

*Get my youth speech
at Farber-Weekman*

REMARKS

BY

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

OPTIMIST CLUB YOUTH AWARDS DINNER

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

NOVEMBER 10, 1969

↳ Appreciating youth is hardly a matter to be encompassed within a single evening, but I'll give it a try. !

↳ It is a great pleasure as a working member of the academic community to honor these altogether splendid examples of America's best product - its young people. •

↳ Not very long ago when I came to meetings like this I spoke about the importance of Federal legislation and Federal appropriations in our continuing effort to upgrade the quality of public education.

Today, as I enjoy my reverse sabbatical -- on leave from Washington to academia -- I have a rather different, and I think usefully different, vantage point from which to speak.

↳ As an educator I find I do not want to -- and indeed find it near impossible to -- confine myself to the limitations of the academic program in the effort to ~~impart wisdom to~~ ^{share information} ~~with~~ the young.

In these less than temperate times I think we all find ourselves obliged to relate what we teach -- and how we teach -- to the major concerns of contemporary life.

↳ How we teach? Yes indeed. For if we are to be wise and faithful stewards of the minds of the Nation's young, it is essential that we give serious attention to the way in which we and our students live and study together -- ~~and it is~~ ~~together, my friends.~~ ↳ I find myself studying all the time else

I should never be able to keep up with these fine young minds.

As teachers and as parents, we must nurture our common humanity in a world increasingly dehumanized by sheer size, by mass media and massive construction, by shrinking distance and a rambunctious explosion of the population.

↳ As teachers and as parents, we owe our youth the spirit of honest inquiry; we must join in open-minded examination of the treasured shibboleths of our generation -- painful or not. ↳ We cannot dust off this difficult generation with patronizing tolerance (or impatient intolerance) else we shall lose them altogether.

↳ This is not a time when young people are noted for passivity. If we do not have a constant concern for the quality of our discourse, we are apt to find ourselves in a desperate

last-ditch dialogue with disaffected dissidents.

We must struggle unceasingly for comprehension -- theirs and ours -- at a time when our communication, though constant, is too often trite, meaningless, repetitive and even, on occasion, evasive or dishonest.

Those of us who are teachers must let the lecture platform serve as a forum and a fulcrum remembering always that education is not an end in itself, but serves the intellectual, moral, cultural, social and material progress of mankind.

We must teach -- by word and deed -- that civilization is of consequence, and concern is not corny and young people must in turn recognize that the generations that preceded them had these qualities in large measure, too.

↳ I am under no illusion that the ills of society will respond *readily & quickly* with alacrity to such simple medicine, but when those of us who

serve as transmitters not only of our own but of the world's culture join our serious youth in seeking honest and relevant answers to the important concerns of their generation, there is bound to be a therapeutic impact.

~~We hear a great deal about the new breed of youthful rebels these days. I am not sure that this generation differs qualitatively from those that preceded it -- certainly these young people we honor this evening don't appear to.~~

~~I do know that I am tired of generalities -- from both generations. There are lots of turned-on middle aged Americans and there are lots of square kids.~~

↳ The young paint with a very broad brush. Phoniness and materialism -- the most frequent targets of the young -- are hardly endemic to my generation. They have been with us always, as have treachery and perfidy and other human frailties.

↳ To me, candor is a virtue and tactlessness is not and the line between them is thin indeed.

To me patience is a virtue; to the young it appears to be anathema. I do not ask patience of them -- they are the agents provocateur of progress and patience would hardly be appropriate to this role -- but I do ask that they recognize and respect the efforts and achievements of those who preceded them in the activist arena. We haven't been cooling our heels waiting for them, we've been pretty busy.

↳ Concern and outrage are by no means the special province of the young. I resent apathy ^{as much as} ~~more than~~ I resent violence + civil disobedience. ^{And} ~~But~~ I know too the other side of this coin:

Decent respect }

↳ that the right to dissent carries with it the obligation to permit others the right of advocacy.

↳ I'm not afraid of disagreements, they are the healthy sign of an open society. Tension doesn't scare me. Physical

tension is a good thing, it holds up our bridges. Inner tension is responsible for much of our great creative expression. A certain adversary quality in the relationship between the generations can be constructive -- so long as there is mutual respect.

To the young I say: it is not enough to speak with great moral indignation if we do not make morality the basis of our personal dealings with each other.

To my contemporaries I say: it is not enough to subscribe to the theories of Constitutional democracy if we cannot practice their essentials in our daily life. Assent to theory is meaningless when the heart is dissident. If we believe in majority rule and minority voice, we must not only practice, but enforce it, each of us in all of our encounters. This is active democracy, ~~my friends.~~

If we are going to solve the tough problems facing

Beautiful evening

001049

Proud Parents

Volunteer Generation!! - Finding yourself
by helping others

"You cannot be both free + Ignorant" R

"Civilization is a race between Education
+ Catastrophe

"Peering
~~at the~~ into the future - It won't work -

"But Hope - To you who are about to
go out into the world - "Don't go!"

- ⊗ Youth Paints with broad brush
- Concern no special Privileges
of young.
- Youthful Idealism.

society today, it will take study, self-doubt, hard work -- and passionate involvement. These things we owe our youth -- and ourselves -- plus comprehension and the ability to communicate it.

As we mark the beginning of both Youth Appreciation Week and American Education Week, 1969, it is good to note that the United States today provides more education for more citizens than any nation in history. Education has come a long way since our founding fathers first contemplated the relationship between self-government and public enlightenment.

But we cannot rest on our numerical laurels, we cannot let our schools serve only as adolescent storage bins. They must be strong, healthy incubators for tomorrow's leaders.

Our schools must be shaping institutions that reach out to the individual, to the community and to the world.

↑ Educ. - & Community
Educ. - "One Nation, Under God, indivisible
with Liberty & Justice for all"

↳ Education is a social tool and its use is by no means
limited to academic institutions.

↳ Too often I have watched parents struggling to give
their youngsters the things they missed in growing up, &
too have wanted for my children things not available in my
youth. But I have also wanted them to cherish some things
I did have, things hard come by nowadays in our increasingly
depersonalized society.

*Things
we missed*

↳ Things like clean green spaces to roam in early
childhood, and good talk -- not dialogue and confrontation --
just good talk, and the right to plan a future without IBM cards
and the conviction that for each of us the only limit is our own
potential.

*The only limit to our realization of tomorrow
is our doubts of Today - We must move
forward with*

↳ I think we are getting away from some of these things
in America and I speak out of nostalgia for the future, a future
when we will control our industrial wastes and the pollution of
our environment through intrusion of noise and smells and

~~supersaturated~~ transport systems, a future when the cult of personality will be replaced by respect for each man as a person, a future when our cities will be planned to provide green spaces and we will not have to spend half of our Sunday on a smelly highway searching for an open meadow, ~~for our~~ children.

These tasks are not so simple as they sound, and we may not accomplish them in our own lifetime.

↳ We will try, We are trying. But if we do not make it, it is encouraging to note that the young men and women being honored here this evening -- and others like them across the nation -- will be coming along behind us.

"Impossible^{###} Dream⁴"

October 6, 1969

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SP FILE
Nov. 10, 1969
Youth App. Awards Banq.
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Mr. Reim:

Thank you for your letter of September 17, 1969 inviting me to be the principal speaker at the 1969 Saint Paul Youth Appreciation Awards Banquet sponsored by the St. Paul Optimist Club in the evening of November 10, 1969.

I am delighted to accept this invitation. I have asked Ursula Culver of my staff to contact you concerning the details of my visit. You will be hearing from her shortly.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Hubert H. Humphrey

Mr. Victor P. Reim, Jr.
Optimist Club of St. Paul
2186 Berkely Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55105

Mr. Sheehan

222-8525

Mrs. Humphrey
Bill Connell
John Watson



OPTIMIST CLUB OF ST. PAUL

Friend of the Boy

2186 BERKELEY AVE. ST. PAUL, MINN. 55105

Pending

September 11, 1969

Mrs. Ursula Culver
Suite 700
1510 H Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Re: 1969 SAINT PAUL YOUTH APPRECIATION AWARDS
BANQUET sponsored by the Saint Paul Optimist Club

Dear Mrs. Culver:

This letter is written to request the appearance of the Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey as principal speaker at the 1969 Saint Paul Youth Appreciation Awards Banquet. Each year twenty high school seniors from the greater Saint Paul Metropolitan Area are honored by the community at a banquet sponsored by the Saint Paul Optimist Club. Students honored this year will be selected for scholarship, industry, reliability, civic responsibility and consideration of others. Enclosed is a photocopy of one of the news releases issued prior to the banquet last year.

This year the banquet will be held in the main ballroom of the Saint Paul Athletic Club. National Youth Appreciation Week is November 9 through 16th. We have tentatively reserved the evenings of November 10th through the 13th at the Saint Paul Athletic Club. Three hundred fifty students, parents, educators, civic, labor and community leaders will be in attendance. If Mr. Humphrey cannot attend on a date suggested above, the banquet will be scheduled later at a more convenient date.

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September 11, 1969

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We understand that Mr. Humphrey has been a member of the Minneapolis Optimist Club for many years. We hope that his dedicated interest in youth and education will prompt him to accept this invitation. We know that if he consents to appear, the banquet will be a most inspiring and memorable experience for all who attend.

Yours truly,

OPTIMIST CLUB OF ST. PAUL

Victor P. Reim, Jr.

Victor P. Reim, Jr.

President-Elect

Michael J. Sheahan

Michael J. Sheahan

Director

lmb:

Enc.

Optimists to Honor 20 Students at Banquet

Twenty youths from St. Paul area schools will be honored by the Optimist Club of St. Paul at its annual appreciation night and banquet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Paul Hotel.

The service club rated the 20 as being cooperative, industrious, reliable, personable and considerate.

The 20 youth's are:

Mark Gilquist, 1737 Eustis St., Roseville, editor of the Ramsey High newspaper, who has been an algebra tutor and occasional teaching assistant, member of the human rights commission, and National Honor Society.

Mike Wisiewski, 444 Charles St., who was Mechanic Arts Boys State delegate, where he was elected chief of police and senator, is a student council member, attends the honor seminar, is swimming team captain and participates in football and track.

Tom Barger, 1201 Marie Ave., South St. Paul, has been on student council at South St. Paul High for three years, a class officer for three years, lettered in track and basketball and was Boys State delegate.

Kenneth Ritchie, 149 E. Isabel St., has aided school dropout problem at Humboldt High by persuading friends not to leave school, was a school police training counselor at Legionville, and works part time.

Jim Persons, 996 Hyacinth Ave., ranks third in his Hill High class of 236, is president of the Student Associate Teachers, is on senior class council, past captain and member of speech team, does volunteer work at Gillette hospital and teaches Sunday school.

Denis Legato, 1614 E.



Cathy O'Keefe



Marilyn Uptain



Abby Casey



Richard Batdorf



Robert Trammel



Rose Hardy



Deborah Blehert



Denis Legato



Kenneth Ritchie



Joan Berger



Jim Persons



Linda Grohosk



Toni Chilefone



Kristie Johnson



John Watson



William Gehrz

op Murray High, is secretary of cadet teachers, former council member, twice class officer and works 20 hours a week.

Joan Berger, 2535 S. Shore Blvd., White Bear Lake, is student council president at Archbishop Murray, writer for the school paper, member of Shannons singing group, Young Christian Students, Glee Club and Girl Scouts.

Deborah Blehert, 1031 Goodrich Ave., is United Fund chairman at Central High, homecoming publicity chairman, secretary International Relations club, on yearbook staff, in debate club, FTA, studies violin, plays in Center Orchestra, attends Hebrew school and ranks 16 in class of 526.

William Gehrz, 2251 Princeton Ave., is National Honor Society president at Highland Park High, merit semifinalist, won Yale Alumni Book Award, member

Rose Hardy, 873 Cedarwood Ave., Maplewood, will complete three years of school in two years at North High by attending summer and night school in addition to the daily program. She has lived in foster homes while her parents are in Germany, also works parttime and ranks in the top 20 per cent of the class.

John Watson, 1161 Goodrich Ave., attends St. Agnes High, works at St. Paul-Ramsey hospital, was a summer volunteer to elementary pupils at Greenbrier Home for the mentally retarded and organized teen groups to entertain there.

Robert Trammel is student council president at Murray High, was treasurer of the sophomore and junior classes, president of Latin club, captain of cross country team, has won two tennis trophies, two in

Kristie Johnson, 1759 Clarence Ave., is senior class president at Johnson High, has been active in class and student council affairs, homecoming queen finalist, belonged to GAA, skating club, Red Cross, French club, Hi-League and church choir. She ranks in top three per cent of her class.

Richard Batdorf, 1496 N. Hamline Ave., attends Murray High, demonstrated circulatory system in science fair, is soon to become an Eagle Scout, is in church youth choir, Methodist Youth Fellowship representative to UN, grows exotic plants, did remodeling work at home.

Toni Chilefone, 775 Jefferson Ave., works parttime in an on-the-job training program, attends Monroe High, cared for her mother during terminal illness, now is responsible for home management and ranks in top 20 per cent of her class.

attendance at Our Lady of Peace for three years, is council delegate, in Thespian society, Red Cross, Latin and Glee clubs, is coordinator of Christian Core in junior year and worked in Project Summer and Insight.

Linda Grohoski, 536 N. Hazel St., ranks seventh in her class of 648 at Harding High, is secretary of Future Teachers, in Walther League, Human Rights Club, Knight-Lites and is volunteer worker at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Marilyn Uptain, 2176 Reaney St., is a volunteer teaching assistant in Spanish at Harding High, tutors at International Institute and helps arriving foreign-born with reading, writing, communicating and finding friends, and helps exchange students find homes here and in Mexico.

Robert Ellek, 86 W. Hoyt Ave., was cochairman of

Tom Barger Mark Gilquist

is on council executive board, homecoming chairman, played football, baseball, golf and basketball.

Cathy O'Keefe, 2146 E. Third St., is senior class president at St. Joseph's Academy, Girls State delegate, was volunteer at St. Mary's school summer program for grade schoolers, was junior counselor at Merrick Day Camp and ranks in top 10 per cent of her class.



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