

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

ST. MARY'S JUNIOR COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT

Minneapolis, Minnesota

May 23, 1975

In May, 1966, I had the privilege of addressing the first graduating class of St. Mary's Junior College. I remember it was held at the Radisson Hotel, and 161 graduates received the first diplomas from this fine school. That year there were only 533 students enrolled.

Since that time we have seen an increase in enrollment to 828 students this spring. And today we are honoring the class of 1975 with 386 proud graduates.

During the decade since I last addressed the graduating class, we have seen real changes in the program of St. Mary's and a recent ground-breaking for a new building. At a time when most small private colleges are faltering under severe financial burdens, it is a real tribute to the dynamic and pioneering leadership of the staff, faculty, and student body of this fine institution to watch how this school has grown.

But pioneering leadership is what the history of the United States of America is all about.

The 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence on that hot, humid July day in Philadelphia were effectively putting their names to their own death warrants.

During the War of Independence, nine of those men died of wounds or hardships, five were captured as traitors, twelve had their homes ransacked or burned, and the sons of many others were killed, wounded, or captured.

But the job they did was worth the price they paid. They had set in motion the most powerful force for human freedom since the dawn of time. They had lighted for the world a beacon of hope that still shines today.

I continue to be impressed today over how relatively young these men were who accomplished so much. Nineteen of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were in their 40's. Sixteen were in their 30's. Two were only 27.

In 1776, Thomas Jefferson was 33, James Madison was 25, Alexander Hamilton was 21.

George Washington held the position of public surveyor of Fairfax County, Virginia, at age 17. When he was only 20, he was the sole manager of a 4,000 acre tobacco plantation, while simultaneously holding a commission as a Major or adjutant of one of the four military districts of Virginia.

At 21, he was entrusted with a critical diplomatic military expedition to the French positions in the Ohio Valley. The report which he wrote was published in Virginia and England and helped alert the British government to the encroachment of the French into the Western areas of the colonies.

At 22, Washington was a Lieutenant Colonel, and a year later he was made Commander-in-Chief of all Virginia militia.

When Alexander Hamilton was 20, he was an impassioned and effective pamphleteer in defense of colonial policies. A year later he was a Lieutenant Colonel on George Washington's personal staff.

Two hundred years ago we the people came together to form a more perfect union. We took a risk that had never been taken before in the history of mankind.

It was not the risk of rebellion, for many rebellions had been tried and failed. Rather, it was the risk of a grand experiment in democracy -- of forming a government under which all the people were sovereign as well as subject, rulers as well as ruled.

The risk was that of union, a union of persons who -- whatever their station in life, their level of income, their education, or their background -- were to be regarded as equal in their creation and in their protection under the laws.

The document which those 56 men took a risk in signing -- the Declaration of Independence -- affirmed that there are certain God-given, inalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. And, to secure these rights, a government was instituted, deriving its just powers from the consent of the governed.

But it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt who effectively translated for our time the demand for a new pioneering leadership to make the promise of the Declaration of Independence a reality.

"I do not believe that the era of the pioneer is at an end," he said. "I only believe that the area for pioneering has changed." He then went on to say that "our country needs bold, persistent experimentation. It is common sense to take a method and try it. If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something!"

It is only natural that those who are graduating from college, those who are young, should have a great sense of purpose and idealism as they step forward to explore the future. And traditionally it has been part of the American character to be optimistic -- to have faith and confidence in the future.

That is why I am deeply concerned when I see some of our young people reflecting a more pessimistic, negative mood -- when they seem unwilling to take the risk on the future.

Our whole history is filled with adventure, pioneering, opening up a continent, developing a new nation, and trying new things.

We have developed tremendous scientific, economic, social and medical technology. We have applied our technology in exploring space and putting a man on the moon.

This pioneering spirit which we have demonstrated in the past ought to be seen also as a solid capability for meeting the demands of the future.

A particularly important challenge is before you now to explore and chart and develop the undiscovered, new areas in allied health services.

You are about to enter a field of great human endeavor.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote:

"The first wealth is health. Sickness is poor spirited, and cannot serve any one; it must husband its resources to live. But health or fulness answers its own ends, and has to spare, runs over, and inundates the neighborhoods and creeks of other men's necessities."

Today, by joining the health field, you are choosing to serve "other men's necessities."

Through your future efforts you will be making a major contribution to helping many people exercise the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

An old Arab proverb puts the meaning of these "inalienable rights" in clear terms:

"He who has health, has hope.
He who has hope, has everything."

During the past five years we have seen significant increases in the numbers of accredited allied health occupations and in the student enrollees and graduates in this field.

The number of accredited allied health occupations increased from nine to 25. The number of enrolled students increased from 20,495 to 46,096 -- an increase of 124 percent. And there has been a 159 percent increase in graduates -- to 26,108.

Nationwide over the same five-year period, the number of registered licensed practical nurses has increased by 250,000. There are 125,000 more orderlies and attendants, and nearly 68,000 more registered nursing students.

This represents a new force in this nation's health care delivery system. Those of you who are joining that new force are accepting the challenge of your lives.

It is a challenge that will require taking risks. You will, in effect, be pioneers in finding new ways of supporting this nation's health delivery system.

There are three major areas which require the immediate and full attention of this nation's health providers, of which the members of this class will become major contributors:

- the reduction of infant and adult mortality;
- the reduction of the staggering cost for health services;
- and the adoption of a Comprehensive National Health Insurance Plan.

Comparing the United States with other industrialized nations, we fall far short.

Why do we rank 15th in infant mortality?

Why do we rank 12th in life expectancy among females and 27th among males?

Why is our relative rating in each of these categories worse now than it was 20 years ago?

If the U.S. infant death rate in 1973 had been proportional to Sweden's, 50,000 fewer babies would have died in this country.

Americans are saying that medical services are unaffordable and many times unobtainable.

The average American spends one month's pay for health care, a considerably higher total than is spent by the average citizen of any other industrial country.

Last year the total health cost in the United States was \$104 billion, an increase of 10 percent over 1973. After the price controls were lifted, health cost inflation accelerated at an annual rate of 18 percent.

The total cost increase during the past eight years was over \$56.1 billion -- a jump of over 100 percent.

I challenge you to help this nation to reduce the tremendous cost of health care.

Congress is approaching the point of a major debate on national health insurance, in response to the urgent problems of our people in meeting the high costs of health care.

No one can predict today the exact details of the national health insurance plan that will be enacted, but Congress has a number of proposals before it for consideration.

One thing is certain. We will have a national health program which will go well beyond anything the government has done in the health field in the past.

Whatever we decide concerning a national health insurance program will have an impact on your new careers.

I challenge you to become involved in this great debate. Learn about the alternative proposals and actively participate in the debate.

You can make a difference if you take the risk of becoming informed and involved.

In closing I want to remind you of what Victor Hugo said.

"The future has several names. For the weak, it is the impossible. For the faint-hearted, it is the unknown. For the thoughtful and valiant, it is ideal. The challenge is urgent. The task is large. The time is now."

#

Sister Anne Joachim

⊗ President - Joachim
Sister Anne Joachim Moore

- Rev clergy -

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Faculty, Graduates

ST. MARY'S JUNIOR COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT

Board members

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

MAY 23, 1975

⊗ Bob Harley - ~~It's time to~~
~~who are about to go out into the world~~ ~~Go you graduates~~
Don't go!

alumni Harley -

Don't put into the

future - It won't work

Caroten - never think of future, it comes from
energy

L IN MAY OF 1966 I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF ADDRESSING THE
FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF ST. MARY'S JUNIOR COLLEGE. IT
WAS HELD AT THE RADISSON HOTEL, AND 161 GRADUATES RECEIVED
THE FIRST DIPLOMAS FROM THIS FINE SCHOOL. THAT YEAR THERE
WERE ONLY 533 STUDENTS ENROLLED.

L SINCE THAT TIME WE HAVE SEEN AN INCREASE IN ENROLLMENT
TO ⁸²⁸~~828~~ STUDENTS THIS SPRING, AND TODAY WE ARE HONORING THE
CLASS OF 1975 WITH ³⁸⁶~~287~~ ²⁴⁷ PROUD GRADUATES.

L DURING THE DECADE SINCE I LAST ADDRESSED THE GRADUATING
~~ST. MARY'S~~
CLASS, WE HAVE SEEN REAL CHANGES IN THE PROGRAM OF ST. MARY'S
AND A RECENT GROUND-BREAKING FOR A NEW BUILDING.

L AT A TIME WHEN ~~many~~ ~~small~~ PRIVATE COLLEGES ARE FALTERING

UNDER SEVERE FINANCIAL BURDENS, IT IS A REAL TRIBUTE TO THE

DYNAMIC AND PIONEERING LEADERSHIP OF THE STAFF, FACULTY,

AND STUDENT BODY OF THIS FINE INSTITUTION TO ~~see~~ HOW

THIS ~~school~~ ^{College} HAS GROWN

L BUT ^{growth and} PIONEERING LEADERSHIP IS WHAT THE HISTORY OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IS ALL ABOUT.

(Bicentennial)
Pioneering ^{spirit}
confidence

L THE 56 MEN WHO SIGNED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ON

THAT HOT, HUMID JULY DAY ^{on 1776} IN PHILADELPHIA WERE EFFECTIVELY

PUTTING THEIR NAMES TO THEIR OWN DEATH WARRANTS.

L DURING THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, NINE OF THOSE MEN DIED
OF WOUNDS OR HARDSHIPS, FIVE WERE CAPTURED ^{and tried as} TRAITORS, TWELVE
HAD THEIR HOMES RANSACKED OR BURNED, AND THE SONS OF MANY
OTHERS WERE KILLED, WOUNDED, OR CAPTURED.

L BUT THE JOB THEY DID WAS WORTH THE PRICE THEY PAID. THEY
HAD SET IN MOTION THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE FOR HUMAN FREEDOM
SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME. THEY HAD LIGHTED FOR THE WORLD A
BEACON OF HOPE THAT STILL SHINES TODAY.

L I CONTINUE TO BE IMPRESSED ~~VERY~~ OVER HOW RELATIVELY YOUNG
THESE MEN WERE WHO ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH. NINETEEN OF THE
56 SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WERE IN THEIR
40's. SIXTEEN WERE IN THEIR 30's. TWO WERE ONLY 27.

L In 1776, THOMAS JEFFERSON WAS 33, JAMES MADISON WAS 25,

ALEXANDER HAMILTON WAS 21.

L GEORGE WASHINGTON HELD THE POSITION OF PUBLIC SURVEYER

OF FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AT AGE 17. WHEN HE WAS ONLY 20,

HE WAS THE SOLE MANAGER OF A 4,000 ACRE TOBACCO PLANTATION,

WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY HOLDING A COMMISSION AS A MAJOR

in charge
ADJUTANT OF ONE OF THE FOUR MILITARY DISTRICTS OF VIRGINIA.

L AT 21, HE WAS ENTRUSTED WITH A CRITICAL DIPLOMATIC

Study + Report on
MILITARY EXPEDITION TO THE FRENCH POSITIONS IN THE OHIO VALLEY,

L THE REPORT WHICH HE WROTE WAS PUBLISHED IN VIRGINIA AND ENGLAND

AND HELPED ALERT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO THE ENCROACHMENT OF

THE FRENCH INTO THE WESTERN AREAS OF THE COLONIES.

L At 22, WASHINGTON WAS A LIEUTENANT COLONEL, AND A YEAR
LATER HE WAS MADE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF ALL VIRGINIA
MILITIA.

L WHEN ALEXANDER HAMILTON WAS 20, HE WAS AN IMPASSIONED
AND EFFECTIVE PAMPHLETEER IN DEFENSE OF COLONIAL POLICIES.

L A YEAR LATER HE WAS A LIEUTENANT COLONEL ON GEORGE WASHINGTON'S
PERSONAL STAFF.

(Young People - Capable
then + now!)

L TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO WE THE PEOPLE CAME TOGETHER TO FORM
A MORE PERFECT UNION L WE TOOK A RISK THAT HAD NEVER BEEN TAKEN
BEFORE IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND.

L IT WAS NOT ^{only} THE RISK OF REBELLION, FOR MANY REBELLIONS
HAD BEEN TRIED AND FAILED, L RATHER, IT WAS THE RISK OF A GRAND
EXPERIMENT IN DEMOCRACY -- OF FORMING A GOVERNMENT UNDER WHICH
ALL THE PEOPLE WERE SOVEREIGN AS WELL AS SUBJECT, RULERS AS
WELL AS RULED.

L THE RISK WAS THAT OF UNION, A UNION OF PERSONS WHO --
WHATEVER THEIR STATION IN LIFE, THEIR LEVEL OF INCOME,
THEIR EDUCATION, OR THEIR BACKGROUND - WERE TO BE REGARDED
AS EQUAL IN THEIR CREATION AND IN THEIR PROTECTION UNDER
THE LAWS.

L THE DOCUMENT WHICH THOSE 56 MEN TOOK A RISK IN SIGNING --

u THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE^A -- AFFIRMED THAT THERE

ARE CERTAIN GOD-GIVEN, INALIENABLE RIGHTS, INCLUDING LIFE,

LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS AND, TO SECURE

THESE RIGHTS, A GOVERNMENT WAS INSTITUTED, DERIVING ITS

JUST POWERS FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED. (Pioneering
Living)

L BUT IT WAS PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT WHO

EFFECTIVELY TRANSLATED FOR OUR TIME THE DEMAND FOR A NEW

PIONEERING LEADERSHIP TO MAKE THE PROMISE OF THE DECLARATION

OF INDEPENDENCE A REALITY.

L "I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE ERA OF THE PIONEER IS AT AN
END," HE SAID. "I ONLY BELIEVE THAT THE AREA FOR PIONEERING
HAS CHANGED." L HE THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT "OUR COUNTRY NEEDS
BOLD, PERSISTENT EXPERIMENTATION. IT IS COMMON SENSE TO TAKE
A METHOD AND TRY IT. IF IT FAILS, ADMIT IT FRANKLY AND TRY
ANOTHER. BUT ABOVE ALL, TRY SOMETHING!"

L IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT THOSE WHO ARE GRADUATING FROM
COLLEGE, THOSE WHO ARE YOUNG, SHOULD HAVE A GREAT SENSE OF
PURPOSE AND IDEALISM AS THEY STEP FORWARD TO EXPLORE THE
FUTURE. L AND TRADITIONALLY IT HAS BEEN PART OF THE AMERICAN
CHARACTER TO BE OPTIMISTIC -- TO HAVE FAITH AND CONFIDENCE
IN THE FUTURE.

THAT IS WHY I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED WHEN I SEE SOME OF OUR
YOUNG PEOPLE REFLECTING A MORE PESSIMISTIC, NEGATIVE MOOD --
WHEN THEY SEEM UNWILLING TO TAKE THE RISK ON THE FUTURE,

OUR WHOLE HISTORY IS FILLED WITH ADVENTURE, PIONEERING,
OPENING UP A CONTINENT, DEVELOPING A NEW NATION, AND TRYING
NEW THINGS.

WE HAVE DEVELOPED TREMENDOUS SCIENTIFIC, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY. WE HAVE APPLIED OUR TECHNOLOGY IN
EXPLORING SPACE AND PUTTING A MAN ON THE MOON.

THIS PIONEERING SPIRIT WHICH WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED IN THE
PAST OUGHT TO BE SEEN ALSO AS A ^{american} SOLID CAPABILITY FOR MEETING
THE DEMANDS OF THE FUTURE,

L A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT CHALLENGE IS BEFORE YOU NOW TO
EXPLORE AND CHART AND DEVELOP THE UNDISCOVERED, NEW AREAS IN
ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES.

L YOU ARE ABOUT TO ENTER A FIELD OF GREAT HUMAN ENDEAVOR.
The American Philosopher
RALPH WALDO EMERSON WROTE:

"THE FIRST WEALTH IS HEALTH. SICKNESS IS POOR
SPIRITED, AND CANNOT SERVE ANY ONE; IT MUST HUSBAND
ITS RESOURCES TO LIVE, BUT HEALTH OR FULNESS ANSWERS
ITS OWN ENDS, AND HAS TO SPARE, RUNS OVER, AND
INUNDATES THE NEIGHBORHOODS AND CREEKS OF OTHER MEN'S
NECESSITIES."

L TODAY, BY JOINING THE HEALTH FIELD, YOU ARE CHOOSING TO
SERVE "OTHER MEN'S NECESSITIES."

THROUGH YOUR FUTURE EFFORTS YOU WILL BE MAKING A MAJOR
CONTRIBUTION TO HELPING MANY PEOPLE EXERCISE THE RIGHTS OF
LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

AN OLD ARAB PROVERB PUTS THE MEANING OF THESE "INALIENABLE
RIGHTS" IN CLEAR TERMS:

"HE WHO HAS HEALTH, HAS HOPE,
HE WHO HAS HOPE, HAS EVERYTHING."

DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS WE HAVE SEEN SIGNIFICANT
INCREASES IN THE NUMBERS OF ACCREDITED ALLIED HEALTH
OCCUPATIONS AND IN THE STUDENT ENROLLEES AND GRADUATES IN
THIS FIELD.

~~as the~~
"Whatsoever you do for the least of my
brothers, that you do unto me."

THE NUMBER OF ACCREDITED ALLIED HEALTH OCCUPATIONS INCREASED FROM NINE TO 25. THE NUMBER OF ENROLLED STUDENTS INCREASED FROM 20,495 TO 46,096 -- AN INCREASE OF 124 PERCENT. AND THERE HAS BEEN A 159 PERCENT INCREASE IN GRADUATES -- TO 26,108.

NATIONWIDE OVER THE SAME FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES HAS INCREASED BY 250,000.

THERE ARE 125,000 MORE ORDERLIES AND ATTENDANTS, AND NEARLY 68,000 MORE REGISTERED NURSING STUDENTS.

THIS REPRESENTS A NEW FORCE IN THIS NATION'S HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM. THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE JOINING THAT NEW FORCE ARE ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE OF YOUR LIVES.

L IT IS A CHALLENGE THAT WILL REQUIRE TAKING RISKS. YOU
WILL, IN EFFECT, BE PIONEERS IN FINDING NEW WAYS OF SUPPORTING
THIS NATION'S HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEM.

L THERE ARE THREE MAJOR AREAS WHICH REQUIRE THE IMMEDIATE
AND FULL ATTENTION OF THIS NATION'S HEALTH PROVIDERS, OF
WHICH THE MEMBERS OF THIS CLASS WILL BECOME MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS:

-- THE REDUCTION OF INFANT AND ADULT MORTALITY;

-- THE REDUCTION OF THE STAGGERING COST FOR HEALTH

SERVICES;

-- AND THE ADOPTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL HEALTH

INSURANCE PLAN.

COMPARING THE UNITED STATES WITH OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED

NATIONS, WE FALL FAR SHORT.

L WHY DO WE RANK 15TH IN INFANT MORTALITY?

L WHY DO WE RANK 12TH IN LIFE EXPECTANCY AMONG FEMALES
AND 27TH AMONG MALES?

L WHY IS OUR RELATIVE RATING IN EACH OF THESE CATEGORIES
WORSE NOW THAN IT WAS 20 YEARS AGO?

L IF THE U.S, INFANT DEATH RATE IN 1973 HAD BEEN PROPOR-
TIONAL TO SWEDEN'S, 50,000 FEWER BABIES WOULD HAVE DIED
IN THIS COUNTRY.

some
L AMERICANS ARE SAYING THAT MEDICAL SERVICES ARE UNAFFORDABLE
AND MANY TIMES UNOBTAINABLE.

THE AVERAGE AMERICAN SPENDS ONE MONTH'S PAY FOR HEALTH CARE, A CONSIDERABLY HIGHER TOTAL THAN IS SPENT BY THE AVERAGE CITIZEN OF ANY OTHER INDUSTRIAL COUNTRY.

LAST YEAR THE TOTAL HEALTH COST IN THE UNITED STATES WAS \$104 BILLION, AN INCREASE OF 10 PERCENT OVER 1973. AFTER THE PRICE CONTROLS WERE LIFTED, HEALTH COST INFLATION ACCELERATED AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF 18 PERCENT.

THE TOTAL COST INCREASE DURING THE PAST EIGHT YEARS WAS OVER \$56.1 BILLION -- A JUMP OF OVER 100 PERCENT.

I CHALLENGE YOU TO HELP THIS NATION TO REDUCE THE TREMENDOUS COST OF HEALTH CARE

by improving the efficiency of our health service and delivery system.

CONGRESS IS APPROACHING THE POINT OF A MAJOR DEBATE ON
NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE, IN RESPONSE TO THE URGENT PROBLEMS
OF OUR PEOPLE IN MEETING THE HIGH COSTS OF HEALTH CARE.

NO ONE CAN PREDICT TODAY THE EXACT DETAILS OF THE NATIONAL
HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN THAT WILL BE ENACTED, ~~BUT~~ CONGRESS HAS
A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS BEFORE IT FOR CONSIDERATION.

ONE THING IS CERTAIN, WE WILL HAVE A NATIONAL HEALTH
PROGRAM WHICH WILL GO WELL BEYOND ANYTHING THE GOVERNMENT
HAS DONE IN THE HEALTH FIELD IN THE PAST.

WHATEVER WE DECIDE CONCERNING A NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON YOUR NEW CAREERS.

I CHALLENGE YOU TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS GREAT DEBATE.

↳ LEARN ABOUT THE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE
IN THE DEBATE.

↳ YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IF YOU TAKE THE RISK OF BECOMING
INFORMED AND INVOLVED.

IN CLOSING I WANT TO REMIND YOU OF WHAT VICTOR HUGO SAID.

↳ "THE FUTURE HAS SEVERAL NAMES. FOR THE WEAK, IT IS
THE IMPOSSIBLE. FOR THE FAINT-HEARTED, IT IS THE
UNKNOWN. FOR THE THOUGHTFUL AND VALIANT, IT IS IDEAL.
↳ THE CHALLENGE IS URGENT. THE TASK IS LARGE ↳ THE TIME
IS NOW."

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