

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

INDUSTRIAL UNION DEPARTMENT

AFL-CIO

April 6, 1965

My friends, I am honored today to join you at this meeting. I am especially honored to sit at the table with three men who have given so much to this country.

Clarence Mitchell
~~Martin Luther King~~ -- Who has given
(King will not be there)
inspired and constructive leadership to the civil rights movement. He has articulated and given personal witness to the most sacred of all human goals -- human dignity.

And with such leadership, there can be no doubt -- we shall overcome.

(2)

L

James Patton -- Who has given

leadership in the struggle to bring the

benefits of our abundance to those who have

toiled so hard to create that abundance --

the agricultural worker, the family farmer.

His concern for these Americans has not kept

him from seeing the large picture, the problems

of the industrial workers and the role of trade

unions ... the promotion of the general welfare

... our obligations to the world community.

(3)

L

Rev. Robert Spike -- Who has contributed

so much through the Commission on Religion and

Race of the National Council of Churches.

↳ In fact, Rev. Spike stands for the impressive works of all the religious groups in the country today. The social action work of all the faiths has been truly inspiring. There might not be a Civil Rights Act of 1964 if it had not been for the vigilance and the intelligent support given the legislative campaign by all the faiths.

↳ I also wish to give tribute to another who is with us today in spirit: Rev. James Reeb.

↳ There is no group with whom I feel more at home than an IUD legislative conference.

↳ During the 16 years I served in the Senate, I was deeply aware of the talents and the dedication of the men and women associated with the CIO, and then the Industrial Union Department of the AFL-CIO.

↳ This part of the great labor movement
has had only three leaders -- all great
Americans.

↳ In the course of a long life of service,
John L. Lewis was abused and he was villified.

↳ But his great service to coal miners and to
the coal industry -- and to his country --
was fully recognized last year when he received
the highest honor this nation can bestow on
its citizens -- the Presidential medal.

and↳ It was Philip Murray who, with his simple
eloquence, stated the objectives of trade
unionism and, as a matter of fact, of a great
society.

Phil Murray

asked "What is a union for?" and he

answered it:

" ... pictures on the wall, a
carpet on the floor, and music
in the home ..."

He led millions of workers in pursuit of those dreams. He had the satisfaction of seeing some of them come true.

Walter Reuther picked up the reigns when Philip Murray died, and progress continued. It wasn't progress for CIO alone, or even for the

AFL-CIO. All America has shared in that progress.

When the CIO was being formed thirty years ago, average weekly wages for all industrial workers in the nation was \$19.91 -- less than twenty dollars a week !

Today, one generation later, average weekly wages for all industrial workers is more than \$106 -- more than five times as much !

Even after allowing for the great increase in cost-of-living, this is a record of which all of you in this room can be proud.

There are millions of American families who have been kept from the ranks of poverty because of the work that your organizations performed.

This progress for America's industrial workers has not been at the expense of other segments.

- Today the AFL-CIO, under the leadership of Geo. Meany continues to lead the fight for a higher standard of living!

↳ It is a tribute to the American system that
in the same thirty-year period, corporate
profits in America have risen from an annual
rate of just one billion dollars after taxes,
in 1935, to over 25 billion dollars, after
taxes, in the current year !

↳ But dollars are not the important measure
of the IUD's contributions to our American
society. ↳ This conference today is a measure
of your concern for all America.

↳ You have been talking about voting rights
for all Americans -- North and South, Negro
and white.

L You have been talking about increasing
the minimum wage and extending its coverage
-- actions which will ^{help non union members and} have very little affect
on the conditions of your own members.

L You have been talking about Medicare and
other health legislation -- for all Americans.

L You have been talking about the war on
poverty, aid to education, improved
unemployment insurance.

You have been saying again that what is
good for all America is good for organized labor.

~~When the CIO was born~~ thirty years ago,
Franklin Delano Roosevelt was President. It was
he who then articulated the first hope for a
Great Society:

FDR

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who already have much; it is whether we do enough for those who have too little."

This is what the war against poverty is

all about.

↳ This is what the battle for civil rights is all about.

This is what our Educ Program is all about - This what Medicare is all about

↳ We mean to bring to all of God's children the blessings of our advanced technology, and

-- even more important -- the blessings of freedom.

↳ And we mean to bring ~~in~~ security, ~~opportunity~~ and
and freedom to every man, woman and child

in these United States.

*- Our goal is the expansion
of Opportunity*

↳ President Johnson learned his lessons

well from the man he loved so much, Franklin

Roosevelt. ↳ He is determined that this nation's

greatness shall be measured by what we do for

the poorest, the most neglected, the most

undervalued,
despised, the most rejected of men.

↳ In this march to the Great Society, all of

you here -- those of you on the dais, and

those of you throughout this assembly -- are

playing a great role.

↳ Together -- men of government, men of labor,

men of the cloth, men of industry and of
agriculture -- we will march to that Great
Society.

↳ And then there will be, for every family
on earth, those symbols of a great society ...

... pictures on the wall

... a carpet on the floor

... music in the home

and tolerance in every man's heart.



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