

REMARKS  
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY  
DEMOCRATIC STEER ROAST  
CLEVELAND, OHIO  
SEPTEMBER 18, 1966

It's great to be back in Cleveland and at this non-partisan community gathering.

When Bert Porter and my Democratic friends first asked me to come to the Steer Roast again this year, I was told I was second-choice ~~as the man they would most like to get to Cleveland~~. The first choice was Jimmy Brown.

But after what the Browns did to the Redskins last Sunday in Washington -- without Jimmy Brown -- I thought there might be less interest in Jimmy. So I came ahead, filled with new confidence and determined to get out of town before the results came in from today's game with the Green Bay Packers.

Two years ago I came to the Steer Roast just as the Johnson-Humphrey campaign was building up full steam.

↳ Traveling around the country then, I could feel a sense of momentum and I knew that things were moving our way.

↳ I've been campaigning for our Democratic candidates again this fall, and I have the same feeling. I know the old rules about off-year elections and the losses that are supposed to come to the majority party. But I think there will be some surprised Republicans on November 9th.

Of course, there are some people who just can't break the habit of voting Republican. They remind <sup>me</sup> of an old ~~friend~~ <sup>follow</sup> back in Minnesota who used to say: "I go to town every Saturday night to get drunk. And how I hate it!"

But it's different with those Republicans who, two years ago, found they would rather switch than fight their conscience.

↳ Many of those Republicans today are like the man who sent his psychoanalyst a picture post-card. It read:

"Having a wonderful time. Why?"

Keep!

↳ Most of us -- Republicans, Democrats, independents, just plain Americans -- have been doing well. And I don't believe the voters want it any other way.

↳ If we look at where we've been, and where we are today, we see the progress -- more progress than we could have hoped for -- that our country has made.

↳ We see, above all, our unprecedented and sustained economic growth -- now in its 67th straight month. That is a longer period of continual prosperity and growth than any nation -- anytime, anywhere -- has ever known.

Now we face the danger of inflation, and we are facing up to it.

The President has proposed action to cope with it -- sound and timely action which I hope the Congress will promptly authorize... sound and timely action aimed at heading off inflation without turning the economy downward.

We are using what some people call the New Economics. And I'm not surprised that old Tory Republications view it with alarm -- as they do most things that are new.

↳ We are committed to the future, not the past. And that means welcoming what is new.

↳ That means making change our ally, not our enemy.

↳ That means working for social and economic progress to match our scientific and technological progress.

*rank* ↳ That is why we have made a new national commitment to the education of our children -- doubling our federal educ investments in education over the past three years.

↳ That is why we have <sup>#</sup>instilled a new spirit of justice *forming* into our immigration laws -- asking not "Where do you come from?" but "What can you do?" — *Congressman Mike Feighan*

↳ That is why we have undertaken a new national war on poverty. — *War on Poverty*

↳ That is why we have assured 19 million of our senior citizens -- our parents -- a new deal in hospital and medical care.

*Medicare*

↳ That is why we have more than doubled our overall federal investments in health over the past three years. *Health*

↳ That is why we have made it our national business, and begun new programs, to make our metropolitan areas *cities* liveable, safe, rewarding places for our people.

↳ Here in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, you know the problems we face. *~~~~~*

↳ Most of the people in the American metropolis live in rooms with a view. They <sup>live</sup> well and they deserve to do so.

↳ But there are other Americans crowded into dark and dank cellars. And there is where the danger lies.

↳ Abraham Lincoln warned us a century ago that "a house divided against itself cannot stand."

↳ Unless we have the courage to do something about it, we shall become two nations rather than one -- a nation of the suburban prosperous and a nation of the urban poor.

↳ What we face is more than traffic congestion.

↳ It is more than mounting costs and the need for revenues.  
It is more than customers staying away from the downtown  
business section.

↳ What we face is slumism.

Slumism is shabby and sleazy buildings. It is  
rubbish piled high in the alleys. It is second-rate schooling  
for those who need the best. It is the shadow of violence over  
the streets.

↳ Slumism is, above all, poverty and degradation of the  
human spirit -- the feeling that you aren't wanted, that you  
don't count for anything, that your life is going to waste.

↳ It is the bitterness and frustration of seeing the  
good life lived all around you -- and having no part of it.

(X) ↳ It is knocking and knocking and knocking on doors  
that will not open.

↳ For years we've talked about the revolution of rising  
expectations as if it were happening a long way off -- in Asia,

-7-  
*But*

Africa, or Latin America. It is here at home, too, and we must recognize it.

"Hope deferred maketh the heart sick," the Bible *!!*  
rightly tells us.

↳ All the torments, all the tensions of hopes aroused  
and hopes deferred have come to a sharp focus today in our cities.

↳ Everyone of us here is disturbed, I know, when these torments and tensions translate themselves into disorder and lawlessness. You have had first-hand experience in this. *Violence*

↳ In a nation which believes in peaceful change and the rule of law, we cannot -- and must not -- condone violence and disrespect for the law. *Violence* ↳ We cannot let responsible law enforcement officers become whipping boys. ↳ We cannot let destruction and terror take over our streets in the name of any cause. ↳ We cannot stand by and let innocent people be hurt.

↳ But, at the same time, we cannot turn our backs on the conditions which produce torment and tension.

↳ I said earlier that we had made it our business to make our metropolitan areas liveable, safe and rewarding places for all who live there. ↳ We shall continue to make it our business.

↳ President Johnson, Vice President Humphrey, the Democratic Congressmen who represent the state of Ohio in Washington, your local Democratic leadership -- all of us have made our commitment to the people who live in metropolis, and we are going to make good on it.

Now just how can it be done?

It will take some money. — *yes,*

↳ But -- thanks to our <sup>*Economic*</sup> growth and prosperity -- we are no poor nation. Our Gross National Product this year will be over three quarters of a trillion dollars. 

\$50  
Billion

↳ On the federal level, revenues will be running 50 billion dollars more per year by 1970 than they were last year.

↳ And we are pledged to use a good share of those revenues to help our metropolitan areas meet their needs.

↳ But it will take more than federal money, or state or local money, or private money.

↳ It will take more efficient planning and administration, on a local level.

↳ There are more than 80 thousand separate, local governmental units in this country. In the New York metropolitan area, for instance, there are over 1,400 units of government.

↳ These units of government, throughout the country, need to get together in a metropolitan framework to solve the problems they share together.

↳ The laws we've passed in the past three years... the laws we've proposed this year -- all aim at encouraging local

initiative in doing just that. Some people call this "creative federalism". I think it's not a bad way to describe it.

↳ We know that neither Washington, nor the state house, nor the mayor's office, nor private industry, nor labor can meet these problems alone. It will take all of them working together, using their people and resources where they can do the most good.

↳ Your national leadership has established a new Department of Housing and Urban Development to put a spokesman for metropolis at the Cabinet table and to coordinate our federal programs for the city and suburb.

↳ We have proposed a new Demonstrations Cities program.

↳ We have set out to clean our air and water -- anybody who lives near Lake Erie knows what I mean.

↳ We have proposed a new Cabinet-level Department of Transportation.

(Transport)

Clean  
Air

Clean  
water

↳ We have put our strength behind all the Great Society programs which aim to lift the sights of opportunity for the people we most need as positive, tax-paying citizens.

I mean programs of health, of education, of economic development, of civil rights, of housing, of job training.

But, in the end, it will take more than money... more than cooperation between the levels of government and the private sector... more than laws to make our cities and their suburbs what we want them to be.

↳ It will take top-to-bottom leadership. It will take leadership in each block, in each neighborhood, in each precinct, in each city, in each state in this country.

↳ That is what we are doing here today. We are meeting to put the men and women who can provide that leadership into leadership.

↳ Two years ago, when I came here, our people faced a clear choice of direction. They faced a choice between responsibility and the future, and wishful thinking and the past.

They made their choice.

They did not choose the way of nostalgic pipe dreams!

They chose a President who gets things done. They chose Senators and Congressmen and state and local leaders who knew the challenges ahead and were willing to meet them, head on.

We need to re-elect the people who have moved us forward. We need to elect more Democrats to join them.

When I was just starting out in politics, I got some good advice: "Do what you think is right. It will delight your friends and astonish the others."

We mean to do what we think is right for the millions of people who seek the good life in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, in Ohio, in all America's cities, suburbs, towns and crossroads.

I think that is the best politics of all. It is the politics which can bring us victory in November.

*on thought*

↳ And when we have that victory, we can move on to finish our work. We can build a society where the air is clean and the water is pure...where the schools and teachers do their best by our children...where our parents can live in security and health...where our neighborhoods are places where neighbors once more get together...where our prosperity is used not just to create more things, but where it <sup>is</sup> used for the betterment of people.

↳ Yes, we can build a society where every American -- no matter what the color of his skin, his religion, or his last name -- <sup>*where every American -*</sup> can have his opportunity to make <sup>better</sup> a life for his family.

↳ And isn't that what we want? Isn't that what our parents, and their parents, sought when they left the old world behind -- the opportunity to escape the old prejudices... the old oppressions...the old barriers? *I think so!*

↳ We have been, and we are, a nation of immigrants --  
always restlessly reaching ahead for the full promise of a  
new world.

↳ That promise now lies, for the first time, within  
our vision.

↳ I ask each Democrat here today, each one of you  
who shares the dream that moves us forward to spend each  
possible minute in these next seven weeks on behalf of your  
party and its candidates.

*for America.*  
We have a job to do, I ask your help!

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Ort # # #  
Let Peace  
No appeasement



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