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Address by

SENATOR HUBERT HUMPHREY

NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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L I am delighted to be here tonight and ~~to~~ have the opportunity to address the 69th annual convention of the National Medical Association.

I want to commend you for your tireless work.....
carried on in the highest tradition of responsibility...
for integration of our nation's medical societies and its
medical facilities. Your efforts inspire all men of
good will. They are a beacon of hope in these times when
the fever of extremism is fed publicly and the job of
healing the divisions in our society is ^{often} contemptuously
ignored.

Report on Congress + Administ

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Tonight I want to tell you about a program we have been working on since 1961--a blueprint for what President Johnson likes to call ^{the} ~~a~~ "Great Society." The program's outlines are clear, and substantial parts of it already have been legislated by the Congress. In the next few years, if reasonable men prevail, we will continue work on the unfinished portion.

Let us begin
JFK

JFK

Let me begin, then, to outline this program for America and of the record of responsibility and progress of the Kennedy-Johnson Administration.

Perhaps the greatest achievement is the most recent one--the Civil Rights Bill signed into law last month by President Johnson. This act, which was a long time coming, makes the Constitution applicable to all our citizens.

You know well, probably better than I, that laws
in themselves do not change the passions or fears in
the human heart any more than a plaster cast causes
a broken bone to knit. Yet all of us know that both the
laws and the cast are necessary.

↳ The law establishes the framework of equity within
which there is hope for all.

↳ The Civil Rights Bill had support from ^{large} a majority of
both Republicans and Democrats, in both the House and
Senate, or it would not have passed. These facts should
give us hope tonight that in the difficult days ahead
the American people will confirm this insistence on
freedom and equality for all men.

But

It would be naive to ignore existing threats to
ratification of this Civil Rights consensus.....some *threats*
coming from naked appeals to fear and prejudice. One
can only appeal in these instances, with Abraham Lincoln
to "the better angels of our nature," or with the late
beloved Pope John to "all men of good will."

This Administration for the civil rights Act alone,
may well be called the Freedom Administration. But this
is by no means its only accomplishment.

Not since the administration of Abraham Lincoln
has so much been done for education in America. Support
for medical education facilities during the past two
Democratic congresses are of great interest to you.

But I'm certain that you are no less interested in
support for higher education facilities generally....
in expanding the loan funds that will permit more
students to attend college.....in support for vocational
education.....and in expanding support for technical
schools so the kind of workers our society increasingly
needs can be trained.

This contributes to

The Good Society

∠ We have by no means finished the job with education,
which is the key to our future. ∠ From now on there will
be less and less chance for an uneducated man. From now
on education must be our most important industry. But
if there is ~~more~~ more to do, we can proceed with the
knowledge that our program is clear and that we have made
a running start on these problems. For these reasons,
this Administration may well be called the Education
Administration.

Health

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For the first time the government of the United States has made a frontal attack on problems of mental health and mental retardation. Congress recognized at last that this problem--with its social and economic hardships--was one the nation could no longer afford or tolerate.

So it passed legislation providing funds for construction of mental retardation facilities and community mental health centers.....and financing research into causes of these handicaps. This is why may well be called the Health Administration.

L During the last four years, this Administration also has devoted its energies to the problem of providing economic opportunity for all. It has provided accelerated public works, area redevelopment, and job retraining. all programs to give self-respecting work to people caught in the fast changing pace of the job revolution in America. It has provided tax credits, depreciation allowances and the biggest tax reduction in history. All of these release productive powers of our free enterprise economy. We have stimulated its growth and its capacity to create jobs and produce goods and services.

America moving again

Our economy has responded with vigor to economic stimulation during the past $3\frac{1}{2}$ years....recovering from the 1960 recession that brought high unemployment, sluggish business activity, and a heavy drain on our gold reserves.

✓ The last $3\frac{1}{2}$ years have brought this nation the second longest unbroken economic advance since before the Civil War....and it is still going on. ✓ Employment has reached an all-time high of nearly 72 million persons, a gain of more than 4 million. ✓ The average weekly paycheck of factory workers has jumped from \$89 in January of 1961 to its present level of \$102.97.

✓ The Gross National Product--the value of all goods and services produced in this nation--has soared to an annual rate of 617 billion dollars. ✓ Business expansion this year will be the highest in historydividends are up in every industry group.....and price stability has been maintained with whole sale prices remaining virtually unchanged.

now,

If that is the creeping socialism some of our critics talk about then we need more of it. I have a better name for it--leaping capitalism.

In the midst of this unprecedented prosperity, however, there is the poverty that President Johnson refers to as a most important piece of unfinished business in a program for America. He has asked us to declare war on poverty so that this affluent society can be shared by the impoverished elderly on the back streets, the young people who can not find work, and the men whose skills have become obsolete.

Poverty

The fact is that in the midst of all the wealth and affluence in this nation-- in the midst of the richest country the world has ever seen--~~4~~ million

gom people are poor.

But,

The war on poverty is not aimed solely at the purse. It also is aimed at the poverty of the spirit, the poverty of illiteracy, the poverty of hopelessness, the poverty of disease, the poverty of frustration, ^{and,} and the poverty of bitterness. We have the means to eliminate all of these...the science, the technology, the intelligence and the resources. We also have the moral responsibility to see that all our people have a chance to live above the level of privation.

↳ It is fortunate that we were challenged by John F. Kennedy to begin this program for America.....and fortunate that we have been inspired by Lyndon Johnson to continue it.

So much to be done - to Heal our Wounds of Social injustice - to meet our need our cities, our housing, our recreation our culture.

↳ It is fortunate, too, that the vision of these two
great men has included the insistence on peace with
justice. We have the mightiest ^{military power} ~~and~~ machine of all time--
much of it built in the last four years--but we have not
acquired this awesome power because we want to use it.

↳ Nor have we acquired it so we can threaten or bluff
those who might be our adversaries. If war comes it will
be a choice forced on us by someone else. But we want
peace, we are working for peace, and we are prepared to
assume the burdens of patience during the "long twilight
struggle"--as President Kennedy described it--that is
necessary to see the world through to a better day for
mankind.

⌞ We cannot express our frustrations and impatience at this untidy world by pushing it into worse shape in a quest for simpler labels.

⌞ We hardly need to be reminded that since World War II, the world has seemed to be on a slow but steady collision course with disaster. An accelerated race for thermonuclear weapons added to our anxiety. Yet, in 1961 some great movements to head off this trend began and some steps were taken toward peace. These small but real steps include the limited test ban treaty...the "hot-line" between Washington and Moscow that offers a chance to talk things over in times of crisis...and a ban on orbiting weapons in space.

Of course, the world isn't entirely safe yet or assured that this program for peace on earth will succeed.

But we have a new lease on hope and good reason to believe we're going in the right direction.

I believe in an affirmation of faith in America ~~and~~ *that* would conserve the values of its glorious past, extend them in the present, and bequeath them to the future.

But we will be neither conservative nor liberal if we confine ourselves to the rhetoric of abstraction or the limitations of ideology. We must proceed with actual plans, policies and programs.

∟ The program I want for America would bring prosperity
to all our people by preserving our free ^{+ competitive} enterprise
economy. I stand without apology for equal opportunity
for all Americans--equal opportunity for an education,
for a job, for health, for liberty, and for the pursuit
of happiness. { Where circumstances beyond an individual's
control deny him these opportunities, I want those
barriers removed.

L I am for a government that concerns itself at least
as much about welfare as it does about warfare. I am
for a government that serves the people as much as
possible and intervenes in their lives as little as possible.

4 I believe that America should continue to be first in
military strength, first in the quest for peace, and first
in having a heart for its citizens and first in the love
of freedom.

We still have a lot of unfinished business in America
.....let's get on with it..

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