

The humane thoughts



TELL IT LIKE IT IS
... and maybe tomorrow—tolerance

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His warm soft eyes caressed the expectant 2,000 people. He strode up to the mike and started to speak. The mike refused to work.

"How can I say it is a pleasure to be in Edmonton and really keep a straight face?" said Dick Gregory 36, comedian and human rights leader in the U.S.

"If you want to have fun, go to Chicago Airport and say you're going to Edmonton," he continued, "it's hard enough being colored without being crazy too."

A white man turned the television lights off—"There is an example of white power," he quipped.

There's nothing wrong with living all your life in Edmonton, he told one audience member. "I mean, what the hell, it'll be a good funeral!"

"People will be able to say what a good boy he was . . . but then, if you stay here, you have to be good."

But to get to the point of the whole evening, Gregory said all was not blackness on the civil rights scene.

"The biggest break-through was in Texas last year. We got our first colored hurricane—Beulah.

"I've spent 12 month trying to explain black power to white folks, but I stopped with the successful transplant of a black cat's heart to a white cat. The black cat has the only heart that's working right. That's black power.

"I've known all along there is nothing wrong with white folks a change of heart wouldn't fix.

"I am against all heart transplants and transplants you can hide," he asserted. "But I am for all transplants that can be seen. I would love to see a white cat get colored feet," he smiled. "Then let him take that to the beach with him."

Gregory spends 99 per cent of his time on the campuses of North America because "Young people are the most morally committed and dedicated young folks in the history of the world," he said.

With modern communication systems, the ghettos and poverty areas are brought into the homes of the rich and the rich mansions are brought into the homes of the poor.

Kids are realizing the hang-ups in the establishment and are reacting to them. The rich and the middle class youngsters, as well as the poor, are out in the streets.

The young folks at the Democratic convention proved "it doesn't matter how black you are, you still can think white, and vice versa," he said.

The battle is now that of right against wrong.

THE PRESIDENCY

Gregory ran as a write-in candidate in the 1968 U.S. election. "In 1964 I couldn't vote for the lesser of two evils," he said. "I ran now so I could promise the people another choice. I got one million and a half votes.

"It didn't make much difference which one of those fools won. A few were running for president; the rest were running for sheriff.

"One politician is as bad as another. Politicians can only do so much.

"Nixon's biggest problem will be to live until the end of his term," Gregory says, and when asked if he was worried about the threat to his own life, he replied: "I'm not worried. In the history of the world, they've never killed a thinker other than Socrates."

THE CHICAGO THING

And moving on from Nixon, the Chicago thing was on his mind too.

"Humphrey is not president because those young people at Chicago established a trend that made the shade of difference between the two candidates.

"The fact that young people are getting whipped in the streets shows who the next president is going to be.

"Fifteen thousand young folks came to Chicago to change the system . . . Three days after the convention was over, the establishment tried to tell us we didn't see what happened on our television sets," he says.

"The action in Chicago was political rather than police. The only think that could save Mayor Daley and justify his actions was if a cop got killed.

"It is ironic there were 16,000 Chicago cops, the national guard, the CIA, the FBI, and 7,500 regular troops . . . and you know how LBJ lies, there were really 100,000 regular army troopers at the conference site.

"If we can't handle the situation when young people are outnumbered 6 to 1, then we better never say anything sassy to the Russians," he chided.

BROADS AND BUSTS

And then there was that other demonstration. "Twenty thousand degenerate young men from Wall Street came out to look at a broad's titties.

"Yet no one was upset and said the action was communist-inspired," Gregory commented.

"What should we call them . . . extremists? . . . left or right? If the broad came out wearing a sign on her chest saying "Bring the boys home from Vietnam Baby" I guarantee you that within 10 minutes the degenerates will be gone."

But the atmosphere of violence and the assassination binge were still on his mind and he came back to that.

"It is a sad day when we become upset only over the assassination of those we like," he said. "People were not too upset when Lincoln Rockwell was assassinated . . . 99 per cent of those upset over King's assassination would not be upset if George Wallace was assassinated.

"America," he continued, "is not controlled by the democratic system but is governed and controlled by the capitalists who recognize only property rights, not human rights.

"We gotta work like hell to beat the capitalists into their rightful place—behind the U.S. constitution, and not in front of it."

Mayor Daly issued a proclamation during the Chicago convention that the police would "shoot to kill" when dealing with looters violating sacred property rights, and that did not escape Gregory's attention.

"I sent Mayor Daly a comment," he said, "with one stipulation on it—that he make the proclamation retroactive, and put the gun in the Indian's hand."

It is sad when eighteen year olds can die for their country and not vote for it.

VOTE AT 17

"We've got to fight for the vote at 17 so that young will live to vote," he said.

If Americans were to threaten the cigarette industry, the third largest U. S. industry, with a boycott if a two week ultimatum of ending the war in Viet Nam were not fulfilled, "Hell, that cigarette industry would bring the boys home," Gregory predicted.

Young people have their job put out for them because their parents will not even fight for their offspring's lives. "If the government wanted to send pets to Viet Nam, there would be a shoot-out on the front lawn," Gregory said. "Yet there is no resistance when sons are sent off to die."

Americans have to ask themselves the question, "If democracy is as good as we say it is, then why the hell are we trying to ram it down people's throats with a gun," Gregory said.

"You don't have to force good things on people; people will always steal the good things."

Women of the world should beware of what the men are doing to them, warned Gregory.

"They carry a baby for nine months, watch him grow up, and send him to war with no complaints."

"Although they stop war for a stupid holiday like Christmas, they can't stop the war for women who need their kids and their husbands.

"If you don't be careful, we're going to have you doing all the work," he said.

Speaking to the men he advised, "Don't think you were only put here to reproduce. It takes only males to reproduce; dogs have dogs, cats have cats, horses have horses. It takes men to make the world a