

STATEMENT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT -- NOVEMBER 9, 1966

The election results for Congress fall within the normal pattern of off-year non-Presidential elections. It now appears that of the 48 freshmen Congressmen elected in the Democratic landslide of 1964, a majority has been re-elected. This speaks well for their performance in building the record of the 89th Congress.

Prior to the election, Republican spokesmen estimated that they would gain 7 seats in the Senate and some 60 to 75 in the House of Representatives. It is now obvious that their claims and hopes were extravagant. The composition of the 90th Congress will be similar to that of the Democratic 88th Congress, which gave effective support to President Kennedy and his program. The Democratic 90th Congress will have a good working majority in both houses. The prevailing philosophy of most of the newly elected members is one of progressive moderation. The changes in the composition of the Congress should not seriously impair the programs and policies of President Johnson, either on the domestic or international fronts.

The principal Republican victories were at the gubernatorial level. This is similar to what happened after the Roosevelt landslide of 1936, when Republicans in the off-year election of 1938 gained a number of governorships throughout the country, as well as sharply cutting into the Democratic majorities in both houses of Congress. The elections of 1966 leave the Democratic Party in a stronger position than in the elections of 1938.

Regrettably, a number of fine Democratic freshmen Congressmen were defeated in the Midwest, primarily in rural areas. Most of these seats had been traditionally held by Republicans and went Democratic in the Johnson landslide of 1964. Now, Republicans have reclaimed a number of seats which were historically theirs.

America has suffered a sad loss in the defeat of Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois and Governor Pat Brown of California. We in Minnesota deeply regret the narrow defeat of Governor Rolvaag and Congressman Alec Olson, two good men who had faithfully served the public interest. We rejoice in the great victory of Senator Walter Mondale, who stands out as the bright star in the Midwest election returns. We are also pleased with the impressive victories of Congressmen Fraser and Karth and John Blatnik. In view of the number of Democratic losses in the Midwest, the Minnesota DFL candidates did very well. We have had our problems this past year in the DFL Party. These shall be remedied. We look forward to the elections of 1968.



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