

Excerpts of Remarks by
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Democratic J-J Dinner

Albuquerque, New Mexico
April 27, 1963

It's good to be home.

I have just returned from a busy week outside the country, attending a conference of the Inter-American Development Bank in Caracas, Venezuela.

Just before I left Venezuela, I told a Latin American friend that I was heading directly to New Mexico. He said: "Oh, that's one of the little States, isn't it."

My reply wasn't very diplomatic. I told my friend that my own State of Minnesota and the State of New Mexico should never be called "little." I said that we are big States. We produce big men, big ideas, big achievements.

Let me report to you that no one in Washington ever refers to New Mexico as a "little" State.

The reason is that you in the Democratic Party here and your State have sent to the Nation's Capitol men of big hearts, wide vision, and giant stature.

None of us in Washington will ever forget Dennis Chavez. He is gone, and we miss him. But his work and his giant contributions and service to New Mexico and the Nation are enduring.

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Senator Clinton Anderson is a friend, but I speak with political objectivity when I say that ~~no~~ no man in the United States Senate is more respected, more influential or more effective in his work for his home State and the strength of America.

And in the House of Representatives you have a team of leaders who know how to win action for the country and progress for the people of New Mexico---Joe Montoya and Tom Morris.

I have not been in New Mexico for a few years---I'm sorry to say---but I've been hearing things about your new Governor, and the reports are good. My work is in Washington, but I know the importance of strong State leadership. You have that in Governor Jack Campbell.

We in Minnesota also won a great Democratic victory in the last election by putting a Democrat back in the governor's chair.

The Republicans, of course, like to minimize our victories. Just a few weeks ago, in fact, Senate Republican Leader Everett Dirksen had the audacity to claim that Democrat Karl Rolvaag ~~had~~ won the governorship of Minnesota over a Republican by 84 votes, after a long recount process.

On the floor of the United States Senate, I set the record ^(H)straight. The truth is that our new Democratic governor in Minnesota won by a landslide---91 votes.

Yes, we do things in a big way in Minnesota.

I like to think that Minnesota and New Mexico---though separated by a thousand miles, climate and geography---share a common spirit of leadership. Call it a willingness to pioneer.

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We need this spirit and this willingness in the country today. I believe we have both in our President, John F. Kennedy. And I think the country and the people want a pioneer and a leader in the White House, and will re-elect ~~Democrat~~ President Kennedy by an overwhelming majority in 1964.

We need this spirit and willingness in the Congress also, and we have it in such men as Senator Anderson---who is today the real force behind a program of hospital insurance for the elderly, which will be approved by the 88th Congress.

And we need this spirit of leadership and willingness to pioneer in our States and communities and local areas, as much as in Washington.

I was inspired to learn about one local example of New Mexico's determination to lead and pioneer for progress of the people.

The recent developments you have spurred for the State's Indian people illustrate how local action and leadership, coupled with assistance from the government, can bring real and enduring progress. The Navajo Dam, the new sawmill project employing 800 men and plans for the Navajo irrigation project are the solid achievements of a vigorous and talented people.

And I'm proud to note that New Mexico's vision for progress is as wide as its beautiful landscapes. You are implementing in this State some of the most important of the new and progressive national and international programs of the last few years.

In your own San Miguel County, you had one of the first pilot projects in the country for the Food Stamp Program---a program I worked for in Congress

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for a full decade.

In your great University of New Mexico, ^{(and New Mexico State University,} you are training the young men and women headed to Latin American nations for service in the Peace Corps--- a program I started working for four years ago.

The Senate has recently passed the Wilderness Bill, and already---by executive order---you have preserved the magnificent Gila (pronounced Heel-a) Wilderness.

And this month, the Senate approved the Youth Employment Act, which will include a Youth Conservation Corps of young men to work on our public lands. New Mexico, I know, will be ready with the conservation projects and the young men to ~~reorganize~~ establish the program efficiently here.

All of these are programs in which I have had a particular interest, and I am proud to see them implemented so well in New Mexico.

~~and~~, frankly, all of us can take pride in these and other major programs of recent years---because they were won under Democratic leadership.

^(MOST) Few of them were won ^(OVER) without the opposition of The Republican party, ~~and leadership.~~

The Republicans, of course, are not particularly fond of new ideas and new programs. They are dedicated to the logically-intriguing proposition that the best way to move forward is to stand still.

Their approach to policy and progress could best be described as the Doctrine of Passive Escalation.

(More)

There is some merit to this Republican doctrine. It's as through the Democrats provided the talent, the skill, the muscle, the equipment and the leadership to build an escalator. The Republicans stand by complaining about all the waste and the costs, then step ~~aboard~~ onto the escalator which is moving efficiently upward.

And when the Republicans reach the top, they say: "See, we told you so. All we have to do is stand still and we will progress upward."

Believe me, I've seen the Republican Doctrine of Passive Escalation first-hand. I worked against Republican indifference and opposition to the Food for Peace program for years. Then, when the program was approved, tested, proved and successful, the Republicans stepped aboard and boasted: "Look what we did."

~~Now~~ I do not want to leave the ^{LO N}impressive that the Republicans never have any ideas of their own. Let's be fair. They had a couple of excellent ideas in the 19th century. And I'm sure that any ^{LO}decade now, they'll come up with a good, positive suggestion for the 20th Century.

The Republicans also have an abundant supply of negative suggestions. If ever the Republican Party adopts a Coat-of-Arms emblem, it will feature a beautiful set of Old English letters spelling "N-O".

Two of their proudest, negative suggestions have come this year.

The first was a proposal to cut \$15 billion from the Federal budget for the coming fiscal year.

I remember the day this Republican suggestion was advanced. The Democratic Congressional leaders were meeting at the White House. We shared notes, and none of us had any knowledge of any details to the \$15 billion budget cut

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suggestion. So we asked the Republicans to give the Congress and the country a "bill of particulars." We were ~~sincerely~~ interested in the \$15 billion budget cut idea. We wanted to know how and where the budget could be cut to save \$15 billion.

We waited, and are still waiting for the answer. So we recently prepared a study of what the effects of a \$15 billion budget cut would be.

The results offered the reason for Republican silence to our challenge for details and a bill of particulars for their proposal.

Basically, the result would be a crippling of thousands of programs which mean progress for the people of our Nation, and a drastic weakening of our strength in a world challenged by the forces of Communism.

In New Mexico, there would be hundreds of programs killed or crippled by the Republican budget proposal. In just one, limited area---the Accelerated Public Works program---the Republican suggestion would ~~mean~~ ^(MEAN) the elimination of the new water system in Raton, the new sewer system in Wagon Mound, and the new X-Ray and laboratory facilities in Espanola Hospital.

It is probably unnecessary to remind you that the Republican budget suggestion would also eliminate ^(PROBABLY) ~~the~~ ^(THE) possibility of developing ~~the~~ ^(MEAN) new space program facilities in the White Sands area.

Let me suggest and emphasize that responsible Democrats in Congress and throughout the country are deeply concerned about the size of the Federal budget. Many Democratic leaders in Congress work overtime to check and re-check every item in the budget. All of us are aware of the need to eliminate unnecessary spending and waste or duplication.

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But we know what it takes to keep America strong, to build opportunities for progress for all of our people, and to strengthen the foundations and forces of freedom throughout the world. We will not engage in headline-grabbing, irresponsible efforts to cut back indiscriminately in those efforts.

The second major Republican suggestion of the year was voiced just a few weeks ago by Richard Nixon.

Mr. Nixon suggested that we kick ^F Fidel Castro out of Havana, get the Russians out of Cuba, and eliminate Communism from the Western Hemisphere.

That's a good idea, a wonderful idea, a marvelous idea. And Mr. Nixon makes it all sound so easy.

The only trouble is that when you examine Mr. Nixon's statement carefully, you can ~~not~~ find only two, practical suggestions ~~for which~~ on which his general goals are based.

First, he suggests that the President issue a proclamation. Second, he suggests that the Congress pass a resolution.

That's fine, Mr. Nixon. But I suggest that the combined talents, intelligence and efforts of the Defense Department, the Central Intelligence Agency, the State Department and the President of the United States have developed far more practical measures for our goal of a free and secure Caribbean area than those two ideas.

Let me stress ^S that there is room for criticism of government policies and programs in this country. Our Nation is great and strong because divergent interests have blended divergent views together to form responsible policies. No single interest or viewpoint totally dominates our government or the nation.

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That is why I---a loyal and dedicated Democrat---also believe in the two-party system. We need the flow of examination and responsible criticism which can and should come from responsible spokesmen for a party which happens to be in the minority---or outside the White House---at any particular time.

But I repeat that we need responsible criticism and opposition. That involves positive suggestions and detailed proposals. We have not been getting them. I challenge our opposition---Republicans in Congress, the Republican Party, and such Republican spokesmen as Richard Nixon: Get specific! Offer your alternatives to the domestic and international Administration programs you oppose! Give us detailed and positive suggestions, not just charges and platitudes!

This Administration, under the leadership of President Kennedy, has given the country and the world positive programs.

You in New Mexico, I know, share my deep interest in the problems and challenges of Latin America. You have ties with Latin American not shared by many other areas of our Nation, ties of language, tradition and geography.

In Latin America, we have in the past two years moved away from a policy of indifference to a progress of progress. We call ^(ONE POLICY) to the "Alliance for Progress," and after three trips to Latin America in ~~addition~~ less than a year and a half, I can report that the Alliance for Progress is beginning to move and that it will succeed.

We have taken other steps under this Administration to spur reform, help the citizens of Latin American nations develop their own economic opportunities, and strengthen the foundations of freedom and representative government.

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The problems are still critical, and many areas of Latin America still hang in the balance between freedom and progress on one hand, and stagnation and totalitarianism on the other.

Much more needs to be done. I believe that we need to do more to develop the human resources of Latin America, to give the people of the nations to ~~the~~ ^{THE} south the skills---and not just the equipment and dollars---which are so desperately needed. I believe that we must work from such examples as the programs of economic development and training in your own Navajo areas, and share our skills and techniques for farming, industry, commerce and government with the people of Latin America who want to adopt them to their nations.

~~There is a dangerous pattern of thinking.~~

Today, we must in this Nation have the wisdom to see beyond the crisis in Cuba and the ~~disastrous~~ dramatic, headline-justifying examples of violence and revolution in Latin America. We must see the challenges which exist throughout all areas of Latin America, not just in Cuba. We must see the deep causes of discontent and restlessness among the peoples of Latin America, not just the revolutions on the surface. And we act act now to prevent other Cubas from developing in OTHER NATIONS ~~other areas~~ of the Caribbean, Central and South America.

Our Nation and the Kennedy Administration are moving to help the people of Latin America solve the real, deeply-rooted problems of their Nations---not just the surface crisis.

I end by quoting the ~~new~~ motto of the new Navajo Tribal chairman Raymond Nakai: "Only he who makes his people strong, is strong; and only he who rules free men is great."

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We can and should apply that motto to our own country's role internationally; and say: "Only that nation which makes other nations strong, is strong; and only that nation which leads free nations is great."

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