak English or Spanish at home, has a chance --- a chance to make the most he can of himself.

I want to get on with the job of helping the young and the disadvantaged ... from the hills of Appalachia to the grape fields of California, from the slums of Harlem to the asphalt desert of Watts and East Los Angeles.

Mr. Agnew says if you've seen one slum you've seen them all. I say if you've seen one slum you've seen one too many.

I want to build the society of liberal dreams.
And it is not an impossible dream. It is a reality within
our reach --- if you give me your help in this election.

* * *

Can we do the job?

I say we can --- if we work together.

I am happy to report to you tonight that those
brave men who led dissent last spring have been listened to ...
that they have made their mark on policy ... that they have
greatly helped the search for peace ... and that they are
coming home.

Gene McCarthy had the courage to speak out from
his conscience on Vietnam ... and today we are closer to peace.

Robert Kennedy spoke for the liberal dream --- and
today we are building a bulwark against the most dangerous tide
of reaction in our generation.

John Kennedy kindled a flame of moral leadership
in the world --- and we can light that flame again. And we
will.

* * *

California --- I need you.

This is a close election.

It hangs on every vote.

It is a critical election.

It will decide ---

... Community or apartheid?

... ~~Peace~~ ~~conciliation~~?

... Justice or repression?

... Growth or stagnation?

These are the stakes in this election.

Give me your help ... down to the last minute ...

until the polls close on Tuesday ... Give me your help.

#

Notes

VPHHH

San Francisco

Sunday, November 3

Mr. Mayor, ... Cranston ... etc --- and Muriel, my dear

~~This has been a great day~~
~~for me and Muriel~~
~~and all the way~~ Muriel's always asking
INSERT "A"

This is a great night in San
Francisco.

And Tuesday will be a
great day ~~across~~ across America.

This campaign has been
uphill ~~but~~ but ~~you've stuck with~~
~~me all the way~~ and we're
going to win on Tuesday ... with the
help of all of you @

~~Thank you~~

~~San~~

You here in San Francisco have
been very kind to me ~~on~~ on my many
other visits --- and I am deeply grateful,

INSERT
"A" P. 1

Every time I come ~~to the~~ to this
~~beautiful~~ beautiful city on the Bay, I wonder why
anyone lives anywhere else --- except
Waverly, Minnesota

[I keep telling this to Muriel.

[And that's why ~~bring~~ I brought
her ~~to~~ here tonight --- to show her

San Francisco @

[At least that's one reason @

~~Have another~~

[There's another --- politics.

~~Those men remained to those~~

Under those men's leadership, this country will take a new direction --- and so will the world.

~~those men~~ They
the choice the American people
~~make on Tuesday~~ will chart a course for all
mankind.

I want to chart that course
--- and tonight I want to ~~give you a preview~~
you. ~~when I am President,~~ give you a preview.

First, I ~~will~~ will ~~to~~
~~tell the American people the~~

do everything within my power to heal
the wounds and ~~the~~ ^{eyes} the ^{divisions} ~~gaps~~ among
our people... the ~~gaps~~ between the
black and white

divisions between black and white ~~and~~...
~~between young & old~~ between rich &
poor... between young & old

I will do everything within my power
to help ~~them~~ ^{our people} ~~work together and~~ learn
together and work together, and live together...
to be one nation, indivisible, not two.

I will bring into the mainstream
of our affluent society ~~the~~
more than 20 million Americans who
are out of touch, out of work, out of school,
and out of hope. ~~labor to~~

I will create a society where dissent
is heard, the poor are helped,

I will enforce the laws --- and I will
~~maintain~~ safeguard liberty and uphold justice too.

I will labor to create a society where
dissent is heard, the poor are helped --- and the
young are proud, once more to be Americans.

Second, I will strive, by my every word
and deed, to earn the people's trust.

~~Your next President must be wise
he must be just ... he must be ~~strong~~ ...
he must ~~listen~~ take in new~~

~~strong~~

~~the people~~

~~You next President ~~must be strong~~
~~but just ... wise ... he must be compassionate~~
~~just ... he must be strong ... compassionate~~~~

needs wisdom ... compassion ... strength ...

But above ~~all~~ all he needs the
trust of the American people.

And I will earn that trust --- as I
have tried to earn it in this campaign ---

--- by ~~speaking~~ ~~speaking~~ ~~speaking~~
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taking the people into my confidence +
telling them the truth.

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am President.

Third, I will make peace in Viet
Nam.

Third, I will make peace in Viet Nam.

~~I will end the war in Viet Nam.~~

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This fall I urged ~~to~~ the Senate to ratify the treaty to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. But Mr Nixon stood ~~silent~~ ~~and~~ --- and the treaty is dead for this year.

When I am President I will press for ratification of that treaty. I will continue to keep America the strongest nation on earth. But I will also explore every possibility that can halt the suicidal nuclear arms race --- before the nuclear arms race kills mankind.

Finally, I want to return to the great work of Democratic Liberalism.

I want to continue to maintain prosperity and economic growth that means jobs for ~~everybody~~ ~~and~~ the workingman ... profits for the businessman ... and tax revenues ~~to improve the~~ ~~schools~~ ~~and~~ ~~health~~ ~~and~~ ~~...~~

Mr Agnew says if you've seen one slum you've seen them all.
I say if you've seen one slum you've seen one too many.

housing ...

the quality of American life

the environment we live in ...

~~I want to get on with the job of helping the young and ending poverty from the hills of Appalachia to the grape fields of California~~

~~from Harlem to the Watts and East Los Angeles~~

~~hills of Appalachia to the grape fields of California~~

~~slums of Harlem to the asphalt desert of Watts and East Los Angeles, from the hills of Appalachia~~

40

I want to make sure that every child, ~~whether~~ whether he's black or white, whether his parents speak English or Spanish at home has a chance -- a chance to make the most he can of himself.

~~I want to do it because it's right.~~

I want to get on with the job of helping the young ~~and ending the~~ ~~poor~~ and the disadvantaged ... from the hills of Appalachia to the grape fields of California, from the slums of Harlem to the asphalt desert of Watts and East Los Angeles.

~~and that~~

I want to build the society of

liberal dreams. And it is not an impossible dream. It is a reality within our reach --- if you give me your help in this election.

X X X

Can we do the job?

I say we can --- if we work together. I am happy to report to you tonight that those brave men who led dissent last spring have been listened to... that they have ~~not~~ made their mark on policy... that they have ~~contributed mightily helped much~~ greatly helped the search for peace... and that they are coming home.

~~Robert Kennedy~~

Gene McCarthy had the courage to speak out from his conscience on Viet Nam --- and today we are heading ~~toward peace~~ closer to peace.

~~today~~

Robert Kennedy spoke for the liberal dream ~~the disoriented~~ --- and ~~the bulwark~~ today we are building a bulwark against the most dangerous ~~reactionary~~ tide of reaction in our generation.

John Kennedy ~~kindled~~ kindled a flame of moral leadership in the world --- and we can light that flame again. And we will.

Chin lobby - SVN
12 hrs - shape up -
you're sabotaging it.
Ball - Rome -
Thieu - old time lobby
tell him N ggs win &
be tougher -
Some call in SVN - 12
Mon - if don't shape up -

X X X

California - - - I need you @
This is a close election @

It hangs on every vote @

It is a ~~sure~~ critical election @

It will decide - -

- - - Commitment or apartheid ?

- - - Peace or tension ?

- - - Justice or repression ?

- - - Growth or stagnation ?

These are the stakes in this election.

Give me your help ... down to the

~~last minute ... down to the~~

last minute ... until the polls close on

Tuesday ... give me your help @



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