

News from Senator

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REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

THE DEDICATION OF THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL SCULPTURE OF HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

8:00 P.M., STATUARY HALL, UNITED STATES CAPITOL

This evening, in this hall where the American people pay tribute to some of their greatest heroes -- near the legislative chamber where Hubert made history and the rotunda where a grieving nation mourned his passing -- I count it a great honor to join with all of you in remembering a friend we can hardly forget.

In the course of my career on this side of the Capitol, I can recall countless meetings with Hubert. I remember discussing agriculture with him, and the rights of the handicapped, and the WIC program that he fathered like so many other legislative milestones -- because he was a man of generous instincts, who wanted his country to be generous too, share its bounties with all of its people.

"Don't give up and don't give in," he once said. The words weren't exactly the same, Murie but the sentiments behind them certainly were, in what I will always cherish as my most memorable encounter with Hubert. It wasn't long after the 1976 election, and we'd lost, and I was feeling more than a little blue about it. You may recall that the pundits were speculating on the narrowness of President Ford's defeat. I learned then and there that losing by a whisker can be worse than taking a licking. Because if you're not careful, you get blamed for being the whisker!

Well, I was sitting in the Senate Dining Room, alone, when who should appear by my side but Hubert. He sat down and he said to me, "Bob, it's tough to lose. I know, I've been through it myself. When it's this close, there's bound to be a lot of

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Second guessing. But what counts is that you went out and made the effort. You almost pulled it off. I tell you: it's easy to be a good winner. It's sometimes hard to be a good loser."

Ladies and gentlemen, on another occasion, a public occasion, Hubert Humphrey defined the essence of his special creed. "Oh, my friend," he explained, "it's not what they take away from you that counts -- it's what you do with what you have left."

How much he did! Our friend and colleague was never President. But he had more impact on this land than many men who have occupied the Oval Office. His was a voice for decency and honor, in a town where these qualities never lose their need for a champion. We require no statue to memorialize such a man. His monument is contained in a stream of legislation, and a river of human existence improved because of his compassion. He raised our sights, as he lifted our spirit. He made the life of this nation a little finer. And to you, Muriel, as to your family and all who were privileged to call him friend, may I express my congratulations for having shared in so triumphant a life. That is how I wish to remember Hubert -- not in marble or bronze, although he deserves such remembrance, but as a warm heart and a creative mind. And so I would ask you to join me in a toast: to Hubert, whose statue will guard these corridors of power for as long as they exist -- and whose spirit will hold a special place wherever men and women distill hope from experience, and translate vision into law.