

STATEMENT AND PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER  
ELECTION AS VICE PRESIDENT, ANNAPOLIS

November 6, 1968

It's certainly true that a man's family is the most important thing to him at a time of intense contest, and I've found that to be true throughout my life.

It's with a spirit of humility and yet hope that I greet this moment. It's *first* President-elect Richard Nixon's victory and a victory for all the American people. The past weeks have been ones of exhausting and fierce competition, and this is very much a part of the American system where strong personalities and forceful ideas contest for the voters' mandate. The goal is not to destroy but to create a better America.

In saying this, I recognize the sincerity of Vice President Humphrey and Senator Muskie and their many supporters. I think the Vice President — the way he handled himself in his recent remarks on television — proves that our system of government is indeed a great one that produces great men that arise to the most difficult occasions.

In saying this, I recognize the sincerity of Vice President Humphrey campaign. I think the measure of the man is best reflected in the fact that, when I received a congratulatory telegram from him this morning, I attempted to telephone him — and he demonstrated his great resiliency by being on the golf course already. I admire him for that more than most anything I can tell you because, if it had been reversed, that is exactly where I would have been this morning.

Political campaigns by their very nature are abrasive and divisive. Now the time of competition has passed and the time for cooperation begins. I welcome this moment when we begin the very real task of reuniting America with fresh vision under new leadership. This is the greatest campaign of all, and I pledge all my energy to this crusade.

Today is the time for celebration and rededication that all Americans share in this moment of rededication by rejecting partisanship and repudiating extremism. Now we begin to forge a vibrant, vital new America that stands for law, order, justice, hope and opportunity, for prosperity and peace — an America of unlimited horizons, created by honest commitment and good will.

I want to just say a few words about my running mate, the President-elect of the United States. It's been my privilege to know many