

ADDRESS OF
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
DEMOCRATIC PARTY RALLY
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
JULY 12, 1965

As I see these wonderful, happy faces, I know that I am with Democrats.

"Happy days are here again!" : That's our theme song.

You know we had enough during the past campaign of the people with sour faces and the people who say "no" -- although I understand there's still a colony of those almost extinct creatures not far from here.

It's good to be here among friends in Balboa Park.

I salute today my good friend, Governor Pat Brown. He has fought hard for the good people of this state during this legislative session and during his whole career. I know that you have knocked on many a door for Pat Brown -- believe me, your efforts were worth it. I am confident that you will continue to support such a true and good man.

I salute your Representatives in Congress. They are setting a legislative record this year unparalleled in American history. All the Congressmen here today -- including your own Lionel Van Deerlin -- are repaying your support a thousandfold by their support of

programs which are building a Great Society.

Good Democrats all -- building, trying, helping, fighting for all the people in this nation, not just a chosen few.

Our President Lyndon B. Johnson set the tone for our party in 1964 when he said:

"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"

Our President's dream of a Great Society is this:
That every citizen of this country shall have the
opportunity to develop to the fullest his abilities,
his hopes, his aspirations. Opportunity is the
by-word -- opportunity for a better life, an equal
chance, a bright tomorrow.

We want each man in this nation to be assured
his full rights under the Constitution of the United
States. We want each man in this nation to exercise
those rights in a free, open society without artificial
barriers.

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 people.

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

We elected Democratic officials offer ourselves on our platform and on our record.

We owe a debt to you for helping to put us in office. We have a contract with you which says we are accountable to you for our accomplishments and our failures.

Today let me give you at least a partial interim report.

This nation last November gave a resounding mandate to our President, to the Democratic Party, and to its members of Congress. What have we done for you, the people, during these first six months of the 89th Congress?

The young people of America represent our hopes -- our visions -- our desires for a better world. The President and the Congress, in this knowledge, worked hard for the 1.3 billion dollar Elementary and Secondary Education Bill, which is now law. Your Congressmen played key roles in enacting this historic bill.

More than 5 million children from low income

families -- in 95 percent of the nation's counties -- will be helped by this bill.

As President Johnson said when he signed the bill, no law means more to the future of America.

Older Americans deserve our consideration and respect. 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. In the time it takes me to finish this sentence, another American will reach that milestone.

This Congress has already put into law the Older Americans Act which creates an Agency on Aging in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

It provides for federal grants to states for community planning and training programs and projects for the aging.

The Medicare Bill, which passed the Senate several days ago, is now in conference and will be signed by the President. We are delivering a major promise of the 1964 campaign -- to provide a basic hospital insurance program for our elderly, to extend Social Security and public assistance benefits. We not only have a commitment to our senior citizens, we have a moral duty as well.

Working Americans have also been helped in the first six months of Congress -- and that means more than 75 million Americans who comprise the civilian labor force.

The unemployment rate in May was the lowest it has been 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 -- 1.1 billion dollar program -- was designed to assist a large number of America's jobless and poverty stricken.

For the people of the cities, this historic 89th Congress will create a Cabinet level Department of Housing and Urban Development. This new Department

will coordinate the many activities involving Federal-state-city affairs.

Just a little more than a week ago, the House of Representatives passed the Omnibus Housing Bill which will help alleviate the tremendous housing problem in our cities.

More than 70 percent of our people now live in urban areas. In the next 35 years, more than 80 percent of our population increase will come in our cities.

In 10 years we will need over 2 million new homes a year, schools for 10 million more children, transportation facilities to move 200 million people daily, and more than 80 million automobiles.

We now have over 9 million homes rundown or

deteriorating. Over 4 million do not have running water or plumbing.

Our problems are great -- but we Democrats are optimists who believe that we can solve these problems.

This 89th Congress, under the leadership of President Johnson, already has made history on the credit side of the ledger.

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

Repeal of Section 14 (b) of the Taft Hartley Act.

The Voting Rights Bill.

The Omnibus Farm Program.

The Immigration Bill.

The Higher Education Bill.

These are only some of the major debts we intend to pay before the end of this session. There are at least a dozen more programs this Congress will pass before Labor Day. These programs are designed to fight poverty, to provide equal opportunity for our citizens, to keep the economy strong, to maintain the peace, to strengthen our defense, to explore space, to preserve natural beauty, to protect our natural resources, to combat crime, to help our farmers.

This 89th Congress will pass more important legislation than any Congress in the history of this country. Yes, we are fulfilling our contract with the people.

You are partners in this 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.

We will prove that those of little faith... those of little hope... those who look inward -- we will prove that they are wrong.

The Great Society will be built for the freedom and security of generations beyond us. President Johnson is committed to this task. I join him in that task. We ask your help.

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