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TELEPHONE MESSAGE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
TO THE A.D.A. CONVENTION

Last note
for Angeles

April 3, 1965

To my many old and good friends in ADA, and
to the many new members who have joined ADA in this
past year of vigorous growth -- greetings and
congratulations.

ADA
+ New
members

(Bill Miller) ADA + Horata

John Roche

I think especially tonight of John Roche, whose
keen mind and pungent wit have meant so much to ADA
in the past two years.

~~Congress~~

Don Edwards

I think of your incoming chairman, Don Edwards,
a relative newcomer to Congress who has already been
seen, heard, and felt.

Jim Loeb

Jim Loeb -- or rather, I should say, His
Excellency Ambassador Loeb -- reminded me the other day
how, when ADA was founded, I was circling high in the

air over Washington, unable to land. I was with you
then in spirit, however, and I am with you in spirit
now.

↳ We have had many fine years together ~~since then,~~
and we have fought many good fights shoulder to
shoulder.

↳ We have fought against the Communists and against
the radicals of the right. But we have fought just as
hard for the things in which we believe. And we have
fought effectively.

↳ Under the leadership of President Kennedy and
President Johnson much that we dreamed and worked for has
become a living reality. — Remember 1948 - Civil Rights

↳ I shall not recapitulate all that has been
accomplished in the past four years.

↳ I shall remind you, however, how often we urged
that 20th Century economic thinking be taken out of the

dog house and put in the White House.

Well, it has -- and we are now in our 50th
consecutive month of vigorous economic growth.

Then there ^{are such programs as} ~~have been~~ the Peace Corps ... the

Alliance for Progress ... Food for Peace ... the Arms

Control and Disarmament Agency ... the negotiation of

the test ban treaty. ^{and} More accomplishment is on the

way.

and We are going to enact Medicare in this Congress.

We are going to enact the first really adequate program

of Federal aid to education. We are going to take

measures to make America as beautiful as it is

productive.

Our cities - a program

Conservation

We are well underway ^{on} with our campaign to banish

poverty.

We do not seek to establish a welfare state - but rather a state of opportunity

There is ferment, there is controversy in this

crusade. Sometimes I have to remind the crusaders that

they are supposed to be fighting poverty, and
not one another.

↳ But it is a yeasty kind of ferment. It reminds
me of the answer President Roosevelt gave when
someone asked him why the reactionaries were always
united and the progressives so often divided. The
reason was simple, he said -- there are many ways of
going forward and only one way of standing still !

↳ Yes, much is being done and much more will be
done -- but I know that one over-riding question is in
our minds and our hearts tonight. It is the question
of human rights.

↳ Three weeks ago the President of the United States
spoke to all of us in words of power and passion.
Nothing that I can say tonight can add to what the
President has said -- any more than a single word
could have been added to what Abraham Lincoln said

at Gettysburg. Neither now nor then can our nation
live half slave and half free.

Our job now is to get to work and ~~enact~~ ^{Pass} the
President's voting rights bill, and ~~enact~~ ^{Pass} it soon!
And it won't be any "half-way house to freedom" -- we are
going to enact a law that will put the Federal Government
in position to ensure the right to vote to everyone,
wherever he lives and whatever his color!

I can tell you, also, that ~~the~~ ^{Tolson} President has pledged
the full use of his Constitutional powers to ensure every
American against violence or intimidation by the forces
of hatred and bigotry -- from the night-riders of the
Ku Klux Klan all the way up in the power structure. And
he is going to carry out that pledge.

Believe me, the martyrs at Selma -- and the less-
publicized martyrs of a hundred towns and places -- have
not set their example in vain.

— what a terrible
price we have had to pay for the sin +
evil of Racism!

But

~~Yes~~, my friends, I do believe that we shall
overcome -- shall, with God's good grace, overcome
the division within our country and the division
within ourselves between what we profess and what
we do.

< More powerful than an army with banners is an
idea whose time has come. That time is now -- and
it is up to all of us to prove equal to it.



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