

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

FORT KNOX

November 11, 1971

War may have been what General George S. Patton, Jr. saw the most of, but it was through his unforgettable leadership and that of others like him that peace was secured in the Western world. That is no small feat -- one which would have been out of our reach -- had it not been for the fortitude of our armed forces. As General Patton said after his stunning breakthrough at the Battle of the Bulge and at the threshold of an Allied victory in Europe:

"During this operation, the Third Army moved farther and faster and engaged more divisions in less time than any other army in the history of the U.S. -- possibly in the history of the world. The results attained were made possible only by the superlative quality of American officers, American men, and American equipment. No country can stand against such an army."

Since then, our armed forces have faced a series of challenges and met them in the finest of the Patton tradition. There has been Korea, and now Vietnam -- both demanding great skill and courage on the part of our armed forces. The mere mention of Vietnam in this context causes many to cast aspersions on our military men. Somehow, involvement in Vietnam has come to mean a war imposed on this nation by the military -- a war fervently desired by the military -- an immoral war by the military. What could be farther from the truth? As one political leader of this country, sharing in many of the decisions which brought on Vietnam, I know that our involvement in Southeast Asia has been the result of political and military decisions. Once decisions were made, it was up to our men in the armed forces to implement them.

Then come stories of how those decisions were actually implemented: Mylai, for example. Suddenly every serviceman became doubly implicated, first for starting American involvement in the war, and secondly, for committing and condoning atrocities against the Vietnamese people. Hence, the grave disservice done to the image of our military.

General Patton had something to say about this question, too:

"It is an unfortunate and, to me, tragic fact that, in our attempts to prevent war, we have taught our people to belittle the heroic qualities of the soldier. They do not realize that, as Shakespeare put it, the pursuit of "The bubble reputation even at the cannon's mouth" is not only a good military characteristic, but also very helpful to the young man when bullets and shells are whistling and cracking around him. Much more could be done if the women of America would praise their heroes, and if papers would publish the citations of soldiers in their home towns."

I want to repeat one phrase of what I just quoted -- "the tragic fact that in our attempts to prevent war" -- because I think it is the essence of a serious misunderstanding, and a part of the crisis in morale both in and out of our armed forces.

Hearing about Mylai, we forget about the American soldier following a code of moral conduct which has had no equal in the history of military warfare or the atrocities on the other side, or the loss of over 50,000 American soldiers' lives.

Living through Vietnam, we forget the record of our armed forces in the defense of this great nation. Experiencing over a quarter century of security, we forget to assign responsibility for the fact where it is due.

We forget that our Armed Forces are here to secure the peace and protect the Republic, not to promote war. Instead of deprecating our military men, we should pay tribute to them.

I am here to do just that. Together we are launching Phase I of the Patton Museum building program. This museum is a tribute to a monumental soldier. It is a living reminder of the singular devotion and achievements of our men in the armed services throughout American history. And it is a tribute to men like Andrew Braddeus, the community of Ft. Knox, and the state of Kentucky for their assistance.

When all the praises for the Patton museum program are sung, there is still one more measure to write. What comes after Phase IV of the building program, what follows withdrawal from Vietnam? I can't write every bar because too many unpredictable things can happen. But I do know that the place for our armed forces, our reserves, and the National Guard is permanent, and essential.

This year the Congress had this fact in mind when it passed the across-the-board pay raises for military personnel. My only regret is that the Administration did not propose higher raises, particularly for those servicemen in the lower grades. Such a proposal should not be a question of politics, but of justice and forward-thinking for the future of our armed forces. That's what it was in the Senate. I joined with Senator Allott and a majority of other Senators in voting for a \$381 million increase, over and above what had already been introduced in basic pay raises.

The Senate passed this amendment twice and twice the amendment has been removed through pressures from certain quarters, including the Administration. I find such maneuverings deplorable when the welfare of over 1 1/2 million enlisted men is at stake. That is the rough estimate of men in the lower grades who now live in sub-standard living conditions. Many of their families are at the income level which would qualify them for welfare by federal government standards.

The Administration says that pay raises on the order of what was passed in the Senate would be inflationary. Is \$381 million dollars inflationary when it takes thousands of men off of welfare, and when it improves the morale of our armed forces? I don't think so. In fact, I am sure that it is anti-inflationary and pro-human.

Couple this with seeking an end to Vietnam, ensuring that justice and a high moral standard be maintained in the armed forces, and building on the peace-time value of our military, we will be upholding America's finest traditions.

Daniel Webster said:

"Let our object be our country, our whole country, and nothing but our country. And by the blessing of God, may that country itself become a vast and splendid monument, not of oppression and terror, but of wisdom, of peace, and of liberty upon which the world may gaze with admiration forever."

I happen to be one of those who still thinks our country is worth the effort. And I know you and the majority of Americans think so too. I think we have something to be patriotic about when we reflect on what we have already achieved as a nation and what we are going to achieve.

And we are going to achieve, if we maintain the will and have the proper leadership. Through our continued military strength,

we will have the confidence to concentrate on the needs of our own society, as well as on those of others.

What can we concentrate on?

We can concentrate on providing for 219 million Americans by 1975, for 236 million by 1980 and for 230 million by 2000.

We can concentrate on decent health care, decent housing, quality education, liveable cities, a more equitable economy and a peaceful world.

Right now I don't think we are doing enough concentrating. We are flagellating ourselves over Vietnam and letting our energies grow idle. Dissatisfaction and skepticism reigns where optimism and imagination should be. That is not the fault of the military. It is the fault of overgrown promises and inadequate responses.

I think the Patton museum is a part of the right response. It recalls to us the great role our armed forces have played and will continue to play. It helps to restore our confidence, to fortify our patriotism. With a sense of security we can begin again to raise the quality and purpose of life. We can take pride in our national allegiance and we can take pride in our allegiance to mankind.

000441

Father O'Hare

~~Genl Patton~~

Mayor Burke
Judge Hollenback

~~George Scott~~

Genl Desobry

~~Genl Van Fleet~~

Sen Hudlicka

~~Mayor Bradburn~~
~~John J. Brown~~

Genl
Mc Christian

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Hi School Band "Patrols"

GENERAL PATTON MUSEUM

FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY

NOVEMBER 11, 1971

Co Chairman John J. Brown
John Waits

Louisville
Mr. Andrew Broadbent
Sponsor of the Patton
Museum

Joseph Asselane
 Military Assistance
 Military Procurement

WAR MAY HAVE BEEN WHAT GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON, JR. SAW

THE MOST OF, BUT IT WAS THROUGH HIS UNFORGETTABLE LEADERSHIP

AND THAT OF OTHERS LIKE HIM THAT PEACE WAS SECURED IN THE

WESTERN WORLD. Let us forget! THAT IS NO SMALL FEAT -- ONE WHICH WOULD HAVE

BEEN OUT OF OUR REACH -- HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE FORTITUDE

OF OUR ARMED FORCES. AS GENERAL PATTON SAID AFTER HIS STUNNING

BREAKTHROUGH AT THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE AND AT THE THRESHOLD

OF ALLIED VICTORY IN EUROPE:

"DURING THIS OPERATION, THE THIRD ARMY MOVED FARTHER AND FASTER AND ENGAGED MORE DIVISIONS IN LESS TIME

THAN ANY OTHER ARMY IN THE HISTORY OF THE U.S. --

POSSIBLY IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD / THE RESULTS

ATTAINED WERE MADE POSSIBLE ONLY BY THE SUPERLATIVE

QUALITY OF AMERICAN OFFICERS, AMERICAN MEN, AND AMERICAN

EQUIPMENT. NO COUNTRY CAN STAND AGAINST SUCH AN ARMY."

no country can stand against such a country -!

L SINCE THEN, OUR ARMED FORCES HAVE FACED A SERIES OF

CHALLENGES AND MET THEM IN THE FINEST OF THE PATTON TRADITION.

L THERE HAS BEEN KOREA, AND NOW VIETNAM -- BOTH DEMANDING GREAT

SKILL AND COURAGE ON THE PART OF OUR ARMED FORCES.

we have stood guard all around the world for over 25 years and have

THE MERE MENTION OF VIETNAM IN THIS CONTEXT CAUSES MANY TO CAST

ASPERSIONS ON OUR MILITARY MEN. SOMEHOW, INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM

HAS COME TO MEAN A WAR IMPOSED ON THIS NATION BY THE MILITARY --

A WAR FERVENTLY DESIRED BY THE MILITARY -- AN IMMORAL WAR BY

THE MILITARY. WHAT COULD BE FARTHER FROM THE TRUTH? AS ONE

POLITICAL LEADER OF THIS COUNTRY, ~~SHARING IN MANY OF THE DECISIONS~~

~~WHICH BROUGHT ON VIETNAM.~~ I KNOW THAT OUR INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHEAST

ASIA HAS BEEN THE RESULT OF POLITICAL ^{not} MILITARY DECISIONS.

ONCE DECISIONS WERE MADE, IT WAS UP TO OUR MEN IN THE ARMED

FORCES TO IMPLEMENT THEM.

THEN COME STORIES OF HOW THOSE DECISIONS WERE ACTUALLY
 IMPLEMENTED: MYLAI, FOR EXAMPLE, SUDDENLY EVERY SERVICEMAN
 BECAME DOUBLY IMPLICATED, FIRST FOR STARTING AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT
IN THE WAR, AND SECONDLY, FOR COMMITTING AND CONDONING ATROCITIES
 AGAINST THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. WHICH IS A GRAVE DISSERVICE ^{has} ~~BEEN~~
^{been done to the} TO THE IMAGE OF OUR MILITARY.

GENERAL PATTON HAD SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THIS QUESTION, TOO:

"IT IS AN UNFORTUNATE AND, TO ME, TRAGIC FACT THAT, IN
OUR ATTEMPTS TO PREVENT WAR, WE HAVE TAUGHT OUR PEOPLE
TO BELITTLE THE HEROIC QUALITIES OF THE SOLDIER.

THEY DO NOT REALIZE THAT, AS SHAKESPEARE PUT IT, THE PURSUIT OF "THE BUBBLE REPUTATION EVEN AT THE CANNON'S MOUTH" IS NOT ONLY A GOOD MILITARY CHARACTERISTIC, BUT ALSO VERY HELPFUL TO THE YOUNG MAN WHEN BULLETS AND SHELLS ARE WHISTLING AND CRACKING AROUND HIM. MUCH MORE COULD BE DONE IF THE WOMEN OF AMERICA WOULD PRAISE THEIR HEROES, AND IF PAPERS WOULD PUBLISH THE CITATIONS OF SOLDIERS IN THEIR HOME TOWNS."

I WANT TO REPEAT ONE PHRASE OF WHAT I JUST QUOTED -- "THE TRAGIC FACT THAT IN OUR ATTEMPTS TO PREVENT WAR" -- BECAUSE I THINK IT IS THE ESSENCE OF A SERIOUS MISUNDERSTANDING, AND A PART OF THE CRISIS IN MORALE BOTH IN AND OUT OF OUR ARMED FORCES.

HEARING ABOUT MYLAI, WE FORGET ABOUT THE AMERICAN SOLDIER
 FOLLOWING A CODE OF MORAL CONDUCT WHICH HAS HAD NO EQUAL IN
 THE HISTORY OF MILITARY WARFARE ~~OR THE ATROCITIES ON THE OTHER~~
~~SIDE, OR THE LOSS OF OVER 50,000 AMERICAN SOLDIERS' LIVES.~~

LIVING THROUGH VIETNAM, WE FORGET THE RECORD OF OUR ARMED
 FORCES IN THE DEFENSE OF THIS GREAT NATION EXPERIENCING OVER
 A QUARTER CENTURY OF SECURITY, WE FORGET TO ASSIGN RESPONSIBILITY
 FOR THE FACT WHERE IT IS DUE

yes

^{tenet to}
 WE FORGET THAT OUR ARMED FORCES ARE HERE TO SECURE THE

PEACE AND PROTECT THE REPUBLIC, NOT TO PROMOTE WAR! INSTEAD OF

DEPRECATING OUR MILITARY MEN, WE SHOULD PAY TRIBUTE TO THEM!

- Great Soldiers - Great ~~Generals~~ ^{Citizens}
- Gen Washington
- Andrew Jackson
- Dwight Eisenhower
- Gen Grant
- Gen Marshall
- Bedell Smith
- Omar Bradley

~~I AM HERE TO DO JUST THAT. TOGETHER WE ARE UNDOING PHASE~~

~~OF THE PATTON MUSEUM BUILDING PROGRAM. ^{the Patton} THIS MUSEUM IS A~~

TRIBUTE TO A MONUMENTAL SOLDIER. IT IS A LIVING REMINDER OF THE

SINGULAR DEVOTION AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR MEN IN THE ARMED

SERVICES THROUGHOUT AMERICAN HISTORY. AND IT IS A TRIBUTE TO

MEN LIKE ANDREW BRADDEUS, ^{Braddeus} THE COMMUNITY OF FT. KNOX, AND THE

STATE OF KENTUCKY. ~~FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE.~~

But

WHEN ALL THE PRaises FOR THE PATTON MUSEUM PROGRAM ARE

SUNG, THERE IS STILL ONE MORE MEASURE TO WRITE WHAT COMES

AFTER PHASE IV OF THE BUILDING PROGRAM, WHAT FOLLOWS WITHDRAWAL

FROM VIETNAM? I CAN'T WRITE EVERY BAR BECAUSE TOO MANY

UNPREDICTABLE THINGS CAN HAPPEN. - *But I do know -*

we live in a dangerous world -

*we cannot withdraw from the world
Peace is the work of generations. Develop it!*

Steuerman

LI Patriotism is not a short and frenzied outburst of emotion but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime" ↘

^ And we must bind ⁰⁰⁰⁴⁴⁹ our wounds with malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right -

I DON'T THINK SO. IN FACT, I AM SURE THAT IT IS ANTI-INFLATIONARY AND PRO-HUMAN.

~~Build America~~

COUPLE THIS WITH SEEKING AN END TO VIETNAM, ENSURING THAT

~~Reconciliation - Reconstruction~~

JUSTICE AND A HIGH MORAL STANDARD BE MAINTAINED IN THE ARMED

~~And Reaffirmation~~

FORCES, AND BUILDING ON THE PEACE-TIME VALUE OF OUR MILITARY,

~~WE WILL BE UPHOLDING AMERICA'S FINEST TRADITIONS.~~

L DANIEL WEBSTER SAID:

"LET OUR OBJECT BE OUR COUNTRY, OUR WHOLE COUNTRY, ~~NOT~~

~~NOTHING BUT OUR COUNTRY~~, AND BY THE BLESSING OF GOD,

MAY THAT COUNTRY ITSELF BECOME A VAST AND SPLENDID

MONUMENT, NOT OF OPPRESSION AND TERROR, BUT OF WISDOM,

OF PEACE, AND OF LIBERTY UPON WHICH THE WORLD MAY GAZE

WITH ADMIRATION FOREVER."

This is the American dream.

"Last Best Hope of Earth"
-11-

I HAPPEN TO BE ONE OF THOSE WHO STILL THINKS OUR COUNTRY
IS WORTH THE EFFORT. AND I KNOW YOU AND THE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS

THINK SO TOO. ~~WE~~ WE HAVE SOMETHING TO BE PATRIOTIC ABOUT

WHEN WE REFLECT ON WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED AS A NATION

AND WHAT WE ARE GOING TO ACHIEVE!

*! what's wrong we can
! what's right about
america is this -*

Whatever is wrong we can make right,

AND WE ARE GOING TO ACHIEVE! IF WE MAINTAIN THE WILL AND HAVE

THE PROPER LEADERSHIP. THROUGH OUR CONTINUED MILITARY STRENGTH,

WE WILL HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO CONCENTRATE ON THE NEEDS OF

OUR OWN SOCIETY, AS WELL AS ON THOSE OF OTHERS.

WHAT CAN WE CONCENTRATE ON?

a better life

WE CAN CONCENTRATE ON PROVIDING FOR 219 MILLION AMERICANS
BY 1975, FOR 236 MILLION BY 1980.

WE CAN CONCENTRATE ON DECENT HEALTH CARE, DECENT HOUSING,
QUALITY EDUCATION, LIVEABLE CITIES, A MORE EQUITABLE ECONOMY AND
A PEACEFUL WORLD,

RIGHT NOW I DON'T THINK WE ARE DOING ENOUGH CONCENTRATING.
WE ARE ~~concentrating~~ ^{densuring} OURSELVES OVER VIETNAM AND LETTING OUR
ENERGIES GROW IDLE. DISSATISFACTION AND SKEPTICISM REIGNS WHERE
OPTIMISM AND IMAGINATION SHOULD BE. THAT IS NOT THE FAULT OF
THE MILITARY. IT IS THE FAULT OF OVERGROWN PROMISES AND
INADEQUATE RESPONSES.

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Doing the Impossible
-13- "The old man" - Sir Patton

~~I think~~ THE PATTON MUSEUM IS A PART OF THE RIGHT RESPONSE!

IT RECALLS TO US THE GREAT ROLE OUR ARMED FORCES HAVE PLAYED

AND WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY. IT HELPS TO RESTORE OUR CONFIDENCE,

TO FORTIFY OUR PATRIOTISM. WITH A SENSE OF SECURITY WE CAN

BEGIN AGAIN TO RAISE THE QUALITY AND PURPOSE OF LIFE. WE CAN

TAKE PRIDE IN OUR NATIONAL ALLEGIANCE AND WE CAN TAKE PRIDE

IN OUR ALLEGIANCE TO MANKIND.

Carl Sandberg -
##

Do NOT use

-000453

BUT I DO KNOW THAT THE PLACE FOR OUR ARMED FORCES, OUR RESERVES, AND THE NATIONAL GUARD IS PERMANENT, AND ESSENTIAL.

THIS YEAR THE CONGRESS HAD THIS FACT IN MIND WHEN IT PASSED THE ACROSS-THE-BOARD PAY RAISES FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL. MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION DID NOT PROPOSE HIGHER RAISES, PARTICULARLY FOR THOSE SERVICEMEN IN THE LOWER GRADES. SUCH A PROPOSAL SHOULD NOT BE A QUESTION OF POLITICS, BUT OF JUSTICE AND FORWARD-THINKING FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR ARMED FORCES. THAT'S WHAT IT WAS IN THE SENATE. I JOINED WITH SENATOR ALLOTT AND A MAJORITY OF OTHER SENATORS IN VOTING FOR A \$381 MILLION INCREASE, OVER AND ABOVE WHAT HAD ALREADY BEEN INTRODUCED IN BASIC PAY RAISES.

Did not use it

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THE SENATE PASSED THIS AMENDMENT TWICE AND TWICE THE AMENDMENT HAS BEEN REMOVED THROUGH PRESSURES FROM CERTAIN QUARTERS, INCLUDING THE ADMINISTRATION. I FIND SUCH MANEUVERINGS DEPLORABLE WHEN THE WELFARE OF OVER 1 1/2 MILLION ENLISTED MEN IS AT STAKE. THAT IS THE ROUGH ESTIMATE OF MEN IN THE LOWER GRADES WHO NOW LIVE IN SUB-STANDARD LIVING CONDITIONS. MANY OF THEIR FAMILIES ARE AT THE INCOME LEVEL WHICH WOULD QUALIFY THEM FOR WELFARE BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STANDARDS.

THE ADMINISTRATION SAYS THAT PAY RAISES ON THE ORDER OF WHAT WAS PASSED IN THE SENATE WOULD BE INFLATIONARY. IS \$381 MILLION DOLLARS INFLATIONARY WHEN IT TAKES THOUSANDS OF MEN OFF OF WELFARE, AND WHEN IT IMPROVES THE MORALE OF OUR ARMED FORCES?



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