

TESTIMONIAL TO THE REVEREND FATHER

THEODORE M. HESBURGH

OCTOBER 3, 1977

MAYFLOWER HOTEL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

I AM HONORED TO BE A PART OF THIS DISTINGUISHED GATHERING TO PAY TRIBUTE TO A MAN WHO HAS DEVOTED HIS UNTIRING ENERGIES TO IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF MANKIND.

BUT FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY A FEW BRIEF WORDS ABOUT TONIGHT'S HOST WHO CANNOT BE WITH US.

FOR MORE THAN THREE DECADES, HUBERT HUMPHREY HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE. HE HAS CHAMPIONED CAUSES -- SOME UNPOPULAR -- AND MANY LONG BEFORE THEY BECAME THE NATIONAL ISSUES WE RECOGNIZE THEM TO BE TODAY. LIKE ANY GREAT LEADER, HE HAS HIS CRITICS, BUT NONE DOUBT HIS SINCERITY AND GOOD WILL. I HAVE WORKED WITH HIM AND FOUGHT AGAINST HIM, BUT ALWAYS I HAVE RESPECTED AND ADMIRER HIM.

-2-

FEW HAVE DONE MORE THAN HUBERT HUMPHREY TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE OF OUR CITIZENRY. DUE IN NO SMALL PART TO HIS EFFORTS, OUR SENIOR CITIZENS ARE HEALTHIER, OUR YOUNG ARE BETTER EDUCATED, AND THE DAILY LIVES OF THE POOR IN AMERICA ARE MORE BEARABLE.

SCORES OF VITAL FEDERAL PROGRAMS WHICH ARE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE ARE OPERATING TODAY LARGELY BECAUSE HUBERT HUMPHREY FOUGHT FOR THEM: MEDICARE, HEADSTART, THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT, THE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH ACT, THE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS ACT. THE LIST, HUBERT HUMPHREY'S RECORD OF COMMITMENT, GOES ON AND ON.

EARLIER TODAY, ALONG WITH SENATORS WENDELL ANDERSON, JENNINGS RANDOLPH, BOB STAFFORD AND MILT YOUNG, I INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO NAME A BUILDING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE IN HONOR OF HUBERT HUMPHREY.

I CAN THINK OF FEW ACTIONS THAT PAY HIGHER TRIBUTE TO A MAN WHOSE COMPASSION, DECENCY, HUMANITY, AND LOVE FOR PEOPLE IS SO WIDELY RECOGNIZED AND UNDERSTOOD. I HOPE THE CONGRESS WILL ACT QUICKLY TO BRING THIS PROPOSAL TO FRUITION.

-3-

FATHER HESBURGH, YOU ARE AN AMERICAN WHOSE DECENCY, CONCERN, AND LOVE ARE EQUALLY WELL-KNOWN BOTH IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD. YOU PERSONIFY THE VERY WORDS OF TOM PAINE, "THE CAUSE OF AMERICA IS IN GREAT MEASURE THE CAUSE OF ALL MANKIND." OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE TO YOUR BELIEFS ARE THE ACTIONS THAT YOU HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO FURTHER THIS CAUSE. ONE OF YOUR ACTIVITIES HAS INCLUDED THE VIGOROUS SUPPORT OF A PROGRAM CLOSE TO MY HEART -- THE FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM.

TWENTY-THREE YEARS AGO THIS JULY, PRESIDENT DWIGHT EISENHOWER SIGNED THE AGRICULTURE TRADE DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1954 --KNOWN AROUND THE WORLD AS PUBLIC LAW 480 OR FOOD FOR PEACE. IN TERMS OF LIVES BOTH IMPROVED AND SAVED, THIS GREAT HUMANITARIAN EFFORT WAS AND IS TODAY ONE OF THE MOST CONSTRUCTIVE AND BENEFICIAL PROGRAMS IN HISTORY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE HONOR TONIGHT A MAN WHO HAS LOOKED UPON THE FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM AS AN EFFORT IN FULL KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA. IT IS HELPING THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN WE -- WITH THE BASIC NECESSITIES OF LIFE -- SO THEY CAN DEVOTE THEIR ENERGIES TO ADVANCING FREEDOM'S CAUSE.

-4-

WITH IT, WE ARE STRENGTHENING EFFORTS TO BUILD A JUST PEACE AND THE RECOGNITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF ALL MEN.

I AM CERTAIN THAT WHEN HISTORIANS OF THE FUTURE LOOK BACK ON THIS EXPRESSION OF AMERICA'S COMPASSION, IT WILL BE REGARDED AS A MILESTONE IN MAN'S CONCERN FOR HIS FELLOW MAN.

FATHER HESBURGH, AS PRESIDENT OF NOTRE DAME, YOU PRESIDE OVER A CAMPUS THAT LOOKS UP TO GOD AND EXTENDS ITS PRINCIPLES OF HUMANITY TO SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD AT A TIME WHEN SOME WOULD HAVE US TURN INWARD. YOUR ACTIVISM HAS OFTEN SERVED TO REMIND US ALL OF OUR IMPERFECTIONS AND OF MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP HIS FELLOW MAN.

IN A SOCIETY THAT REWARDS CONFORMITY, YOU HAVE FROM TIME TO TIME ACCEPTED THE ROLE OF A NON-CONFORMIST. AND I MUST ADMIT, I HAVE NOT ALWAYS SHARED YOUR VIEWS. BUT, I AM REMINDED OF A QUOTE TO WHICH I FULLY SUBSCRIBE: "BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD: BUT BE YE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, THAT YE MAY PROVE WHAT IS THAT GOOD, AND ACCEPTABLE, AND PERFECT, WILL OF GOD."

-5-

YES, TONIGHT WE HONOR A MAN WHO HAS SO UNIQUELY COMBINED THE ROLES
OF PRIEST, EDUCATOR, AND PUBLIC SERVANT. WE SALUTE YOU FATHER HESBURGH
NOT ONLY FOR YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN EDUCATION, RELIGION, AND PUBLIC
SERVICE -- FOR THEY ARE NUMEROUS -- BUT ALSO FOR YOUR UNBENDING
EFFORTS IN THE ETERNAL WAR AGAINST WANT.

THANK YOU.