

M E M O R A N D U M

April 11, 1972

TO: Senator Humphrey

FROM: Mark Epstein

SUBJ: Address to Youth Coalition of Berks County
(1972 Man of the Year Award)
Reading, Pa.
Wednesday, April 12

These suggested remarks include some of the themes you have been using before high school and college audiences-- about the future and youth's tasks and responsibilities.

We understand from the people organizing the event that:

1. The audience will want a Q. & A. -- and will probably ask questions on Vietnam.
2. The economic issue -- kids without jobs (statistics are in the text) is a major concern.
3. The environment issue is a hot one for the students -- a brief reference is made to it in the text.

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

YOUTH COALITION OF BERKS COUNTY

1972 MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

READING, PA.

April 12, 1972

I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL THAT I HAVE BEEN CHOSEN AS YOUR
MAN OF THE YEAR FOR 1972--I JUST HOPE IT'S A GOOD OMEN OF
THINGS TO COME.

AND I AM GREATLY PLEASED THAT THIS AWARD IS FROM A
YOUTH GROUP, THROUGHOUT MY CAREER I HAVE MADE THE CONCERNS
OF YOUTH A HIGH PRIORITY IN MY ACTIVITIES:

--I WAS THE AUTHOR OF THE STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM UNDER THE
NATIONAL DEFENSE EDUCATION ACT.

--I WAS THE AUTHOR OF THE PEACE CORPS AND THE JOB CORPS.

--AND, WHEN I WAS VICE PRESIDENT, I SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF
THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON YOUTH OPPORTUNITY.

BUT ALL THIS IS PAST HISTORY. I'M A TEACHER AND I
KNOW IT'S GOOD TO STUDY HISTORY--BUT IT'S BETTER TO MAKE
HISTORY.

THE FUTURE IS NOW--AND TODAY IS ALL WE HAVE TO WORK
WITH--TODAY IS TRULY THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
WE MUST MAKE THE MOST OF IT.

AS YOUNG AMERICANS IN A YOUNG NATION, YOU MUST BEGIN
TO ASK WHAT ARE WE AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?

THERE ISN'T A CORNER OF THIS COUNTRY, THERE ISN'T A
NATION ON THIS GLOBE WHERE YOU CAN ESCAPE THE INEVITABILITY
OF FUTURE CHANGE.

LET ME ASK:

ARE YOU CONTENT THAT 70 PERCENT OF THE AMERICAN
POPULATION NOW LIVES ON LESS THAN 2 PERCENT OF THE LAND?

DO YOU THINK OUR CITIES CAN SURVIVE IF THIS TREND
CONTINUES AND OUR POPULATION WHICH IS NOW 208 MILLION
INCREASES TO 320 MILLION BY THE YEAR 2000?

HAVE YOU ASKED WHETHER RURAL AMERICA CAN SURVIVE AS A
VIABLE ECONOMIC ENTITY WHEN 650,000 RURAL AMERICANS LEAVE
THE COUNTRYSIDE EACH YEAR ABANDONING THEIR FARMS AND LEAVING
SMALL TOWNS TO DIE?

ARE YOU PLEASED THAT FEW AMERICANS CAN AFFORD TO BE
SICK BECAUSE HOSPITAL COSTS HAVE RISEN 122 PERCENT IN THE
LAST 10 YEARS?

DO YOU THINK WE CAN HALT AIR, NOISE AND WATER
POLLUTION--NOW THREATS TO OUR HEALTH AND LIVES--AND STILL
EXPAND OUR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AND MEET CONSUMER DEMANDS?

HOW ARE WE GOING TO PROVIDE THE 25 MILLION NEW JOBS
NEEDED IN JUST 9 YEARS WHEN OVER 5 1/2 MILLION AMERICANS
ARE UNEMPLOYED TODAY?

THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE QUESTIONS YOU MUST FACE
NOW. THERE IS ONE MORE QUESTION I WOULD LIKE TO ASK:

AS YOUNG, AMERICANS IN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE, WHAT
ARE YOU GOING TO DO TOMORROW ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS AND THE
FUTURE?

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT PUBLIC
POLICIES FOR THE FUTURE AND ATTITUDES OF NATIONAL LEADERS.
I BELIEVE THAT YOUNG AMERICANS NO LONGER HAVE TO PLEAD,
PERSUADE OR INFLUENCE POLICIES OR POLITICAL LEADERS.

YOUNG AMERICANS NOW HAVE THE VOTE.

YOU NOW HAVE POTENTIAL POWER BECAUSE THERE WILL BE
25 MILLION NEW VOTERS IN 1972. IN THE GREAT STATE OF
PENNSYLVANIA THERE WILL BE CLOSE TO 900,000 ELIGIBLE NEW
VOTERS.

I USE THE PHRASE POTENTIAL POWER BECAUSE POWER COMES
FROM ORGANIZATION.

YOUNG PEOPLE IN AMERICA TODAY ARE NOT ORGANIZED.

THE BANKERS ARE ORGANIZED.

THE FARMERS ARE ORGANIZED.

THE UNIONS ARE ORGANIZED.

THE ELDERLY ARE ORGANIZED.

WHY NOT THE YOUNG?

I'VE BEEN IN POLITICS LONG ENOUGH TO TELL YOU THAT
FEW THINGS WILL FALL INTO YOUR LAPS BY MERELY WANTING OR
WISHING THEM.

YOU MUST DEMONSTRATE POLITICAL MUSCLE AND FIGHT FOR
WHAT YOU WANT AND WHAT YOU BELIEVE IS RIGHT.

STUDENTS MUST BEGIN TO THINK IN TERMS OF HOW TO CHANGE
POLICIES AND ELECT LEADERS WHO WILL CARE ABOUT THE NEEDS OF
ALL OF THE 93 MILLION AMERICANS UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE.

I BELIEVE YOUR LIST OF IMMEDIATE GOALS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN AMERICA SHOULD INCLUDE:

--A FREE NUTRITIOUS LUNCH FOR ALL SCHOOL CHILDREN REGARDLESS OF INCOME.

--FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS OF CHILD CARE FOR NEW BORN AND THE VERY YOUNG IN NEED.

--JOBS NOW FOR UNEMPLOYED TEENAGERS. THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR WHITE TEENAGERS IS 13.5 PERCENT. BLACK TEENAGE UNEMPLOYMENT IS AT A SCANDALOUS LEVEL OF 33.5 PERCENT.

--AN END TO ILLITERACY IN AMERICA.

--EXPANDED VOCATIONAL AND MANPOWER TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

--JOBS FOR THE RETURNING VIETNAM VETERANS. THEIR
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE NOW STANDS AT 12 PERCENT.

--JOBS FOR YOUNG TEACHERS, LAWYERS, ENGLISH MAJORS AND
COLLEGE EDUCATED PEOPLE IN GENERAL; UNEMPLOYED PHD'S ARE
EVERYWHERE.

--A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF VOTER REGISTRATION FOR FEDERAL
ELECTIONS.

--LAST -- PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT -- PEACE NOW IN VIETNAM.
THE GREATEST PURSUIT OF MANKIND IS PEACE. AND, AS POPE PAUL
HAS SAID, DEVELOPMENT IS THE NEW PEACE -- AND DEVELOPMENT
MUST BE HERE AT HOME AS WELL AS ABROAD.

IF WE ARE TO HAVE A PEACEFUL WORLD, WE MUST START HERE,
IF WE CAN'T GET ALONG WITH EACH OTHER, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK
WE CAN GET ALONG WITH THE WORLD? AND PEACE IS NOT JUST THE
ABSENCE OF VIOLENCE AND WAR, IT IS THE PRESENCE OF A HARMONY
OF LIFE.

I WANT AMERICA TO BE KNOWN FOR OUR COMPASSION AND
UNDERSTANDING -- NOT FOR OUR WEALTH AND POWER. BUT WE MUST
BEWARE OF TWO WORDS -- "HATE" AND "YESTERDAY." HATE IS A
CANCER, AND YESTERDAY IS GONE. AND WE MUST REMEMBER TWO
OTHER WORDS -- "LOVE" AND "TOMORROW." LOVE IS UNDERSTANDING,
TOLERANCE, AND HUMAN DIGNITY. AND TOMORROW IS THE FUTURE --
AND THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT. EACH GENERATION HELPS

TO BUILD THIS COUNTRY--YOU MUST LEARN NEW WAYS TO BUILD
AND CLEAR AWAY THE DEBRIS.

WE MUST FORGE AHEAD -- TO BUILD A SOCIETY OF JUSTICE
AND DECENCY. A SOCIETY WHERE THE OLD ARE CARED FOR, WHERE
THE YOUNG ARE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY, AND WHERE THOSE IN THE
FULLNESS OF LIFE HAVE A CHANCE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO
THE BUILDING OF A BETTER SOCIETY.

THAT'S MY MESSAGE TO YOU AND LET ME TELL YOU -- IT'S
IN YOUR HANDS. UNLESS YOU MAKE THE BEST OF IT, YOU'LL GET
THE WORST OF IT. WE MUST MOVE FORWARD -- OR WE WILL ONLY
MOVE BACK. WE MUST ACHIEVE OUR PROMISE AND OUR DREAM --
TO MAKE AMERICA THE LAST BEST HOPE ON EARTH.



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