

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

THE NATIONAL TRIBUTE TO THE
HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Washington, D. C.

December 2, 1977

Dear friends, tonight is a very moving experience for Muriel and me. To be here with so many friends for an occasion such as this is the best possible therapy for anyone. It always has been my philosophy that a man's true wealth is measured by the number and steadfastness of his friends. And tonight, I feel like the wealthiest man in the world.

There are so many who have devoted so much to making this evening a success. I want to express my deepest appreciation to President and Mrs. Carter, the Vice President and Mrs. Mondale, and my good friends in the United States Senate for their willingness to serve as sponsors of this event. Muriel and I are deeply grateful.

And let me also express my sincere thanks in advance to those who will make this an unforgettable evening of entertainment:

-- Frank Sinatra -- "my kind of man"; the toast of Hoboken.

-- Helen Reddy -- Truly a great woman, who has given us so much joy and warmth.

-- Alan King -- fresh from training in paying tribute to the Queen.

-- Sylvester Stallone -- the undaunted "Rocky" who has touched all our hearts.

-- And Lorne Greene -- my "Bonanza" throughout the trials of political campaigning, and whose "brand" of friendship I wear with great pride.

Of course, I am humbled by all the great and famous persons who simply wanted to be here tonight: Olivia Newton John, Shirley McLaine, Angie Dickinson, Liz Taylor, Dr. Henry Kissinger and so many more.

I am told that as of yesterday, some 27 Senators and 75 Congressmen planned to be here tonight. That should be a sufficient quorum to take final action right now on all those conference reports that are keeping us from going home for what we now call the "non-legislative work period."

There also are supposed to be at least nine hard-working members of the White House staff among us. I'm pleased that the President granted this exception to the rule that they be home with their families at night.

And almost the entire cabinet has come! I'm overwhelmed. But I can't help wondering who's minding the store while they're gone?

We are honored by your presence. We are deeply impressed with your commitment to an important new experiment in what an education in public affairs can and should be.

Those associated with putting together the concept of the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs have undertaken a dynamic and challenging task. It will be a unique institute, for it will concentrate on preparing our youth -- the leaders of tomorrow -- to meet the challenges and tests of the era of interdependence.

As I look across the audience, I see so many comrades in arms -- friends who have weathered the political storms and fought the good fight on so many issues with me over the years. Friends who have never looked back, but who have always looked to the future.

And that's what I want to talk to you about -- the future. It is a future of increasingly complex problems, unparalleled challenges and extraordinary opportunity. It is this era for which the Institute will prepare our youth.

It was only three decades ago that the Marshall Plan was drawn up and implemented to raise Western Europe from the ashes of the most destructive war in the history of mankind. Planning, resources and management accomplished this goal. Yet, the decisive actions required to meet this crisis were mostly taken by a handful of leaders in the White House, the State Department and the Congress.

It was an era in which foreign and domestic policy issues could be easily considered as separate entities.

Yet, in one generation -- one small time speck in the history of mankind -- we were swept into an era of interdependence. We no longer can talk about American foreign policy as an isolated subject sufficient unto itself. And today, the formulation and execution of foreign policy involves almost every agency of the federal government, as well as Congress, and they interact with major segments of the private sector.

The basic reality with which the leaders and the people of the United States must grapple is that the distinction between domestic and foreign issues has become increasingly blurred.

The limitations of national sovereignty have become increasingly apparent. Today, there isn't a single nation that controls even that central symbol of national independence -- the value of its money. Inflation, recession stagflation are global in nature.

Problems we used to regard as domestic -- such as energy, pollution, human rights, poverty, education, science and technology, population, food, communications, terrorism, business and labor -- all these problems now have international dimensions. And in many instances, the international aspects require the greatest attention.

Meanwhile, in America itself, we will confront dramatic changes in our way of life.

We urgently require a solid national energy conservation and resource development program, or we will face the possibility of a severe energy shortage within a decade. Without a comprehensive urban policy, our cities will confront an increasing strain on their finances just to provide existing public services, without escalating local taxes.

We will have to address the challenge of providing a decent living environment for our people while also protecting our declining natural resources. And we must make an all-out effort to reduce unemployment, while also controlling inflation, and to provide decent housing and adequate health care at prices our people can afford.

The balance of this century will continue to be a period of incredible, massive changes in political, economic and social institutions.

The question is, will we, by our positive efforts, help to affect and move this change in a direction consistent with our values and beliefs? Or will we merely resist it? Will we design our future, or will we simply resign ourselves to it?

We have demonstrated that there are few, if any, physical or technological barriers this country is incapable of overcoming, provided we are willing to make a national commitment to do so. But it is in the political, economic and social fields where mankind's ingenuity and inventiveness must now be directed.

Who are we to be afraid of trying? Experimentation and change are a part of the American character. Our youth are our future. America itself is a young country with its future before it.

Our people have dealt with periods of severe trial and rapid and turbulent change throughout the two centuries of our nation's history. And we have constantly progressed into a better society with strong ideals and purposes. The grand experiment in American democracy continues to hold the respect of the world community and to be the highpoint of mankind's political history.

Today, our people again are ready to put their ideals and energy to the test and grapple with the great challenges that lie ahead of us.

This is the strong foundation on which the Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota will be built. It will direct its research toward addressing the critical and complex problems of the future.

To meet these problems, we need new generations of public servants who can think and act creatively, who will discipline themselves in the pursuit of excellence, and who are concerned that the making of public policy should effectively involve an informed citizenry.

These things are what the Institute is all about. I hope you share my sense of excitement over its possibilities.

As Franklin Delano Roosevelt so dramatically noted during one of the darker periods of our nation:

"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with a strong and active faith."

With that, I once again want to express my appreciation to all of my friends who have gathered here tonight to launch the Institute with a spirit of optimism and excitement over the future.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

DECEMBER 2, 1977

DEAR FRIENDS, TONIGHT IS A VERY MOVING EXPERIENCE FOR MURIEL AND ME. TO BE HERE WITH SO MANY FRIENDS FOR AN OCCASION SUCH AS THIS IS THE BEST POSSIBLE THERAPY FOR ANYONE. IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN MY PHILOSOPHY THAT A MAN'S TRUE WEALTH IS MEASURED BY THE NUMBER AND STEADFASTNESS OF HIS FRIENDS. AND TONIGHT, I FEEL LIKE THE WEALTHIEST MAN IN THE WORLD.

THERE ARE SO MANY WHO HAVE DEVOTED SO MUCH TO MAKING THIS EVENING A SUCCESS. I WANT TO EXPRESS MY DEEPEST APPRECIATION TO PRESIDENT AND MRS. CARTER, THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. MONDALE, AND MY GOOD FRIENDS IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE FOR THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE AS SPONSORS OF THIS EVENT. MURIEL AND I ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL.

AND LET ME ALSO EXPRESS MY SINCERE THANKS IN ADVANCE TO THOSE
WHO WILL MAKE THIS AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT:

-- FRANK SINATRA -- "MY KIND OF MAN"; THE TOAST OF HOBOKEN.

-- HELEN REDDY -- TRULY A GREAT WOMAN, WHO HAS GIVEN US SO
MUCH JOY AND WARMTH.

-- ALAN KING -- FRESH FROM TRAINING IN PAYING TRIBUTE TO
THE QUEEN.

-- SYLVESTER STALLONE -- THE UNDAUNTED "ROCKY" WHO HAS TOUCHED
ALL OUR HEARTS.

-- AND LORNE GREENE -- MY "BONANZA" THROUGHOUT THE TRIALS OF
POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING, AND WHOSE "BRAND" OF FRIENDSHIP I WEAR
WITH GREAT PRIDE.

United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

12/2

Senator —

If any other VIP's are brought to your attention, just add their names at the top of page 3.

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OF COURSE, I AM HUMBLLED BY ALL THE GREAT AND FAMOUS PERSONS WHO SIMPLY WANTED TO BE HERE TONIGHT: OLIVIA NEWTON JOHN, SHIRLEY McLAINE, ANGIE DICKINSON, LIZ TAYLOR, DR. HENRY KISSINGER AND SO MANY MORE.

I AM TOLD THAT AS OF YESTERDAY, SOME 27 SENATORS AND 75 CONGRESSMEN PLANNED TO BE HERE TONIGHT. THAT SHOULD BE A SUFFICIENT QUORUM TO TAKE FINAL ACTION RIGHT NOW ON ALL THOSE CONFERENCE REPORTS THAT ARE KEEPING US FROM GOING HOME FOR WHAT WE NOW CALL THE "NON-LEGISLATIVE WORK PERIOD."

THERE ALSO ARE SUPPOSED TO BE AT LEAST NINE HARD-WORKING MEMBERS OF THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF AMONG US. I'M PLEASED THAT THE PRESIDENT GRANTED THIS EXCEPTION TO THE RULE THAT THEY BE HOME WITH THEIR FAMILIES AT NIGHT.

AND ALMOST THE ENTIRE CABINET HAS COME! I'M OVERWHELMED,
BUT I CAN'T HELP WONDERING WHO'S MINDING THE STORE WHILE THEY'RE
GONE?

WE ARE HONORED BY YOUR PRESENCE, WE ARE DEEPLY IMPRESSED
WITH YOUR COMMITMENT TO AN IMPORTANT NEW EXPERIMENT IN WHAT AN
EDUCATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS CAN AND SHOULD BE.

THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH PUTTING TOGETHER THE CONCEPT OF THE
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS HAVE UNDERTAKEN
A DYNAMIC AND CHALLENGING TASK. IT WILL BE A UNIQUE INSTITUTE,
FOR IT WILL CONCENTRATE ON PREPARING OUR YOUTH -- THE LEADERS
OF TOMORROW -- TO MEET THE CHALLENGES AND TESTS OF THE ERA OF
INTERDEPENDENCE.

AS I LOOK ACROSS THE AUDIENCE, I SEE SO MANY COMRADES IN ARMS -- FRIENDS WHO HAVE WEATHERED THE POLITICAL STORMS AND FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT ON SO MANY ISSUES WITH ME OVER THE YEARS, FRIENDS WHO HAVE NEVER LOOKED BACK, BUT WHO HAVE ALWAYS LOOKED TO THE FUTURE,

AND THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT -- THE FUTURE.

IT IS A FUTURE OF INCREASINGLY COMPLEX PROBLEMS, UNPARALLELED CHALLENGES AND EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY. [IT IS THIS ERA FOR WHICH THE INSTITUTE WILL PREPARE OUR YOUTH,

IT WAS ONLY THREE DECADES AGO THAT THE MARSHALL PLAN WAS DRAWN UP AND IMPLEMENTED TO RAISE WESTERN EUROPE FROM THE ASHES OF THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE WAR IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND.

PLANNING, RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT ACCOMPLISHED THIS GOAL.

YET, THE DECISIVE ACTIONS REQUIRED TO MEET THIS CRISIS WERE

MOSTLY TAKEN BY A HANDFUL OF LEADERS IN THE WHITE HOUSE, THE

STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE CONGRESS.

IT WAS AN ERA IN WHICH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY ISSUES
COULD BE EASILY CONSIDERED AS SEPARATE ENTITIES.

YET, IN ONE GENERATION -- ONE SMALL TIME SPECK IN THE HISTORY
OF MANKIND -- WE WERE SWEEPED INTO AN ERA OF INTERDEPENDENCE. WE
NO LONGER CAN TALK ABOUT AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY AS AN ISOLATED
SUBJECT SUFFICIENT UNTO ITSELF. AND TODAY, THE FORMULATION AND
EXECUTION OF FOREIGN POLICY INVOLVES ALMOST EVERY AGENCY OF THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS CONGRESS, AND THEY INTERACT WITH
MAJOR SEGMENTS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

THE BASIC REALITY WITH WHICH THE LEADERS AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES MUST GRAPPLE IS THAT THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN ISSUES HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY BLURRED.

THE LIMITATIONS OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY APPARENT. TODAY, THERE ISN'T A SINGLE NATION THAT CONTROLS EVEN THAT CENTRAL SYMBOL OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE -- THE VALUE OF ITS MONEY INFLATION, RECESSION, STAGFLATION ARE GLOBAL IN NATURE.

PROBLEMS WE USED TO REGARD AS DOMESTIC -- SUCH AS ENERGY, POLLUTION, HUMAN RIGHTS, POVERTY, EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, POPULATION, FOOD, COMMUNICATIONS, TERRORISM, BUSINESS AND LABOR -- ALL THESE PROBLEMS NOW HAVE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS. AND IN MANY INSTANCES, THE INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS REQUIRE THE GREATEST ATTENTION.

↳ MEANWHILE, IN AMERICA ITSELF, WE WILL CONFRONT DRAMATIC CHANGES
IN OUR WAY OF LIFE.

↳ WE URGENTLY REQUIRE A SOLID NATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION
AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, OR WE WILL FACE THE POSSIBILITY
OF A SEVERE ENERGY SHORTAGE WITHIN A DECADE. ↳ WITHOUT A
COMPREHENSIVE URBAN POLICY, OUR CITIES WILL CONFRONT AN INCREASING
STRAIN ON THEIR FINANCES JUST TO PROVIDE EXISTING PUBLIC SERVICES,
WITHOUT ESCALATING LOCAL TAXES.

↳ WE WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGE OF PROVIDING A DECENT
LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE WHILE ALSO PROTECTING OUR
DECLINING NATURAL RESOURCES. AND WE MUST MAKE AN ALL-OUT EFFORT
TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT, WHILE ALSO CONTROLLING INFLATION, AND TO
PROVIDE DECENT HOUSING AND ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE AT PRICES OUR PEOPLE
CAN AFFORD.

THE BALANCE OF THIS CENTURY WILL CONTINUE TO BE A PERIOD OF
INCREDIBLE, MASSIVE CHANGES IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
INSTITUTIONS.

THE QUESTION IS, WILL WE, BY OUR POSITIVE EFFORTS, HELP TO
AFFECT AND MOVE THIS CHANGE IN A DIRECTION CONSISTENT WITH OUR
VALUES AND BELIEFS? OR WILL WE MERELY RESIST IT? WILL WE DESIGN
OUR FUTURE, OR WILL WE SIMPLY RESIGN OURSELVES TO IT?

WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT THERE ARE FEW, IF ANY, PHYSICAL
OR TECHNOLOGICAL BARRIERS THIS COUNTRY IS INCAPABLE OF
OVERCOMING, PROVIDED WE ARE WILLING TO MAKE A NATIONAL COMMITMENT
TO DO SO. BUT IT IS IN THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS
WHERE MANKIND'S INGENUITY AND INVENTIVENESS MUST NOW BE DIRECTED.

↳ WHO ARE WE TO BE AFRAID OF TRYING? ↳ EXPERIMENTATION AND
CHANGE ARE A PART OF THE AMERICAN CHARACTER. ↳ OUR YOUTH ARE
OUR FUTURE. AMERICA ITSELF IS A YOUNG COUNTRY WITH ITS FUTURE
BEFORE IT.

↳ OUR PEOPLE HAVE DEALT WITH PERIODS OF SEVERE TRIAL AND RAPID
AND TURBULENT CHANGE THROUGHOUT THE TWO CENTURIES OF OUR NATION'S
HISTORY. ↳ AND WE HAVE CONSTANTLY PROGRESSED INTO A BETTER SOCIETY
WITH STRONG IDEALS AND PURPOSES. ↳ THE GRAND EXPERIMENT IN AMERICAN
DEMOCRACY CONTINUES TO HOLD THE RESPECT OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY AND
TO BE THE HIGHPOINT OF MANKIND'S POLITICAL HISTORY.

↳ TODAY, OUR PEOPLE AGAIN ARE READY TO PUT THEIR IDEALS AND
ENERGY TO THE TEST AND GRAPPLE WITH THE GREAT CHALLENGES THAT
LIE AHEAD OF US.

↳ THIS IS THE STRONG FOUNDATION ON WHICH THE INSTITUTE OF
PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA WILL BE BUILT. ↳ IT
WILL DIRECT ITS RESEARCH TOWARD ADDRESSING THE CRITICAL AND
COMPLEX PROBLEMS OF THE FUTURE.

↳ TO MEET THESE PROBLEMS, WE NEED NEW GENERATIONS OF PUBLIC
SERVANTS WHO CAN THINK AND ACT CREATIVELY, WHO WILL DISCIPLINE
THEMSELVES IN THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE, AND WHO ARE CONCERNED THAT
THE MAKING OF PUBLIC POLICY SHOULD EFFECTIVELY INVOLVE AN
INFORMED CITIZENRY.

↳ THESE THINGS ARE WHAT THE INSTITUTE IS ALL ABOUT ↳ I HOPE
YOU SHARE MY SENSE OF EXCITEMENT OVER ITS POSSIBILITIES.

↳ AS FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT SO DRAMATICALLY NOTED DURING
ONE OF THE DARKER PERIODS OF OUR NATION:

↙ "THE ONLY LIMIT TO OUR REALIZATION OF TOMORROW WILL BE OUR
DOUBTS OF TODAY. LET US MOVE FORWARD WITH A STRONG AND
ACTIVE FAITH."

WITH THAT, I ONCE AGAIN WANT TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO

ALL OF MY FRIENDS WHO HAVE GATHERED HERE TONIGHT TO LAUNCH

THE INSTITUTE WITH A SPIRIT OF OPTIMISM AND EXCITEMENT OVER

THE FUTURE.

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