

and vigor with which young people traditionally challenge boundless frontiers. . . ."⁶

"The United States is gradually growing older. Our birth rate has declined, and at the same time life expectancy has increased. One hundred years ago only 4.1 per cent of the United States population was 60 or over. Today the figure is about 12 per cent, and by 1960 it will be over 13 per cent.

. . . If we wish to preserve our political balance, we must counter the influence of our older citizens—which will tend to be conservative and stodgy—by lowering the voting age to bring in more younger votes."⁷

"I believe this proposal (S.J. 64) is amply justified as an attempt to broaden and extend the base of our democratic government. Extending

C. *Those who are old enough to fight are old enough to vote.*

"The United States calls on its young men to protect their country, but does not permit them to share any political responsibility. That is even more unfair than 'taxation without representation.' It may be called 'sacrifice without representation.'

"Many leading Americans have told the states that they have a moral obligation to let those who fight vote. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt has said: 'If young men of 18 or 19 are old enough to . . . fight their country's battles . . . then they are old enough to take part

⁶ Statement of former Senator Blair Moody, *supra* note 1.

⁷ *Vote at 18? A Pro and Con Discussion: Should the States Pass Legislation to Lower the Voting Age to 18?* 61 SENIOR SCHOLASTIC 10 (Sept. 17, 1952).

the suffrage to 18-year-olds will broaden the base of democracy not only by the number of young people which it immediately adds to our voting population; but also by encouraging the participation of these people at an age when they are enthusiastic and interested in government and politics. This will enable us to make real inroads on voter apathy in the United States. . . .

"Our young people would be more than mere passive voters—they could be a catalytic and informative force in American politics. They have the enthusiasm and the idealism of youth; they are fresh from our schools and colleges, with a lively interest in politics and social affairs. And they would take on their political responsibilities at a time when they will be more apt to place the national interest above those particular interests which they will later acquire."⁸

in the political life of their country and to be full citizens with voting powers.' General Eisenhower, in his recent statement, put it bluntly: 'If a man is old enough to fight, he is old enough to vote.'⁹

"We long have placed our faith for the fighting of wars in those of your age group. We have been successful in war. We excluded you from the ballot boxes where we elected those to whom we entrusted peace. We have failed at maintenance of peace.

"It is time that we tried a full partnership between the experience of age and daring vitality of youth.

⁸ Statement of former Senator Hubert Humphrey, *supra* note 1.

⁹ *Supra* note 7 at 9.