

ADDRESS OF  
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY  
DEMOCRATIC BREAKFAST  
PORTLAND, OREGON  
JUNE 12, 1965

Good morning.

Portland, the City of Roses, and Oregon, the Beaver State, are almost like home to me. The good people of the state have been most kind to me over the years, and I will never forget it. It is my pleasure to be here with you this morning.

Your two very able Senators -- Senator Maurine Neuberger, and "Mr. Education," Senator Wayne Morse -- have been doing outstanding work for this state and for this country. Edith Green, Al Ullman, and Robert Duncan are also very strong members of

the House of Representatives who deserve your utmost help and support.

Working with this distinguished Congressional delegation is a distinct privilege for me. Oregon is most fortunate to have such able representatives.

After arriving here this morning and looking at your bright and alert faces, I know what is meant by that well-worn, but meaningful phrase, "Go West."

Nowhere else could you get several hundred people out of bed so early, to pay 50 dollars for a dollar's worth of groceries -- and to listen to a political speech.

I don't know whether we politicians in the East drove you good people this far West, or whether you like politics so well that you , desiring to be caught, cornered yourselves with the Pacific Ocean at your backs.

Very briefly this morning, I want to discuss with you what your support and your financial assistance of this Democratic Party and its elected officials means. You are entitled to an accounting.

Let me say I think you are getting the best bargain possible.

As President Lyndon Johnson said in 1964:

"Our party has greatly contributed to the success of the American experiment. We have never represented a single interest; we have never represented a single group; and we have never represented a single social section of the country.

"The Democratic Party has endured and prospered because it rested on the belief that a party exists to advance the freedom and welfare of all the people."

In the words and deeds of Democratic Presidents from Thomas Jefferson through Lyndon Johnson, we Democrats have demonstrated our belief in the people.

Much of the story of American history is the story of how these beliefs have been fought for. . . won . . . lost . . . and fought for again in the never-ending conflict with those of little trust in the people.

President Johnson has described the duty of the Democratic Party in this way:

"We offer ourselves -- on our record and by our platform -- as a party for all Americans. This prosperous people, this land of reasonable men, has no place for petty partisanship or peevish prejudice.

The needs of all can not be met by a business party or a labor party, not by a war party or a peace party, not by a Southern party or a Northern party. "

Consensus and unity of America have long been the goals for which the Democratic Party has stood. We have also been known as the party which looks on the bright side of life.

Now I have often been called an "eternal optimist." I am an optimist because I believe in the inevitable improvement of the world and its people -- as long as freedom, liberty, and democracy are on the march.

But, let the light of freedom or liberty or democracy be extinguished, and the world will be ravaged by despotism and barbarism.

We in America, through your help, are keeping the fire of freedom burning, the light of liberty shining, and the destiny of democracy spreading throughout the world.

An optimistic, determined Administration with President Johnson at the helm is the first and major result of your support and assistance.

Furthermore, your President is a religious man who has carried his faith into his politics. He believes, and this whole Administration believes, that this nation must fight against every form of tyranny over the mind of man.

The President's design for a Great Society is based on the premise that every citizen of this country must be given the opportunity to develop to the fullest his abilities, his hopes, his aspirations.

Our Democratic Party respects property rights, but the rights of man must be respected first. Until each man is assured his full rights under the Constitution of the United States, this Johnson Administration will not cease and desist for one second in its pursuit of those freedoms and liberties kindled on the Fourth of July 1776.

That is part of the credit side of the ledger in the contract, consummated on November 3, 1964, between President Johnson and the people.

People ask why you are willing to pay \$50 for a one-dollar breakfast. Let's tell them why.

The trust of this country was placed in President Johnson and the Democratic Party mainly because of their strong and active belief in the inherent worth of the common man.

Each individual, whether he be rich or poor, is a source of strength for our nation. It is up to the government, which is the people, to help this source blossom and become fruitful for the benefit of himself, his community, his state, his nation, and the world.

Let's look more at the credit side of the ledger of the contract made between President Johnson and the people. This nation gave a resounding mandate to the Democratic Party, its President, and its members of Congress. What have they done for the people during these first five months of the 89th Congress?

The young people of America represent our hopes . . . our visions . . . our desires for a better world. Congress and the President, realizing this, pushed hard for the 1.3 billion dollar Elementary and

*Edwin*

Secondary Education Bill which is now law. Oregon's Senators and Representatives played key roles in getting this most historic bill through Congress.

More than 5 million educationally deprived children from low-income families in 95 per cent of the nation's counties will be helped by this bill.

President Johnson, on signing the bill, said: "I believe deeply no law I have signed or ever will sign means more to the future of America."

The older Americans have labored long and hard to bring this country where it is today. We are a nation with a commitment to compassion -- with a commitment to security for the aged. We intend to keep that commitment.

There are more than 18 million men and women over the age of 65 in the United States today.

By the time it takes me to finish this sentence, another American will reach this milestone of maturity. Every year, one and a half million people reach the age of 65.

This Congress has already put into law the Older Americans Act which provides:

1. For creation of an Agency on Aging  
in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.
2. For federal grants to states for community planning and training programs for the aging.
3. For research and development grants to public and private non-profit organizations for projects relating to aging.

The working American has also been helped in the first five months of Congress -- and this category is composed of more than 75 million Americans who comprise the civilian labor force. The unemployment rate last month was the lowest in the last seven years. But we still have more work to do.

Approximately 9 million new jobs must be generated by 1970 just to keep up with our expanding labor force.

Congress has already passed the Manpower Act of 1965 which provides for means of increasing the employability of millions of Americans for available jobs.

Aid to Appalachia -- a 1.1 billion dollar program -- was designed to assist a large number of America's jobless and poverty stricken.

In addition to these legislative milestones, the President and Congress have steered most of the President's program through the committees.

On the debit side of the ledger -- legislation not made law yet, but well along the way -- are such major programs as:

1. Reduction of excise taxes and the expansion of the war on poverty.
2. Creation of a Cabinet level department of housing and urban affairs.
3. Increase of the national debt limit.
4. Setting up a new housing program to provide federal rent subsidies.
5. Extension of a program to combat juvenile delinquency.
6. Medical care under Social Security.

*Edwin  
Appalachian*

7. Repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act.
8. Foreign aid.
9. Voting Rights Bill.

In addition to these programs, the President and Congress are moving fast on the programs for fighting poverty, providing equal opportunity for our citizens, for revitalizing the economy, for securing the peace, for strengthening our defense, for mastering space, for stimulating natural beauty and protecting our natural resources, for combating crime, and for helping our farmers. I predict that these programs will become law long before Labor Day.

This 89th Congress, under the leadership of President Johnson, will pass more substantial legislation than any Congress in the history of this country.

The President and Congress are fulfilling their contract with the people. Let's do our part by giving our wholehearted support to your President and your members of Congress.

You have done your part by your being at this breakfast this morning. But, don't stop here. Give us your moral and spiritual support as well. Help others understand what your government is doing.

I have tried to explain this morning what is happening to the 49 dollars you are contributing to your party this morning. This is a small price to pay for what you are getting in return.

Where else could you buy a share of the Great Society for 49 dollars?

You are partners in progress. The Democratic Party and the President need your help, and help is what you are giving them. Together we will build a stronger and better America.

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REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY  
WASHINGTON - OREGON ~~PRESIDENT'S CLUB~~<sup>BUSINESSMEN'S</sup>

LUNCHEON

PORTLAND, OREGON

JUNE 11, 1965

During these busy days, it's always a pleasure to get away from Washington, D.C. to simply talk with friends -- ~~or should I say~~<sup>and especially</sup> with fellow President's Club members. If anybody's a member of the President's Club, I am.

Today I hope we can talk informally and frankly. I don't intend to talk long myself. I want to save time for questions and answers and discussion among ourselves. And may I say that topics of discussion are completely open -- we don't need any ground rules or limits today.

To begin, let me call your attention to the fact that we are now in our 52nd consecutive month of economic expansion.

This period of prosperity is the longest -- and the strongest -- in the history of the United States.

Unemployment is at its lowest point in 7 and 1/2 years.

Industrial production, retail sales, construction and profits are all moving up.

In fact, during the past quarter our national economy has advanced as much as it has in any comparable time since the expansion began.

~~No, we don't expect gains of the same magnitude throughout all of 1965.~~ *and* But it does look as if 1965 will be another prosperous year.

I would remind you that this has been accomplished in a framework of price stability.

My friends, this is some achievement. Remember, it has replaced a postwar pattern of no less than four economic recessions -- three of them in the eight years before 1961.

I believe that business has confidence in the Johnson Administration. I certainly know that this Administration has confidence in American business.

This Administration has done and will do everything it can to provide maximum opportunity for private growth.

You know what has been done already in this Administration:

The 7 per cent tax credit for new business investment.

The sweeping reform of tax treatment of depreciation -- and this was liberalized again early this year.

The tax cut which President Johnson signed into law only a little more than a year ago -- the biggest corporate and individual income tax cut in our history.

Those measures cut corporate taxes this year by some 5 billion dollars.

Those measures raised profitability of business investment in new equipment by an estimated 35 to 45 per cent.

Those measures have helped this Administration prove its faith in our free enterprise system.

We demonstrated this faith again last month when we proposed a substantial excise tax cut. These excise tax reductions will benefit both consumers and producers and will help keep our economy going full steam ahead.

While this Administration has been working hard to unleash the full productive force of our private economy, we have also been working hard to economize in government.

President Johnson has let it be known that each government program must be justified in itself. He has let it be known that he will tolerate no fat and no waste in our federal government.

As a result, you see today a sound federal budget which allows us to save where we can in order to spend where we must.

To illustrate what I mean, I'm going to leave with you today several documents. Among these are reports prepared by the Department of Defense and the Bureau of the Budget. I think you may be surprised to see just where the money goes and what it buys.

I will not go into this now -- I'll simply leave the reports with you -- but I do want to say that I am proud of the fact that this Administration has kept government expenditure in check. But at the same time we have left room for the things that we must do to keep this country strong and productive:

Maintenance of a strong defense establishment -- second to none in the world. (And I refer you particularly to Secretary McNamara's report.)

Investment of more than one and a half billion dollars to aid education -- and there is a basic investment indeed, my friends.

A doubling of the poverty program.

Provision of proper medical care for our aging generation.

Comprehensive attacks on heart disease, cancer and stroke.

Programs to make our cities better places in which to live and work.

Programs to preserve this country's natural resources and natural beauty.

Additional initiatives, such as the excise tax reductions, to keep our economy free and flourishing.

I know that there are a few people in this country who say that some of these things are part of the Great Welfare State -- not the Great Society. My friends, nothing could be further from the truth.

Why a poverty program? Why greater investment in education? Why a fight for voting rights?

We do these things so that every man and woman in this society can have the opportunity to contribute to this society.

There will be a return tomorrow on our investment today, believe me.

We reap what we sow. The investment we make determines the product we get.

Do you know that the average school dropout costs the Americans taxpayers 1,800 dollars a year?

That the average family on relief costs the American taxpayers 2,500 dollars a year?

That the average prison inmate costs the American taxpayers 3,500 dollars a year.

Today, in the midst of our prosperity, one-fifth of our citizens -- some 35 million Americans -- live at or below the poverty line. Some are barely making a living. Others are not making it.

This Administration is pledged to make taxpayers out of many who are today tax-eaters.

I repeat what I said earlier:

Our goal is to give each man and woman in this country opportunity to be productive and to contribute to this society.

The investments we make to create opportunity will be small in the long run compared to the prices to be paid for poverty . . . ignorance . . . disease . . .

discrimination and crime. Perhaps we can talk further about this in our discussion.

But before we go into our discussion, I'd like to take a few more moments to talk with you about some other investments this country is making: investments which require money, patience, and sometimes human life.

All of our minds turn these days to the troubles around the world which not only do not disappear, but seem to multiply. Today it is Viet Nam . . . it is the Dominican Republic. Tomorrow it may be someplace else.

There are questions asked: Do we belong in these places? Is it worth the money? Is it worth, in some cases, the lives of our sons?

Believe me, these are not questions to be taken lightly.

This country has carried a burden in the world for a long time. It is discouraging to carry such a burden -- to do your best but to see the burden grow heavier -- and then to realize that there's no end to the road in sight.

But, for better or worse, that burden is ours to carry.

In this atomic age, there is no place to hide.

Some years ago we turned a corner in this country. We chose then to turn toward the world and cast our lot in it. And, make no mistake, I think we made the right decision.

Today, with all our wealth and power, our strength is freedom's only real guarantee in the world. And we know, in our hearts, that were we to drop our burden, it would not be long until the threat to freedom somewhere else became the threat to freedom here.

President Johnson has chosen the hard way and the right way. Today in Viet Nam and the Dominican Republic -- and, again, tomorrow it may be someplace else -- he has pitted our strength against aggression. That aggression has not always been open and easy to understand. (Today, you know, aggression need not come in form of infantry divisions, tanks and planes crossing from one nation into another.) And, in resisting it, it cannot be a simple matter of carrying all-out war to the aggressor's homeland to win a final and total victory.

President Johnson recognizes the fact that defense of freedom and of our own security will not lend themselves to easy or quick answers.

And he recognizes the fact that the totalitarians in this world do not intend to blow the world to pieces --but plan instead to pick it up, piece by piece, as we tire and withdraw.

Several times in this century the totalitarians have said: " The Americans have no patience, they have no stamina, they have no will to fight, they are inward-looking. Let us take the risk: "

And the totalitarians have taken their risks. What a price the world has paid.

Today let there be no mistake. We do have the patience, the stamina, the will to resist.

Well -- these are the things that have been on my mind today. Now, I'd like very much to hear your questions, your comments, and your ideas.



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