

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

CLOSED MEETING

LEGISLATIVE LEADERS CONFERENCE

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

AUGUST 22, 1967

*Chu Bailey
Margaret Price
Vic →
Chu*

*Mrs H. - Humphreys
1-20
If you're late
she will
know why*

~~I'M GOING TO TALK BRIEFLY TODAY BECAUSE I~~

↓
KNOW YOU HAVE PRESENTATIONS SCHEDULED BY MEMBERS OF
THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET AND OTHER OFFICERS OF GOVERNMENT.
AND I DON'T WANT TO GO OVER THE SAME GROUND. ALSO, I
WANT TO SPEND MOST OF MY TIME HERE TODAY HEARING FROM
YOU. I HOPE WE CAN HAVE SOME FRANK GIVE-AND-TAKE.

~~JUST BY WAY OF BEGINNING, MAY I SAY THIS:~~

Parade

THESE ARE DIFFICULT TIMES FOR OUR COUNTRY. WE HAVE
NEVER BEFORE REACHED SUCH A GENERAL LEVEL OF PROSPERITY --
BUT EVEN IN THAT PROSPERITY WE HAVE REASON TO BE CONCERNED
ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN AMERICA AND IN THE WORLD.

I KNOW THAT EVERY MAN AND WOMAN IN THIS
ROOM IS DEEPLY TROUBLED BY WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE
STREETS OF OUR CITIES ... *I know you are* CONCERNED THAT AMERICAN
BOYS ARE RISKING -- AND IN SOME CASES, LOSING -- THEIR
LIVES IN VIETNAM ... *I know you are* DISTRESSED THAT SO MANY FELLOW
CITIZENS -- IN BOTH URBAN AND RURAL AMERICA -- DO NOT
YET SHARE IN OUR *economic* GROWTH AND WELL-BEING.

and, I KNOW THAT EACH OF YOU RECOGNIZES THE
NECESSITY OF REBUILDING THE STRENGTH OF STATE AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN OUR NATION, AND OF MORE FULLY
INVOLVING THE PRIVATE SECTOR *our frustrations* IN THE CHALLENGES BEFORE
US -- AND I KNOW THAT THIS EFFORT, TOO, IS DIFFICULT,

< AND, AS DEMOCRATS, I SUSPECT A GOOD MANY OF
THE PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM ARE CONCERNED BY SOME OF THE
POLLS THEY SEE, AND SOME OF THE PUNDIT'S ANALYSES
CONCERNING 1968. —

*We shall be on the
ticket together.*

WE SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT ALL THESE THINGS. BUT, ~~AS DEMOCRATS~~, WE SHOULD NOT AND CANNOT BE DISCOURAGED BY THEM. BECAUSE I DOUBT THERE IS A SINGLE ONE OF US HERE WHO DID NOT ENTER POLITICS OR PUBLIC LIFE FOR ONE REASON: TO FACE THE PROBLEMS BEFORE US AND TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEM. -

↳ WE ARE THE PARTY OF ACTION, WE ARE THE PARTY OF COMMITMENT. WE ARE THE PARTY OF THE PEOPLE. WE ARE NOT THE PARTY OF CARPING CRITICISM ... OF DEFEATISM ... OR OF SPECIAL INTEREST. - *and when we talk & Act that way, we are out of character*

MY FRIEND ADLAI STEVENSON SAID WHAT ALL OF US

BELIEVE:

"I BELIEVE YOU WIN BY DOING WHAT YOU THINK IS RIGHT, AND EXPLAINING YOUR REASONS SENSIBLY AND STRAIGHTFORWARDLY TO THE VOTERS."

*you don't win, by being a
further - perseverer*

TODAY, IN WASHINGTON, AND THROUGHOUT THIS
COUNTRY, WE ARE TRYING TO DO WHAT WE THINK IS RIGHT

IN MEETING ~~THE~~ THE PROBLEMS I HAVE MENTIONED. ~~AND I~~

And
honesty - our courage -
BY THE PEOPLE WILL JUDGE US BY WHAT WE ARE DOING ... *in*
AND THAT WE WILL WIN IN 1968.

↳ ALREADY WE SEE THE SECOND-GUESSING AND EARLY
CAMPAIGNING TAKING PLACE AMONG THE OPPOSITION.

↳ THERE IS TROUBLE IN OUR CITIES. BUT THE
OPPOSITION OFFERS NO SOLUTIONS, ONLY CRITICISM.

↳ THERE IS A DIFFICULT STRUGGLE IN SOUTHEAST
ASIA. BUT THEY OFFER NO CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS,
ONLY CRITICISM.

↳ THERE IS THE URGENT BUSINESS OF REBUILDING STATE
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF TOMORROW.
BUT THEY OFFER NO IDEAS, ONLY CRITICISM,

I HAVE NEWS FOR THE OPPOSITION: THIS IS THE LAST THIRD OF THE 20TH CENTURY. PEOPLE HAVE EYES AND EARS. AND -- WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO THE OPEN DIALOGUE OF NEXT YEAR'S CAMPAIGN -- THEY WILL NOT BE FOOLED. THEY WILL NOT BUY EASY GENERALITIES OR OLD SECOND-HAND REMEDIES.

↳ THEY WILL MAKE THEIR CHOICE ON THIS BASIS: -- WHO IS THE MAN, AND WHICH IS THE PARTY, BEST EQUIPPED THROUGH EXPERIENCE ... THROUGH PERFORMANCE ... AND THROUGH BELIEF, TO LEAD THIS COUNTRY IN THE NUCLEAR AGE?

↳ BECAUSE THAT IS TRUE, PRESIDENT JOHNSON WILL BE RE-ELECTED IN 1968. AND PROGRESSIVE, RESPONSIBLE DEMOCRATS THROUGHOUT THIS COUNTRY WILL WIN IN 1968.

↳ WE WILL WIN UNLESS WE ALLOW OURSELVES THE LUXURY THAT OUR OPPOSITION THINKS IT CAN FOOLISHLY ENJOY -- I MEAN THE LUXURY OF NEGATIVE THINKING, ~~Self-seeking criticism~~ OF DESTRUCTIVE ~~criticism~~ CRITICISM, AND OF DISUNITY. ~~of self-interest~~

↳ I HOPE WE LEARNED A LESSON IN 1966. WE HAD SOME LOSSES LAST FALL, AND, AFTER THOSE LOSSES, THERE WERE FINGERS POINTED IN ALL DIRECTIONS. THERE WERE DEMOCRATS FALLING ALL OVER EACH OTHER TO FIND SOMEONE TO BLAME,

↳ WELL, I HAVE DONE SOME HARD LOOKING AT THE ELECTION RESULTS LAST FALL. AND WHAT DID I FIND? I FOUND THAT IN STATES WHERE OUR PARTY WAS WELL-ORGANIZED, WHERE THERE WAS SOME ELBOW GREASE APPLIED DURING THE CAMPAIGN, AND WHERE THERE WAS UNITY -- WE WON. BUT WHERE THERE WAS DISUNITY AND FIGHTING AMONG OURSELVES -- WE LOST.

~~I THINK~~ OUR FRIENDS HERE TODAY FROM THOSE SO-CALLED "SOLID" REPUBLICAN STATES OF KANSAS AND MAINE CAN TELL US WHAT IT TOOK TO WIN IN 1966.

Leadership Candidates

IT TOOK HARD WORK AND DEDICATION AND A POSITIVE ATTITUDE. IT TOOK SOME SACRIFICE. AND IT TOOK THE COURAGE TO PUT DISAGREEMENTS AND DOUBTS BEHIND ... TO BUILD THE UNITY IT TAKES TO WIN.

LET US GET SOMETHING STRAIGHT: WE HAVE A RECORD TO BE PROUD OF. WE HAVE A RECORD THAT WILL STAND UP AGAINST ANY MAN'S ATTACKS. ~~BECAUSE~~ IN THE PRESIDENCY OF LYNDON JOHNSON, THIS COUNTRY HAS MADE MORE *gains* TOWARD SOCIAL PROGRESS ... TOWARD ECONOMIC GROWTH ... TOWARD THE KIND OF SOCIETY FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, HARRY TRUMAN AND JOHN F. KENNEDY WORKED AND FOUGHT TO BUILD THAN IT HAS MADE AT ANY TIME IN ITS HISTORY.

AND AMERICA HAS MOVED FORWARD ~~TO THAT KIND OF~~ *- has made* PROGRESS WHILE OUR PRESIDENT HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO THE SAME KIND OF ATTACKS THAT ALL OUR GREAT PRESIDENTS HAVE KNOWN.

I AM PROUD OF MY PRESIDENT. I AM PROUD
OF HIS RECORD. AND EVERY DEMOCRAT HAS REASON TO
BE PROUD OF WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR THIS COUNTRY, AND *for the*
cause of freedom
TO KEEP IT ALIVE IN THE WORLD.

THE PRESIDENCY OF THE UNITED STATES IS
NO JOB FOR A PROVEN LOSER WITHOUT A STATE TO CALL
HIS OWN ... FOR ANY IMAGE-MAKER'S CREATION FRESH
OFF A MOVIE SET ... ~~FOR ANY AMBITIOUS LITTLE LORD~~
~~OR FOR ANY MAN~~ ... OR FOR ANY MAN -- NO
MATTER HOW SQUARE-JAWED -- WHO DOESN'T KNOW HIS MIND,
OR THE ISSUES, FROM ONE DAY TO THE NEXT.

IT IS A BIG JOB. AND IT CALLS FOR A BIG MAN.
WE HAVE THAT MAN. HE IS LYNDON JOHNSON.
AND IT IS TIME THAT EVERY DEMOCRAT RALLIED BEHIND HIM
AND STOOD UP FOR HIM.

WE WILL HAVE A FIGHT ON OUR HANDS NEXT YEAR,
BUT OUR PRESIDENT HAS NEVER BACKED OFF FROM A FIGHT,
NOR HAS YOUR VICE PRESIDENT, I MIGHT ADD,

WE ARE GOING TO HAVE SOME FUN. WE ARE
GOING TO TAKE ON THE SECOND-GUESSERS ... AND THE
STAY-PUTTERS ... AND THE TURN-BACKERS ... AND THE
NOT-NOW, NEVER-NEVER ENTOURAGE AND WE ARE GOING TO
TAKE OUR CASE TO THE PEOPLE,

AND IF YOU ARE WITH US ... IF WE WORK AND
PULL TOGETHER, WE WILL KEEP THIS COUNTRY MOVING THE
WAY WE ALL KNOW IT SHOULD,

WELL, THAT'S MY DEMOCRATIC SERMON FOR TODAY.

NOW I'D BE HAPPY TO HEAR FROM YOU ...

#

(QUESTION-AND-ANSWER PERIOD TO FOLLOW FROM FLOOR.)

(PHOTOS FOLLOW WITH THOSE PRESENT.)



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