

Humphrey Scores in Viet Talks

By Drew Pearson

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey is making a terrific impression with Congressmen in his off-the-record explanation of Vietnam. And with every talk he endears himself more to President Johnson.



Speaking before the Democratic Study Group, all liberal Congressmen, here is how Humphrey answered Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's proposal of a coalition Vietcong-South Vietnam government.

"When I became Mayor of Minneapolis," he said, "I ran into some disappointing problems. I found an underworld syndicate and Murder, Inc. But in cleaning them up I did not invite them to participate in the Police Department.

"The Vietcong is not an Asian ADA (Americans for Democratic Action). It's a well organized terroristic outfit."

Nepotism

The Vice President of the United States is a mild-mannered man, not given to throwing his weight around. His sister, Frances Humphrey Howard, who holds a mysterious job in the State Department, is something else again.

If you ask the State Department what the Vice President's

sister does for him, the reply is: "She acts as liaison between the voluntary Foreign Aid Bureau and the Office of Technical Cooperation."

But when you try to pin them down regarding Mrs. Howard's exact duties, the State Department spokesman replies: "It's difficult to say." And when you ask the amount of her salary, you don't get any reply at all. It's reported to be over \$20,000.

Personally I have seen Mrs. Howard in such distant places as Caracas, Venezuela, and Athens, Greece. She always seems to turn up at American Embassy cocktail parties when president is being inaugurated or a king is getting married.

However, the people of Columbus, Ohio, got a clear idea of Mrs. Howard's duties during a recent blizzard. All of central Ohio was snowbound, with the Columbus airport being closed for the day. Just before it closed, Mrs. Howard arrived, en route to Antioch College 55 miles away, and began demanding special privileges.

Though officers of the State Highway Patrol and the Columbus Police Department were frantically busy with traffic problems, the Vice President's sister demanded a special police escort.

Red Carpet in Snow

She had called her brother's office in Washington, and

Barney Briskin, public relations man for HHH, called various high-up Ohio Democrats. The State Department also got busy on the phone, with the result that snowbound Ohio officials did their best to lay down the red carpet in the snow.

They phoned Antioch College, found it, too, was snowed in and couldn't care less about hearing a lecture. No one could get there even if Mrs. Howard did. Nevertheless, she wanted a police car to take her to Dayton, which is nearer Antioch. She was told that the roads were too dangerous for taxis and the police were busy with other problems.

Columbus officials secured a suite at the Neil House for her to spend the night, but Mrs. Howard got on the telephone to the Vice President's office, trying to get her brother's transportation officer, a Col. Paffel. She could not reach him. She had TWA call Col. Paffel. No luck. Col. Paffel was busy elsewhere.

Finally, TWA got her a seat on the first flight back to Washington. She took off just as Mayor Jack Sensenbrenner, extremely busy on that blizzard day, had dropped everything and was struggling through the snow to present her the key to the city.

Headlines and Footnotes

Gen. Harold Johnson, Army

Chief of Staff, has warned privately that troops may have to be transferred from Europe to meet the manpower needs in Vietnam. The sudden buildup has also left the Army short of noncommissioned officers, majors and lieutenant colonels. He was suggested that it may be necessary to call up Reserves to fill out these ranks . . . Pierre Salinger, former spokesman for President Kennedy, has gone into the safe business along with Arthur Godfrey, Roy Lofton and Gordon McClendon, under the trade name "Safe 'n' Sound." They are putting out a home safe to be sold for \$37.95. It will have a combination that can be set and reset by the owners, and carries burglary insurance of \$5000 for two years.

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Toll Roads to Come Under House Study

Associated Press

Congressmen will begin a study next week of the relationship of toll highways, bridges and tunnels to the \$4 billion-a-year Federal-aid highway program.

Two House Public Works subcommittees will hold joint hearings beginning March 8 which may last several weeks. They are the Subcommittee on Roads and the Special Subcommittee on the Federal-Aid Highway Program.