

Americans for Democratic Action
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*Excerpts
Humphrey's
speech*

EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH BY
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN
AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION
ROOSEVELT DAY DINNER, HOTEL ASTOR, NEW YORK CITY
JANUARY 27, 1949

"When Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected in 1932, huge and all-encompassing crises faced the world. Some nations turned to fascism in an attempt to solve their economic problems. We, under the leadership of Franklin Roosevelt, sharpened the tools of political democracy and shaped the beginning of a basic economic security for our citizens. And while the fascist nations writhed in their despotism, we learned that our problems must be solved with more democracy."

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"It is the task of modern democratic government to enhance the opportunities of the individual citizen, and this can be done only by assuring to all persons the basic security that had its foundation in the New Deal and that must be continued in the Fair Deal."

"Our free way of life entails risk. Our economic structure requires the spirit of the pioneer. Yet, paradoxically, the risks inherent in our system must be tempered with a regard on the part of the government for the individual welfare of every citizen. A fine balance must be struck between risk and security in order to avoid on the one hand a lack of incentives for production and on the other hand, a disregard for the welfare of the individual in a system that can be cruel and impersonal."

"We must strive to a greater economic democracy, an economic democracy that includes a decent floor under wages, a guarantee of prosperity and an incentive for productive agriculture. We must interpret our economic democracy as including a clear and progressive national labor policy that will encourage the growth of a free labor movement and at the same time assure maturity in the

responsibilities of both labor and management. An economic democracy means houses for people to live in at prices they can afford to pay. It means the elimination of slums and blighted areas and the opportunity for education for all our citizens. Security in old age must be provided, and protection against the ravages of unemployment and loss of productive capabilities. The economic democracy of our time must provide for a wise utilization of our natural resources for the benefit of the people. It must stress the development of scientific knowledge and its use for advancement of society."

"Finally, if democracy is to be meaningful, it must guarantee beyond the shadow of a doubt equal protection of the laws of this land to all citizens, the full right of political participation, security of person, and the right of employment without regard to race, color, or creed."

"We can pay no greater tribute to Franklin Roosevelt than to work for these things."

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"World peace or world chaos hinges on developments in the Asiatic area, and we had better train a keen eye in that direction. International moral order demands support of the Indonesian Republic's fight for freedom. China is vulnerable to totalitarianism, and the communists will work steadily toward their goal of total domination of the Far East."

"On the other side of the balance sheet, the Asiatic nations are to be congratulated on their recent conference on the Indonesian problem and on their awareness of their own potentialities in world affairs. The decision of the Asiatic conference, headed by Pandit Nehru, to work within the framework of the United Nations, added a bulwark of strength to that organization.

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"The times are ours. Thinking together and acting together, we can provide a framework for life and freedom and security for billions of people the world over."

"We in Americans for Democratic Action have a program, we have a purpose, and with the help of God, we have an opportunity. This is our time for action. With all of us working together, we can bring light and freedom and security into the lives of billions of people the world over."



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