

Text of Humphrey Announcement of His Presidential Candidacy

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30—

Following is the text of a statement issued today by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota announcing his candidacy for the Democratic Presidential nomination:

Over the past year I have traveled tens of thousands of miles into every region of the United States and into most of the states themselves. I have met with and talked to thousands of our fellow citizens, and have made no great effort to disguise my interest in seeking the Democratic nomination for the Presidency.

I wish to express my sincere personal thanks to Governor Orville Freeman and Senator Eugene McCarthy for the leadership they have taken and will continue to take in my behalf. It is a privilege to be associated with these two outstanding Democratic leaders.

I have now decided to enter my name in the Presidential primaries in Wisconsin, the District of Columbia, Oregon and South Dakota.

My record is well known. I have taken a clear-cut position on each of the major issues facing the American people. I shall take definite positions on new issues as they may arise, and bring these issues to the people.

Calls Primaries Costly

I would like to enter other primaries. But each of these is an election contest in itself, and is expensive. Quite frankly, the financial resources available to me are limited. If financial support permits, I will enter other

primaries, and will make known my decision on these when the time comes.

I have no illusions about my quest for the Democratic Presidential nomination. It will be an uphill fight.

My support does not come principally from persons of position, rank or wealth. Rather it comes largely from people, who, like myself, are of modest origin and limited financial means.

This in itself is one of the main reasons I am venturing to seek the nomination. I know from personal experience what it means to be the victim of depression, distress and natural disaster—those unpredictable forces over which so many human beings have no control.

I also know that it is precisely these Americans—who lack the means, the power or the influence to fully control their own destiny—who most need and yet lack a voice in the conduct of their Government. They need a spokesman, and I intend to be that spokesman.

One thing I am sure: If victory is to come to the Democratic party, the plain people of this country must find in the Democratic standard-bearer a man they sense to be their true friend, their spokesman.

I am prompted to seek the nomination, too, because I believe that I can make a contribution to the safety and security of our nation through formulation of a foreign policy based on the real strengths of our people. Far more is needed than slogans and temporary flashes of activity. I would draw into the councils

of the Presidency men and women from every walk of American life—a practice neglected in recent years—searching out every new idea, program and policy that could make a contribution to American foreign policy and the unity of free nations.

We can no longer tolerate government that reacts instead of taking the initiative.

We cannot afford to have an Administration that spends all of its time repairing damage instead of building solid, long-term programs.

I have faith in the American people. What we need is not fear of communism but faith in ourselves, not mere reaction to the threat from a competing society but bold initiative to seek out and defeat the older and greater enemies of all men—disease, hunger, poverty and illiteracy.

Recalls U. S. of 1932

I have seen a bankrupt and despairing America of 1932 lifted out of chaos and poverty and set on the road to recovery principally by one ingredient—leadership. America met the challenge of both limited and total war with leaders determined to get the job done rather than worrying about the obstacles that lay in the path.

The American people can be summoned to the challenge of the Nineteen Sixties, but not by a government that knows costs but not values, that understands things but not people.

A new, fresh leadership must look toward three goals in the new decade: the achievement of a just and enduring peace, the realization of our full economic potential, and the achievement of dig-

nity and justice for every American.

We can significantly raise the growth rate of our economy—not only to insure better lives for all Americans, but to enhance the well-being of men and women everywhere as a direct contribution to the long-range security of our nation.

We must balance the moral budget as well as the fiscal budget, through stronger guarantees of human rights. This is essential, not only because it will make us the victors in the battle being waged for the minds and hearts of men and women in Asia, Africa and Latin America, but also because it is the right, the moral, the just thing to do.

Above all, we must seek to release the energies of mankind for constructive work. We must spare no effort to achieve agreement on a responsible program of disarmament with effective inspection and controls. However, the burden of arms spending, costly as it is for the free world, must continue to be borne until we can secure genuine arms control agreements.

We will hear much talk about peace and prosperity in the months ahead.

We all want prosperity. But the prosperity we want must not be lopsided. It should be a prosperity that results from an expanding economy with full shares for all—business men, farmers, working people, the young and the elderly. We seek a prosperity for America that insures greater social justice.

We all want peace; peace is no partisan issue. But the

peace we want must be enduring, must have deep roots.

Diplomatic tensions may be temporarily eased. But as long as we live in a world of the hungry, the sick and the illiterate, human tensions will persist. True peace cannot sink its roots in such a world, and therefore cannot flourish.

Hence, to win enduring peace, the forces of freedom and decency must wage a war on the common enemies of mankind: poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy. Peace is not passive; it is active. Peace will not come from slogans; it will come from programs.

No man can be certain that he can fully meet the goals he sets for himself and for his nation. But those who believe deeply in the need for meeting those goals have an obligation to contribute what they can toward their attainment.

As Franklin Roosevelt said twenty-eight years ago when he announced his candidacy for the Presidency in a letter agreeing to enter the North Dakota primary:

"One who believes in new standards of government for meeting new problems, in the translation of forward-looking thought into practical action, must welcome a chance to do his share toward that end."

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5/3/96

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April 29, 1996

Mr. Steve Nielsen
Minnesota Historical Society
345 Kellogg Boulevard West
Saint Paul, MN 55102-1906

Dear Mr. Nielsen,

I would like to thank you for your prompt response to my request concerning speeches by Hubert Humphrey and Walter Mondale. I have been working on my project for some five years, which includes several change of addresses. While recently going through some of my papers at the bottom of a very large box, I found the campaign announcement speeches of both Mr. Humphrey and Mr. Mondale. It seems I received the speeches back in 1992 along with permission to publish them in my book. Thank you again for your help and enclosed please find my check for \$15.00 to help with the work of the Minnesota Historical Society Research Center.

You noted in your letter that you are missing the speech Hubert Humphrey delivered December 30, 1959 to announce his 1960 presidential campaign. During my research I came across a copy of his statement published in The New York Times. Please accept these copies for future use by researchers using the Minnesota Historical Society's Research Center.

Sincerely,

Ray Cowart

Ray Cowart



Minnesota Historical Society

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