

NOTES FOR NATIONALITIES SPEECH

TO: Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
FROM: David C. Williams

1. The 35 million first and second generation Americans
constitute one of the sincerest and most devoted groups of
citizens in the country.

2. That's why I'm proud to be a member of the Executive
Committee of the Nationalities Division.

3. I commend the foreign language press, so well
represented in Michigan and Wisconsin, for the attention it gives
to public affairs, which compares more than favorably with the
general press.

4. Our immigration policy is our front window to the world.
It is wrong because:

a. It is based on the theory that people of some
nationalities, some races, some religions are better than people of
other nationalities, other races, other religions. It is riddled
with the kind of discrimination which we condemn within America.

b. It makes immigrants and refugees into citizens with
less rights than native-born citizens. There is no place in our
democracy for second-class citizens.

5. I am proud that I was able to secure an additional allocation of 10 million dollars for the handling of refugees during this World Refugee Year.

6. I have repeatedly introduced immigration legislation along the lines advocated by former Senator Lehman.

7. I note the President has, on March 17, - very, very late in the day - come forward with proposals which would go part of the way in remedying the failings of present legislation. But they fall short in the following respects:

a. Racial discrimination is retained. Asiatics are still admitted on an odious racial basis.

b. The national origins quota system is retained. Place of birth is controlling, rather than the inherent worth of the individual.

c. Colonial discrimination is retained. Natives of colonial dependencies are restricted to discriminatory sub-quotas.

d. The problem of refugees is not met adequately. It permits parole of 10,000 refugees annually by the Secretary of State in the absence of a Presidential proclamation. Objections have been voiced to the 10,000 limitation and to the parole feature which keeps an alien dangling for two years or more before he can become a permanent resident.

e. The many injustices and inequities of existing immigration legislation are left unresolved. The present laws need complete and basic revisions to simplify procedures, to authorize greater flexibility, and to provide fairer standards for admitting, excluding

000718

and deporting aliens. We can and should treat the foreign born as human beings. The present law does not do so and needs drastic revision to conform to just and humane standards and to be worthy of our great democratic traditions. The ^{se} shortcomings of our immigration laws the President's message leaves unresolved.

8. I know that all of you have keenly in mind the welfare of the people in your homelands, many of them within or under the shadow of Soviet power. We can help them in three ways:

a. Stand firm against the threat of Soviet expansion, as in Berlin. *IT*

at every Summit Conference - "The Captive Peoples!"

Captive Peoples!

b. Seek universal, effective, and enforced disarmament,

Disarm

so that the Soviet military power will no longer overshadow ^{these peoples} them and they will have more freedom to decide their own destinies. *(Negotiate - but know what we want)*

DISARM

c. Through works of peace, ^{We can} open windows in the Iron Curtain. One of the most imaginative of these is the American

Children's Hospital in Poland, a project conceived and promoted, at great personal sacrifice, by my very good friend, the Polish-

American architect, Biernacki-Poray. I was delighted to help this project in the Senate, as Congressman Zablocki did in the House.

Change

~

9. We shall work in Congress for the reform of our immigration laws and for an imaginative and genuinely liberating foreign policy, But our best chance for success is in the election of a liberal Democratic President.

* *

Gov Williams
Mc Namara
Phil Hart

Widow pensions
#56

UAW RALLY - DETROIT

Sunday, March 27, 1960.

Study
slow learners

FDR - network

This, as I understand it, is an

Commemoration

occasion for commemoration -- commemoration

of the advances achieved in social security

by past, and may I add, Democratic Administra-

tions, and of the great accomplishments of

your own union, the UAW, through collective

bargaining - pensions, health benefits, and

other welfare provisions.

NO GO SLOW
NOT HOW

PUETO
Powers

You have, indeed, been pioneers -

and, like pioneers, your vision is ever fixed

on fresh horizons. So, very rightly, this is

also an occasion for re-dedication and for

action.

Peoples Lobby

And action is sorely needed. Our

social security system is a wheezing Model T

Ford in a synchromeshed age.

Model
T
SOC Sec

25 yrs Ago
we had

IKE Age!

McClure
Committee
See this!!

Wages is Rights

- Education
- Wages
- Housing
- Health
- Welfare
- Food

And action is sorely needed. Our

Relief - Food Stamps

000721

The Department of Health -
Education, and Welfare tells us that it costs
at least \$2300 a year for a couple to live by
themselves in modest fashion. Yet the average
retired couple on social security receives
about \$1440 a year.

Even more desperate is the situation
of 1,300,000 aging widows ~~who are existing~~ - I
can hardly call it living - on an average benefit
of \$56 a month.

Yes, we need at least a 30 percent
increase in minimum benefits, -- we need special
housing for the elderly, -- we need tax credits
to encourage the hiring of older workers.

But today I want to stress, to the
ever-present dread of our older citizens - the

Poloz

heartchilling fear of sickness and its
catastrophic cost.

L I want to talk about the Humphrey
and Forand Bills for medical benefits to the
aged.

L I want to talk about your opportunity
to help toward their enactment.

L This, I am reliably informed, is the
year of a presidential election. This is the
year when all of you who are 21 or older - and
registered to vote - become ten feet tall to
those who represent you or misrepresent you
in Washington.

L There are over 13 million Americans
who stand to benefit by the Humphrey and Forand
Bills. Thousands have been talking and writing
to Congress. The mail is running two to one in



000723

favor of enactment. It's not surprising,
therefore, that our Republican friends have
been trying to get in on the act.

↳ It's a tough problem for them,
because they want to give the appearance of
acting, without actually acting. They want
to look good, without spending any cash money
or offending any of the privileged minorities
to whom they cater.

*This
morning!
Pass it!*

*3 Rep.
Sustains*

↳ Until this week, I thought that
they might come up with some watered-down,
and meaningless substitute for the Humphrey
and Forand Bills.

We were told that Vice-President
Nixon was busy forcing tranquilizing pills
down the throats of his Old Guard Republican
friends in Congress, so that they could
swallow some feeble excuse for aid to the
aged without kicking and screaming.

...Page 5

↳ It seems that even this is too much for them.

↳ I asked one of them once whether he really believed in progress. He claimed that he did, but cautioned that it must be very gradual.

"You mean barely ^{noticeable} ~~perceptible~~ I asked him.

He seemed about to agree with me, then suddenly recoiled in horror.

↳ "No" he said. "That's too fast for me."

So the latest word is that the Administration is "exploring" the problem. It seems that they have only just discovered that there are nearly 16 million Americans over the age of 65, and they need time to recover from the shock.

Yes, they can't count the number of our senior citizens any more than Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby could count the number of our children. You all remember how she complained that she just couldn't have foreseen the magnitude of the demand for the Salk anti-polio vaccine.

Mrs. Hobby has departed, but a lot of hobbyists remain in Washington. They are still concerned, like her, with balancing the fiscal budget rather than the moral budget.

All I say is - let them not practice this hobby at our expense.

Let's get back to this word "exploring". This Administration often reminds me of Christopher Columbus - when he set out he didn't know where he was going,

000726

when he got there he didn't know where he was, and when he returned he didn't know where he had been.

However, this time I believe that the Administration knows what its "exploring" for. And I can tell you that it's not looking for the best and the soundest means of meeting the medical needs of our elder citizens.

It's playing politics, and "exploring" for votes.

It's seeking the maximum political benefits to Mr. Nixon, rather than the maximum medical benefits for you.

It's seeking the most plausible way of stalling, rather than the promptest way of acting.

Yes, my friends, it's all politics -- cold-blooded, Old Guard Republican politics, rather than warm-blooded concern for people

000727

and their problems.

Don't let them get away with it.

Let's all of us, today, resolve

to insist on the genuine and sincere Forand

and Humphrey program. Don't let some Doctor-

come-lately substitute be palmed off on us

by that master of political now-you-see-it

and-now-you-don't Vice President Nixon.

Keep on writing to Washington, my

friends. Don't let the Administration side-

track our bills at the very brink of a his-

toric breakthrough in social responsibility.

Don't let the Administration wriggle out of

the fix in which its past indifference and

the mounting needs and demands of 13 million

retired Americans have placed it.

Keep up the pressure in the coming weeks and months. And if they are still in this fix by November, you know how you can get them out of it. You can elect a liberal Democrat -- I have my own private preference, and I hope and trust it is the same as yours -- to the White House.



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org