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REMARKS

BY

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

*a day of national
commemoration
national DAY*

COMMEMORATING MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

JANUARY 15, 1970

*Dr Williams
Rev Gardner*

*I sat with him
walked with him
talked with him
prayed with him
I knew Mr King - His family - his wife - children
His father -*

A little less than two years ago, Martin Luther King, Jr.

died a martyr's death.

With his passing, something rare and precious was lost to
all Americans:

the living reminder that one man

by the force of his character

the depth of his convictions

the eloquence of his voice

and the example he set

could alter the course of history.

For Martin Luther King had the courage to challenge the
intolerance, injustice, inadequacies and inequities of the society

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I'll pay*

in which he lived.

On this day, his birthday, we grieve for Martin Luther King and for his family.

But we grieve as well for ourselves and for our nation.

For Dr. King touched the hearts of all people when he cried out,

"I have a dream, a dream that my four little children will one day live in a Nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Martin Luther King was not alone in having this dream.

That dream is my dream. — *your dream*

I believe it is America's dream."

This ~~It~~ is part of our living legacy from Martin Luther King.

L The murder of Dr. King does not mean that we lost our way as a nation, any more than the murders of a great President and a great Senator meant that we lost our way.

An assassin's bullet does not indict an entire society in America any more than it does in India, a nation that also lost a great political and spiritual leader, Mahatma Ghandi, to an assassin's bullet.

↳ We are still, as we were before the tragic death of Martin Luther King, a nation strong and vital, blessed by God's gifts, earnestly seeking the way to a more just society.

↳ The test of a people, like that of a man, is not how well it handles good fortune, but how it responds to adversity.

↳ It is at moments of tragedy, when complacency is shattered and raw wounds are exposed, that a nation has the opportunity to move toward greatness.

↳ The death of Martin Luther King placed in sharper focus the evils with which he daily struggled.

↳ It re-emphasized our obligation to root out the last vestiges of discrimination, segregation and inequality --in schools--in employment--in housing--in public services-- *in life.*

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It demanded our renewed commitment to a nation not "separate but equal", but united in equality.

And, in his memory, we should today rededicate ourselves to the goals Dr. King spoke of when he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize:

"I have the audacity to believe that people everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits."

How can we, together, speed these goals?

We can urge the President and the Congress to extend, without further delay, the ~~to~~ effective legislation that brought a political voice to almost a million Southern black people who had not had one *avail in* before--the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

We can mobilize our resources--public and private--to banish the specter of poverty from our land.

We can commit ourselves unreservedly to the broad program of action recommended by the National Advisory Commission on

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Civil Disorders, and the Violence Commission, so that America will not become "two societies, one black, one white . . ."

As individuals, we can search our own souls for the remnants of prejudice and bigotry--and do not forget that intolerance and suspicion flow both ways among the races, my friends--and black Americans can no more deny their obligations in this regard than can white Americans.

↳ We can exemplify human dignity and freedom in our daily lives--as did Martin Luther King.

↳ We can summon the courage for reconciliation and reject the cowardice of violence.

↳ We can avoid the temptation to strike out in rage and retaliation--acts which make a mockery of all that Dr. King lived--and died--for.

↳ If we remember Dr. King not just on his birthday, but every day--

↳ If we rededicate ourselves to his memory--

And follow the remarkable example his life offers--

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then this tragedy will not have been in vain,
and it will be remembered not as the
moment when America lost her faith,
but as the moment when America found her
conscience. !

with God's help + Blessing
Together as Americans -
together "We shall overcome"
overcome our prejudices
" " " " Weakness
" " " "



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