

"CALLED FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS"

SERMON BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

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ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

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my father } Business - Political - Religious  
Action - no procrastination -  
Teacher

MANY CENTURIES AGO, MORDECAI SENT A STRONGLY WORDED  
MESSAGE TO HIS ADOPTED DAUGHTER, ESTHER. THE NOTE READ;  
"THINK NOT THAT IN THE KING'S PALACE YOU WILL ESCAPE ANY  
MORE THAN ALL THE OTHER JEWS; FOR IF YOU KEEP SILENCE AT  
SUCH A TIME AS THIS, RELIEF AND DELIVERANCE WILL RISE FOR THE  
JEWS FROM ANOTHER QUARTER, BUT YOU AND YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE  
WILL PERISH. AND WHO KNOWS WHETHER YOU HAVE NOT COME TO THE  
KINGDOM FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS?"

THE TIME WAS AT HAND -- DECISIVE ACTION WAS REQUIRED  
IF AN ENTIRE PEOPLE WAS NOT TO BE DESTROYED.

or studies - chair  
Hard act to follow -1-

YEARS LATER, THE APOSTLE, PAUL, SENT AN APPEAL BY  
MESSENGER TO ANOTHER PERSECUTED MINORITY, FILLED WITH  
DISSENSION AND DISCORD, AND WONDERING WHETHER THEIR RELIGION  
WOULD NOT BE DESTROYED BY ANOTHER EMPIRE.

↳ TO THE CHRISTIANS AT CORINTH, PAUL WROTE: "WE ARE  
AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST, GOD MAKING HIS APPEAL THROUGH YOU  
. . . WORKING TOGETHER WITH HIM, THEN, WE ENTREAT YOU NOT  
TO ACCEPT THE GRACE OF GOD IN VAIN. FOR HE SAYS, 'AT THE  
ACCEPTABLE TIME I HAVE LISTENED TO YOU, AND HELPED YOU ON  
THE DAY OF SALVATION.' . . . Now IS THE ACCEPTABLE TIME. . ."

THERE WAS ALSO A MESSAGE FOR THE CONGREGATION AT  
EPHESUS, WHICH HAD THREATENED THE ENTIRE COMMERCIAL STRUCTURE  
THERE BY ITS REFUSAL TO WORSHIP AT THE TEMPLE OF THE GODDESS  
ARTEMIS. { THE WORDS TO THIS SMALL BAND OF CHRISTIANS WERE  
EQUALLY BLUNT: "ONCE YOU WERE DARKNESS, BUT NOW YOU ARE  
LIGHT IN THE LORD; WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT . . . LOOK  
CAREFULLY THEN HOW YOU WALK, NOT AS UNWISE MEN BUT AS WISE,  
MAKING THE MOST OF THE TIME, BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL."

{ IT WAS FROM THIS LAST LETTER THAT REINHOLD NIEBUHR,  
A THEOLOGIAN WHO, LONG BEFORE HE DIED WAS ESTABLISHED AS ONE  
OF AMERICA'S MAJOR POLITICAL PHILOSOPHERS, BORROWED THE  
TITLE OF HIS BOOK, THE CHILDREN OF LIGHT AND THE CHILDREN OF  
DARKNESS.

THERE IS A WELL-KNOWN PASSAGE IN THAT BOOK, WRITTEN TWENTY-NINE YEARS AGO, WHICH SPEAKS TO THE PROBLEMS OF DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA IN THE PRESENT TIME. THE PASSAGE READS:

"MAN'S CAPACITY FOR JUSTICE MAKES DEMOCRACY POSSIBLE; BUT  
MAN'S INCLINATION TO INJUSTICE MAKES DEMOCRACY NECESSARY."

L I WISH TO LAY BEFORE YOU THE PROPOSITION THAT THE YEAR 1973 IS A DECISIVE TIME IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY -- THAT WHETHER THE UNITED STATES SUCCEEDS OR FAILS IN THE COMING DECADE DEPENDS UPON THE DECISIONS AND ACTIONS WE TAKE

NOW.

*Yes, with Paul, "Now is the acceptable time"*

L AN OLD WELSH HYMN, FULL OF THE THUNDER AND DETERMINATION  
OF SOLDIERS MARCHING INTO COMBAT, PUTS THE CASE WELL IN THE  
VERSE THAT READS:

"WE ARE LIVING, WE ARE DWELLING  
IN A GRAND AND AWFUL TIME,  
IN AN AGE ON AGES TELLING,  
TO BE LIVING IS SUBLIME."

THIS IS AN AGE THAT WILL TELL ON ALL FUTURE AGES L To  
BE A PART OF THIS HISTORY PRESENTS BOTH UNPARALLELED  
OPPORTUNITIES AND THE POTENTIAL FOR ~~A~~ FAILURE.  
*Coldwar - 25 years - costy arms race*  
L THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE STOCKPILED  
ENOUGH MEGATONNAGE IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS POWER TO COMPLETELY  
DESTROY EACH OTHER.

UNTIL NOW, "PEACE" HAS BEEN MAINTAINED PRIMARILY THROUGH  
THE DELICATE BALANCE OF THE TERROR OF NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION.

L THAT TIME MAY RAPIDLY BE DRAWING TO A CLOSE BECAUSE OF  
ITS INHERENT INSTABILITY.

Breshner here

L ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS MUST GO FORWARD, AND WE  
SHOULD BE DEVOTING OUR FULL ENERGIES TO ACHIEVING AGREEMENTS  
WITH REASONABLE SAFEGUARDS, BOTH TO STABILIZE OFFENSIVE  
WEAPON LEVELS AND TO BAN ALL TESTING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

L THE CRY ACROSS OUR LAND TODAY IS CALL FOR PEACE -- A  
PEACE THAT IS MORE THAN THE ABSENCE OF ~~war~~ war. AND A  
PEACE THAT FOCUSES ON MEETING CRITICAL HUMAN NEEDS AT HOME  
AND ABROAD.

Shalom Peace Harmony  
Just - Above us

THIS CALL MUST BE ANSWERED WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY

IF THE UNITED STATES IS TO RESUME ITS LEADERSHIP IN THE

SEARCH FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE, AND IF OUR CITIZENS ARE TO

COME TOGETHER AGAIN AS ONE PEOPLE.

*(One nation under God,  
indivisible with  
Liberty, Justice for all.)*

IT IS THIS SENSE OF A UNIFIED PURPOSE IN OUR NATION

FOR WHICH WE ARE REALLY STRIVING. THE HEBREW WORD, SHALOM,

DOES NOT DEFINE PEACE AS SIMPLY THE ABSENCE OF VIOLENCE.

SHALOM DEFINES A LIFE THAT IS WHOLE, WHERE MAN IS NO LONGER

DIVIDED IN HIS HEART AND WILL AGAINST HIMSELF; RATHER, HE

IS TOTALLY COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE

AS JUDGED IN THE VISION OF GOD. *AND IT IS THIS PEACE -- THIS*

UNITY, THIS LIFE OF DECENCY, RESPECT, KINDNESS, AND NOBILITY

*this sense of  
harmony*

*and compassion*

-- THAT WE MUST ESTABLISH IN OUR SOCIETY,

~~IT IS ESSENTIAL~~ AS WE APPROACH THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY

*we must commit*  
OF AMERICA, ~~THAT WE COMMIT~~ OURSELVES TO A REBIRTH OF OUR

NATION: *Reconstruction; Rehabilitation and Reconciliation*

-- A NEW NATION, REDEDICATED TO THE CAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL

PEACE AND THE CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF ITS OPPORTUNITIES AND

BENEFITS:

-- A TRULY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WHOSE PEOPLE ARE

ASSURED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR DECENT HOUSING, QUALITY

EDUCATION, ACCESS TO ADEQUATE MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL CARE,

AND FULL EMPLOYMENT, *the chance to do constructive +*

*rewarding work.*  
~~One Nation, Under God, indivisible~~  
~~with liberty and justice for all~~

*(Wolfe)*

IT IS TO THIS SPECIFIC AGENDA OF NATIONAL PRIORITIES

THAT WE MUST DEVOTE OUR FULL ENERGIES IN THE DECADE OF THE

'70's -- AN AGENDA THAT SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN THE POLICIES, <sup>revealed and</sup>

PROGRAMS, AND BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF OUR ~~FEDERAL~~ GOVERNMENT.

THE CREDIBILITY OF OUR GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE

ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE GOALS WILL ONLY BE ESTABLISHED THROUGH

ITS ACTIONS.

*In times of stress and uncertainty we gain insight + strength by returning to basics - our Heritage.*

OUR NATION WAS BORN WITH THE ADOPTION OF A DECLARATION

OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT

OF HAPPINESS. THE FUNCTION OF GOVERNMENT WAS TO BE THE

SECURING OF THESE RIGHTS. IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING FOR

THE COMMON DEFENSE, IT WAS ALSO TO PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE.

*Preamble We the People of these United States do establish & Ordain this Constitution to assure domestic Tranquility, to establish Justice*

~~and to~~

To Proceed for the Common Defense + to Promote the General Welfare. - Its what it says as well as what it doesn't say that is so important - It speaks of Domestic Tranquility, Justice, Common Defense, General Welfare

Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity

A QUALITY OF LIFE WAS THEREBY DEFINED AS THE OBJECTIVE

OF THE "GRAND EXPERIMENT IN DEMOCRACY" -- A LIFE OF VISION,

OF HOPE, OF JUSTICE, FREEDOM, AND OPPORTUNITY.

not society not law + order - but law + justice, not peace but liberty

SOME POLITICAL ANALYSTS ARE CONTENDING THAT AFTER ALMOST

200 YEARS, AMERICA IS ON A DOWNHILL PATH. LIKE THE "CHILDREN

OF DARKNESS," OF WHOM PAUL SPOKE, WE ARE WANDERING, STUMBLING,

OR SIMPLY "PACKING IT UP" AND TAKING WHATEVER PLEASURE WE

CAN GET OUT OF LIFE.

ABOVE ALL, THEY SAY, WE ARE TENSE AND CONFUSED OVER

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR COUNTRY, AND AS A CONSEQUENCE WE

ARE SIMPLY CHOOSING TO WITHDRAW FROM THIS "GRAND AND AWFUL

TIME" AND REMAIN SILENT.

and, to be sure, the headlines reminding us of corruption, arrogance of power, invasion of privacy, wiretapping

burglary, obstruction of justice, are  
enough to destroy faith & trust in our  
Political System -1-

THE ANNALS OF MEDICAL HISTORY MAY BE INSTRUCTIVE HERE.

The expanded use of drugs  
ARMY DOCTORS WERE AMAZED AT STORIES OF NEW MORTAL "DISEASE,"

by our young; the increasing  
TOLD BY RETURNING AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR AFTER THE KOREAN

evidence of corruption in the  
WAR. AGAIN AND AGAIN, IT WAS REPORTED, AN AMERICAN SOLDIER

market place; - all of this tears  
WOULD WITHDRAW FROM HIS FELLOW PRISONERS, LIE DOWN IN A

at the heart and soul of our  
CORNER, AND BE DEAD THE NEXT MORNING, YET HIS PHYSICAL

political, social + economic  
CONDITION HAD INDICATED AN ABILITY TO SURVIVE THE RIGORS OF

System - Yet, the same system  
THE ATROCIOUS CONFINEMENT CONDITIONS HE HAD SIMPLY GIVEN

has the means of its salvation  
UP, WHILE HIS CELL-MATES HAD CONCENTRATED ON THEIR OWN

and repair - We cannot just accept it -  
SURVIVAL. MORE RECENTLY, EXPERIMENTS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT A

or we shall fail - in fact die from  
PRIMARY CAUSE OF THIS MAN'S DEATH WAS PROLONGED TENSION,

~~tension coupled with~~ indifference  
COUPLED WITH SELF-ISOLATION -- EXACTLY THE KIND OF LIFE THAT

SO MANY OF US ARE LIVING TODAY.

I SUBMIT THAT WHEN WE STOP CARING ABOUT THE KIND OF  
LIFE WE OUGHT TO LEAD, ABOUT THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE AROUND  
US, AND ABOUT THE PROFOUND PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN  
OUR NATION, WE DO, IN FACT, BEGIN TO "DIE."

THERE MUST BE A RESTORATION OF HOPE IN AMERICA IN THE  
COMING DECADE: A STRONG AND STABLE ECONOMY; A POLITICAL  
SYSTEM THAT CAN BE TRUSTED; AN END TO POVERTY IN THE MIDST OF  
AFFLUENCE; A SOCIETY WHERE THE DIGNITY OF EVERY MAN, NO  
MATTER WHAT HIS COLOR, <sup>over race</sup> IS RESPECTED. THIS CALLS FOR VISION  
THAT SEES A HORIZON BEYOND THE HILLS OF PRUDENCE AND  
SELF-INTEREST. AND IT WILL DEMAND HARD WORK AND A GENUINE  
COMMITMENT FROM EACH ONE OF US.

WE MUST MAKE THE MOST OF THE TIME, FOR THE HOUR IS  
LATE. GOD WILLING, THE PROMISE OF AMERICA WILL BECOME A  
REALITY FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE, AND THE HOPE FOR A BETTER  
~~QUALITY OF~~ LIFE IN A WORLD OF PEACE.

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Sandberg



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