

From the Office of:
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Senate Majority Whip Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) said tonight that President Johnson will run so strong this fall that people will compare it with the 1936 landslide of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Humphrey, in a speech before the State Democratic Convention in Bangor, Maine, said President Johnson is "going to make Alf Landon very happy because after this November the yardstick for a political landslide won't be 1936 when Landon carried Maine and Vermont. It will be 1964 when Johnson carried Maine and Vermont and the rest of the nation."

Humphrey urged the delegates to work for re-election of Sen. Edmund S. Muskie, whom he described as "a man who knows how to get things done."

He also told the convention that Muskie's re-election would assure Maine of growing influence in the U.S. Senate where power is firmly based on seniority.

"Ed Muskie, just now finishing his first term, is making big moves up the seniority ladder on three committees-- Public Works, Government Operations, and Banking and Currency," he said.

Humphrey said Senators who have seniority are chairmen of committees, have the power to make or break legislative proposals, and are in a position to see that certain things do or do not get done.

"We hear a lot of talk about how powerful the Southern Senators are--and for good reason," he said. "They have the seniority."

"Let me point out one fact--in the last 18 years the three states of Virginia, Georgia and Alabama have sent only one new Senator to Washington--Herman Talmadge of Georgia in 1957."

As a result, he said, Virginia now has Harry Byrd as chairman of the Finance Committee and Willis Robertson as chairman of Banking and Currency; Alabama has Lister Hill as chairman of the Labor and Public Welfare Committee and John Sparkman as chairman of the Select Committee on Small Business; and Georgia has Richard Russell as chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

"The lesson for the voters of Maine," he said, "should be obvious."

Humphrey said the main battleground in this fall's elections will be in the House and Senate races. These contests, he said, will provide "an opportunity to give President Johnson the votes he needs in Congress to give a 'Better Deal' to the American people."

"He needs those Democratic votes," Humphrey added, "to build a Better America...to give Better Education to our children...to build a Healthier America...to build Better Roads, provide Better Transportation--in short, to give the American people the means and the opportunity to secure the better things in life for themselves and their children."

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