

Mrs Harriman
Barbara Byer - *(Louise) Mrs Will Long* - *Mrs Beckman*
Mrs Phelps

From the Office of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
140 Senate Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.
Capitol 4-3121, Ext. 2424

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Womans Suburban Democ Club

NATION AGAIN NEEDS 'LEADERSHIP OF FRANKNESS AND VIGOR' OF FDR ERA

Our nation again urgently needs the "leadership of frankness and vigor" that exemplified Franklin Delano Roosevelt 25 years ago, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) declared today in a luncheon address before the ~~Montgomery County Democratic Women's~~ *Suburban Democratic* Club at Normandy Farm.

TODAY
Lyndon Johnson

Reviewing the Roosevelt era of leadership in time of national crisis, Senator Humphrey declared the American people were still ready to respond "to their utmost of their capacity" if the President heeds the challenge of the times and himself responds with leadership--"clearly, boldly, and magnanimously."

"Fifty years ago, Woodrow Wilson wrote as a political scientist: 'The President is at liberty, both in law and in conscience, to be as big a man as he can. His capacity will set the limit...the Constitution bids him speak, and times of stress and change must more and more thrust upon him the attitude of originator of policies,'" Senator Humphrey said.

"Twenty-five years ago, Franklin Roosevelt said: 'In every dark hour of our national life, a leadership of frankness and vigor has met with that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory.'

"The 28th and the 32d Presidents, in their greatness, fulfilled their conception of the Presidency. So did the 33d.

WILSON
28th
FDR-32d

"Yet where today is the leadership of frankness and vigor'? It is perhaps our greatest weakness that, in a time of unprecented peril, it is lacking.

"Where under Roosevelt the country grew stronger and more united in national purpose, today it has been weakened and confused. After five years of the present Administration, our defenses are weaker, our alliances are faltering, our prestige in the world is lower. Our economy is stumbling, our educational system is more inadequate, our liberties are less secure," Senator Humphrey warned.

Roosevelt
had in
mind
Cabinet
who knew
Zeit

In summarizing his appeal for more vigorous national leadership, Senator Humphrey said in part:

No alternative
to peace

"The President himself has told us that "there is no alternative to ~~war~~ ^{peace}"; but in the all-important search for at least the beginnings of disarmament for peace, he has allowed United States policy to be ambiguous and futile. He has left the conduct of foreign affairs to a Secretary of State whose rigid postures and self-righteous moralisms have complicated relationships with our friends and foredoomed negotiations with our adversaries. He is pursuing a foreign policy that leads no where.

Misread the
MARSHALL
PLAN

"The President has misread the lessons of the Marshall Plan and Point Four and has consistently subordinated economic and technical development to military aid. Because he underrates the strength and capacity of the United States economy, we are failing by default to meet the Soviet challenge to an economic competition, in which we would surely have the advantage. And the Indian five-year plan, on which the most important free nation in Asia depends, hangs in the balance for want of American dollars.

(over)

Economic

"At the same time, and for the same reason, he neglects the needs of our own people for schools, housing, hospitals and welfare services, and for the development of our own resources.

"He has placed the Department of Agriculture in the hands of a man who stubbornly and dogmatically refuses to recognize the needs of American farmers.

"In the face of economic recession he is waiting, Hoover-like, in vague confidence that it will get better after it gets worse.

"As his leadership has been lacking in vigor, so has it been lacking in that frankness which is the prerequisite for popular understanding and support. He has withheld from the country both the facts and the gravity of our condition. These have had to be wrung by the Congress from the President's own subordinates--and still the country does not know them all. Neither has he acknowledged the trails of wrong-doing that have led deep into his Administration.

"Personally, one can have only sympathy for the amiable, ailing, overburdened, overprotected man, with his uncomplicated ideas for dealing with problems of the utmost complexity. One can only wish that he had heeded his wiser counsels and refused a second term. But unfortunately for us and for the free world, his shortcomings have become the shortcomings of United States policy, and there is no one else to answer for them.

"The Constitution places on the President responsibility and authority which are his alone. They cannot be alienated or delegated, by design or default. The Congress cannot assume them, even if it wished, and I, for one, have no wish that it should. The Constitution, as Wilson said, summons the President to greatness. For myself, as a Senator, and for all Americans, I beg of the President to heed the summons.

"In these times of stress and change, the people of this country will respond, to the utmost limits of their capacity, to the call of leadership. The danger is clear and present. The occasion is piled high with difficulties. I beg the President to respond--clearly, boldly, and magnanimously. If he can summon the strength to lead, he will find an eager and dedicated following, as Franklin Roosevelt himself did twenty-five years ago."



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