

From the Office of:
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Washington, D.C.
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FOR RELEASE: SATURDAY A.M.'s
June 27, 1964

HUMPHREY HAILS KENNEDY-JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION
FOR REBIRTH OF PROGRESSIVE SPIRIT IN AMERICA

Senate Majority Whip Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) said Friday night that the Kennedy-Johnson Administration will go down in history as the administration that gave "rebirth of the progressive spirit in America."

Humphrey spoke at a convention of the Young Democrats of Kentucky in Louisville. He was invited by Gov. Edward T. Breathitt, Jr. of Kentucky to substitute at the convention for Sens. Edward M. Kennedy and Birch Bayh, who were injured in an airplane crash last week.

Humphrey told the convention that Birch Bayh and Ted Kennedy were symbols of the spirit and dynamism of the Democratic party.

"The Democratic party doesn't discourage its young," Humphrey said. "It is not afraid of new ideas. It doesn't fear the future."

"The issue in November will be clear," he added, "the Republican party--or at least those who claim to speak for it--is proclaiming its yearning for the good old days of long ago when everything was oh-so-simple. They would cope with the issues of the 1960's by retreating into the last century.

"Now, I don't scoff at nostalgia. It's a lot of fun--in its proper place. But nostalgia is not an acceptable issue for the Campaign of 1964. Retreat into the past does not solve the problems that confront us today.

"Nor does it do any good to come up with a lot of 'shoot-from-the-hip' nonsense about selling the Tennessee Valley Authority or trying to scrap the Social Security system by making it voluntary.

"We Democrats believe in keeping the best things of the past and building on them. We are not afraid to look into the future and work for the full development of each man's potential.

"Our aim is to give every American the opportunity to secure the better things of life for himself and his children. This is the primary goal of the Great Society envisioned by President Johnson.

"It is our advantage - to the nation's advantage - to have everyone in this country aspiring to live a better life and reach a little higher on the ladder and have better economic opportunities and more social justice.

"That is what we are talking about when we talk about civil rights. This is what we mean in our war on poverty."

Humphrey denounced what he called the "politics of complaint and denunciation" because he said it "does not satisfy my sense of public duty nor my progressive spirit. I believe in the politics of advocacy and action."

"That is why I am so proud of the record being made by our great President, Lyndon Johnson," he added. "In continuing and adding to the programs of the late President Kennedy, he is making sure that the Kennedy-Johnson Administration will be known to history as the time of the rebirth of the progressive spirit in America.

"One of the clearest expressions of this is the President's declaration of war against poverty. In ringing terms he has told us that the richest nation in the world can't afford to have one fifth of its people living in poverty that the richest nation in the world can't afford unemployment and periods of economic recession."

Gov Breathitt sp. Louisville, Ky. July, 1964
~~of Gov Waterfield~~
Foster Ackerman - St. Chr
Bert Combs
Wilson Wyatt

Barclay
~~Sturgill~~
Sturge-ill
June Taylor

Foster Ackerman

"cousin"
Sen.
Bob Humphreys

YOUNG DEMOCRATS CONVENTION, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Coming here to address a Young Democrats convention

gives me a little pause. It seems like only yesterday that even my wife considered me a Young Democrat.

So, you not only honor me, you flatter me when you ask me to substitute for two such fine young Democrats as Ted Kennedy and Birch Bayh.

Kennedy-Bayh!

Since receiving your gracious invitation from Governor Breathitt I've taken a slightly different look at the Senate and it's made me do a little thinking.

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The United States Senate is a changed body since that day back in 1949 when I first took the oath of office at the age of 37. For one thing, we have many more good Democrats in the chamber now. But there's been another change, too. The people are sending younger men to Washington.

Do you realize that there now are 11 men in the Senate who are under 45? All but two of them are Democrats.

under 45

And take a look at the freshman class of 1962 that produced Birch Bayh and Ted Kennedy. There are eight freshmen Democrats in that class. Three of them are under 40---Birch Bayh, Ted Kennedy and Dan Inouye of Hawaii. Four of those eight freshman Democrats are in their 40s. And the oldest freshman Democrat is 54.

I think this tells us something about the appeal of the Democratic party. I think this tells us that young people are attracted to the Democratic party---that there is a future in the Democratic party for young people.

The main reason for this is that the Democratic party doesn't discourage its young. It is not afraid of new ideas. It doesn't fear the future.

The Democratic party doesn't wring its hands over problems and grumble "that's the way things have always been---you can't do anything about it." No, we look on problems as challenges, opportunities, responsibilities.

The late President Kennedy put it well in his stirring Inaugural Address: "I do not shrink from this responsibility; I welcome it."

This is also the credo of the man who succeeded President Kennedy---Lyndon B. Johnson.

President Johnson has vowed to carry on the New Frontier programs of John F. Kennedy and work toward creation of "The Great Society." He looks forward ^{to new Frontiers} ~~to~~ not backward to the "Lost Horizon."

The issue in November will be clear. The Republican Party---or at least those who claim to speak for it---is proclaiming its yearning for the good old days of long ago when everything was oh-so-simple. They would cope with the issues of the 1960s by retreating into the last Century.

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It is to our advantage - to the nation's advantage - to have everyone in this country aspiring to live a better life and reach a little higher on the ladder and have better economic opportunities and more social justice.

This is what we are talking about when we talk about civil rights. With the enactment of the civil rights bill we will be presented with a great opportunity to strive for a true community of people...where neighbors regard each other with charity and compassion...where Americans of all races live together in harmony and good will.

We must go to the people of America with the message that men are needed to seek peaceful, constructive and positive responses to the blight of discrimination, segregation and prejudice. Every American -- from the President in Washington to the school child in every state -- must become active participants in this crusade for human dignity.

There are political theorists who claim that the essence of politics is power. They are wrong -- even though power is a necessary element in the process of politics. The essence of politics is the search for just solutions to the fundamental problems of society. The essence of politics is the asking and re-asking of the most difficult of all questions: What is justice? What is right?

I believe that in this country we have had too much emphasis placed on what's wrong in our country. ~~I believe~~ ^{while} criticism is absolutely necessary in ^a ~~our~~ democratic society, ~~but~~ we shouldn't let any lop-sided emphasis on what is wrong ~~with our society~~ blind us to the gains we have made and are making.

↳ Nor should we become so pre-occupied with criticism that we fail to point the way to a better life. I am a positive Democrat. The politics of complaint and denunciation does not satisfy my sense of public duty nor my progressive spirit. I believe in the politics of advocacy and action.

That is why I am so proud of the record being made by our great President, Lyndon Johnson. In continuing and adding to the programs of the late President Kennedy he is making sure that the Kennedy-Johnson Administration will be known to history as the time of the rebirth of the progressive spirit in America.

One of the clearest expressions of this is the President's declaration of war against poverty.

In ringing terms he has told us that the richest nation in the world can't afford to have one-fifth of its people living in poverty -- that the richest nation in the world can't afford unemployment and periods of economic recession.

So far, I'm happy to report that under the Kennedy-Johnson Administration we have had a record-breaking period.

of more than 40 months of continuing prosperity and progress.

↳ Times are good, the number of people working is at a record high and profits and income are all up.

But this should not make us smug or satisfied. We *still* have too much unemployment... too many pockets of poverty... and we must do more to attack the roots of poverty and the conditions that breed it.

↳ One of the main battlegrounds in the War on Poverty will be in the rural areas of America where the small farmer is being driven further and further to the wall---or forced to leave the life he and his family have known for generations for the pressure-cooker atmosphere of our big cities.

↳ This Administration is trying to help these hard-pressed farmers by providing technical assistance and loans so they can take unneeded and marginal cropland out of production and convert it to other profitable uses---

grassland, woodland, wildlife and game refuges or recreation areas.

↳ We also are acting to improve rural housing, helping smaller communities with urban renewal projects and loans for new public facilities and new water and sewage systems.

All this will help win the War on Poverty---but the primary effort will come in the field of education.

↳ We must give better education to our children. I am sure no one would disagree with this. But I also am sure you will hear a lot of grumbling and quibbling about the cost from some of our short-sighted citizens.

↳ I say there is no such thing as an expenditure for education. There is an investment in education. Every dollar we invest in education will come back tenfold. An investment for your sons and daughters, for your grandchildren, for your country...because education is power and education is wealth.

This present Congress---the 88th Congress---has done more for education than any Congress since the Morrill land-grant college act was passed in 1863.

But we must do more---and we shall. President Johnson stated our goal in his speech on the Great Society last month. "For every child a place to sit and a teacher to learn from," the President said.

Mr. Johnson went on to say that the "place to build the Great Society is in the classrooms of America. There your children's lives will be shaped. Our society will not be great until every young mind is set free to scan the farthest reaches of thought and imagination. We are still far from that goal."

We still face a critical classroom shortage in this country. We still have too many underpaid teachers. We do not have enough guidance and counseling services for our

high school students. We need more specially trained teachers to help 5 million retarded and handicapped children become useful citizens. We need more engineers, scientists and technicians for an age where excellence is the standard---not merely a desirable goal.

These ^{are} challenges we can meet. We have the opportunity to make the development of brainpower America's most important task and education our first and foremost industry.

But I can tell you here and now this is a challenge that will never be met by a political party that doesn't care...or even worse by a political party that is bent only on destruction.

We are going into the Campaign of 1964 with a President who wants to unite this country and not tear it apart. And our task as fellow Democrats is to maintain that unity within our own party. Above all, we should conduct ourselves with good manners, good taste, and firmness

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