

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

NAACP NATIONAL CONVENTION

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

JULY 5, 1971

The new struggle for civil rights goes far beyond legal protections and judicial processes. Civil rights must become human rights. As we approach our 200th anniversary, we should declare and implement a new bill of rights, economic and social rights!

- The right to peace;
- The right to employment;
- The right to health;
- The right to education;
- The right to a clean environment;
- The right to public compassion;
- The right to justice;
- The right to a decent home;
- The right to a safe neighborhood;
- The right to equal opportunity;
- The right to recreation;
- The right to privacy.

The first of the new rights is the right to peace. The war in Vietnam violates the right to peace of all Americans, all Asians, all Africans, all Europeans -- of all mankind. We must withdraw from it as soon as possible -- this year.

Just as important is the right to be free from the threats to peace -- free from fear of nuclear annihilation -- free from the psychological and economic costs of an ever-increasing escalation of the nuclear arms race.

Next is the right to a job -- the right to suitable employment for every American.

I am sorry to say there is inadequate commitment to that basic right by this Administration.

There are well over 5 million Americans out of work today. Unemployment stands at 6.1 per cent -- and it is disproportionately higher among some elements of our population -- youth, minorities, Vietnam veterans.

We must guarantee every American the right to a decent job, and make good on that guarantee.

The right to health.

America must build, and build soon, a health care system that guarantees us the right to be healthy; not the right to be treated when we become sick. We must have effective preventive medicine in this country. And we must have the doctors, and nurses, and paramedical, technical and support personnel to make this system work.

The right to search for knowledge -- so that no man may remain another's slave through the denial of skill or education.

The right to a wholesome environment -- clean air, pure food, peace and quiet, and the refreshing touch of unspoiled nature.

The right to public compassion -- so that man may live with the knowledge that his health, his well-being, his old age and loneliness are the concern of his society.

The right to justice -- so that man may stand before his peers and his society on a truly just and equal basis with his neighbor.

The right to a decent home -- housing that cradles a child's soul -- not crushes it under massive concrete and despair.

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
NAACP National Convention
Minneapolis, Minnesota
July 5, 1971

- 2 -

The right to a safe neighborhood -- so that man may move about freely without fear of life, limb or property.

The right to equal opportunity -- so that man may lift himself to the limits of his ability, no matter what the color of his skin, the tenets of his religion, or his so-called social status.

The right to rest and recreation -- so that the necessity of labor not be permitted to cripple human development.

The right to privacy -- so that man may be free of the heavy hand of the watchers and listeners.

In short, my friends, civil rights and this New Bill of Rights not only mean no discrimination in jobs, but they mean jobs, good jobs, with the chance for advancement.

They not only mean no segregation in schooling but good schools, quality education.

They not only mean no discrimination in public accommodations but adequate food, the elimination of hunger, safe and decent neighborhoods, modern housing, and health protection.

The battle for civil rights for the balance of this century is the struggle to guarantee every American certain basic minimum services, facilities, and benefits.

I said every American.

Not just those, who by an accident of birth, have a certain skin color. Not just those of a certain ethnic origin. Not just those who live in an affluent suburb, instead of the inner city or the barrio. But every American.

Clean air, well-lit streets, garbage collection, public safety, good schools, decent neighborhoods and the other basics I have outlined are matters of right for every American.

In whatever capacity I may serve, I pledge you my heart, my mind, and my hand in the struggle to secure those rights . . . to make the new Bill of Rights a reality for all our people.

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Strengthen Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
CEAs + Decree orders - Transfer Contract compliance
coverage States Fed Empl. } from Dept Labor -

THE NEW STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS GOES FAR BEYOND

LEGAL PROTECTIONS AND JUDICIAL PROCESSES, CIVIL RIGHTS

MUST BECOME HUMAN RIGHTS. AS WE APPROACH OUR 200TH

ANNIVERSARY, WE SHOULD DECLARE AND IMPLEMENT A NEW BILL

OF RIGHTS, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS:

- THE RIGHT TO PEACE;
- THE RIGHT TO EMPLOYMENT;
- THE RIGHT TO HEALTH;
- THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION;
- THE RIGHT TO A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT;
- THE RIGHT TO PUBLIC COMPASSION;
- THE RIGHT TO JUSTICE;
- THE RIGHT TO A DECENT HOME;
- THE RIGHT TO A SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD;

Emergency Federal Aid
for School Desegreg.
Family Assistance
Program -
maintain at least
current family
income support
levels -
oppose requirement
mothers employment
Inadequate
enforcement of
Voting Rights
Act

-- THE RIGHT TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITY;

-- THE RIGHT TO RECREATION;

-- THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY.

~~RIGHTS~~
~~VOTE~~
~~REGISTRATION~~

Peace

THE FIRST OF THE NEW RIGHTS IS THE RIGHT TO PEACE.

THE WAR IN VIETNAM VIOLATES THE RIGHT TO PEACE OF ALL

AMERICANS, ALL ASIANS, ALL AFRICANS, ALL EUROPEANS --

OF ALL MANKIND. WE MUST WITHDRAW FROM IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE --

THIS YEAR.

JUST AS IMPORTANT IS THE RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM THE

THREATS TO PEACE -- FREE FROM FEAR OF NUCLEAR ANNIHILATION --

FREE FROM THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC COSTS OF AN

EVER-INCREASING ESCALATION OF THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE.

NEXT IS THE RIGHT TO A JOB -- THE RIGHT TO SUITABLE

EMPLOYMENT FOR EVERY AMERICAN.

I AM SORRY TO SAY THERE IS INADEQUATE COMMITMENT
TO THAT BASIC RIGHT BY THIS ADMINISTRATION.

THERE ARE WELL OVER 5 MILLION AMERICANS OUT OF WORK
TODAY. ^{in many states} UNEMPLOYMENT STANDS AT 6.1 PER CENT -- AND IT ~~IS~~ ^{was}
DISPROPORTIONATELY HIGHER AMONG SOME ELEMENTS OF OUR
POPULATION -- YOUTH, MINORITIES, VIETNAM VETERANS.

WE MUST GUARANTEE EVERY AMERICAN THE RIGHT TO A DECENT
JOB, AND MAKE GOOD ON THAT GUARANTEE.

THE RIGHT TO HEALTH.

AMERICA MUST BUILD, AND BUILD SOON, A HEALTH CARE
SYSTEM THAT GUARANTEES US THE RIGHT TO BE HEALTHY; NOT
THE RIGHT TO BE TREATED WHEN WE BECOME SICK.

WE MUST HAVE EFFECTIVE PREVENTIVE MEDICINE IN THIS COUNTRY,
AND WE MUST HAVE THE DOCTORS, AND NURSES, AND PARAMEDICAL,
TECHNICAL AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL TO MAKE THIS SYSTEM WORK.

THE RIGHT TO SEARCH FOR KNOWLEDGE -- SO THAT NO MAN
MAY REMAIN ANOTHER'S SLAVE THROUGH THE DENIAL OF SKILL
OR EDUCATION.

THE RIGHT TO A WHOLESOME ENVIRONMENT -- CLEAN AIR,
PURE FOOD, PEACE AND QUIET, AND THE REFRESHING TOUCH OF
UNSPOILED NATURE.

THE RIGHT TO PUBLIC COMPASSION -- SO THAT MAN MAY
LIVE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HIS HEALTH, HIS WELL-BEING,
HIS OLD AGE AND LONELINESS ARE THE CONCERN OF HIS SOCIETY.

THE RIGHT TO JUSTICE -- SO THAT MAN MAY STAND BEFORE
HIS PEERS AND HIS SOCIETY ON A TRULY JUST AND EQUAL BASIS
WITH HIS NEIGHBOR.

THE RIGHT TO A DECENT HOME -- HOUSING THAT CRADLES
A CHILD'S SOUL -- NOT CRUSHES IT UNDER MASSIVE CONCRETE
AND DESPAIR.

THE RIGHT TO A SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD -- SO THAT MAN MAY
MOVE ABOUT FREELY WITHOUT FEAR OF LIFE, LIMB OR PROPERTY.

THE RIGHT TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITY -- SO THAT MAN MAY
LIFT HIMSELF TO THE LIMITS OF HIS ABILITY, NO MATTER WHAT
THE COLOR OF HIS SKIN, THE TENETS OF HIS RELIGION, OR
HIS SO-CALLED SOCIAL STATUS.

THE RIGHT TO REST AND RECREATION -- SO THAT THE
NECESSITY OF LABOR NOT BE PERMITTED TO CRIPPLE HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT.

THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY -- SO THAT MAN MAY BE FREE OF
THE HEAVY HAND OF THE WATCHERS AND LISTENERS.

IN SHORT, MY FRIENDS, CIVIL RIGHTS AND THIS NEW BILL
OF RIGHTS NOT ONLY MEAN NO DISCRIMINATION IN JOBS, BUT
THEY MEAN JOBS, GOOD JOBS, WITH THE CHANCE FOR ADVANCEMENT,
THEY NOT ONLY MEAN NO SEGREGATION IN SCHOOLING BUT

GOOD SCHOOLS, QUALITY EDUCATION. — *no segregation
in housing, but open housing,
and modern, safe, housing within the
income reach of every American*

Civil Rights

THEY NOT ONLY MEAN NO DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC

ACCOMMODATIONS BUT ADEQUATE FOOD, THE ELIMINATION OF

HUNGER, SAFE AND DECENT NEIGHBORHOODS, MODERN HOUSING,

AND HEALTH PROTECTION

forall

Here to

THE BATTLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS FOR THE BALANCE OF THIS

CENTURY IS THE STRUGGLE TO GUARANTEE EVERY AMERICAN CERTAIN

BASIC MINIMUM SERVICES, FACILITIES, AND BENEFITS.

I SAID EVERY AMERICAN.

NOT JUST THOSE, WHO BY AN ACCIDENT OF BIRTH, HAVE

A CERTAIN SKIN COLOR. NOT JUST THOSE OF A CERTAIN ETHNIC

ORIGIN. NOT JUST THOSE WHO LIVE IN AN AFFLUENT SUBURB,

INSTEAD OF THE INNER CITY OR THE BARRIO. BUT EVERY

AMERICAN.

Jobs, healthcare, Education, good housing,

CLEAN AIR, WELL-LIT STREETS, GARBAGE COLLECTION, Parks +

Playgrounds,

PUBLIC SAFETY, GOOD SCHOOLS, DECENT NEIGHBORHOODS ~~AND MORE~~

~~OTHER BASICS I HAVE OUTLINED~~ ARE MATTERS OF RIGHT FOR

EVERY AMERICAN. *Rights to be gained, maintained,
& enforced.*

IN WHATEVER CAPACITY I MAY SERVE, I PLEDGE YOU MY

HEART, MY MIND, AND MY HAND IN THE STRUGGLE TO SECURE THESE

RIGHTS . . . TO MAKE THE NEW BILL OF RIGHTS A REALITY FOR

ALL OUR PEOPLE.

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