

[Feb. 9, 1963]

WRC-TV <sup>NB</sup><sub>C</sub> Channel 4

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“A MOMENT WITH \*.....”

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\* *Hubert H. Humphrey*

THE HONORABLE HUBERT HUMPHREY  
United States Senator

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DEENA CLARK: WE ARE GOING TO HAVE "A MOMENT WITH..." ONE OF THE MOST VITAL, VALUABLE, AND VOLUBLE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE HONORABLE HUBERT HUMPHREY, SENIOR SENATOR FROM MINNESOTA. AS MAJORITY WHIP OF THE SENATE, HE SITS IN ON POLICY-MAKING SESSIONS WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, VICE PRESIDENT, AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET. HE SPEAKS HIS MIND IN HIGH PLACES AND IS LISTENED TO: HE CONVINCED PRESIDENT KENNEDY OF THE SOUNDNESS OF THE HUMPHREY DISARMAMENT AGENCY PROPOSALS WHEN THE TWO WERE HAVING A SWIM IN THE WHITE HOUSE POOL.

HUBERT HUMPHREY HAS TRAVELED A LONG, UPHILL ROAD--INCLUDING A PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION TRY--TO REACH HIS PRESENT POWER-PACKED POSITION. HE WAS BORN IN THE LITTLE TOWN OF WALLACE, SOUTH DAKOTA, POPULATION FIVE HUNDRED. HIS FATHER WAS THE TOWN DRUGGIST AND YOUNG HUBERT WAS BORN UPSTAIRS OVER THE DRUG STORE.

DURING THE DEPRESSION, WHILE A STUDENT AT LOUISIANA STATE, HUBERT MARRIED MURIEL BUCK. THEY LIVED IN ONE ROOM, BOTH WORKED, AND CAN BOTH TAKE CREDIT FOR THE SUBSEQUENT PHI BETA KAPPA KEY. MRS. HUMPHREY WAS FURTHER INSPIRATION AND HELP WHEN HUMPHREY TAUGHT POLITICAL SCIENCE AT MACALASTER COLLEGE IN ST. PAUL. TO EARN THEIR LIVING QUARTERS RENT-FREE, THEY MANAGED A UNIT OF FOUR APARTMENTS; THE YOUNG HUSBAND TOOK CARE OF THE STORM WINDOWS AND FURNACE, MRS. HUMPHREY WAS GENERAL HOUSEKEEPER.

IN 1945, HUBERT HUMPHREY--POLITICS PRONE SINCE CHILDHOOD--WAS ELECTED MAYOR OF MINNEAPOLIS BY THE GREATEST MAJORITY IN THE CITY'S HISTORY. DURING HIS TWO TERMS HE MERGED THE FARMER-LABOR PARTY WITH THE DEMOCRATS TO FORM THE MOST EFFECTIVE LIBERAL FORCE EVER SEEN IN THE MIDWEST. IN 1948, HE WAS ELECTED TO THE U.S. SENATE, THE FIRST DEMOCRAT FROM MINNESOTA IN NINETY YEARS!

IN THE SENATE HE HAS WON RESPECT NOT ONLY FOR HIS ZEALOUS CONCERN FOR THE NEEDS OF HIS OWN STATE AND THE NATION, BUT FOR HIS PHENOMENAL GRASP OF THE COMPLICATED FIELD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

IT IS AN HONOR TO PRESENT A MAN WHO, SAID THE LATE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, "HAS WITHIN HIM A SPARK OF GREATNESS!" SENATOR HUBERT HUMPHREY!

**SENATOR HUMPHREY:**

Thank you Deena. It's always seemed to me that one of the real opportunities and challenges and yet at the same time a rather difficult problem is what we as a people and as a nation can do to afford better opportunities to many of our young people.

This is a much different society than it was, let us say, 25 to 50 years ago. And many young people today in this highly urbanized, industrial society of ours have difficulty in finding their way in charting a course for their lives.

I've been very much interested over my lifetime in young people, as a youth leader, at one time as a scout leader, as a teacher and as a father as well as a U. S. Senator and public official.

One of the really exciting opportunities that we have had for young people in the recent years is the Peace Corps. This great international instrument of ours is doing such splendid work all throughout the world by bringing into contact with the peoples of other countries the best of our young people. The Peace Corps is doing a great job. It is teaching. It is working. It is helping. It represents the real voice of America talking to the people of other parts of the world. I've seen the Peace Corps at work. I've watched our young people doing a tremendous job and I want to salute them, and, of course, the director of the Peace Corps, Mr. Schriver, who is doing such a fine job in managing this new office or new activity of our foreign policy.

Well, let's talk about activities here at home. After all, we have many things to do right in our own midst. The U.S. is not without its own problems and we have a major problem in this country of ours called school drop-outs. The young people who enter high school frequently enter because the law requires them to and that is the only reason. And then they drop out.

There is a heavy rate, a very high rate, of school-drop outs in some of our large metropolitan areas. And tragically, many of the school drop-outs remain unemployed for a long, long period of time. The restless energy of these healthy young people boils up and gets the young people into trouble. This is what we call, for lack of a better word, delinquency.

Now we have approximately one million young people between the ages of 17 and 21 that are unemployed, that are also school drop-outs. The rate of unemployment among the school drop-outs is very, very high. It is two to three times more than the rate with any other age group in our propulation. But yet there is so much for these young people to do if only we'd work out a means and a program to get the job done. And it is because of this that I've interested myself over the years in what we call a Youth Conservation Program. Oh, there are many titles for it, The Youth Employment Opportunities Program for one, but I call it a Youth Conservation Program because really what we are trying to do is conserve, conserve this great vitality that is in our young people, to put it to constructive use, to conserve our natural resources, and in a real sense to conserve our country.

Now back in the depression days, as many of you will remember those days, back in the 30's we had what we called the Civilian Conservation Corps, the old CCC program, the CCC camps. I think that was perhaps one of the best programs of the depression years, that along with the NYA, the National Youth Administration,

Those two programs were dedicated to our young people: first, to provide college opportunity, the NYA; the other, just to provide work opportunity. And we had big camps out in our forests and public lands.

I've tried to build on that and to see if we couldn't design a program that would meet modern needs, the times in which we now live. And because of my study, I have offered into the Congress as the very first bill--in fact it's called S-1, Senate One, the first measure introduced in the Congress of the U.S., and introduced into the House a bill called H.R.1, two bills, companion measures, which would set up what we would call a Youth Conservation Corps and a Youth Employment Opportunities Group. We call it the Youth Employment Act. It is in two titles.

The first title or the first section would provide up to 60,000 job opportunities for 60,000 young men between the ages of 16 and 21 working under the supervision of trained conservationists, forest rangers, national park supervisors, and superintendents where young men would enroll or enlist for a period of up to six months. And they could enroll for much longer, but a minimum period of six months to work in our national parks, to work in our forests, to work on our streams and on our lake shores, to help improve and conserve their great natural resources of ours. And my, what a wonderful thing this could be!

They would work in groups of 40 or 50 near the urban areas. They would be entitled to, of course, net only a modest wage. It would be very modest, about

want a private would receive in the U. S. Army, but they would get board and room and medical care and education if they wanted it. And what is more, it would provide an opportunity for the use of this strength, this energy, this vitality, the enthusiasm that our young people have and put it to constructive use.

How would young men be enlisted in this corps? Well, they'd be enlisted on their own volition, or by reference, let us say, from some community worker or some judge that might want to save a young man from falling into the paths of delinquency, . . . or not wanting to send him off into some institution. He would be given a chance to rehabilitate himself by working for the public good, to work to improve his own physical health, his own emotional health, his own mental and spiritual health, and at the same time to help out.

I think it has tremendous opportunities and great possibilities. Let me just indicate to you what this could mean to our urban areas. You know most of our open lands are in the far west, or in the Rocky Mountains area, or the midwest. But where is our population? On the East Coast. Right here in the great Appalachian area from the Appalachians to the coast, all up and down the eastern shore of the U. S. And where else? In the great far west. Now it's here that we have the people. And we need to develop parks and playgrounds and picnic areas and camping areas and we better get at it. Because people now move around, they have more leisure time and they need to have this wholesome outdoors put to their use or made available to the use of the family.

This is why the Youth Conservation Corps ties right in. We can help prepare camp sites, clean out these forest areas, build forest trails...do such wonderful things to make possible more wholesome outdoor recreation. And this can be done all over the U. S.

I think we ought to get at it and I'm really making an appeal to get public support for a program that will do so much good for all of us. Now if we can help people all over the world, I think we can help at home too. It seems to me we'd get some valuable experience by helping at home. And young people are anxious to do something if there's a way that they can do it.

There's another part of our program that I think merits your support too: where we work with state and local governments and volunteer agencies there is a 50% cost sharing where the federal government will provide 50% of the fund and where the state and local governments will provide the other half to ~~work in~~ hospitals, in community centers, and your local parks and playgrounds, to work with your many voluntary agencies that are non-profit, which by the way is one of the great characteristics of our country. I think one of the wonderful things about America is the spirit of community activity, the volunteer agencies, not the government activities, but what we do ourselves.

Well, here again the Youth Conservation Corps can be doing a magnificent job and I ask you to give it the help that is needed.

Let me just conclude with this thought -- the greatest asset of this country is its young people and the potential for achievement and accomplishment with these young people. This is why I center upon the importance of our education. Our educational structure, from higher education down to kindergarten, our libraries and the improvement of our teaching techniques, the improvement of our teaching personnel, the improvement of the expansion of our school plant, and, above all, giving young people who come out of our high schools the opportunity to go on to college.

I was so pleased to see recently that President Kennedy offered what I call the education work program where if you get some help from the government you earn it. I believe in work, good honest work. And I think it does a lot of good. Young people are willing to work if they are given the opportunity to work as they go to school, to improve themselves, to develop their great capacities and abilities.

# "A MOMENT WITH ..."

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Gene Walz  
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