

HUMPHREY FOR PRESIDENT COMMITTEE
Suite 740 Roosevelt Hotel
Washington, D.C.
ADams 2-3411

FOR RELEASE:
Wednesday AMs, Dec. 2, 1959

HUMPHREY CALLS FOR ELECTED GOVERNOR, CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR VIRGIN ISLANDS

CHRISTIANSTED, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, Dec. 1 -- "America needs to clearly identify itself with People, Progress and Peace -- this is the challenge and opportunity before us," Senator Hubert H. Humphrey told a Democratic Party rally here Tuesday night.

"Democracy is being challenged all over the world. Our task is to continuously expand and invigorate our own processes of government and to make this great nation of ours a democratic showpiece for the uncommitted areas of the world.

"In this, the second half of the 20th century, power is best defined by the words People and Progress. The balance of power for either democracy or communism lies in the great population centers of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The people of these vast areas demand progress -- economic and social progress. We dare not fail - our very freedom and survival require a victory for democratic values.

"We can be proud of our progress in recent years. Deeds are more impressive than words.

"Consider, for example, the former territories of Alaska and Hawaii. Their admission to statehood, accomplished by the two most recent Democratic Congresses, has demonstrated to the world that the American people mean to provide the full measure of democracy for all areas under the American flag.

"The time has come to take other steps toward a fuller democracy. Tonight I want to lend my support to two important proposals that have been made for bringing more democracy to the Virgin Islands.

"First, it is high time that the residents of these Islands elect their own Governor. It is almost inconceivable that a population of approximately 30,000 people, with almost 100% literacy, about 75% participation in elections, should be deprived of the right of electing their own Governor -- a right enjoyed, and wisely exercised, by your neighbors, the people of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

"Second, it is equally high time that the people of the Virgin Islands be represented in the United States Congress. The extension to the Virgin Islands of Congressional representation on the same basis as the former territories of Alaska and Hawaii, and now the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, would not only provide the Islands with a voice able to speak out for your basic interests, but would reaffirm our determination that no people under the American flag shall lack for fair consideration in our national councils.

"I recognize that the Virgin Islands are not getting much help towards an elected Governor and Congressional representation from the Republican Department of the Interior in Washington. Those fellows running the Interior Department think the words status quo were written in capital letters into the Constitution of the United States back in 1787. And unfortunately those words - status quo - represent the basic philosophy of the Republican Administration in more ways than merely its handling of territorial matters.

"There is only one way to deal with this 'no go, go slow, veto' Republican Administration and that's to get out and do the work necessary to elect a Democratic President and a Democratic Congress next November. Then we can get back on the road to progress and an expanding democracy."

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Mr McFarlane

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Mr Benitez

SENATOR'S READING COPY

Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands

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Democ Party → Big old new

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Roads, Housing, Educa, Hospitals & Health
Soc Sec
(University)

Chad
RHS

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No Go - Go Slow Veto

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President and a Democratic Congress next January. Then we can get back on the road

to progress and an expanding economy.

Alphonsa Hall
uncle of Cyril

Joe Christian

H. Plas Kett

Moorhead
Tely Frances



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