

news release

FROM THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE PUBLICITY DIVISION 1730 K STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON 6, D.C. FEDERAL 3-8750

FOR P. M. RELEASE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

B-3726

TEXT PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

by

SENATOR HUBERT HUMPHREY
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT
MIDDLESEX COUNTY DEMOCRATIC DINNER
JAMESBURG, N. J.
7:30 P. M., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

"CITIES IN THE GREAT SOCIETY"

In the opening speech of my campaign for the Vice Presidency, I set forth the one major issue confronting the American people in this election: which candidate -- President Lyndon B. Johnson or Senator Barry Goldwater -- possesses the intellectual and emotional capacity to assume the awesome responsibility of leading America and the free world for the next four years?

This question has special significance to Americans living in this great metropolitan complex which stretches along the Atlantic Seaboard from south of Washington, D. C., to north of Boston. Residents of the Atlantic Seaboard have a right to ask: Will our next President understand the mammoth task we face in remaking and preparing our cities to assume their place in the Great Society?

Will our next President understand that between 1960 and 2000 we must build the equivalent of 3,000 cities with a population of 50,000 each just to absorb our population growth?

Will our next President comprehend the urgency of preparing America for the problems of the year 2000 when four-fifths of our 400 million citizens will reside in urban areas?

Will our next President know that we can only solve the problems associated with this population expansion and this population shift to the cities through the active cooperation and participation of the Federal government with state, county, and local authorities?

(more)

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HUMPHREY/"...local authorities?"

These are questions you have a responsibility to ask. And these questions the candidates have a duty to answer.

The record of President Johnson and the Democratic Party is clear. In the legislation submitted to Congress, in the President's leadership of Congress, in his acceptance speech, and -- most significantly -- in his vision of the Great Society, President Johnson has demonstrated a profound understanding of the challenge the problems of urban America present to this country:

Better housing for persons of all ages and incomes

- -- improved mass transportation facilities
- -- expanded recreational areas and open spaces
- -- cleaner air and water
- -- improved schools
- -- more efficient sanitary and health facilities, and the countless other necessities which contribute to a happy and rewarding life.

The temporary spokesman of the Republican Party has also answered these questions. Of course, he personally discusses these issues only on rare occasions. I can recall only three:

Once he observed that the Federal government has no business participating in urban renewal;

once he declared that housing needs of the elderly can be met solely by their churches and their children; and

once he suggested that we saw off the Eastern Seaboard and let it float out to sea!

But while the leader of the Goldwater faction seldom discusses these issues, he <u>has</u> through a consistent pattern of votes clarified his ability to deal with the challenge of urban America in the Twentieth Century.

In 1958 most Senators voted to increase funds for Federal loans to communities for planning and public facilities.

-- But not Senator Goldwater.

PAGE 3 B-3726 HUMPHREY/"...Goldwater."

In 1959 most Senators voted to increase Federal assistance for sewer plant construction and urban renewal.

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In 1959 most Senators voted against a cut in the Housing Authority Bill and in another roll call, voted for increasing the total for public housing units.

-- But not Senator Goldwater.

In 1961 most Senators voted for President Kennedy's landmark omnibus Housing Act.

-- But not Senator Goldwater.

In 1963 most Senators supported the urban mass transit program sponsored by the great Democratic Senator from New Jersey, Harrison Williams.

-- But not Senator Goldwater.

And finally, in 1964 most Senators voted on the expanded housing program and on final passage of the urban mass transportation act.

-- But not Senator Goldwater. He never even showed up.

This is the record of retreat and reaction in the area of urban problems and housing Senator Goldwater brings to the American people in this election.

This is the record the American people must evaluate in relation to the one established by the Kennedy-Johnson Administration and a Democratic Congress: passage of two vital programs spearheaded by Senator Williams, mass transportation and open spaces in urban areas; expanded low rent public housing; increased Federal assistance for local urban planning; expanded housing for the elderly; a humanized urban renewal program; moderate income rental housing; increased housing starts; and a comprehensive anti-poverty program stressing local community action.

Senator Goldwater seeks to offer this country a choice. And so he does. But what a choice!

PAGE 4 B-3726 HUMPHREY/"...a choice!"

And Senator Goldwater also offers this country an echo...an echo from a past where 80% of the population lived in rural America and the problems of urban living were non-existent.

Neither the Goldwater choice nor the Goldwater echo is sufficient to the realities of the Twentieth Century. We have a mammoth job ahead if we are to make our cities habitable, not only in a physical and material sense, but -- of greater importance -- in a personal and spiritual sense. We must set about making our cities just and joyful communities in the fullest meaning of the world.

The American people possess the courage, vision and determination as seek the Great Society where -- in the words of President Johnson -- "every man can..follow the pursuit of happiness -- not just security, but achievement, excellence and fulfillment of spirit."

We will do this by giving an overwhelming mandate this fall to Lyndon B. Johnson and the Democratic Party.

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-- Improved mass transportation facilities.

-- Expanded recreational areas and open spaces.

Additional Local Facts for New Brunswick Speech

- 1. In New Brunswick is a 500 unit development of housing for the elderly which is well known locally, of outstanding architectural design, and has contributed greatly to the rebirth of a blighted area. Built under Federal programs in 1962.
- 2. In Northern New Jersey there are 23,000 occupied units of public housing with a population of 100,000 people. Another 7,000 units are in various stages of programming. These have been constructed under the 1961 housing act and subsequent amendments.
- 3. There are still 93,000 units of substandard housing in Northern New Jersey. Demonstrates what still must be done in this area of urban development.
- 4. The Park-Ride railroad station on the Pennsylvania Railroad in New Brunswick was built under the section of the 1961

 Housing Act which provided money for pilot projects in mass transportation. Senator Williams sponsored this program.
- 5. A middlesex County administration building, also in New Brunswick, is being built with matching Federal funds under the accelerated public works program. It is a 14-story office building costing \$4 million -- half Federal money.
- 6. Middlesex County has also been one of the chief beneficiaries of the Federal open space program -- 8 projects underway.

 Another Williams program in operation.

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