

Remarks of Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey
Hall of Nations, Leamington Hotel
] 2:30 a.m., November 6, 1968

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you.

(Applause)

Well, first of all, may I thank you for your -- is this loud-speaker working?

May I take a moment just to thank you, first of all, for your patience tonight. You have waited a long time, and I have waited an equally long time, and I wanted to take just a moment to come here to express my thanks to all of my many friends, particularly here at home and many that have come from other parts of the Nation for your wonderful support, and to tell you that I feel sufficiently at ease so that I want to get a good night's rest.

(Applause)

Some members of my family have already seen fit to retire in confidence and others have decided to stay up, but we have, as you know, several of the very important States nip and tuck, where the decision, I am sure, will not be known until some time at least late tomorrow, and if you want to stay up and wait for all that, I am all for you.

(Applause)

But you have been watching the television and you have been listening to the reports, and I believe that it is fair to say that we have done much better than most observers had thought we would, about as good as I thought we would.

(Applause)

Now, there are critical States yet to be heard from. They are not finalized as yet, States such as Ohio, Illinois, and the States such as California, the State of Washington, and, as you know, this is at best, as we put it, a donneybrook. Anything can happen.

(Cries of "We will win.")

I understand from what I have been hearing from my friends on the television that it will be some time before we hear from California, and I thought since that was the case, since I just left California last night, that I maybe would retire and let both Hubert Humphrey and California have a night's rest.

I do want to express particularly to my friends in Minnesota sincere appreciation for this wonderful, wonderful display of support that you have given to us here. I know that my colleague, Ed Muskie, in Maine, feels exactly the same way about his State.

(Applause)

And I am sure that every one of you know that this campaign has been a great opportunity for me and for Mr. Muskie and for those associated with me to carry a message to this country. I couldn't possibly be any happier than in the knowledge that we had done the right thing. We have said what we believed, we have spoken the hard facts of our country as we saw them. We have offered what we thought were the alternatives and the solutions. We placed our case before the American people. We did it in a short period of time against tremendous odds, and all I can say tonight to the American people is

they have been mighty good to us. They have given us a great vote of confidence in this popular vote.

(Applause)

I am especially indebted to Larry O'Brien, our National Chairman. (Applause), Senator Mondale and Senator Harris, who are my co-chairmen (Applause), to Terry Sanford of North Carolina and others with the Citizens Committee, and to the thousands and thousands of others all across this country, in all walks of life, and may I give a special thanks tonight to the wonderful work of the young people that have really rallied around us. (Applause). I owe a special debt of gratitude to my family all of whom have worked ceaselessly. In fact, Mrs. Humphrey asked me whether or not -- "Daddy, do you want me to get up and come on down with you?" And I said, "Let's wait, Dear, until we can announce a victory statement completely

(Applause)

But we have had a wonderful and rich experience together as a family.

Then there are a number of people here tonight from the entertainment world, from the world of the stage, and of the screen, and of the field of entertainment that have worked with us across this country as just like precinct workers and I owe them a very special debt of gratitude and I take this opportunity to thank them.

(Applause)

And I want to also thank my friends in the labor movement that have been a bulwark of strength to me, the regular Democratic organization, the DFL here in the State. We have two illustrious Minnesotans who serve on the National Committee, Bob Short and Geri Joseph, all of whom have worked so hard. And two others that have no particular official title, Mr. Andreas and Mr. Gates, both of whom have just done work beyond the call of duty.

Now, I will tell you. You know me and you know that I am generally a rather optimistic man, and tonight I feel that way. I feel this election has been not only a rewarding experience for me but I feel that by the time that the turn of day comes tomorrow that you and I are going to be a lot happier and much more cheerful than we are now.

(Applause)

Thank you.

Now, go and get some sleep.

Remarks of Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey

November 6, 1968

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you very much. Nice to know.

(Laughter)

I am sure you know that I have already called Mr. Nixon and expressed to him our congratulations, and I sent the following telegram just a few moments ago to Mr. Nixon, it reads as follows:

"According to unofficial returns you are the winner in this election, my congratulations. Please know that you will have my support in unifying and leading the nation. This has been a difficult year for the American people. I am confident that if constructive leaders in both our parties join together we shall be able to go on with the business of building the better America we all seek in a spirit of peace and harmony.

"Signed Hubert H. Humphrey"

Let me say just another word. Senator Muskie and I wish to thank the people who supported our nomination and election. I have been in touch with the Senator already this morning and talked with both the Senator and his family. I wish especially to thank my family, some of whom are here with me, and my campaign staff, and particularly to thank Mrs. Humphrey, who was the secret weapon.

(Applause)

As I said to some of you last night we thank each and every one of you. I intend to continue my dedication to public service, and to the building of a responsive and vital Democratic Party.

(Applause)

I shall continue my personal commitment to the cause of human rights, of peace, and to the betterment of man. If I have helped in this campaign to move these causes forward I feel rewarded. I have done my best; I have lost. Mr. Nixon has won. The democratic process has worked its will, so now let's get on with the urgent task of uniting our country.

Thank you.

(Applause)

Now, we will have some fun. It has been a lot of hard work. I don't want anybody to have any extra sympathy. As a matter of fact, what I would like to have you do is just redouble your efforts to do what you thought you were doing and what I thought I was doing and maybe we can make an even greater contribution to the things that are important in this country. I really don't feel very badly. I actually feel that we have done a heck of a job.

(Applause)

I don't want you to think we will continue to campaign right away but I thought maybe we ought to have a little rest, we intend to take some, we are not just quite sure what we intend to do in the next few days. We are going to stay out here in Minnesota, I haven't mowed the lawn for some time and there still is a few things to do out at our place. As a matter of fact, I feel a great sense of both release and

relief, and I hope and pray that all of you will feel the same way. I want to be of good cheer. I would like to have you feel a little happy. It is not easy, but, quite frankly, this was an uphill fight all the way. I was the first one to know it, and I think the last one on the line of my staff that recognized it. I never had any doubt but what it would be a close fight. Comme si, comme sa, you know, one way, it bounced a little one way, it bounced a little another. We have got a President-elect. He is going to have my help.

Cheers.

(Applause)

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Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey

November 6, 1968

I have today sent the following telegram to Mr. Nixon:

"According to unofficial returns, you are the winner in this election. My congratulations. Please know that you will have my support in unifying and leading the nation. This has been a difficult year for the American people. I am confident that, if constructive leaders of both our parties join together now, we shall be able to go on with the business of building the better America we all seek --- in a spirit of peace and harmony. Hubert H. Humphrey."

Senator Muskie and I wish to thank the people who supported our nomination and election.

I wish especially to thank my family and campaign staff. I intend to continue my dedication to public service and to the building of a responsive and vital Democratic Party.

I shall continue my personal commitment to the cause of human rights ... of peace ... and to the betterment of man.

If I have helped in this campaign to move those causes forward, I feel rewarded.

I have done my best. I have lost. Mr. Nixon has won.

The democratic process has worked its will. Now let us get on with the urgent task of uniting our country.

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THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Transcript Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey's Concession statement

From the crowd: "We want Humphrey, we want Humphrey."

The Vice President: Well thank you very much, nice to know. I'm sure you know that I've already called Mister Nixon, expressed to him our congratulations and I've sent the following telegram just a few moments ago to Mister Nixon. It reads as follows. According to unoffical returns, you are the winner in this election. My congratulations. Please know that you will have my support in unifying and leading the nation. This has been a difficult year for the American people, I'm confident that constructive leaders of both our parties join together now, we shall be able to go on with the business of building the better America that we all seek in the spirit of peace and harmony. Signed Hubert H. Humphrey.

Now let me say just another word. Senator Muskie and I wish to thank the people who supported our nomination and election. I've been in touch with the Senator already this morning, talked with both the Senator and his family. I wish especially to thank my family, some of whom are with me and my campaign staff and particularly to thank Mrs. Humphrey, who is the secret weapon in this campaign.

As I've said to some of you last night, thank each and every one of you. I intend to continue my dedication to public service, to the building of a responsive and vital Democratic Party.

I shall continue my personal commitment to the cause of human rights, of peace and the betterment of man. If I have helped in this campaign to move these causes forward, I feel rewarded. I have done my best, I have lost, Mister Nixon has won. The Democratic process has worked it's will, so now let's get on with the urgent task of uniting our country. Thank you.

Now go have some fun. It's been a lot of hard work, I don't want anybody to have any extra sympathy, as a matter of fact what I would like to have you do is just redouble your efforts to do what you thought you were doing and what I thought I was doing, maybe we can make an even greater contribution to the things that are important in this country. I really don't feel very badly, I actually feel that we have done a heck of a job.

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THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

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I don't want you to think we'll continue the campaign right away, but I just thought you ought to know, you maybe ought to have a little rest, we intend to take some. We're not quite sure just what we're going to do the next few days, we're going to stay out here in Minnesota. I haven't mowed the lawn for some time and there still is a few things to do out at our place, as a matter of fact, I feel a great sense of both release and relief and I hope and pray that all of you feel the same way. I want you to be of good cheer, I'd like to have you feel a little happy, it's not easy, but quite frankly, this was an up-hill fight all the way. I was the first one to know it and I think the last one down the line of my staff recognized it. I never had any doubt but it would be a close fight, comme ci, comme ca, you know, it bounced a little one way, bounced a little another. We've got a President Elect, he's going to have my help. Cheers.

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